

# Stockport Sunday School

June 2022 Newsletter 28



We are living in difficult times. Covid; fuel shortages; inflation and the sudden breakdown of peace in Europe, have all seriously disturbed our way of life in so many ways. It makes us realise how fortunate we have been as a nation, for the last 70 years or so.

But, if we look back over history, such periods are not unusual, either in our own country, or in the world at large. The secret is to learn from past mistakes and act accordingly.

And one 'history book' that most of us have read, (in part at least,) - the Bible, - can be a guide in this respect, as the nation of Israel has had more than its fair share of tribulation over the centuries.



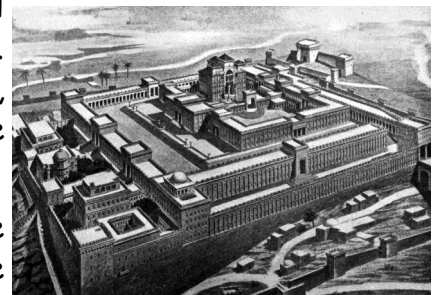
Of course, the Bible differs from other history books in that it looks at Israel's past from a religious point of view, based on their status as God's chosen people. They were a nation with a unique relationship with God, and one, which we as Christians, can share. And in difficult times what it tells us it can be a source of encouragement and strength and hope.



Recently I have been reading a brief commentary on the book of Ezra. It's not one of the most familiar books in the Old Testament and it is one of the shorter ones, dealing specifically with the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, beginning in 537BC.

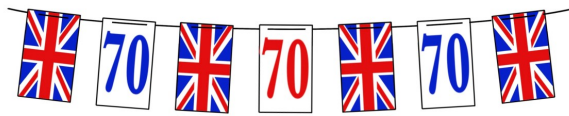
Ezra sees the prompting of God, both in the past history of Israel, and in the events of his own time.

The previous temple building had been erected by Solomon in a time of national prosperity. However, after his death, the nation fell into civil war, with a succession of kings, some good, some bad. In the process the religious basis for the nation's identity, their adherence to God's laws, was weakened with severe consequences



Eventually, Israel was invaded by the Babylonians, the temple destroyed, the treasures and holy articles taken away. The people were carried off into exile in Babylon, and it would be 70 years, as forecast by the prophet Jeremiah, before they would be able to return. It was then that Cyrus, who had conquered the Babylonians and had been recently crowned the King of Persia, not only released the Israelites, but decreed that they be allowed to build a new temple in Jerusalem.

God moves in mysterious ways!



During their trials and tribulations in exile, the people had gradually recovered their sense of national identity and their relationship with the one true God. So, on returning to their homeland, they set forth with enthusiasm on rebuilding the new temple as a symbol of their return to obedience to God's Laws.

The project did not go smoothly. Their neighbours were afraid that Israel might regain their former power and influence, as in the days of Solomon, and they succeeded in persuading Cyrus's successor, Artaxerxes, to halt the project. However, the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, encouraged the people to re-start the building. In parallel, they persuaded the Local Governor to write to the new king, Darius, asking him to confirm the original decree of Cyrus and allow the construction of the temple to be re-started - which he did, and in due course the temple was completed and consecrated with much rejoicing

Ezra's objective throughout was to call the people back to worship and obedience to God. This he achieved, albeit with one or two 'wobbles'. As so often happens, when things go well, the people assume it is all due to their own individual efforts, and pride and excessive self confidence all too soon lead to a change of fortunes.

It's an interesting story, and like so many accounts in the Bible, we can recognise modern day similarities - in Russia and elsewhere, we can see the rulers' lack of commitment to God's Laws - abandoning honesty and truth, being careless for the needs of others; seeking to gain or retain power at any cost, with a disregard for the suffering, destruction, or the equivalent of enslavement that so often ensues.

It is a sad example, yet again, of history's mistakes being repeated. We can only hope and pray that justice, truth and what is right in God's eyes will soon prevail as we seek to support these victims of oppression in our time.

