



Stockport Sunday School

December 2021 Newsletter 22



The beginning of December marks the start of a very busy few weeks for nearly everyone, as the preparation for Christmas speeds up. At SSS, we have already had a 'starter for 10', with our Christmas Fair, once again a very enjoyable event.

For families - the children will be preparing for the Christmas activities at school, as well as letting everyone know what they hope Santa will bring. Parents will be drawing up lists of presents to purchase, planning meals and visits to relations and friends over the Christmas period.

Churches are preparing the various services they will hold; clubs and organisations arranging social events.

For many of those people who work, there will be the end of year reviews to be done, targets to be met, often meaning burning the midnight oil.

It's tiring just to think about it!

It's therefore not surprising some people feel it is all too much, particularly when they have to put up with a barrage of advertisements on TV, or the internet, telling you of offers you supposedly can't afford to miss. They resent what is described as the 'commercialisation' of Christmas, a word which is defined as 'exploiting or spoiling for the sake of profit.' Enough said!



Such folk may be seen by some to be killjoys, but there is a degree of substance in what they say.

On the other hand, there will be many of us who will be attending religious services to celebrate our Lord's birth - singing well-loved Christmas hymns and carols; hearing the well-known Bible readings; enjoying the fellowship of our worship together. But it's perhaps possible that the familiarity of these traditional practices may dilute the significance of the gospel message - we switch off, so to speak.

And sometimes we need something to attract our attention;- to make us think afresh about what we read and hear.

Recently, I was reading some notes by Sheila Walker, a Christian author and church minister, looking at the Bible accounts of the period surrounding Jesus' birth. In it, she says she suspects that for many people nowadays, the Christmas story is just that - 'a once upon a time fable, alongside Snow White and Goldilocks.' And she also suggests that the actual Biblical narratives may perhaps have been embroidered in places over time.

Those of us who attend churches are familiar with most of the readings used over Advent and Christmas - perhaps too familiar! I found her comments interesting, and felt they were worth sharing.

She first addresses the Annunciation, as described in Luke's gospel, when the angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she will bear Jesus. To say Mary was 'perplexed' is surely an understatement, to say the least. 'Why me?' would have been an understandable question. But, no, her question is 'How can this be?' In other words - she is not shocked by the angel's visit, (which suggests God saw her as a person for whom nothing is impossible for God to do). She's willing to accept whatever He wishes. Did she have a choice? Perhaps not. She isn't asked if she agrees with what the angel is telling her. But, in essence, she accepts that God knows what He is doing. A message for us, perhaps, when life is difficult, challenging.



And what about the actual events of Jesus' birth, acted out by the children in many school nativity plays. Often there is a grumpy innkeeper who seems to delight in telling Joseph and Mary that the inn is full. But there is no mention of an innkeeper in Luke's gospel! Joseph and Mary had travelled to Bethlehem for the census because that was where Joseph's family came from; - 'to their own towns to be registered'. Therefore Joseph probably had relations living there. If so, and if the town was crowded, and given the Jewish reputation for hospitality, it's very likely the family would want to provide them with accommodation, particularly when Mary was due to give birth. Not to welcome a descendant of David to Bethlehem would shame the whole community. The word 'inn' also means 'guest room' - so possibly it wasn't a 'Travel Lodge' as we know it, but a domestic dwelling. If the guest room was occupied, the visitors would be housed in the living area, which was sometimes adjoined by a stable area at a lower level, with the animals helping to keep the occupants warm in winter. The manger would provide a handy cradle for the new-born baby. And maybe there were family members around to look after Mary when the baby was born.



This begs another question. If there were other people at the birth - did they know the significance of the event that was taking place? Most likely not. Joseph and Mary were probably keeping the knowledge of Gabriel's visit to themselves, still coming to terms with what it might mean for their future.

But, out in the fields, the birth is publicly announced to shepherds in an awe inspiring manner. When they arrived at the manger, and told everyone what they had seen - 'all who heard it' (-Joseph's family and their friends?) were amazed at what they heard.'

