

Stockport Sunday School

November 2021 Newsletter 21



Here we are at 1st November, the month which brings shorter days, fog, rain, and even early snow.

Not an uplifting prospect, if the truth be told, but one we get used to.

For us, at SSS, it is a busy time of year. On November 14th we will be holding our annual Remembrance Sunday Service - our opportunity to give thanks once again for all the men and women who gave their lives to preserve our freedom. We hope you can join us.



The day before, we will be holding our Christmas Fair, having been unable to do so last year, due to Covid restrictions. Now is the time to start thinking about Christmas presents, as the coming days will seem to pass by with increasing speed over the next few weeks, so we hope you can come and join us.

Alongside these activities, we will once again be supporting the T4U appeal for shoe boxes of presents to go to needy children abroad.

The underlying theme here is the act of giving – giving presents to family, friends, and also to others who are personally unknown to us but who we want to support in their need. We do it as a token of our gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy.

However, finding the right presents for people can be a bit of a challenge, although there are people who seem to have a special talent for finding something that is just right for the

person in mind. And when that is the case, the donor will enjoy seeing the pleasure of the person who is receiving it.

If we receive something special, we may be tempted to say - 'Oh, that's lovely - you really shouldn't have.' We don't really mean that, of course. In fact, we would be really upset if they said, 'Ok then', and took it back!



Perhaps what prompts our comment is the thought 'What can I give them in return?' It's an understandable response. Most of us don't like to feel indebted to others if we can avoid it. And the better the gift, the harder it is to overcome this feeling.

But receiving gifts is not about monetary value; it's more about appreciating the thought that has gone into the choice, and letting the giver know how much it means to us.

St Paul quotes Jesus as saying, - 'It is more blessed to give than to receive', and essentially that is true. But, as recipients, we also have to learn how to receive graciously - to appreciate the spirit in which the gift is made; the sentiment behind it; the thought that has gone into it. And we are to be generous in our response - not just by thanking the giver, but also by passing that generosity on in practical ways to others, who may not be able to return the compliment, so to speak.

This is the underlying motive behind our School's support of such charities as T4U and local

charities, especially at this time of year. I'm sure many of you also do something similar as individuals. These are ways of being a 'good neighbour' as Jesus would call it. And also a practical acknowledgement of our gratitude to God for His many blessings to us in our daily lives, particularly in these past months of trials and tribulations arising from the Covid pandemic.



But, most of all, amid all the hustle and bustle of our preparations

for Christmas, even as early as now, let us bear in mind that our preparations, our searching for and giving of presents, and all our other traditional activities, are done in a spirit of gratefulness for God's greatest gift to mankind in the form of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Guide and Friend - 'our means of grace, and hope of glory' in the words of the Book of Common Prayer's General Thanksgiving.

And may all the presents we give be welcome ones.

An afterthought -

Jack gave Jim his Christmas present, wrapped in a cardboard box. As Jack handed it over, Jim heard the words - 'one, two, three...' 'What on earth is it?' he said.

'Oh! It's very special' said Jack - 'It's the thought that counts.'

Happy shopping!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Maureen Jewsbury on November 4th Joyce Sellers on November 27th

Judith Higgins on December 4th



FROM THE TREASURER

To Anne Mather, thank you once again for your donation to the School Funds.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

We hope to hold a Christmas Fair this year on November 13th 10-30 to 1-30 although this will be on a smaller scale than usual.

Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day, cakes, hot and cold drinks and of course bacon butties.

There will be the usual raffle, book and jigsaw stall, craft and jewellery, Rosie's stall, cake stall and second-hand toy stall.

Because of covid restrictions on social distancing and ventilation Father Christmas will not be able to attend this year and we will not have a bric a brac or tombola stall.

If you are able to donate raffle prizes or anything for the other stalls please give them to Judith Curry any Sunday before the fair. Cakes would be very welcome on the day of the fair. Please let friends and family know about this event so that we have a good attendance on the day.

On Friday 12th November SSS will be open from 11.00am for the tables to be put out.

HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

Goods for sale can be brought after 11.30am.