On the positive side, the book of Ezra is just one small reminder for us that good can and will prevail for those who maintain their trust in God. He will provide the strength and determination needed for working for a just cause, so that nations and cities can be rebuilt and that virtue can be restored in society.

We have seen that take place in Europe after the waste and destruction of the Second World War.

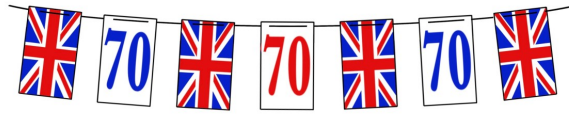
So let us pray for our leaders to act with wisdom in the challenging times that lie ahead.

And for God to help each of us to play our part in supporting all those who are struggling with the problems that beset our nation and the world as a whole in these difficult days.

Remembering our Lord's words,

**" Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine -  
you did for me "**





**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

### BIRTHDAYS

We wish Happy Birthday this month to  
Hilary Wood on 15th June.

### BEST WISHES

Several of our members have recently been undergoing hospital treatments and investigations. We wish them all well, its always good to see our members back at School.

Sending all our members and friends who are unwell at the moment our best wishes, we hope you are soon feeling better.

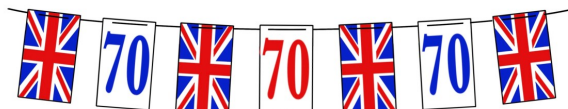


### FOUNDERS' DAY, SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022

Once again this year we hope to hold our Founders' Day Service in the car park at Compass Point at 2.30pm, weather permitting. If wet we will hold it in the hall.

Our speaker this year will be Stuart Dean, one of our Inspectors and leader of our Lancashire Hill branch.

At the close of the service we will sit down to afternoon tea in the hall to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We hope that you will be able to join us.





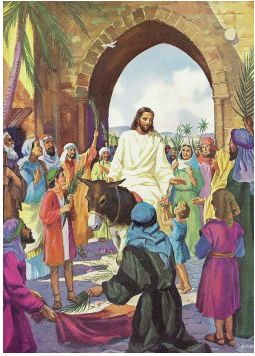
## SERVICES



### SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2022

Garth took the service on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

His reading was Matthew 25 verses 31 - 46. Jesus tells the disciples that when the Son of Man comes into His glory He will divide the people of all nations as a shepherd divides his flock into sheep and goats, ending



*"whatever you did for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed you did it for me."*

Over the last few weeks we have been learning about the events of the first Easter from Palm Sunday to Jesus' appearances to the disciples after His resurrection. Easter is the most important of Christian festivals.

For the second part of the service, Garth had prepared a quiz about Easter.



### SUNDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

We had a visiting speaker on May 8th, Janine Arnott from St Georges Church. A wise professor once said to Janine that there are two types of people, those waiting to be discovered and those waiting to be found out.

Those waiting to be discovered believe they have gifts not yet recognised, full of confidence that they have not reached their full potential.

Those wanting to be found out feel they are not good enough, perhaps feel they have been over promoted, not good enough for the job they hold or the family they have.

We are not good at judging ourselves because we judge ourselves by worldly standards, not as God sees us, judged by His values.

In the gospel, Jesus is waiting to be discovered. At His trial He stood in open court surrounded by His accusers and false witnesses, vulnerable and humiliated. But He stands firm.

Peter on the other hand hid in the shadows where the light of the fire did not reach him. When he is challenged he denies knowing Jesus three times. He is waiting to be found out.

As Christians we are called out of the shadows to do his work. We may not feel worthy of that calling. We will not be judged by worldly standards. God cares about us, He made us in His image. He cares about what is in our hearts and how we respond to His call.





## SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Judith Curry took the service on May 15<sup>th</sup> and her theme was stained glass.

The stained glass window in the entrance hall is based on Holman Hunt's painting of 'The Light of the World' based on Revelations chapter 3 verse 20, "Behold I stand at the door and knock ...."