Not surprisingly, really. Such an amazing event to be told to shepherds; people who were amongst the most underprivileged members of society in those times. Not announced to royalty, or to those in authority, not to the learned religious leaders, but to simple, ordinary folk, who would appreciate the good news, rather than thinking how it might affect their standing in society. And therein lies the challenge for us - if we know the good news of Jesus' birth - let us joyfully share it with others, with enthusiasm and commitment.

Sheila's article points out other discrepancies in how the Christmas story is told in the gospels, and how it has been passed on in later times. For example, the Wise Men's visit to the Christ child was probably up to two years after the birth - so it is very unlikely that they presented their gifts in a barn, with ox and asses looking on.

You may think these points, although interesting, are not of major significance to our understanding of the events.



Even so, they may be enough to prompt us to find time, over the coming weeks of Advent, to read in a new way the Christmas passages of scripture; to do it with an enquiring mind; to see if there are any new lessons we can learn for ourselves.

A reminder that our understanding of God should be like a flowing stream, always moving on, rather than a lagoon that might become stagnant.

And, in conclusion, let us not allow the practical demands of our Christmas celebrations to overshadow the true significance of the season, a season of goodwill to all

On behalf of all the SSS officials, may we wish you, our readers, your families and friends, a fulfilling Advent season, and a happy and enjoyable Christmastide.

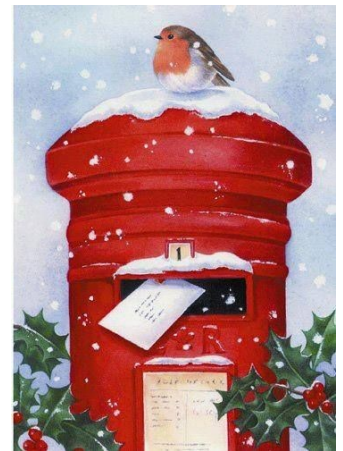


CHRISTMAS POST

This year we will once again be able to put the Christmas Post Box out for all Sunday School members who wish to use it to post their Christmas cards to each other.

It will be put out on Sunday 5th December and also on Sunday 12th December and the cards will be sorted and 'delivered' to members at the end of the service.

As in the past, we can only accept post for members who currently attend School.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH, SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

This year Margaret Forster will once again be organising the Christmas Lunch at Sunday School. It will start at 12.30 on Sunday 19th December, and it is important that if you wish to attend you let Margaret Forster know as soon as possible, and no later than 12th December. Thank you Margaret for organising this so we can look forward to being able to enjoy our Christmas Lunch together once again.



CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF 2021

Sunday December 5 th	Elizabeth Keeling and Ken Dean Christmas Post
Sunday December 12 th	Candle and Carol Service arranged by members of Lancashire Hill Christmas Post
Sunday December 19 th	Christmas Lunch 12.30 Service of carols and readings
Sunday December 26 th	NO SERVICE
Sunday Jan 2 nd 2022	NO SERVICE

**IF YOU WISH TO HAVE CHRISTMAS LUNCH, PLEASE GIVE MARGARET FORSTER
YOUR NAME NO LATER THAN 12TH DECEMBER**

**Below is the calendar for 2022. Please check your diaries as some dates have been
changed since the Committee meeting.**

CALENDAR FOR 2022

January 2 nd	No service
January 16 th 2-45pm	Election of Inspectors
January 30 th 2-45pm	Annual General Meeting
February 6 th	Bible Sunday (speaker)
February 14-18 th half term	Kites Pantomime
March 27 th	Mothering Sunday (speaker)
April 3 rd 3-15	Committee Meeting
April 5 th	Knit and Natter 10 year celebration
April 17 th	Easter (speaker)
June 12 th	Founders Day
July 3 rd 3-15	Committee Meeting
July 17 th	(speaker)
September 18 th	Harvest lunch and service (speaker)
September 25 th 3-15	Committee Meeting
October 23 rd	Anniversary (speaker)
November 13 th	Remembrance Sunday (speaker)
November 20 th	Shoe Box Service
November 26 th	Christmas Fair
December 4 th	Christmas Post
December 11 th	Candle and Carol Service Christmas Post
December 18 th	Christmas Lunch Officials Service
December 25 th	No service

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Ken Dean for arranging outside speakers for the Special Services and also those of our own members who have led services for us.

