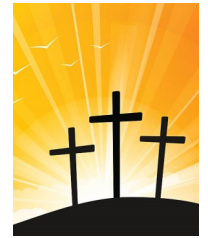




Stockport Sunday School

April 2022 Newsletter 26

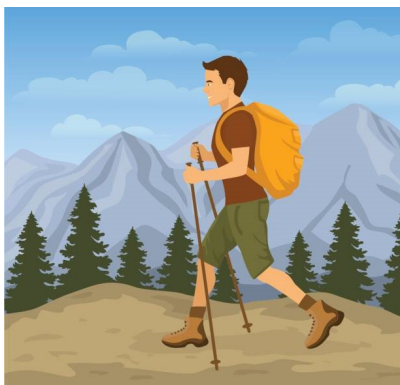


Have you any memories of being lost? Not just feeling unsure of where you are, but being really concerned, fearful maybe?

I can recall an incident in the old-style Woolworth's store in Stockport when I was very young. In those days the counters were arranged in squares, and quite high, which, for a toddler, cut out the view of the surroundings. Suddenly, I couldn't see my mother, and had no idea where she was, where to go, what to do. In fact she was only a few feet away, round the corner of the counter, and quickly responded to my wailing. Many years later the moment is still embedded in my memory.



Another occasion was on a youth hostelling holiday in Norway with university friends. We were touring in a small minibus, and one day a group of us decided to hike across the mountain ridge between two fjords. Two of our colleagues ferried us in the bus to the start point, and arranged to pick us up early evening at our destination hamlet some miles away.



We had a map, and several experienced hikers in our team, and set off confidently on the steep climb up the ridge, enjoying the magnificent views. It was only when we got to the top that we found that the ongoing terrain didn't match our map! We seemed to have two possible routes to follow, but neither had a clear line to our pick up point. No mobile phones in those days, or buildings or phone boxes in the mountainous countryside. If we chose wrongly, we faced the prospect of a night on that mountain ridge. If we went back, we would have no means of transport back to the Youth Hostel. Eventually we agreed on a

route, and after a much more strenuous trek than we had anticipated, we arrived at our pick up point.

It was a sobering, and memorable experience, and we never satisfactorily resolved why the map didn't seem to be correct, although one suggestion was that it was for use by skiers and not walkers.

The moral of this story is - be sure your navigational guides are fit for your specific purpose!

Then there are people who dread seeing the sign 'Diversion' on the road. You follow the first couple of signs - and then nothing! Should you press on in hope, trusting another sign will turn up soon; or should you retrace your steps to find a familiar place from which to devise an alternative route?



Worse still is when suddenly a motorway is closed off, all the traffic advised to leave at the next exit, but no indication at all as to where to go. Satnavs are invaluable in such situations, until, perhaps you come upon a sign saying 'Don't follow Satnav'. The locals know why, but visitors are really left in limbo.

Usually, such experiences of getting lost are relatively short lived. Someone eventually turns up who can help - be it a parent or grown up, a person familiar with the location, or just having access to a reliable map.

But when the storms of life assail us, there are times when we can experience the feeling of being lost, of being deeply affected, personally, or perhaps because of the impact of events on people we hold dear. It is often occasioned by matters over which we have little or no control. The Covid epidemic and the war in Ukraine are particular examples of this.



It is at such times people will turn to God - for hope, guidance and support.

But are they - or we, for that matter,- able to find Him? Do we have the equivalent of maps, guidebook or a satnav, or people around us to show us the way?

As followers of Christ, we believe that God cares for each and everyone of us. But do we keep our spiritual maps, our means of making contact, up to date, both for our own sakes and so that we can be of help to others who may feel lost?



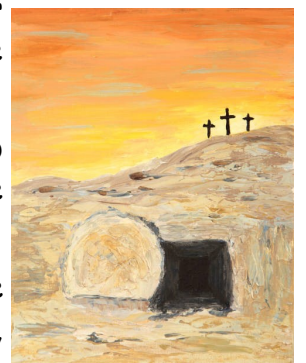
If God is our guide and map maker, our 'cartographer' so to speak, we need to have done our preparations to keep ourselves in touch in a rapidly changing world. We do have a guide book - the Bible. And there are key extracts which are good reference points - Jesus' teaching of the Lord's Prayer, Moses setting out the Ten Commandments, the Christian creeds, which spell out the essence of what we believe.