Thank you

Don and Judith Curry 0161 483 4039





FUTURE SERVICES

The next dates for our services are:-November 7th - Judith Higgins November 14th, Remembrance Sunday - Stuart Dean November 21st - Cath Brown (The shoe boxes will be blessed at this service) November 28th - Judith Hadfield December 5th - Elizabeth Keeling and Ken Dean December 12th - Candle and Carol Service

December 19th - To be arranged



SERVICES



SUNDAY OCTOBER 3RD

On Sunday October 3rd Garth started by telling us that it was Walter's birthday and asking us to sing 'Happy Birthday'. Elizabeth Keeling also had a birthday in the coming week so we also sang another 'Happy Birthday' to her.

Garth's reading that day was from Job chapter 10. The rest of his service was based on a modern story, 'The richest man in the valley'.

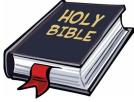


Sir Joshua Daniels was a very rich man. One day he stood in the church

tower from which he could see the valley stretching for miles around and he was filled with pride that he owned most of it. He looked down on the pub with its large car park. Business had dropped off during Covid. Sir Joshua thought I'll ask the brewery if I can buy it. I could build a number of houses on that site. He saw farmer Reynolds fields and thought he'd like to add these to his estate, the old man's not been well and the harvest hasn't been collected.

As he left the church he saw old Fred sitting eating his lunch of bread and cheese. "Are you happy in your life, sir?" Joshua asked. "I am", said Fred. As the scripture says, "Having food and clothing lets us therefore be content." "But I did have a strange dream last night, an angel told me that the richest man in the valley is about to die."

Sir Joshua returned home troubled. He was the richest man in the valley. He dusted down the family Bible and by chance opened it at Luke chapter 12 where Jesus spoke of the foolish rich man. In an instant Sir Joshua knelt down and surrendered his life to God. He thought of old Fred having nothing yet possessing everything. He went round to farmer Reynolds and promised to send round some of his men and machinery to bring in the man's harvest for him.



That night old Fred died.

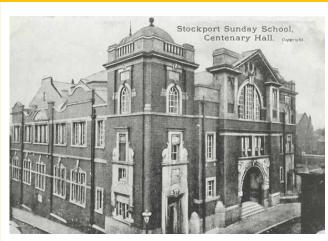
Sir Joshua took down the family Bible. He learned that Joshua means, 'The Lord is my salvation' and Daniel means 'God is my judge'. He thought about these things and fell asleep with a reassured mind.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH

Norman began his service on 10th October with the quote, "When two or more gather together God is with us".

His reading was Matthew chapter 4 verses 18-21. We are looking forward to our Anniversary Service on 24th October and Norman told us about a very special Anniversary service he attended on 23rd November 1947 in the Centenary Hall, when the speaker was Dr W. Sangster.

Dr Sangster had become a popular Methodist preacher in London. People flocked to hear him preach and the Methodist Hall would be full each night. In 1945 he became the youngest leader of the Methodist Conference.



People queued outside the Centenary Hall to hear Sangster speak at the SSS Anniversary. He spoke of changing lives. He spoke of 'Sunday Christians', people who went to church on Sunday but didn't want their workmates to know. Norman felt Sangster was talking to him and decided he would change.

When Joyce and Norman owned the shop they went into Stockport to shop on their Wednesday afternoon off and went to the café at Russell Morley House. Russell Morley had been on a ship

that was bombed during the war and spent many days in a lifeboat. Several men in the boat with him died and Russell prayed to God promising to dedicate his life to Gods work if he survived. He kept his promise when he returned to Stockport.

There was a second hand bookshelf in the café and one day Norman found a book there that was helpful in preparing services for the Ladies' Class but the book also mentioned another book which Norman was able to buy, short stories and sayings by Dr Sangster.



During lockdown, Norman was re-reading these stories and prayers, so Sangster has still been part of his life since that Anniversary Service. The book ends with the following epilogue:-

"Change our nature into Thine and so save us in every part of our being - that wherever we go Thy mighty heart may be beating in us and Thy purpose shaping themselves in our eager minds - and Thy will directing us into wider fields of service. And we will ask for no reward except to serve Thee still."

Norman has decided that it is time to remove his name from the list of those leading the service each week.

We will miss your well thought out messages, Norman, and thank you for many thought-provoking services, but we look forward to your friendship and support each Sunday.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 17TH

Walter Stead took the service on October 17th after Judith Higgins was forced to selfisolate after being "pinged" by the NHS app.

