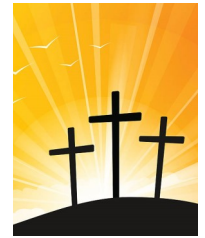




Stockport Sunday School

May 2022 Newsletter 27



'A fortnight ago, on Easter Sunday, we were marking the key point of our Christian faith - the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our service at SSS on that day was lead by our visiting speaker, Beverley Wheeler and it was certainly an occasion of celebration. Thank you, Beverley for an uplifting time of worship.



But now the special day is past, and life reverts to normal, so to speak. (It's not for nothing that the Sunday after Easter is generally known as 'Low Sunday')

Looking back to the beginning of Lent, it may be that you undertook some act of self-discipline, whether physical or spiritual, as preparation for Easter.

40
days
of Lent

(If you gave something up, it is interesting to note that the forty days of Lent is about the length of time it takes to overcome a craving or habit!)

Whatever you may have chosen to do or not do, did it help you understand and/or appreciate some particular aspects of your daily life and faith?

If so, having made the big first step, maybe it could be the springboard to a longer commitment.

Rather than put it on one side, you may ask yourself the question - 'Should I carry on with this, and make it part of my normal routine.' Worth thinking about?

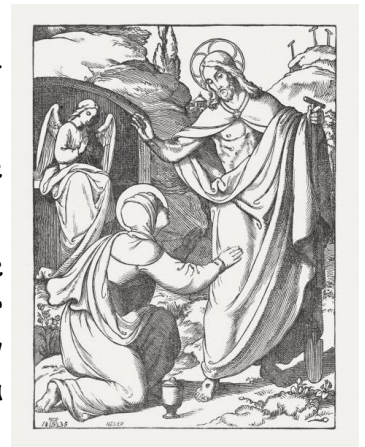
In a wider context, looked at in spiritual terms, our faith should not be a static condition, but an ongoing journey, where we seek to develop a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father. We should also remember that this relationship is very much an individual one, because in God's eyes we are all different.

I was reminded of this when listening to and reading the various Gospel narratives over the Easter period.

As pointed out by Beverley and Judith Higgins in her address last Sunday, it is worth noting how much accounts vary in content.

For example, who were the first persons to meet Jesus after he rose from the dead?

St John's gospel is the only one recording Mary Magdalene mistaking him for the gardener in the early morning light of Easter Day. In my mind it is one of the most touching events in the New Testament. Also the fact that His first encounter was with a woman is also significant, in view of the low status women had in



society in general in those days. Indeed, the disciples dismissed the report of the other women who had accompanied Mary when they visited the tomb and found it empty. Only Peter went out to see if what they said was true.



Very soon afterwards, Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus; possibly to Peter (according to Luke); and then to the other disciples together in a room, hiding from the Jewish authorities. At this point in the story, they would have been very much in fear for their own lives.

Then, of course there is the meeting with Thomas; 'Doubting Thomas' as he has come to be known although in normal circumstances many would perhaps call him a realist.

What is interesting is that Jesus appeared, and continued to appear to His followers in a variety of ways and situations, depending on their individual circumstances.

The meeting with the disciples on the road to Emmaus is particularly relevant in this respect.

The two men have heard the news that the tomb is empty, and they are discussing it together, trying to make sense of what had happened; seeking understanding. In effect, they are making themselves open to the risen Jesus joining them without realising it. Listening as He explains what has happened and why, and understanding the significance of what He was telling them is a life-changing moment for them.

For us, two thousand years later, I think there are two messages we can take on board from these accounts:

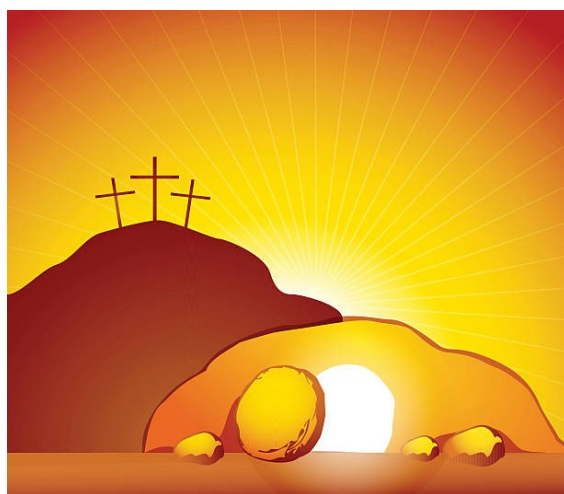
Firstly, Jesus will come to people in different ways, as he did to His disciples and followers. He will come to us in ways which suit our personalities, abilities and circumstances at any given time.