If you feel that you could take a service or even part of a service, or if you have any ideas for a service that you would like someone else to take, please contact one of the Inspectors.



CHRISTMAS FAIR 13th NOVEMBER 2021

As organisers, the decision to hold a Christmas Fair during the pandemic was not an easy one. However, on a beautiful day and with support given by fellow members plus friends meant it was an enjoyable event.

Some of our usual stalls were missing - particularly Father Christmas in his grotto for the children.

Starting at the earlier time of 10.30am we had 53 adult visitors, not as many as usual, but they seemed pleased with what we had to offer.

The bacon butties went very well as usual.

The setting up on Friday went smoothly and clearing away on Saturday in preparation for the Remembrance Service the following day.

Our thanks to all for making it a successful occasion.

To date we have raised £621.72.



Judith and Don Curry

CHRISTMAS FAIR THANK YOU

We would like to thank Judith and Don Curry for all their hard work in organising the Christmas Fair for us.

They start their preparations early and are involved for days afterwards, cleaning away the goods left over.

It has been particularly difficult this year, as we were only able to fix the date quite late because of Covid restrictions and some of our regular helpers already had other commitments for that date.

On the day, we did not have as many customers as usual, but trade was steady and it was good to see old friends and some new customers.

The refreshment lounge proved a popular place to catch up with friends for a chat.



CHRISTMAS TREE THANK YOU

We also want to thank Beryl Manley and the ladies of the Knit and Natter group who put together a tree for St George's Christmas Tree Festival. Their theme was 'The Spirit of Christmas' and the tree was covered in beautiful white decorations that the ladies had made. We haven't got a photograph to put into this newsletter, but we will put one in the January newsletter for everyone to see their hard work.

2022 NEWSLETTER

Having had the newsletter for over a year, I think we all agree that it is better than the original magazine.

During the pandemic, we delivered the newsletter free as a way to keep in contact with people whilst we were unable to meet up in person.

From January we will continue to produce the Newsletter (none in August), but we will be asking people to cover the cost of production. The cost will be as follows:-

Printed copies 50p

11 copies at 50p **£ 5.50 a year**

If you have your copy sent by post:-

11 copies £ 5.50

11 stamps at 66p £ 7.26

£12.76 a year

If you receive your copy by email, we would appreciate a donation of 30p a copy to help pay other overheads such as the yearly subscription to 'Parish Pump', the group that supplies copy-right free articles and cartoons for Christian groups.

Cheques should be made payable to 'STOCKPORT SUNDAY SCHOOL', Cheques can be sent to The Treasurer, Mrs J Sellers, 5 Baytree Drive, Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2PX

Cash and cheques can also be passed to Joyce on a Sunday.

On your behalf, I would like to thank Judith and Kirsty for all the time and effort they put into compiling it and to Kirsty for her skill and expertise in producing it, not forgetting the delightful pictures, an absolute delight.

STAMPS AND CARDS

Don't forget to save the stamps from your Christmas cards and put them in the plastic bag on the notice board near the kitchen or give them to Margaret Forster. They will be sent to Leprosy Mission.

After January 6th, please cut off the front of your Christmas cards and give them to Margaret, they will be put in next year's Teams 4 U shoe boxes.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Judith Higgins on December 4th
and
Don Curry on December 16th
and
Joan Heald on January 10th

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Many happy returns to Christine Moore, who will be 90 years young on Tuesday 21st December, a Christmas daughter to Arthur and Mary Jackson, all life long members of School, her father was a one time leader of the Senior Men's Department. Enjoy your day, Christine.



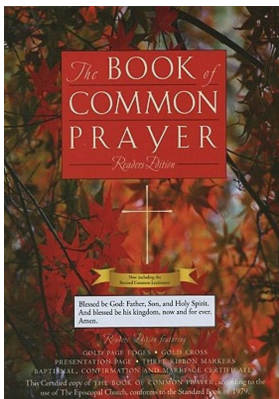
SERVICES



SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER

On Sunday 30th October, Walter asked us if we could see the connection between a recent TV comedy series, the Book of Common Prayer, Monday and Tuesday of the following week and Mangel Wurzels. No-one could answer, and so Walter explained.