He based his talk on Mark 10 verses 17-31 the story of the rich man who asked Jesus how he could inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to sell everything he had and give the money to the poor. Walter had heard Janine preach on this subject at St George's the previous week.

How does Jesus' answer apply to us today? Jesus is not expecting us to give all our possessions away but we should not allow wealth and possessions to distract us from Him.

Who is rich? Someone better off than us? To those living in underdeveloped countries or on benefits we are rich.

Jesus spoke in parables. In the story of the sower, the thorns of wealth choked the seeds of life. The rich man who had a bumper harvest looked forward to a life of luxury and didn't think to share his wealth with the poor. Jesus praised the widow who gave two small coins to the temple, she gave all she had.

In biblical times there was no state aid. People were expected to pay tithes to the Levites who gave this to the priesthood and every three years to the poor who otherwise depended on charity.





Today we rely on the government to look after those in need, to use taxes to pay for the NHS, pensions, education, housing etc. This is not enough, we have seen the need grow for foodbanks, health charities to fund research and support the sick and appeals for natural disasters.

The banding of our tax system recognises the duty of the wealthy to support the poor, but we, as individuals, must not neglect the needs of others

What is a luxury, an ipad, or is it a necessity for a child learning at home during the pandemic?

Clean water, we take it for granted but it is not available to many in the underdeveloped world.

Covid vaccine, the rich countries should make it available to poorer countries.

There is no simple answer to how we should behave. There are many difficult choices to make. We should ask ourselves, "What would Jesus want us to do?" "How can we share our many blessings?" and act accordingly.

Thank you, Walter, for stepping in at the last minute and giving us such a thought provoking service.

ANNIVERSARY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 24TH

We were pleased to welcome forty members and friends to the Special Service.

The speaker was Frank Dean from Reddish, the soloist, Joan Thompson sang 'Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of God'. She was accompanied on the piano by Ken Dean. Ken also played the organ for the hymns.

Frank told us that a favourite saying of his grandmother had been, "if you ever want to forget all your troubles walk round Stockport in shoes that are two sizes too small."

You definitely get a different view of life if you put yourself in someone else's shoes.

Frank's Bible reading was Luke 10 starting at verse 25, the parable of the Good Samaritan, a well known story but Frank showed us a different side to it. The young man who had asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?" was well versed in the law, not the law of the land, but the law

of Moses which governed every aspect of Jewish life. When they saw the man who had been robbed, the priest and Levite passed by on the other side. They were obeying the law of



separation. If they had come into contact with a dead man they would have had to go through a period of cleansing. They were obeying the letter of the law rather than helping the injured man. But the law needs to be interpreted with compassion. In showing compassion the Samaritan was a good neighbour.

We would like to think that we would have acted like the Samaritan. It is easier for us to think of ourselves as offering help than having to ask for it.

On a visit to France, Frank had noticed two African men sitting outside a café near the sea. As he walked on he saw more sitting outside other cafés. Later he realised that this was the beginning of the refugee problem. These men were hoping to cross the channel to Britain. They certainly were not welcomed

by the French. Since then the problem has got much worse. Many of these people risking their lives in small boats to get to Britain.

Recently Frank saw a report on TV about the problem. Some people expressing the view that these boats should be turned back. The first sea Lord said that if this happened many people would die as the poor craft sank.

Several people were asked for their opinions. Some wanted the boats sent back, others from a church were handing out hot soup to the refugees. They felt for the refugees who felt desperate enough to risk their lives to try to get to a country where they felt they could earn a living. The volunteers were doing what they hoped others would do for them in a time of need - putting themselves in the shoes of the refugees.

Frank said this is what the Sunday School founders had done. When they saw the need of the poor in Stockport they did something about it. They didn't just hand them money but provided an education so that they could better themselves and provide for their families.

This is what we should be doing today - put ourselves in other peoples shoes and see what we would have liked people to do for us - and then provide that help.

Thank you, Frank, for a wonderful address showing us what relevance Jesus teachings has for us today.



After the service we enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends over tea and cakes.

Thank you to those who prepared the refreshments and to Cath Brown for the beautiful flower arrangements.