Secondly, we need to keep our minds open to receive His presence. To do so, it helps if we can have people to talk with and listen to; with whom we can share ideas; who can be our companions and support as we travel along our faith journey together.

This is the essence of Christ's church here on earth, of which we are a part.

Let us pray that our SSS fellowship will continue to be a valued means of supporting one another as we each seek to follow Jesus, our Saviour, in a world that is much in need of His healing presence.

And then let us go forth in peace to love and serve our Lord.



GET WELL SOON

Several of our members have not been too well recently or are awaiting test results. We send them our best wishes and hope that they will be feeling better soon.

We were pleased to hear that Rosie Stead is now out of hospital after her recent operation.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We send Happy Birthday wishes this month to:-

Judith Hadfield

May 2nd

COMPASS POINT NEW WEBSITE

Stuart Dean has updated the website for Compass Point. Why not have a look at www.compasspointstockport.org or scan one of the QR codes which will take you directly to the website. Please pass on the links to family and friends who may be interested. Thank you, Stuart, for your hard work in setting this up.

Best for tablets



Best for phones



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



KNIT AND NATTER TENTH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

Congratulations to Beryl and the ladies of the group who arranged the exhibition to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the group. The celebrations had had to be delayed by a year due to the recent pandemic, and the ladies had worked hard to make this a special celebration.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport found the exhibition and stalls very interesting and enjoyed tea and a chat with the many visitors. Beryl presented the Mayor and Mayoress with a lovely gift made by one of the group (seen in one of the photographs on the next page).

The event raised £576.80 for this year's charity, 'Kidney Research'. Since 2012 the ladies have raised a magnificent amount for the different charities they have supported, approximately £10,000 in total.





SERVICES



SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 2022

Garth took the service on Sunday 3rd April.

He took for his reading Luke 23 verses 26 - 43, which tells of the time Pilate handed Jesus over to the people to do what they wanted with Him.

As Jesus was being led away, some soldiers grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene whose name was Simon. He was coming in from the fields, but they put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. Garth asked who Simon of Cyrene was. Some say he was crucified with Jesus, others it was he was black.



In the following discussion, Walter Stead suggested Simon may have been a slave.

There are reports that Simon became a Saint but we don't know.



PALM SUNDAY, 10TH APRIL 2022

Walter was recently asked if he remembered the war. The question was from a Polish man and the question was prompted by the situation in Ukraine. Daily we see on TV the pictures of the devastation caused by the Russian bombing.

Wars and disasters do happen and people ask where is God in all this? What must Christians do?



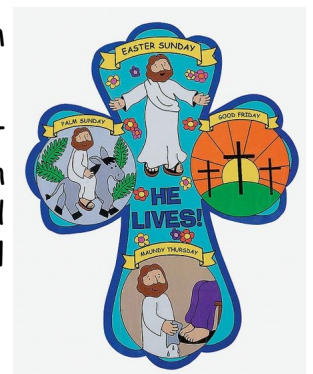
Jesus spoke of challenging hypocrisy and of taking up our cross and following Him but he also spoke of hope and putting our trust in God.

Why did Jesus' situation change so much on Palm Sunday?

The Jews were living in an occupied country. Pilate was only a governor answerable to Rome. The high priests and temple authorities were trying to protect the church and Jewish way. They saw Jesus' popularity that day as a threat to all that.

'Better to sacrifice one man to save us all.'

At the trial they brought in false witness against this good man. Jesus was God's sacrifice.