Paintings and stained glass are created with the colours of the rainbow. Judith based part of her prayers on these colours.

**RED** is the colour of bravery - pray for the people who are being brave at this time.

**YELLOW** is the colour of sunshine - be thankful for some of the good things in your life

**ORANGE** is the colour of waiting - pray for patience whilst we wait for things to get back to normal

**GREEN** is the colour of life and growth, pray for the people who are growing and producing our food.

**BLUE** is a peaceful colour - pray for people who are anxious at this time and that they will find peace.

**INDIGO** is a sad colour - pray for the people who are sad or lonely.

**VIOLET** is a royal colour - pray for Queen Elizabeth in this special year of her reign and for the royal family.



St Peter's,  
Monkwearmouth

Evidence of stained glass in churches and monasteries in Britain can be found as early as the seventh century. The earliest reference dates from 675AD in the monastery of St Peter at Monkwearmouth.

Stained glass as an art form reached its height in the Middle Ages when it was used in churches to illustrate the Bible stories to the largely illiterate populace.

Judith showed us some beautiful pictures of stained glass windows including the beautiful Jesse Tree window from York Minster dating back to 1170.



There was also a picture of the Poor Man's Bible window from Canterbury Cathedral and windows illustrating the stories of the curing of the centurion's servant, Samuel and Eli and Mary and Martha.

Thank you, Judith, for an interesting service, beautifully illustrated.



## SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2022

We had the opportunity for a good sing on Sunday May 22nd.

Walter said that hymns were a valued part of our worship, but sometimes we sing familiar hymns without thinking about the words.



Hymns are a way of acknowledging God's glory, love and care for us.

Glory is not a word we often use. We glorify or honour someone of renown.



Queen Elizabeth II has celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service to our country. As a Christian she will not look back on the glory of what she has done, it is her vocation fulfilled.

We praise and thank and glorify God in our daily lives. Walter then played a piece of music which really glorifies God, 'The Hallelujah Chorus', from the Messiah. The words in the middle are taken from Revelation, 'For the Lord God omnipotent raineth .....King of Kings, Lord of Lords'. Powerful music but we must not let the music obscure the words.

We joined in the following hymns to glorify the Lord in our service:-

'O Worship The King'

'Let All The World, In Every Corner Sing'

'All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name'

'O Lord, My God'

'Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven'

'Low He Comes With Clouds Descending'

Thank you, Walter, for the chance to praise God and sing together.



### COMING SERVICES

June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Garth Higgins
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Founders' Day
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Walter Stead
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	To be confirmed
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Short service followed by Committee Meeting at 3.15pm

# LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



## Recipe

### *Warm chorizo, avocado and feta salad*

*Serves 2*

*8 mini chorizo cooking sausages, halved*

*100g baby plum tomatoes, halved*

*2 handfuls watercress, woody stems discarded*

*2 tsp sherry vinegar*

*1 tsp Dijon mustard*

*1 tbsp olive oil*

*100g feta, crumbled*

*½ avocado, sliced*

*Crusty bread to serve*



Fry the chorizo until browned and cooked through. Add the tomatoes to the same pan, season and cook until they just start to soften.

Put the watercress onto two plates. Whisk together the vinegar, mustard and olive oil, season and use to dress the watercress.

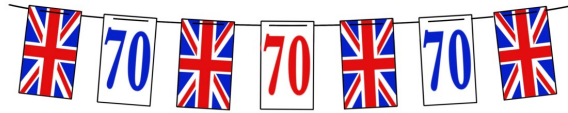
Scatter over the feta and avocado, then spoon over the tomatoes and chorizo. Eat with crusty bread.



**Happy Birthday**

28 June - Stuart Dean





### COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

We started in September 2021. It was a slow start during the last three months of 2021, but we have built up a few regulars at the start of this year, some from School and knitting group and one or two sent by the Mental Health Team who keep in touch with GPs and find out what goes on in the area people live, so they can advise them where they can go and meet up with people. We have had two people, but one comes regularly and loves coming and has been coming to us since just before Christmas and enjoys it, having lost his wife last year. We always make anyone welcome, it is still a slow progress getting more people in, we just have to be patient.