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Watercress Soup

Serves 4-6

25g butter 1 onion, sliced 2 cloves garlic, chopped 1.2 litres chicken stock 450g potatoes, peeled and diced 2 bunches watercress Freshly grated nutmeg (optional) 200ml double cream Salt and pepper, to taste Bread croûtons, to garnish (optional)

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, fry the onion and garlic in the butter until softened but not coloured.

Add the stock and potatoes and bring to the boil. Simmer for 15-20 minutes, until potatoes are cooked.

Chop up the watercress (leaves and stalks) and add to the soup with the freshly grated nutmeg, if using.

Simmer for 2-3 minutes before blending in a food processor/blender in batches, adding the cream as you go.

Return to the pan to heat through gently and season with salt and pepper. Serve garnished with bread croutons – baked or fried – if you like.



NO. 5 SURF VIEW

Peter and I have just returned from a delightful and refreshing 2 week holiday in the family holiday home in Newquay, Cornwall. I wanted to share with you the story of how No. 5 Surf View came to be a very special little house, belonging to our family.

In 1974, my mum went on an over-60's holiday in Newquay, organised by a stalwart of Heaviley Sunday School's Ladies' Fellowship, Alice Moss. They stayed in the Pentire Hotel, which sits at the top of Pentire Headland and mum was thrilled by the wonderful views over Fistral Beach. Just below the Pentire Hotel, some building work was taking place and mum was told there were going to be 30 houses and apartments built around a swimming pool and they would be let out as holiday accommodation. When she returned to Stockport, she told Derek



and I all about it and suggested that, perhaps, next year, (1975), when the buildings would be completed, that we could all go - Derek, me, Rachel and Gareth, aged 6 and 3, and mum! After a great deal of discussion, it was arranged. The 5 of us had a brilliant 2 weeks, fell in love with Pentire Headland and I have spent at least 2 weeks there every year since 1975!

In 2000, the owner of the holiday site, put the houses and apartments up for sale and Derek



and I were able to choose one and buy it for our children, grandchildren and future generations. Sadly, Derek died in 2005, but I know that he would have been delighted to see his 2 children and their families enjoying and loving No. 5 as he did.

For me, it's been a peaceful retreat for 46 years, and this year, as I enjoyed a swim each day before breakfast and marvelled from the kitchen window, at the wonder and glory of the sunsets, or watched with awe, the might and power of the waves of Fistral, I said a little prayer of thanks to God - for my mum, without whom we would never have known No. 5, and always many thank you's for being able to

partake in and share such a beautiful world. Let's all hope that we are not too late to save our marvellous planet and that many future generations will be able to share it and enjoy it as we have done.

Margaret Morris-Jones

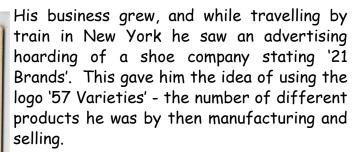
THE LIFE AND FAITH OF HENRY J HEINZ

The year 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of this man's death at the age of 74. It also marked the 150th anniversary of the setting up of his wellknown food company in 1869.

It was on the 11th of October 1844 that Henry was born in Sharpsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA, the eldest of eight children. As a boy he sold vegetables around his village that the family had left over, first by wheel barrow, then later from a horse-drawn cart.

By 1869 he took on a small plot of land and premises where he produced bottled horse radish, but he was soon producing bottles of various other 'Pure Food Products'.

When he was still very young he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into his life and made his faith the top priority from then on. In his early years, he was a regular attender at his local Sunday School and some time later became a teacher there.



His company then required larger premises and these he acquired in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Henry was very concerned about his workforce and provided an

abundance of welfare facilities for his employees. His was the first company in America to do so.

In 1886, he came to England with his wife Sarah and his four children. The family visited Bedford, and Henry was greatly influenced by the life and ministry of John Bunyan and his books and writings - especially The Pilgrim's Progress.

Whilst in London Henry attended the Metropolitan Tabernacle and listened attentively to the preaching of Charles Haddon Spurgeon whom he described as 'the humblest and simplest great man I have ever heard.'

Besides his faith, Henry was a shrewd business man and whilst in London he was able to secure a contract to supply the prestigious Fortnum and Mason's store. Over the next decades, expansion continued. Today his company manufactures 1000s of food products on six continents, supplying customers in over 200 countries worldwide.