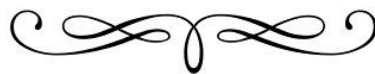
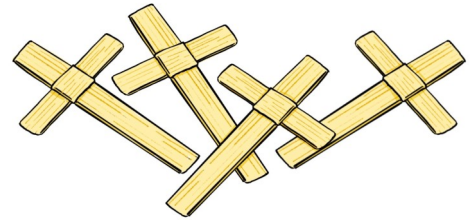


God gave man freedom of choice to do good but he may also choose evil.

Many people go to war claiming they are doing so to right a wrong. They are claiming to be more righteous than the enemy. Jesus told His followers, "Judge not that you may not be judged!"

As Christians we must put our trust in God and pray to Him to bring peace and reconciliation to the world.

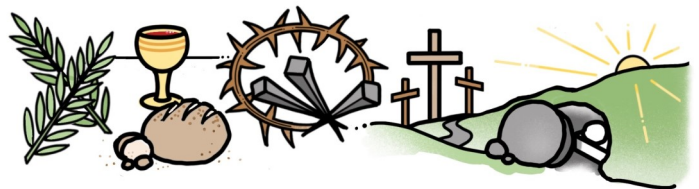
Palm crosses were given to everyone at the service.



EASTER SUNDAY

We were pleased to welcome Beverley Weaver as our guest speaker on this special Sunday.

She had brought along an Easter tree to decorate with symbols of Easter. The first picture on the tree was a cross, a symbol of the pain and humiliation of the crucifixion that Christ suffered for us. Second was a picture of the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning. Although at that time women were very much second class citizens. God chose women to be the first to learn of Jesus' resurrection. The third picture was of the stone rolled away from the mouth of the tomb. The next picture was of two angels who told the women that Jesus was alive and the last picture was of the eleven remaining disciples who could not at first believe what the women told them.



But what about us so long after the resurrection, when we are surrounded by war, death and persecution. We don't have an empty tomb and folded grave clothes.

We have the gospel and the accounts of the early followers of Jesus.



Some people have a 'Damascus moment' like Saul when they find Jesus but we are no less Christians if we do not experience this.

The last picture on the tree was of people. The Easter story would not be complete without His followers who spread the gospel.

We are His followers today, we can be His hands, His feet, His loving thoughts, His twentieth century gospel.

Throughout the service, Beverley repeated the verse "Christ the Lord is risen today", our response "He is risen indeed, Hallelujah".

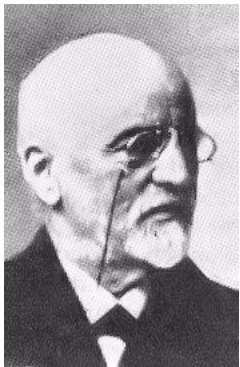
Thank you, Beverley, for an uplifting service, we hope to see you again soon.

After the service we enjoyed special Easter cake decorated with a tiny Easter egg made by Judith Curry and everyone took home a knitted Easter Bunny which contained a cream egg provided by Judith Higgins.

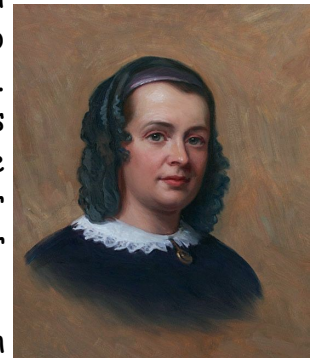


SUNDAY 24TH APRIL 2022

Judith Higgins led the service on April 24th. It opened with 'Thine Be The Glory'. Judith explained that the music had been written by Handel for his opera, Judas Maccabeus. The words were written 138 years later by Swiss pastor Edmond Budry. The two were not put together until 1904 but this has become a most popular Easter hymn sung all over the world.



Judith went on to discuss Jesus' appearances to the disciples after His resurrection. On the day before Pentecost, the eleven remaining apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas. They had looked for a man who had known Jesus from His baptism to His ascension and was a witness to His resurrection. Little is known about Matthias, his name only appears once in the Bible. He is thought to have spread the gospel in Cappadocia and Ethiopia and like several apostles, died for his faith. He was chosen because he was a witness to Jesus' love for us and we can be His witness too.