The TV comedy was 'Ghosts'. A young woman inherits an old mansion and after she recovers from a fall, in which she is knocked out, she is able to see the ghosts of former inhabitants of the house. They are very different characters and the humour comes from the way they interact with each other, coming from different times in history and experiences.



What is unusual is that they are friendly ghosts whereas if we talk of ghosts we often think of something frightening, threatening or even evil.

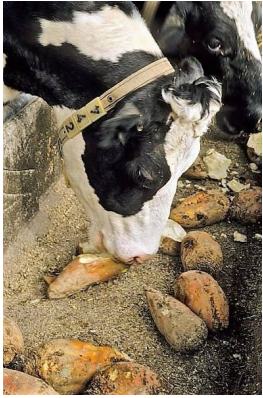
In the Book of Common Prayer the grace speaks of the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost. Today we say the Holy Spirit. A spirit seems less threatening.

Jesus promised His followers, including you and me that the Holy Spirit would come.

The reading was Luke 24 verses 30-45, in which the word 'ghost' is used. What would the disciples reaction have been - shock, awe, realisation, hope, joy that the message would be inspiring, but not 'comfortable'?

How did Monday and Tuesday fit into this theme? They were All Hallows Eve (Halloween) and All Saints Day. Today, these are celebrated in a very different way that what was

intended by the early church.



Today, children dress up as ghosts and scary creatures and knock on doors expecting to be given sweets. They will carve pumpkins, but in earlier times they would carve mangel wurzels, a type of turnip used for animal feed.

Perhaps next time we have a Halloween visitor it will remind us that the following day is All Saints Day, a day of thanks for those who have served God faithfully. We are all called to be saints in our modest way, to use our gifts and abilities to serve God - to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to how we should respond to His call.

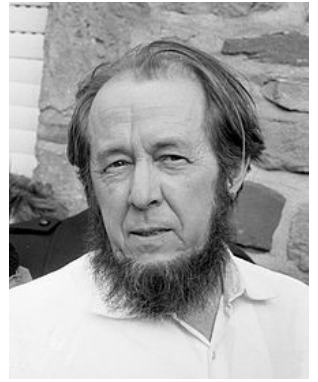


Thank you, Walter, for reminding us what lies behind the events of Halloween and Trick or Treat.



NOVEMBER 7TH 2021

On Sunday, November 7th, Judith took as her theme 'HOPE'. She told the true story of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Russian author who had spent many years in Soviet prison camps. He became so weak and depressed that one day he felt that there was no reason to continue living. He stopped work and sat down waiting for a guard to beat him to death. Another prisoner came up to him and drew a simple cross on the ground. When he saw it, Solzhenitsyn knew that there was something greater than the evil he saw in the camp. That through the power of the cross anything was possible. He returned to work outwardly nothing had changed but inside he had received HOPE.



During the pandemic Captain Tom Moore walked 100 lengths of his garden before his hundredth birthday to raise money for the NHS. He raised £38.9 million. But more than that he inspired other people to act to help others. He was full of hope for the future. With the

help of his family he set up the Captain Tom foundation to raise money for people in need, it's mission 'To inspire hope where it is needed most'. They published a book, 'Captain Tom One Hundred Reasons to Hope'. This contains cartoon drawings and stories of what many people did during the pandemic to raise money or just show kindness to help or raise the spirits of others. Proceeds from the sale of the book are going to the Foundation and still helping people in need today.

The last page of the book states 'Reasons to Hope' part of which is printed on the next page.

REASONS TO HOPE

In the darkest of times we can still find reasons to hope. Covid-19 cast a long shadow over the world and yet, despite the chaos, confusion and sadness, we found a way forward together.

Hope was painted in rainbows and echoed loudly from our doorsteps when we clapped together.