We ran a Ukraine fundraiser where for every cuppa sold 25p was donated to the charity and a box was put out in the entrance of School with a blue and yellow cloth for donations, and in total we raised £145, which has been sent to Teams 4 U, the shoe-box charity who we support, because they do aid work in Ukraine and have orphanages they look after and they have their partners out there who make sure aid gets through to the right people. Thank you to all of you who supported this charity, people are working in difficult and dangerous situations.



If you know anyone who would like to pop in on Tuesday for coffee or tea, tell them about us. Everyone who comes enjoys the company and we have a good laugh and live music if you are lucky.

Beryl Manley

### TAI-CHI QIGONG

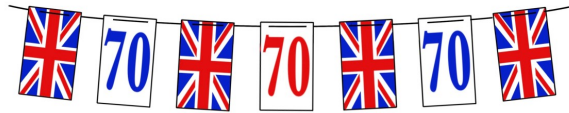


This class has been going since 2011 and we still have our regulars from the start. Numbers do fluctuate and since Covid 19 it has not helped as we are just managing to get people in. One or two new people have come but we still need more. If anyone knows someone who maybe interested in this class please tell them about us. It is Tuesday from 12.45pm till 1.30pm, cost per class is £4.50.

We have an excellent instructor, Jolie Hilton, who is very good in all aspects of this class. It is good for your health and helps lots of various problems including Heart, Strokes, Parkinson, and anyone who is Diabetic. The exercises are slow, the movement helps you to destress and unwind and is good for your mental health. Please help us to get more people interested, thank you.

Beryl Manley





### KNIT 'N' NATTER

The Knit 'n' Natter group are thriving, we have had one or two new people joining us and some knitting from home. The ladies were really pleased with the exhibition we did and enjoyed getting it ready. A lot of hard work was put in to it and the visit of the Mayor, Adrian Nottingham and the Mayoress Diane Nottingham went down very well with everyone, and they really enjoyed their visit. The event raised for Kidney Research UK £576.80 and that included the 25p per cuppa we collected from the Tuesday Community Coffee Lounge. A big thank you to all those who supported this event. The video Stuart Dean very kindly made for us went down a storm, the Ladies were over the moon about it, a big thank you to you, Stuart, fantastic job really made the day for the group .



Our next event will be on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, when we shall be holding an Autumn Fair and raising money for Beechwood Cancer Care and the same with the proceeds from coffee sold.

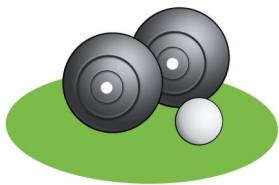
Some time next month two of the ladies will be going to Lisburn Court to show a few ladies how to crochet and knit. These will be Dementia patients they will be showing. The home emailed me to see if we could help and I asked if anyone was interested. I will let you know how they get on.



Our future projects are knitting for St Georges' Tree Festival, along with knitting for our Autumn Fair making all kinds of things.

Beryl Manley

### BOWLING CLUB



The Bowling Club is thriving. We have had a few new members. On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, we shall be having a celebration for the Queen's Jubilee. On Friday 26<sup>th</sup>, the club had an 'Away Day' to Cheadle Conservative Club where we played a match, just our members, for prizes, and had a buffet lunch which everyone enjoyed.

Our next big event is our Open Day on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 11am celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Year as a Bowling Club. Everyone is invited to come along and have a try at bowling and see what we do. Tell all your friends, its good for your health and keeps you fit .

More news later.