Finally, Judith told us about Caroline Chisholm who showed her faith by her care and support for others.



COMING SERVICES

May 1 st	Garth Higgins
May 8th	Janine Arnott from St Georges
May 15th	Judith Curry
May 22nd	Walter Stead
May 29th	Judith Higgins
June 5th	Garth Higgins
June 12th	Founders' Day

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Greek lamb baked with lemon and garlic

Serves 4

800g neck of lamb fillet

2 medium lemons

4 cloves of garlic, peeled

Large handful fresh flat-leaf parsley



Preheat oven to 150°C/130°C fan/Gas 2. Trim off any excess fat from lamb and cut into 2.5cm thick rounds. Tear off a sheet of foil and baking paper large enough to wrap them in. Place baking paper on top of the foil and place into a roasting tin. Arrange the pieces of lamb in the centre of the paper.

Slice 3 of the garlic cloves into slivers and using the tip of a sharp knife, make incisions in the lamb and insert pieces of the garlic. Grate the zest from the lemons and keep to one side. Squeeze the lemon juice and pour over the lamb, add some seasoning.

Fold up the paper and foil to make a parcel, place in the centre of the oven and cook for 3 hours. Just before serving, chop the remaining garlic clove and the parsley in a mini-chopper and mix in the lemon zest. Serve the lamb with the cooking juices spooned over and sprinkle with the parsley mixture.

Serve with a Greek salad and mini roasted or fried potatoes.



Happy Birthday

16 May - Margaret Dean

19 May - Jayne Dean

21 May - Beryl Barnett

MY AUTORGRAPH BOOKS

Did you own an autograph book, when you were at school and do you still look at it? I had two - one at Primary School and one when I was at Stockport High School. I've also got my aunt's book, with her earliest autographs written in 1924! I often look at all of them.

I started my 2nd one in 1951 and both my aunt's book and mine contain treasured and wonderful paintings and sketches, meticulously executed by friend's and relations. I find all three books absolutely fascinating and very nostalgic, as many of the contributors are no longer with us. Heavily Sunday School ex-members will certainly remember Marjorie and Stella Swann, Harold Swann's nieces, (I think that Judith Curry was a bridesmaid to Stella) and both of them have done perfect miniature paintings in my little green book, dated 1954. I even have a signature from Walter R. Stead in 1954, too! Then there is a brilliant painting of Aladdin and the genie of the lamp from Mr Swann. I think that at the time we were practising for our annual pantomime, which was 'Aladdin' that year.



However, apart from the pencil drawings and miniature paintings in the books, there are also many short quotations, some of which have stayed with me all my life.

My paternal grandfather wrote this for me in 1948.

"When the great teacher comes
To write against your name,
It matters not whether you won or lost,
But whether you played the game!"

In my aunt's book, written in 1924 were these three contributions:-

"Throw wide the windows of your heart,
Let in God's sunlight from above
And help to spread its cheerful rays
With daily deeds of care and love."

And 2 funny ones:-

"Blessed is he who sitteth on a tack,
For he will surely rise!"

And

"It's hard to part from friends we love.
It's hard to say goodbye.
It's harder still to find the towel
When the soap gets in your eye!"

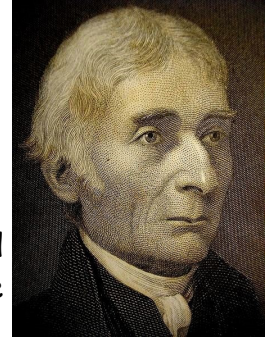


My favourite ones from my 2nd book are written in 1953 from school friends. This one is from Shakespeare's 'Measure for Measure'.

"Let me be ignorant, and in nothing good,
But, graciously to know I am no better."

And the second one is written by Etienne de Grellet, who was a Quaker missionary.