The actions of one person can inspire many, many more. Hope may start as a tiny spark, but when we come together, it grows stronger and blooms into an incredibly powerful force. Throughout the national lockdowns we saw this happening over, and over again. Apart - but not alone - people found inventive ways, both small and large, to spread a smile, lift spirits and support one another.

Covid-19 has changed our world and there have been difficult days. While we do not know what is ahead, we can choose to remember that we will take these next steps together.

Hope starts with one small step.

And one step has the power to inspire one hundred more.



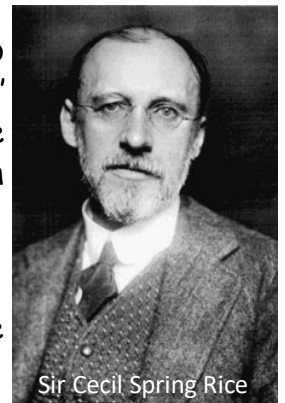
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Stuart led the service on November 14th. The first hymn was 'I Vow To Thee My Country'. The tune was taken from 'Jupiter', part of 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst. The words were written by Cecil Spring Rice who was the diplomat in the UK responsible for enduring the US neutrality which helped to finish the war.

His reading was Matthew 5 verses 1-15.

Stuart asked us what we understood by memory and remembrance. The dictionary definition of memory is:-

1. *Memory is a personal record of past experience, it is the brains ability to store and use information.*
2. *It is the process of taking in information from the world around us, storing it and recalling it later.*



Stuart put up quotes from famous people on different coloured 'post it' notes on the screen.

Steven Hawking said, "memory is what distinguishes us from our ancestors. The knowledge we have accumulated over the last 10,000 years and particularly 300 years."

Matlin said, "Memory is the process of maintaining information over time."

Steinberg said, "Memory is the means by which we draw on past experience in order to use this information in the present."

Remembrance is the ability to remember, commemorate memorial.

Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.

Stuart showed us a short video of some of the work done by the Royal British Legion and what it is doing today 100 years after its foundation.

In this anniversary year the Royal British Legion commissioned Tom Roberts to write a special poem which he read at the service of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. Jayne Dean read this poem at our service, included below.

ALIVE WITH POPPIES

By Tom Roberts 2021

In the belly of this building, steeped in history so great.
We meet together to remember, to pay respect and contemplate.
And on each chest, there grows a poppy. With petals red and leaf of green.
A symbol echoing a sacrifice. A memory guarding what it means.



Hardly more than a hundred years ago, came a call impossible to ignore.
A global conflict was emerging, and too the rumblings of war.
So many young and brave and hopeful, fought for a world they'd never know.
And fields once green, now stained by bloodshed, became a place where poppies grow.

There was a soldier who was also a poet, in Flanders Fields, 1915.
He penned a poem rich and haunting about the poppies he had seen.
And through the symbol of that flower, those who survived could dare to hope.
And would commemorate the fallen, now through the stories that they spoke.

A poppy for their contribution, since every human life is equal.
A reminder that the war to end all wars must never have a sequel.
But barely more than two decades later, once again the shrapnel fell.
And yet again brave souls would go to fight and face their last farewell,



They kept believing, through the darkness, that in their time the day would come.

The day the fight that they endured would, like all things, one day be done.
From then till now we've still known conflict, and we've still known loss of life.
And still so many men and women have made the utmost sacrifice.

But the call never goes unanswered, any time our values meet with threat.
And in light of that, we still mark silence. As we give thanks and pay respect.
That's why today we wear a poppy. For battles past to modern day.
And while courage guides our hearts and minds, it can never slip away.

And you know what, friends assembled, sometimes I even dare to dream.
That a hundred years from now, children will still know what it means.
And on the path to peace and progress, each one of them will always know,
The story of the way that path was built, and the ones who made it so.



So in this room, alive with poppies. With petals red and leaf of green.
A symbol echoing a sacrifice. A memory guarding what it means.
We share this moment of remembrance, we remember all who came before.
As through remembrance we honour them, and hold to hope for ever more.

We then sang the hymn 'Poppies To Remember' to the tune 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. The words are printed below.