At the time leading up to Good Friday, we are reminded of the trauma experienced by the disciples at Jesus' arrest, trial and execution. All they thought they were achieving with Him seemed to have fallen apart. They truly felt they were lost. But Christ's resurrection opened their eyes to His true nature, to the true meaning of His teaching, and to the knowledge that with God, all things are possible.

They still had much to learn, but in the Gospel accounts, and the other New Testament writings, they record how they came out of the experience of feeling lost, and ventured forth in faith.

They put their trust in Jesus, remembering the words Jesus said to Zacchaeus, the tax collector - 'The Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost'.

So, at this Eastertide, let us renew our trust in Him. Perhaps it is a time when we should ask ourselves - what is our hoped for destination in life, and the life hereafter? where are we now?; how do we find the right way from here to there?





We have the guidebook, and Jesus as our guide

Let our Easter resolution be to endeavour to seek Him more earnestly, to follow His teaching faithfully and joyfully, so that the lost, be it ourselves or others, may be found.

With best wishes for a joyful and fulfilling Eastertide.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We send Happy Birthday wishes this month to:-

Beryl Manley	April 12 th
Judith Hadfield	May 2 nd



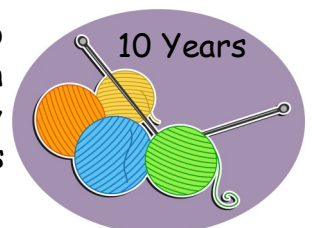
KNIT AND NATTER TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Knit and Natter group are celebrating their tenth Anniversary (a year late due to Covid) and are preparing a display showing examples of some of the work they have produced over the years for the various charities they have supported.



You are invited to join them on April 5th from 2pm, to view their work and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Their chosen charity for this year is 'Kidney Research'. Please come along to join them to celebrate and also to support this year's chosen charity. There will be a raffle.

Well done to all the ladies who have produced and sold their work to support the many charities over the years. all of whom will have been very grateful for your donations. Congratulations also on all the lovely 'Christmas Trees' you have decorated for the annual St George's Church Christmas Tree Festival, enjoyed by many visitors.





SERVICES



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27TH 2022

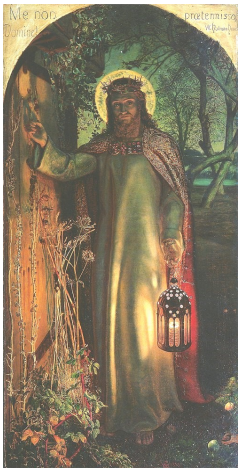
The service on February 27th was taken by Elizabeth Keeling and Ken Dean.

Elizabeth opened the service with the poem 'Snowdrops' and the reading from Genesis chapter 1 verses 1 - 5, 'The Beginning Of Creation'.

She then lit a large candle and we sang 'Jesus Bids Us Shine'.

The second reading was Matthew chapter 5 verses 3 - 6.

Ken's talk was about 'Light'. We all experience light and darkness in our lives. He wondered what it had been like for the original children taught at SSS working by candlelight.

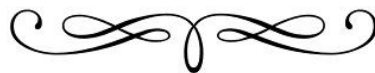


Ken told us of an island holiday when he stayed in an isolated cottage in a forest. Returning one evening after he left the bus on the main road he was not sure whether he was walking in the right direction until he saw a glimmer of light through the trees, his friend with a torch looking for him and showing him the way.

Jesus is the light of the world. As Christians we can bring light into the life of others in need. A school boy was asked "What is a saint?" His reply, "A person in a window through which the light shines" - very true.

We closed with 'Lord The Light Of Your Love Is Shining'.

Thank you, Ken and Elizabeth.



SUNDAY MARCH 6TH 2022

Walter took the short service on March 6th which was followed by a discussion on the future of the School.

He began with a prayer for the people of Ukraine.

His reading was from Mark chapter 12, Jesus answers the question, "Which is the most important commandment?" "Love God, love your neighbour", which is the opening verse in a Jewish service and is also found in Leviticus chapter 19.



We meet together at Stockport Sunday School each week to worship to learn and to enjoy friendship and support each other. All part of God's commandment.

An important part of our relationship with God is not just to love or fear Him but to get to know Him.

The closing hymn, 'God Is Working His Purpose Out' was followed by a discussion on the way forward for the School.