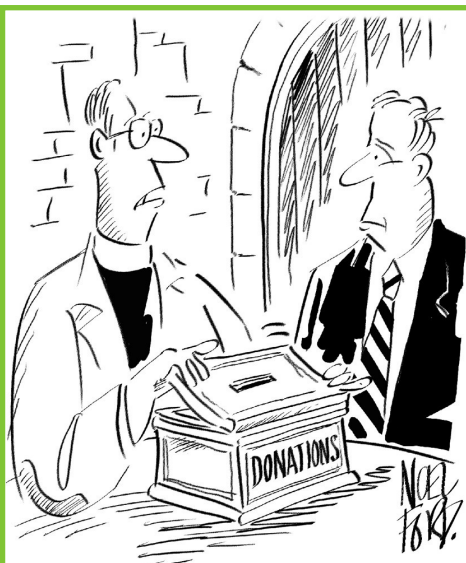
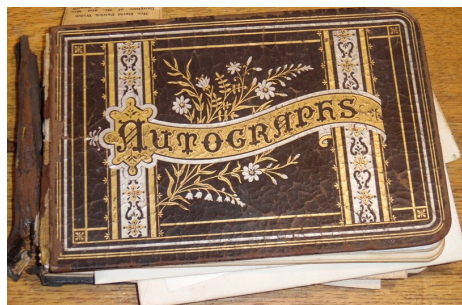
"I shall pass this way but once;
Any good that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any human being;
Let me do it now.
Let me not defer it or neglect it,
For I shall not pass this way again."



This book also contains all the signatures of girls in my class in the 5th and 6th forms of Stockport High School. Also all the staff (including the caretaker, who was a jolly, friendly man).

Such memories! I'm so glad that I kept my autograph books and hope that, perhaps, my children or grandchildren may eventually find them, read through them and smile at the contents.

Margaret M Jones



"It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we *hope* to find lots of foreign coins!"



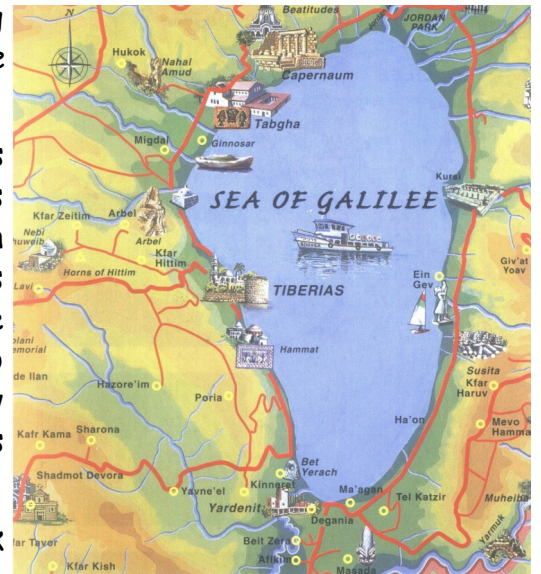
...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

21ST MAY - ASCENSION DAY: 40 DAYS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'



As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection!

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Looking at the masses of people on the station platforms in Ukraine, the writer of the following poem thought, "only a couple of months ago, each one of those people had a life, a home, a shop to buy food, perhaps somewhere to grow daffodils, maybe a church to worship God, and their own hopes and dreams for the future. Now they are just part of a mass of people shuffling towards a westbound train.'

THE REFUGEE

All that I was, I no longer am
All that I have, I hold in my hand
My home, my love, my world are all gone
One among thousands, I shuffle along.

Only last week I knew who I was
All that has gone, and only because
Someone in a land a long way away
Turned life into hell one terrible day.

He started a war, his heart icy cold
He rained down his hell on the young and the old
I ran for my life for I had no choice
And nobody heard the fear in my voice.

Everything's gone, and all that is 'me'
Summed up in a word - the word 'refugee'.
I have no control, no say in my fate
Just one in a crowd, I stand and I wait.

Waiting for what? The future's unclear,
For armed men have taken all that I held dear
Along with my hopes, and all I had planned
All swept away by the tanks in my land.

One thing alone puts a smile on my face
A far nicer stranger has come to this place;
A bed for the night? A cup of hot tea?
And - best of all - someone who sees me as me.

By Nigel Beeton

THE TRAVELLERS

They travelled together sad and forlorn
With all of their dreams shattered and torn,
It started so well, their hopes were high
Never to guess that He would die.

The Man joined the two as they walked along,
He asked why their faces were sad and long,
'Have you not heard?' disbelieving they cried
'How the One we followed was crucified?'

Opening the scriptures He began to unfold
How the Christ should suffer as written of old,
It was not a disaster, but all of God's plan
That one should come as Redeemer of man.

They listened enraptured as slowly they saw
The purpose of God revealed in the Law
The Prophets and Psalms, it's all about Him
The One who should come and rescue from sin.

that eyes should be opened and scripture made plain,
To see Christ in its pages again and again,
That just like the travellers I too should see
The Master, the Saviour dying for me.

By Megan Carter



0

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

This year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. The Platinum Jubilee Weekend to celebrate Her Majesty's historic reign takes place from 2nd June to 5th June. Throughout the country different celebrations will be taking place and here are a few taken from the governments website, www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk and also Stockport's website, www.stockport.gov.uk/news/stockport-celebrates-her-majesty-the-queens-platinum-jubilee.



BEACON LIGHTING

Throughout British history, beacon lighting has been done around the country to mark many special events. For Her Majesty's reign alone, beacons were lit to mark her:-

Silver Jubilee - 1977

Golden Jubilee - 2002

Diamond Jubilee - 2012

90th Birthday - 2016

Beacons will all be lit around the country at 9.45pm on Thursday 2nd June. Stockport's beacon will be lit in Stockport market place and people are invited to go and watch.

STOCKPORT

From 2nd to 5th June Stockport Town Hall will be flying the official Jubilee flag and the building will be lit up in purple to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.



On street parking and all council owned car parks will be free to park throughout the weekend.

Stockport Museums are running a Jubilee trail throughout the week leading up to the Jubilee weekend where you can learn about Stockport's local history and go on a journey through the history of the Queen's reign.

Look through local newspapers, contact venues around the borough or check the websites to get up to date information what is happening locally and nationally.

MEMORIES

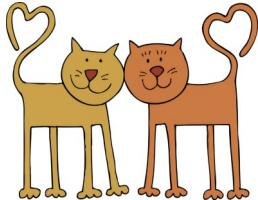
Do you have memories of how you have marked different events during our Queen's long reign, whether it be at Stockport Sunday School, Lancashire Hill, at school, local and national events or just with family? If anyone is happy to share their memories, it would be nice to include some in our June newsletter.

JUST FOR SMILES

Not expecting this

The young minister took his wife to the Maternity Hospital and was told it would be a long labour. So, he agreed to ring at lunchtime for news. But when he phoned, he dialled the wrong number and got the County Cricket Ground. He said: "I brought my wife to your place early this morning. Is there any news?"

He was surprised to be told: "Yes, there are seven out and the last two were ducks."



Cats

A Cheshire vicar has two cats. Their names are Ancient and Modern - because they are both him.

Parking space

Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."



New dog breeds

With all the new crossbreeds appearing, would you fancy one of the following?



Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso:
a dog that folds up for easy transport

Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter:
a traditional Christmas pet

Pekingese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso:
an abstract dog

Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated Retriever = Lab Coat Retriever:
the choice of research scientists

Newfoundland + Basset Hound = Newfound Asset Hound:
a dog for financial advisors

Terrier + Bulldog = Terribull:
a dog that makes awful mistakes

Bloodhound + Labrador = Blabador:
a dog that barks incessantly

Collie + Malamute = Commute:
a dog that travels to work



PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Lord, we pray for **UKRAINE**, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars **CEASE** to the end of the **EARTH**; you **BREAK BOWS, SHATTER SPEARS,** and **BURN SHIELDS** with **FIRE** [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to **SAVE** the **LIVES** of **MANY** people in Ukraine. De-escalate this **CRISIS**. We hear of wars and rumours of **WARs** (Matt. 24:6), but **YOU LORD** are our **ROCK**, our **FORTRESS** and our **DELIVERER**. **OUR HOPE** is in you. And so we address the nations now. **IN** the name of Jesus we say: "**BE STILL** and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth" [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison - Lord have mercy.*



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.

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

ANSWER FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS



WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