As stated earlier, the greatest and most important aspect of his life was his Christian faith. After he passed away and his will was read out, it contained the following:

"I desire to set forth at the very beginning of this Will, as the most important item in it: a confession of my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." See 2 Timothy 4:7 and Hebrews 12:2 and 13:8.





16TH NOVEMBER ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Some women have power, and some women are good. When a woman with power is also good, she can achieve an astonishing amount.

Margaret of Scotland has been called 'The Pearl of Scotland', but she began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to Wessex in 1057, when she was 13, and following the death of King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling should have been King of England, but he was never crowned. Instead, the family fled north, to Scotland, where she was married to Malcolm III of Scotland by 1070. As a Scottish queen she went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and of a queen consort of England.

Margaret was a Christian, and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. Her biographer tells of how she read narratives from the Bible to her husband, thus helping to 'civilise' him. He was illiterate, but so admired her reading, that he had her books decorated with gold and silver. She was also credited with helping her youngest son, the future King David I of Scotland, towards becoming a just and holy ruler.

Margaret introduced the worship and practise of the Church of Rome into Scotland. She also wanted to help the many pilgrims travelling in Scotland, and so she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth, which is where the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

Margaret performed many charitable works for the poor, and she interceded for the release of English exiles who had been forced into serfdom following the Norman conquest. She also began the restoration of Iona Abbey.

In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret's Cave is still there today, covered beneath a municipal car park.

Margaret died in 1093, and in 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation, but at one time Mary, Queen of Scots, owned her head.



THANK YOU

As always, a big 'thank you' to everyone who contributes to the monthly newsletter, to make it varied and enjoyable for all. Some articles are also taken from 'Parish Pump'.

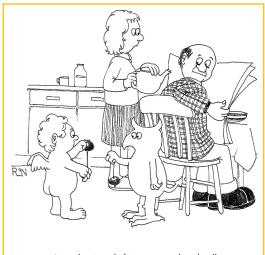


SMILE LINES



Just as the graveside service finished, there was a distant lightning bolt accompanied by a tremendous burst of rumbling thunder. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there and it's His problem now."

(Thank you Judith Hadfield for sending this in for the newsletter}



An epic struggle between good and evil took place in the Vicarage kitchen

Heaven

An elderly couple died and were received by St Peter through the Pearly Gates into heaven. They found it a wonderful place. The husband said to his wife: "If you hadn't fed us such healthy food all our marriage, we could have reached here years ago."



Harold

A little girl attempted the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is your name. Amen."



but at least it received the unanimous approval of the Church Council!

Family tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?"

"Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

PUZZLES

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POPPIES

It was 100 years ago this month, on 11th Nov 1921, that **REMEMBRANCE** poppies were SOLD for the first time in British and Commonwealth COUNTRIES to COMMEMORATE MILITARY PERSONNEL who died in war.

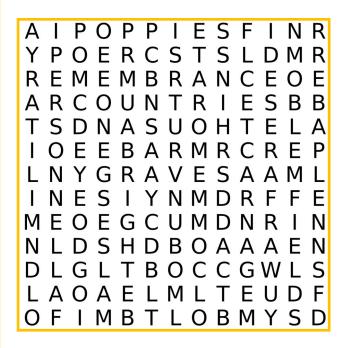
Amid the MUD, BLOOD and CARNAGE of TRENCH WARFARE in World War 1, tens of THOUSANDS of BRIGHT red poppies had grown, marking the GRAVES of the FALLEN. This led John McCrae, a Canadian army physician who had lost a colleague, to write "In Flanders Fields",

In **FLANDERS FIELDS**, the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row That mark our place, and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly.

This image inspired the adoption of a **RED** poppy as the **SYMBOL** of all soldiers who had died in conflict. In the UK they are sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds for current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Around 30 million poppies are sold each year.

WORDSEARCH

Can you find in the grid below the words shown in **BOLD CAPITALS** in the 'Poppies' passage? The words can be found in any direction.



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

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3	5	4	9	8	7	2	6	1
6	2	9	4	1	3	5	8	7
8	7	1	5	2	6	4	3	9



SUDOKU ANSWERS