Stuart then showed us a picture of a large number of small wooden crosses each bearing a poppy and the name of soldiers killed in action. Behind them a larger cross bearing the words, 'In current conflicts'.



The names of all those members of Stockport Sunday School and its branches who died in the two World Wars, then scrolled across the screen.

The final hymn was 'Eternal Father Strong To Save'.

Thank you to Beryl Manley who put out a display of knitted poppies made by the Knit and Natter group and to Alan Bowden for the display of military drums, uniform, bear skin and helmet and military insignia and to Judith Curry who read a report from the School magazine about a nurse, Connie Maddock, a scholar from Heaviley who died during the First World War and to our organist, Ken.

Thank you, Stuart Dean for a moving and fitting service on this special day.

Poppies To Remember

Words by Dominic Grant

Poppies to remember
lives laid down in war -
opes and bodies broken,
wounds forever raw.
Red and white and purple
tell of what's been lost,
summon us to silence
as we count the cost.

REFRAIN

Help us to remember
now and every day
sacrifice and service,
Lord of life, we pray.

"Do this to remember,"
Jesus tells His friends;
by his death securing
life that never ends.
Broken like His body,
bread on which we dine;
blood that's shed for us
recalled again in wine.

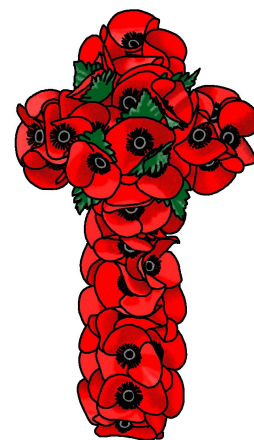
REFRAIN

Help us to remember ...

Jesus, we remember
this the debt we owe
and we pledge our service
that the world may know
all that leads to freedom
all that makes for peace
Let your Kingdom come, Lord
Let all bloodshed cease!

REFRAIN

Help us to remember



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NOVEMBER 21ST 2021

We had an interesting service from Cath Brown on November 21st.

The interesting reading had been sent to her by a friend describing the seasons of our life and the passage of time.

During lockdown Cath had been looking into her family tree who emigrated to Concord Massachusetts, between Boston and Plymouth Rock in 1637, becoming one of the first settlers there.

She also told us about how King James had authorised a new translation of the Bible in 1604. The emergence of the printing press about the same time brought the Bible out of the church and into peoples homes where they could read the beautiful English prose for themselves.

Cath had asked us all to bring in our own copies of this version of the Bible. She gave us all a recipe for a Scripture Cake, but instead of naming the ingredients used it gave a scripture passage and we had to look up the ingredients ourselves.

After allowing us some time, Cath gave us the answers.

Before the last hymn, Margaret Forster told us where our shoe boxes would be going this year and the effect covid had on their distribution. She then blessed the boxes brought into School.

At the close of the service we had a slice of Scripture Cake, which Cath had made from the recipe with our tea.

If you would like to try to work out the puzzle yourself or bake the cake, the recipe is printed below (answers on the puzzle page).

Scripture Cake

Makes 1 medium to large cake

A fruit cake popular in late Victorian days which required a certain knowledge of the Bible, this was written in the form of a puzzle. Each ingredient is discovered by looking up the relevant Bible passage (these use the Authorized version). The result is an excellent farmhouse-style cake; the original recipe used wholemeal flour, which gives quite a hearty result - light brown flour is much lighter but still adds a nice flavour to complement the figs. There is a good proportion of cake to fruit as well, so it is not too rich. The top can be left plain or sprinkled with coarse sugar crystals or crushed, unrefined sugar cubes before baking.



225g Judges 5:25, last clause
 225g Jeremiah 6:20
 1 tablespoon 1 Samuel 14:25
 3 Jeremiah 17:11
 225g 1 Samuel 30:12
 175g Nahum 3:12
 85g Numbers 17:8

350g 1 Kings 4:22
 1 teaspoon 11 Chronicles 9:9
 1 teaspoon Amos 4:5
 a pinch of Leviticus 2:13
 6 tablespoons Judges 4:19
 a 20cm round deep cake tin, greased with butter
 and lined with greaseproof paper

Preheat the oven to 170°C/325°F/gas 3.