SUNDAY MARCH 13TH 2022

There were no hymn numbers on the board at the beginning of the service on March 13th. Cath Brown who was taking the service that day said that they would be revealed during the service. She then played us a piece of music and read a passage from Luke chapter 24 verses 28 - 30.

Henry Francis Lyle



She then said these were two clues to the first hymn. This was 'Abide With Me'. She told us about Henry Francis Lyle (1793 - 1847) who wrote the hymn. He had been a curate in County Wexford and later moved to Devon. He was inspired to write the hymn after visiting a rich friend who asked Lyte 'Abide with me'. Lyte developed TB and his daughter says he was ill when he preached his last sermon. He died a few weeks later in Sardinia and the hymn was sung for the first time at his funeral. Cath read us the whole poem written by Lyte, the hymn is only part of it.

John Greenleaf Whittier



The hymn is sung at many important events as well as in church services.

Cath also told us about John Greenleaf Whittier an American Quaker, Abolitionist and poet. Born in 1807 in a rural homestead in Massachusetts. He had little formal education but was an avid reader of his fathers six books on Quakerism. He became a shoemaker to raise the money to pay for an education. He wrote poetry and anti slavery leaflets.

A number of his poems have been turned into hymns.

The hymn, 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' is taken from his poem, 'The Brewing of Soma'. The words are based on the Bible reading 1 Kings verses 11 - 13.

Thank you, Cath, it is interesting to hear how some of our hymns came to be written.

SUNDAY MARCH 20TH 2022

Judith Higgins took the service on March 20th. She said that if you are looking at a story in the gospels you should read the same event in all four gospels as different gospel writers added different details. She told us the story of Malchus, a bonded slave to the High Priest. He was the man sent to the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus. John is the only gospel writer to name him. John may have met Malchus before as in his gospel he once described himself as 'known to the high priest'.



In the garden, Simon Peter drew a sword and cut off Malchus' ear. Again, only John names Peter as the attacker. He wrote his gospel after Peter's death so there was no danger in naming Peter as attacking a Roman official - a serious offence. The other gospels were written whilst Peter was still alive as probably deliberately decided not to name him.

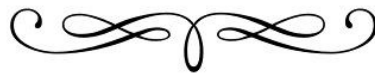
Why was Peter carrying a sword? In Luke chapter 22 verses 35 - 38, it looks as though Jesus told the disciples to take swords. It was Luke, the physician, who confirmed that Jesus healed Malchus' ear.

Malchus must have been very confused that night. Leading a small army, he had been attacked and injured by a fisherman and healed by the man he had come to arrest.

Jesus had shown compassion for his enemy, the man who had come to arrest him.

As Paul wrote to the Romans, "God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

God loves and cares for us whatever we have done.



MOTHERING SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH 2022

We welcomed Janet L. Moore as our speaker on Sunday 27th March, Mothering Sunday. She told us how exciting it is having a baby, but then everyone expects the new mum to know how to bring the baby up, but mothers don't - when the baby cries we feed it, wind it, change it's nappy, put it down to sleep, but if it still cries, what then?



After a poem by Helen Steiner Rice, we sang 'Now Thank We All Our God'. The Bible reading was taken from Exodus chapter 2 verse 1 - 10, the story of Moses. What a very hard thing for a mother to have to do, putting her new baby in a basket in the reeds, it should never have had to happen. But the same is happening now in Ukraine, children being parted from their parents in the most appalling circumstances (Janet shed a few tears and I think we all wanted to join her).

We then sang 'O Jesus I Have Promised', which was followed by prayers.

Janet looked on Google for some famous mothers:-

- a) Joseph Mayer's mother, but only found that she came from Bristol and her name was Miss Flowers.
- b) Susannah Wesley born 1669, daughter of Samuel Annesley, pastor, and Mary White 2nd wife. She was the 25th of 25 children (some children will have died). She married at age 19 to Dr Sam Wesley and most of their time was spent at Epworth. She raises and educated more than a dozen children. Her policy was 'strength guided by kindness'.
- c) Senator Tammy Duckworth born 1968 in Bangkok. Lost both her legs in the Iraq war. Has two daughters. First person to take her baby to work with her. Very influential person.
- d) Kate Garraway born 1967. ITV journalist married to Derek Draper who has long Covid. Struggling to cope but very open about it. Not knowing whether her husband is going to get better.
- e) Helen Steiner Rice born 1900 in Ohio. Father, a railway worker, died when she was 18 of influenza. Married F. D. Rice in 1929 who committed suicide two days after they were married. No children. She rose to Advertising manager, very rare in those days. Wrote many books of poems - religious and others. She became Poet Laureate. Campaigned for Women's Rights.