Beryl Manley

## SHOE-BOX SERVICE

The service will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm. The School will be having our own Shoe-Box Service and St George's will do their own. What we were doing these last two years worked out better with the Covid 19 and they are glad to carry on with that system and it is better because it saves their members bringing boxes up to us and some people maybe finding it too much. They have been invited to our service and we shall be showing videos of all the work Team4U have been doing in the Ukraine. Margaret Forster will see our boxes are sent to Wrexham, thank you Margaret. Thanks to everyone who supports this charity and all the good work they do. As soon as leaflets have been printed, look out for them. The donation per box this year is £3 per box. Thank you.



Beryl Manley

## MEMORIES OF 1977 SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

My interest in the Royal Family all began back in 1977. I was 6 years old and Stockport Sunday School Girl Friday group held a 'Silver Jubilee' party for the children. We celebrated with games on the field and we enjoyed a 'Jubilee' party tea. A vivid memory of the day was being given red, white and blue ice cream as part of the tea, this was the first time I had seen anything like this, hard to believe now with all the endless options available to us today. At the end of the party, we were all given a souvenir to mark the Silver Jubilee, a metal pencil tin with a picture of Queen Elizabeth II and the dates of the Silver Jubilee. Little did I know then that that pencil tin would be the first piece for my collection of Royal memorabilia. Over the years, since that first piece, I have collected many pieces from newspaper articles to china, glassware, textiles, books etc dating back to the reign of Queen Victoria and continuing through to the Royal Family of today, and to think it all began when I received that pencil tin from a Sunday School event. Many years later I was pleased to be able to share some of my collection with Sunday School members at another of the Queen's celebrations.



It is amazing to think that the Queen has been on the throne for 70 years and we are able to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee with her. I attended the Civic Service at St Mary's Church on Thursday evening to mark the Jubilee (the order of service was beautifully presented, the latest 'souvenir' for my collection) and then watched the mayor lighting the Platinum Jubilee beacon outside the church afterwards, a new memory created 45 years after my Silver Jubilee memory. The evening was well attended and



it was a lovely way to mark such a special occasion for a wonderful monarch who has certainly dedicated her life to serving her country.

A huge thank you to everyone who has so kindly added to my collection over the years with different pieces, it is very much appreciated, it always amazes me how many different pieces have been made or written about the Royal Family over the years

Kirsty Higgins

## SHEILA

One of my oldest friends died a few weeks ago. We met on our first day at Didsbury Teacher Training College and remained close friends for 65 years. We were guests at each other's weddings and at the christenings of our children. In later years we celebrated together 50 and 60th birthdays and Silver Weddings and, more recently my 75th and 80th and this year my 83rd. Our birthdays were just 6 weeks apart.

It was Sheila's request to be buried at Forest Chapel in Macclesfield Forest with her husband, who was a former farmer in Mottram-St-Andrew. Her son asked me if I would attend the short ceremony, as her oldest surviving friend. I was rather apprehensive but it was a truly peaceful and beautiful occasion, the sun was shining as the five of us climbed out of the limousine and up a short hill to the grave. The birds were singing and the view of Shining Tor and Shutlingsloe in the distance was breathtaking. We were welcomed by the vicar and 2 church wardens, who gave us each a small book of psalms and we all read together psalm 121.



*"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills."*

It was completely appropriate as we stood there in these magnificent surroundings.



Then one of the church wards, (a very elderly gentleman, who looked and sounded like my cousin, Bernard Miles), informed us that he had dug the grave and had also dug Sheila's husband's grave many years ago. He had a great sense of humour and made us all chuckle when he told us that it was a new vicar and today was his first burial at Forest Chapel!! We all got back into the car with smiles on our faces and a lightness in our hearts—just what Sheila would have wanted, and then off we went to Tytherington Christian Fellowship Church to enjoy a lively celebration of Sheila's life, assisted by coffee, tea and cakes!

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*"I will lift up my eyes unto the hills  
From whence cometh my help?  
My help cometh from the Lord  
Who made Heaven and earth.  
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:  
He shall preserve thy soul,  
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and  
Thy coming in from this time forth,  
And even for evermore."  
(excerpts from Psalm 121)*

Margaret Morris Jones

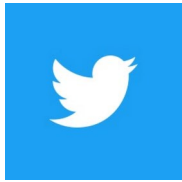


Thank you to Chris Dawson and St Georges Church for allowing us to include the following piece.

### FREE SPEECH

I don't know much about Elon Musk, except that he has something to do with Tesla electric cars, wants to go into space and has recently put in a bid to buy Twitter.

I don't know much about social media either, except that I have been banned from Facebook. Wanting to join the morning service one Sunday during lockdown, I pressed the link. A notice came up insisting I had to join Facebook in order to do so. I did, but the next time I tried to log into Facebook, I was told I had breached community rules and was banned!



Following his bid to purchase Twitter, Elon Musk has announced that when it comes to 'free speech', he is an 'absolutist'. I suppose that means that he is in favour of anyone saying anything they like on Twitter, or anywhere else.

But is anything 'free'? Is anything without consequences? Causes may not be clear or immediately known and consequences may not be obvious or foreseen, but we live in a world of cause and effect. The old childhood rhyme that ends with, "but words will never hurt me", is wrong. Words have power. Ask advertisers, poets and politicians.



Words are connection. That connection can come from a place of fear and anger, or a place of love. For some people it seems that such is their hurt and alienation, that the anonymity of social media enables and even encourages them to communicate from a place of prejudice.

It's OK to debate and disagree, to speak up about unfairness, injustice and abuse. Jesus did plenty of that. He also modelled empathy and compassion. Words can create happiness or suffering. They can inspire confidence, joy and hope. Before speaking out it can be useful to check with our emotions.

We could go further and, before we speak, ask ourselves three questions:-

"Is it true?  
Is it kind?  
Is it necessary?"

They would be good community rules!

Chris Dawson

Anger is just one letter short of danger. - Anon



Nature is the art of God. - Thomas Browne

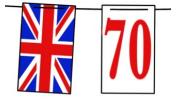


## JUST FOR SMILES

### Techie trouble

The vicar had technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

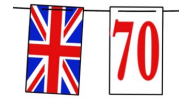


### Be sticky

Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.

### Weight

Signing the register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making his ball-point pen work. "Put you weight on it," said the vicar. So the groom complied: 'John Smith (12 stone, four pounds)'



### Don't fool me

A three-year-old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Sam, your shoes are on the wrong feet."

He looked up at her and said, "Don't kid me, Mum, I KNOW they're my feet."



### Stairs

As you get older, you've got to stay positive. For example, the other day I fell down the stairs. Instead of getting upset, I just thought, "Wow, that's the fastest I've moved in years."

# PUZZLES

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



SUDOKU

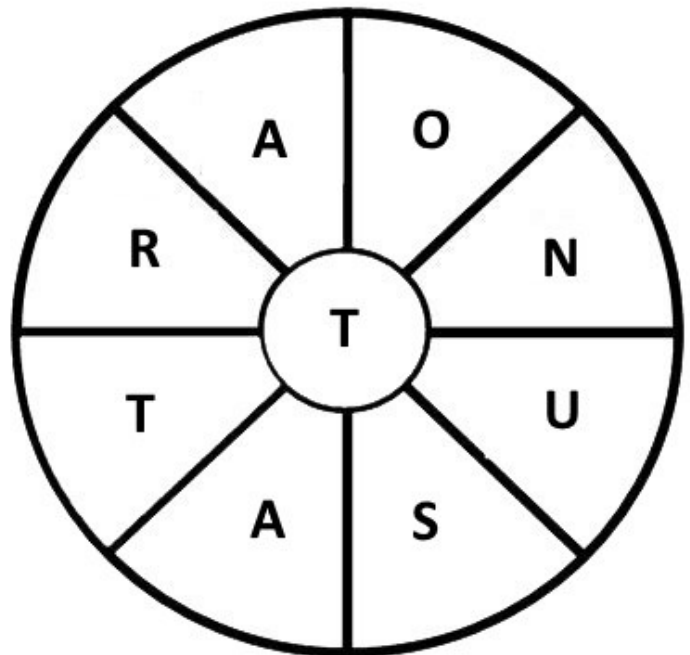


## WORD WHEEL

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

Good score 14+ Excellent 22+



This year Her **MAJESTY** The **QUEEN** became the **FIRST BRITISH MONARCH** to celebrate a **PLATINUM JUBILEE** marking **SEVENTY YEARS** of **SERVICE** to the people of the **UNITED KINGDOM**, the **REALMS** and the **COMMONWEALTH**.