Using a wooden spoon, electric whisk or mixer, beat the Judges 5:25, last clause, with the Jeremiah 6:20 and the 1 Samuel 14:25 until creamy, lighter in colour and fluffy. Gradually beat in the Jeremiah 17:11, beating well after each addition (following Solomon's advice in Proverbs 23:14 to beat well). Stir in 1 Samuel 30:12. Using kitchen scissors chop up the Nahum 3:12, discarding the stalks, and stir into the mixture with the Numbers 17:8. Mix 1 Kings 4:22 with 11 Chronicles 9:9, Amos 4:5 and Leviticus 2:13 and fold into the mixture with Judges 4:19, using a large metal spoon. When thoroughly combined, spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and spread evenly. Bake in the preheated oven for about 2 hours, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. If the top browns too quickly, cover with a sheet of greaseproof paper.

Stand the tin on a wire cooling rack and leave to cool completely before turning the cake out of the tin and removing the paper. Wrap in foil and keep for a couple of days before cutting.

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 2 nd January	No Service
Sunday 9 th January	Walter Stead
Sunday 16 th January	Judith Higgins 2.45 Election of Inspectors
Sunday 23 rd January	Garth Higgins
Sunday 30 th January	Judith Curry 2.45 AGM



GET WELL SOON



Several of our members have not been well recently. Jean and Beryl are awaiting cataract operations and Norman is awaiting test results. Anne has not been able to come to School for a couple of weeks after a fall and she is still unable to shake off a cough after a course of antibiotics. We hope you will all be feeling better soon. We also send our best wishes to all members who are unable to attend at present, we are all thinking of you.

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Hot Stilton Rarebit

Serves 4

25g butter

3 egg yolks

1 tsp English mustard

90ml ale or lager

A dash of Tabasco sauce

A dash of Worcestershire sauce

Salt and pepper, to taste

225g Stilton cheese, grated

4 slices of toast

Preheat the grill to its highest setting.

Melt the butter over a low heat, then remove from the heat and cool slightly. Mix in the egg yolks, mustard, ale or lager and the Tabasco and Worcestershire sauces. Season well with salt and pepper, and fold in the cheese.

Place on the toast (either on its own or with sliced tomatoes or flat-leaf parsley leaves underneath), grill until brown on top and serve.



Kites

The Kites Group Pantomime for 2022 is Babes in the Wood. Tickets on sale soon please see www.kitesgroup.com for more information.



Season's Greetings

Everyone at The Triangle would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year.



BOOKS

I loved the poem, 'Remember the Stories', in SSS October magazine, written by Nigel Beeton. It certainly set me thinking. You asked about favourite books from childhood. I certainly had those and I seem to have had favourite books for the whole of my life. As I did English literature at O Level, A Level and at college, my life has been full of books, ranging from Rupert Bear and Enid Blyton to Dickens, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and, at the moment, Philippa Gregory's historical novels and Susan Hill's detective stories. However, back to childhood books. My favourite ones were definitely Enid Blyton - 'The Faraway Tree', 'Famous Five', 'Mallory Towers' and I probably could well relate to 'The Naughtiest Girl is a Monitor!' Also - yes! I did read under the bedclothes with a torch!

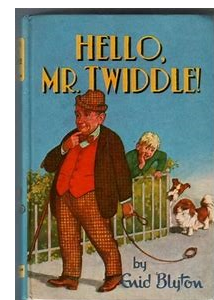
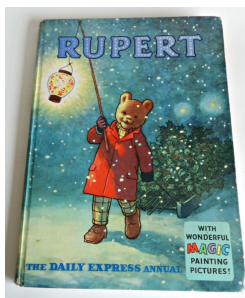
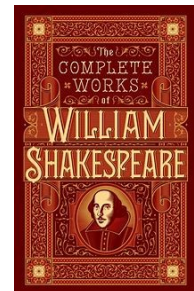
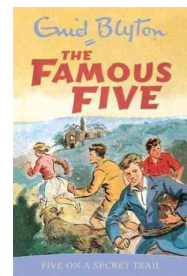
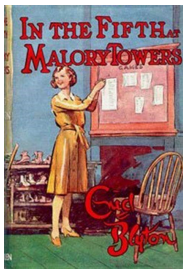
'Thoughts of a 10 Year Old'

I'm thinking about Christmas
I wonder what there'll be?
I hope there are no jigsaws
Or sewing sets for me!

I really hope I'll get some books
I've thought of quite a few
The 'Famous Five's' my favourite
And 'Mr Twiddle' too.

My headmaster has said that we
Should read a lot each day
It helps us with our spelling
And is great in every way.

So, when I get my presents
I hope that there will be
A book from all my relatives
All piled beneath the tree!



Margaret Morris-Jones

Filling the world, He lies in a manger! - Augustine

The Christian story is precisely the story of one grand miracle. - C S Lewis

PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

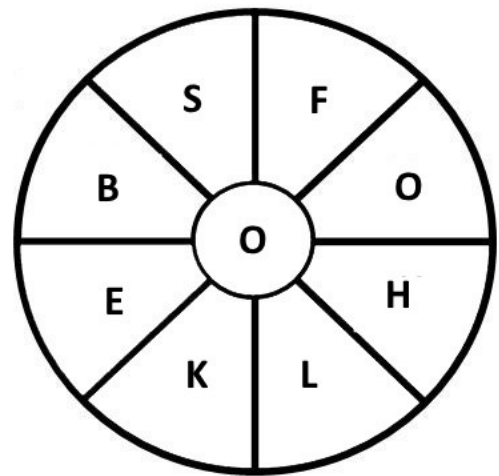


WORD WHEEL

How many words can you make using the letters in the word wheel?

Words must be four letters or more, each word must contain the central letter O. Plurals and proper nouns are not allowed. There is at least one nine letter word.

Good score 10+ Excellent 14+



A QUIZ FOR CHRISTMAS

See how much you know about how Christmas is celebrated in different nations. The first letter of each answer forms an anagram of something else that's associated with Christmas too.

Which festive tippie, derived from posset, has its origins in Britain?

What's the most popular dish in Japan on Christmas Day?

In which country do citizens put fake spiderwebs on their Christmas trees?

Babushka is a Christmas folk tale from which country?

What Christmas decoration was invented in Nuremburg, Germany?

What is burnt on a hearth as a Christmas tradition in regions of Europe?



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER AND TODAY'S SCRIPTURE CAKE QUIZ

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

A	I	P	O	P	P	I	E	S	F	I	N	R
Y	P	O	E	R	C	S	T	S	L	D	M	R
R	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	C	E	O	E
A	R	C	O	U	N	T	R	I	E	S	B	B
T	S	D	N	A	S	U	O	H	T	E	L	A
I	O	E	E	B	A	R	M	R	C	R	E	P
L	N	Y	G	R	A	V	E	S	A	A	M	L
I	N	E	S	I	Y	N	M	D	R	F	F	E
M	E	O	E	G	C	U	M	D	N	R	I	N
N	L	D	S	H	D	B	O	A	A	A	E	N
D	L	G	L	T	B	O	C	C	G	W	L	S
L	A	O	A	E	L	M	L	T	E	U	D	F
O	F	I	M	B	T	L	O	B	M	Y	S	D

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

Judges 5:25, last clause = unsalted butter

Jeremiah 6:20 = light brown muscovado sugar

1 Samuel 14:25 = honey

Jeremiah 17:11 = medium free range eggs, at room temperature, beaten

Samuel 30:12 = raisins

Nahum 3:12 = soft dried figs

Numbers 17:8 = blanched almonds, roughly chopped

1 Kings 4:22 = light brown plain flour

11 Chronicles 9:9 = ground mixed spice

Amos 4:5 = baking powder

Leviticus 2:13 = salt

Judges 4:19 = milk

SCRIPTURE CAKE QUIZ



Wishing all our readers
a very merry Christmas
and a peaceful and happy
New year