We then sang 'Give Me Oil In My Lamp' followed by a prayer for mothers.

Good mothers teach their children, talk and listen to them and have time with them, some mothers worried because of all things that need providing - book day, comic relief and red nose day etc. Some mums forget - teacher always has spares. Some mums need support, are very busy .

In a magazine, Janet read 'How To Be A Perfect Parent', nobody is perfect. Society is less bothered by the media to have a perfect home and family.

Good enough

- M - **meeting** needs
- O - mum puts **offspring** first
- T - mum is the first **teacher**
- H - mum provides a **home** and **health** and safety
- E - mum gives **emotional** support
- R - mum is **resilient** and **resourceful**

Trying your best is important. Children need to be loved, heard, kind and need their questions answering. Give them confidence.

Margaret is still doing all these things for her grandchildren as she had for all her children AND she is going to teach Janet to sew - still has time for all of them.

We then sang 'When We Walk With The Lord'.

Thank you Janet for a fascinating service.

Thank you also to Judith Higgins who had stitched everyone a cross to fit in their pockets.

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Pasta with smoked mackerel and leek

Serves 2

2 teaspoons butter

1 leek, finely sliced

1 tablespoon cornflour

300 ml milk

2 teaspoons horseradish sauce

1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives or parsley

1 medium-sized smoked mackerel filet, skinned and flaked

125 g pasta shapes (rigatoni or quills)

Salt and black pepper



Melt the butter in a saucepan and gently cook the leek for 10 minutes, until softened.

Blend the cornflour with 2 tablespoons of the milk and then stir the remaining milk. Add to the leek, stirring continuously, until thickened.

Stir in the horseradish and herbs, and season. Add the flaked mackerel. Keep warm.

Meanwhile cook the pasta (per packet instructions). Drain and divide between dishes. Spoon over the mackerel and leek sauce and serve.

Replace horseradish with a mild mustard.



Christians are like tea; their strength is drawn out by hot water. - Anon



If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns. - Anon

COMING SERVICES AT COMPASS POINT

April 3 rd	Garth Higgins followed by Committee Meeting 3.15pm
April 10 th	PALM SUNDAY , Walter Stead
April 17 th	EASTER , Speaker Beverley Wheeler
April 21 st	Judith Higgins
May 1 st	Garth Higgins



14TH APRIL - MAUNDY THURSDAY

WHAT IS MAUNDY THURSDAY?



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

**

WHY DO CHRISTIANS WASH FEET ON MAUNDY THURSDAY?

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example, to demonstrate to them that they should serve others with humility. Over the centuries, some churches have recreated this act of humility at a special service on Maundy Thursday.

**



WHAT ABOUT MAUNDY MONEY?

Every year the Queen distributes silver coins at a special service on Maundy Thursday. It is part of a tradition dating back many centuries, where the Royal Family took part in ceremonies washing the feet of poor people and giving gifts.

The Royal Maundy Service itself began in 1662, when Charles II gave out coins. The ones that the Queen gives out each year bear the portrait of Her Majesty designed for her coronation in 1953, even though the image on ordinary circulating coinage has since been changed four times.



According to the royal.uk website, the Queen decided early on in her reign that Maundy money should not just be distributed to the people of London. And so, for many years she has visited various cathedrals or abbeys to give gifts to local people. Recipients of Maundy money are nominated by their local dioceses for contributions to their local church and community.

During the service, the Queen distributes gifts according to the number of years she has lived: for example, when she turned 80 she distributed 80 pence worth of Maundy money to 80 men and 80 women in recognition for their contribution to community and to the church.

Last year, in 2021, the service was cancelled because of Covid. Instead, the Maundy money was blessed at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, before being posted to recipients alongside a letter from The Queen.

AT EASTER TIME

By Laura E. Richards

The little flowers came through the ground,
At Easter time, at Easter time;
They raised their heads and looked around,
A happy Easter time.
And every pretty bud did say,
"Good people, bless this holy day,
For Christ is risen, the angels say
At happy Easter time!"