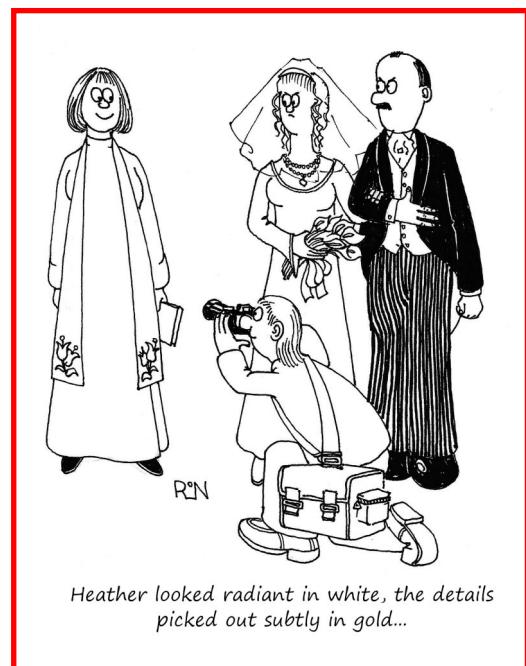
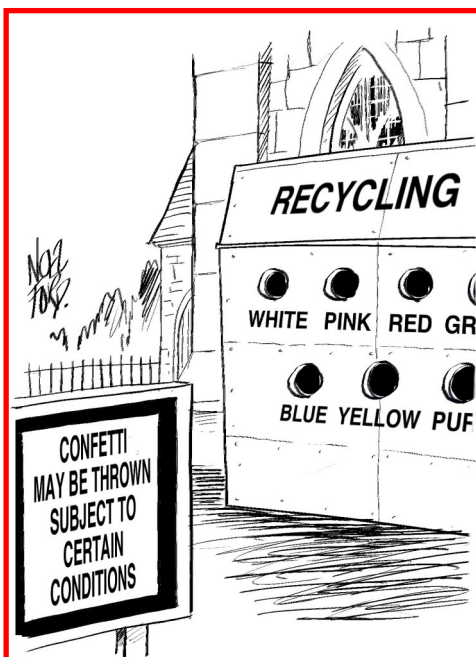
**CELEBRATIONS** will include The **Queen's BIRTHDAY PARADE (TROOPING the COLOUR)** on 2<sup>nd</sup> June when more than 1,400 parading **SOLDIERS**, 200 **HORSES** and 400 musicians will come together. Beginning at **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace **BALCONY**.

**Platinum Jubilee BEACONS:** The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will also continue. Over 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

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

**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.

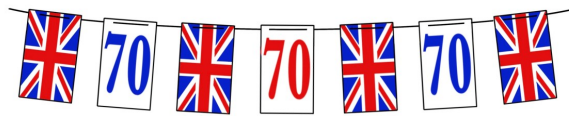


## ANSWER FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

6	2	7	1	<b>9</b>	3	5	8	4
8	1	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	2	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	3	7
9	<b>3</b>	5	4	8	7	1	<b>2</b>	6
7	4	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	1	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	5	2
2	5	1	<b>7</b>	6	<b>4</b>	3	9	8
3	8	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	5	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	7	1
4	<b>7</b>	8	6	3	5	2	<b>1</b>	9
1	6	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	7	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	4	5
5	9	2	8	<b>4</b>	1	7	6	3



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