The scarlet lily raised its cup
At Easter time, at Easter time;
The crocus to the sky looked up
At happy Easter time.

"We'll hear the song of Heaven!" they say,
"Its glory shines on us today.
Oh, may it shine on us always
At holy Easter time!"

'Twas long and long and long ago,
That Easter time, that Easter time;
But still the scarlet lilies blow,
At happy Easter time.

And still each little flower doth say
"Good Christians, bless this holy day,
For Christ is risen, the angels say
At blessed Easter time!"

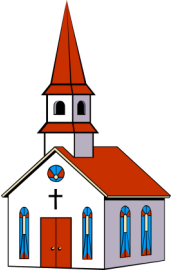


JUST FOR SMILES

DIRECTIONS

The Revd Billy Graham told of an encounter early in his ministry, when he had arrived for a preaching mission in a small town. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy in the street where the post office was. After the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him, and added: "Son, if you come along to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy looked doubtful. "The way to Heaven? But you can't even find the post office."



QUIET IN CHURCH

A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: "If you don't be quiet, the preacher is going to lose his place, and he will have to start the sermon all over again." It worked.

JESUS' GRANNIE

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and casually told his mother that the Sunday School teacher was Jesus' grannie. Astonished, his mother asked: "Whatever makes you think that?"

"Well, it's pretty obvious," said her son. "She never stopped talking about Him all morning. She told us Jesus is smarter and stronger and better-behaved than anyone else she knows. She even showed us a picture of Him. Who but a grannie would do that?"

NO SUNBEAMS

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his anxious mother, he explained: "This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"



WHAT A HOOT

One evening a bird-loving vicar strolled over to his huge country churchyard, and just for fun, hooted softly, like an owl. To his delight, an owl hooted softly back. The next night the same thing happened, and again, the night after that. Soon it became a regular habit, and every night for the following year, no matter what the weather, the vicar would go to the churchyard and hoot back and forth with his feathered friend. The hoots became longer and more complicated, and the vicar kept a careful log of the 'conversation'.



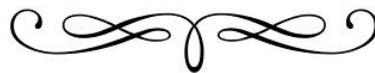
Just as he thought he was on the verge of a real breakthrough in interspecies communication, his wife had a chat with the neighbour who lived in a big house and garden next door to the church. "My husband comes here each night," she said, to "hoot to the owl in the churchyard." "That's odd," the neighbour replied, "so does my husband."

PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

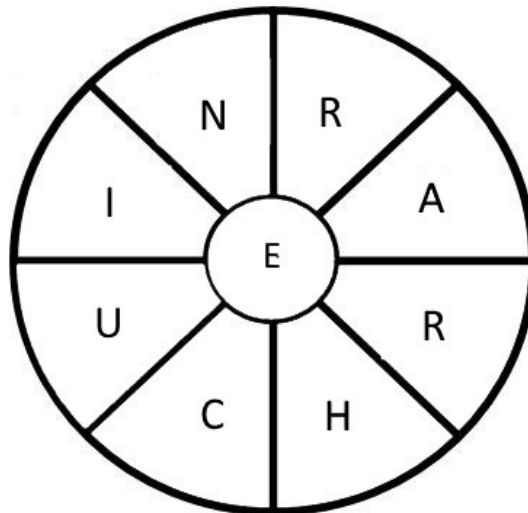


WORD WHEEL

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 E.
Plurals and proper nouns are not allowed. There is at least one nine letter word.

Good score 13+ Excellent 20+



THE LAST PASSOVER

On the night before He died, Jesus **ATE** His **LAST PASSOVER** meal with His **DISCIPLES**. He then **TRANSFORMED** the Passover into the **LORD'S SUPPER**, saying of the **BREAD** and **WINE** that, 'this is my **BODY**' and 'this is my **BLOOD**'. Jesus, the **LAMB** of **GOD**, was preparing to **DIE** for the **SINS** of the whole **WORLD**. **JOHN'S GOSPEL** makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening before the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at *the same time* that the Passover lambs were **KILLED**.

Jesus then astonished the disciples by **WASHING** their **FEET**. He said: "A new **COMMAND** I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to **LOVE** through **SERVICE**, not domination, of one another. In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word '**MAUNDY**' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).

WORDSEARCH

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

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



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"



ANSWER FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS