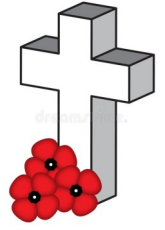


Stockport Sunday School

November 2022 Newsletter 32



Once again, our Anniversary Service on 23rd October was a very enjoyable occasion. It was a great pleasure to welcome Adrian Nottingham as our speaker and our thanks go to all involved in the arrangements for the service, and to all the members and friends who were there to support us.

Over the years we have had a wide range of visiting preachers, and sometimes their words of wisdom remain imprinted in our memories.

One particular case, in my experience, was when the Rev. Peter Shilling was our visiting preacher many years ago. He was talking about writing hymns, and suggested to be successful, the basis should either be a Biblical text or as a form of prayer.

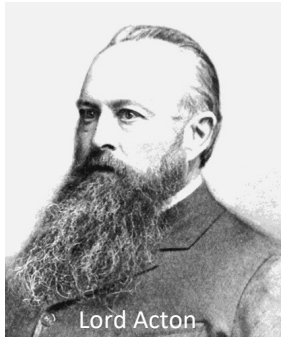


Adrian Nottingham

I was reminded of this recently, when the words of a well known hymn seemed particularly relevant.

Like many others, I have been disturbed by the general deterioration of the political scene over recent times and particularly over the last couple of months.

I am not a cynic when it comes to politics. You can't please all the people all the time, and I believe the great majority of MPs take up this career because they see it as a means of improving the lot of their constituents, and the nation as a whole.



Lord Acton

However, there is a well known quotation from Lord Acton (in 1887), 'Power tends to corrupt', and that seems to be the case over recent times, especially in the higher echelons of government. There has been less respect for the truth; political decisions seem to be made to gain personal advancement, rather than from true principles; the legal system is overridden when it suits; commitments are given and then forsaken.

In such circumstances, it is not surprising that some sections of the general population doubt if anyone in power can be trusted. At the time of writing we are in yet another parlous state with the economy under severe pressure and another Prime Minister forced to resign.

The initial causes of these difficulties were not down to us as individuals, nor our leaders at the time.

The Covid pandemic has affected the whole world. That was followed by President Putin invading Ukraine in the mistaken belief that the Ukrainian people would accept Russian rule. This resulted in the fuel supply crisis, and living costs escalating rapidly, with more and more people being pushed into poverty. Add to this the ongoing threat of global warming, with the ever increasing frequency of extreme events, such as drought, flooding, violent hurricanes, and there is much to be concerned about.



All this brought to mind the words of one of our well known hymns, written by John Whittier:

Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Forgive our foolish ways
Re-clothe us in our rightful minds
In purer lives Thy service find
In deeper reverence, praise



As a prayer, it can be taken to apply to those in government, who have responsibility for resolving the problems.

But it also applies to society as a whole, of which we are a part. Have we been too ready to accept what our politicians say because it is what we would like to happen, while ignoring the facts that suggest it cannot happen? Are we taken in by style, rather than content. Do we accept that a society, in which increasing numbers of people are struggling financially and having to rely on food banks, is an acceptable situation for an advanced country such as ours.

Isn't it ironic that we need a fuel crisis and escalating prices to make us look to economising on our use of fossil fuels, which is partly contributing to global warming.

We may think that whatever we can do is insignificant. On the contrary, every little helps. And when it comes to the wider question of principles, it is up to us to stand up for honesty, truth, care and compassion in our interaction with our fellow citizens.

If we all do our bit, then perhaps the later verse of John Whittier's prayerful hymn can come to pass:

'Drop Thy still dews of quietness till all our strivings cease
Take from our souls the strain and stress
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace'

Let us pray for that day to come.

CHANGE OF SERVICE START TIMES

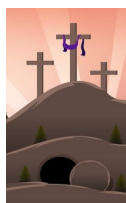
FROM SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, SERVICES WILL START AT 2PM AND FINISH AT 3PM TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO TRAVEL HOME IN THE LIGHT.

WE WILL RETURN TO THE 2.30PM START IN THE SPRING (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER).



2023 CALENDAR

January 1 st	No Service
January 8 th	Election of Inspectors
January 29 th	AGM 3.15
February 5 th	Bible Sunday
Week Beginning February 20 th	Kites Pantomime
March 19 th	Mothering Sunday
April 2 nd	Palm Sunday Committee Meeting 3.15
April 9 th	Easter Sunday
June 18 th	Founders' Day
July 2 nd	Committee Meeting 3.15
September 17 th	Harvest and Lunch
September 24 th	Committee Meeting 3.15
October 22 nd	Anniversary
November 12 th	Remembrance Sunday
November 19 th	Shoe Box Service
November 26 th	Christmas Fair
December 10 th	Christmas Lunch Christmas Post
December 17 th	Candle and Carol Service Christmas Post
December 24 th	No Service
December 31 st	To Be Confirmed



T4U



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Maureen Jewsbury on November 4th

Joyce Sellers on November 27th

Judith Higgins on December 4th

WELL DONE

Congratulations to all the ladies of the Knit and Natter group who had a very successful coffee afternoon and sale. To date they have raised the fantastic amount of £500.00 for their charity, Beechwood Cancer Care. Thank you to everyone who supported them, it was a lovely afternoon, enjoyed by many.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday November 26th 2022

10.30am - 1.30pm

There will be a raffle, bottle tombola, books, games and jigsaws, crafts, Rosie's stall, cakes/ jams and white elephant stall.

Donations to any of the above stalls will be very welcome.

Don and Judith are happy to collect items.

FATHER CHRISTMAS will be here.

Tea, coffee, cakes, bacon baps and toasted teacakes are available.

Stall holders will be able to start setting out their stalls from 1.30pm on Friday 25th November



CHRISTMAS POST FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERS

Once again, the post box will be out again in the entrance hall of Compass Point for members to post their Christmas cards to each other. The post box will be out on Sunday 4th and Sunday 11th December.





SERVICES



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH 2022

On September 25th, Garth Higgins led a short service before the Committee Meeting. He had just returned from a holiday in Yorkshire where he had revisited the ruined Whitby Abbey.

The Abbey had been founded by Abbess Hild in the fifth century, a monastic centre for both men and women. Hild had been a member of a pagan Northumbrian Royal family but became a Christian, baptised on Easter Day 627. She was renowned for her wisdom and became Abbess of



Hartlepool and later Abbess of Whitby. In 657 she was given the land on the headland by King Aswui. In 664 leaders of the Celtic and Roman Catholic churches met at the Abbey for the Synod of Whitby at which they decided the method of calculating the date on which Easter would be celebrated each year. Previously the two churches had celebrated this important festival at different times.

Caedmon the abbey herdsman had a dream during which he received a gift of the ability to write songs and poetry. Hild persuaded him to become a monk at the abbey where he continued to write songs. Abbess Hild became Saint Hilda.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2ND 2022

When Walter Stead took the service on October 2nd he spoke about rivers. Rivers play an important part in our lives apart from providing the water we need to survive.

In the past they provided a source of power for factories and a source of transport for raw materials and finished goods. Rivers form natural boundaries and places where they are shallow enough to cross, like Stockport, became important to the north-south trade route during the Industrial Revolution.

River banks can provide a tranquil place for reflection or recreation.

In the Middle East, where our Christian beliefs developed, water is less readily available and is consequently a more valued resource, they are mentioned frequently in the Bible. Walter discussed some of the Bible references.

Psalms 137 was written at a time of despair. The Jewish nation was held captive in Babylon and the people gathered by the river to support each other and talk of the homeland and sing praises to God.



In Revelation, the river is the water of life flowing from the throne of God, an emblem of purity. Walter read psalm 46 and we sang a modern version of the hymn, 'God Is Our Strength And Refuge'. The psalmist refers to the presence of God as a spiritual river that never runs dry.



The Bible has several references of people being baptised by immersion in rivers, a ritual cleansing before being accepted into the church. For Christians the most significant mention is when Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist at the start of His ministry.

Jesus spoke of giving 'living water' to those who believe in Him.

Walter closed by saying that the biblical significance of a river is a symbol of Gods loving nature , His power and abundance of love and mercy.

We are facing difficult times with war in Europe and the threat of the return of a Covid pandemic. At times like this we should remember God is with us and put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Walter, for an inspiring service.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9TH 2022

On October 9th, Judith Higgins spoke about Bibles. Most of us have at least one Bible and most of us have several different copies. Only five hundred years ago, it would have been a criminal offence to own a Bible in English. Church leaders of the time believed that it was the province of the clergy to interpret the Word of God for the ordinary people.

William Tyndale believed that people should be able to read the Bible for themselves and translated the New Testament from Greek into English whilst in hiding in Germany. He was later betrayed, arrested, tried and executed for heresy. Today the Bible has been



translated into 1200 different languages. Judith told us of the work of Dean Lancelot Andrewes who was appointed by King James 1st to lead a team of fifty four scholars to make a new translation of the Bible in 1607, now known as the Authorised or King James Bible, still widely used today. She told us of how some people's lives had been changed when reading the Bible, including those of the mutineer crew of the Bounty two hundred years ago and a girl from a poor township in Malawi when she received a Bible in her own language from the Bible Society.



We tend to appreciate the things we have to work hard for to achieve. Perhaps the Bible in English is too readily available to us and we do not value it as we should and read it enough to learn more about God.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16TH 2022

On Sunday October 16th, Garth shared with us some quotes he had found online by members of American Christian Churches and asked whether we agreed with them or if they applied to SSS. Examples he shared were:-

1. "I like our church just the way it is." - We should not want our place of worship the same as it is, we should be constantly seeking to reach new people with the gospel.
2. "People know where our church is if they want to come." - We should be working to take the gospel out to others and be active in inviting them in.
3. "I pay my tithes here so I deserve" - This person sees his offering as conditional, considering their offerings more like a club membership.



Garth went on to speak of Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and Justin Welby's sermon in which he spoke of her great faith and life of service. He said that the queen had 'touched a multitude of lives' and few leaders received the same outpouring of love and grief as witnessed in the days following her death.

In her address during the pandemic, the queen ended with the words of Vera Lynn's song, "We'll meet again".

All who follow the queen's example and inspiration of trust and faith in God can with her say, "We will meet again."

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23RD, ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday October 23rd, Walter welcomed the speaker, Adrian Nottingham, to the School.

Adrian thanked us for our welcome and said it was an honour to be asked to speak at the 217th Anniversary of a School that had played such an important part in the history of the town. He had read about the history of the School which started at the time of the Methodist Revival.



Something important had happened even earlier that would bring about change. In 1727 in Germany (the Moravian Revival). A group of Moravians, followers of John Huss, had started a religious community. They were joined by members of other denomination but disagreement broke out between the groups. They decided to pray to God. On 26th August 24 men and 24 women met together to pray. They drew up rotas for continuous prayer 24 hours a day for the next 100 years.

The Moravian Church spread across the world. In England, John and Charles Wesley attended one of their meetings. John said he felt the presence of God there.

The Methodist Revival began followed by social reform. The Moravians were still praying in Germany.

William Wilberforce and Shaftesbury began their work and there was a movement for prison reform.

In Stockport, a Sunday School was founded to bring education and religious teaching to the children of the poor. Children were working long hours in the mills during the week but were taught on a Sunday at a School which at one time was the largest in the world.

We live today in a world where there is still hunger, homelessness, poverty, inequality and injustice. There is still a need for prayer which will fuel social reform.



Adrian's reading from James chapter 5 was the story of how Elijah had prayed to God to stop the rain and no rain fell for 3 1/2 years. Then Elijah asked God for rain and when the rain began the earth and crops grew again showing that the farmers had continued to plant seed during the drought.

In hard times we still need to sow the seeds of faith.

Adrian said that an Anniversary was a good time for rededication - our work is not finished yet.

We should learn from the past
Live in the present
And look to the future.

Thank you, Adrian, for an inspiring address.

There were about 40 people present for the service and it was good to catch up with old friends over a cup of tea, cream scones and cake, at the close of the service. Thank you to all those who helped to make this a successful Anniversary.



"We must repent of our prayerlessness and make prayer our priority."

Billy Graham

I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.

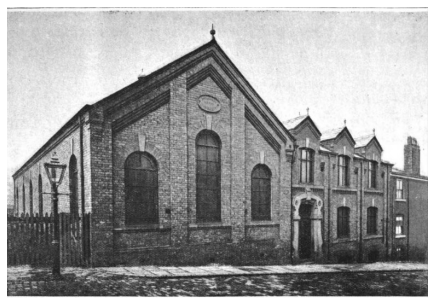
Abraham Lincoln

FUTURE SERVICES

November 6th	Judith Higgins
November 13th	Remembrance Sunday Speaker Martyn Bennett
November 20th	Shoe Box Service
November 27th	Bob Gount Brinksway Rose Fete Pictures
December 4th	To be arranged Christmas Post
December 11th	Candle and Carol Service Christmas Post
December 18th	Officials Service
December 25th	No Service



T4U



BRINKSWAY SCHOOL.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

November 13th Remembrance Sunday at 2.30pm.

A chance to come together to remember those who laid down their lives for their country. The speaker will be Martyn Bennett from Hazel Grove.

November 20th Shoe Box Service at 2.30pm.

If you have made up a shoe box, please bring it into School on this Sunday or before.

November 27th at 2pm

Please note that from today we will be starting out services at 2pm.

Bob Gount has been researching Rose Fetes and especially those at Brinksway Sunday School. He will be bringing a slide show on 27th November. If you have any photographs of Sunday School Rose Fetes and are willing to lend them to Bob to copy, please bring them to that service and write your name and address on the back so that he can return them.

Please invite your friends to come and join us for these services or any Sunday.

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL

BERYL HOLT

Many of our readers will remember Beryl Holt who together with her husband Bob and children Chris and Bev attended LHSS for many years. The family retained their connection with School through her sister Eileen Harrington. Following a long fight with Cancer, Beryl passed away earlier this month and over 150 people attended her funeral last week; a testament to her popularity. We send our condolences to the whole family at this time.



Recipe

Clementine posset

Serves 6

600ml double cream

200g golden caster sugar

4 clementines, zested and juiced, plus extra zest to serve

1 lemon, zested and juiced

shortbread to serve



Pour the cream into a pan with the sugar and heat until the sugar fully dissolves. Add the clementine and lemon zests and juices and whisk together. Divide between 6 glasses and chill for at least 2 hours.

To serve, grate extra clementine zest over the top of each posset and serve with a piece of shortbread.

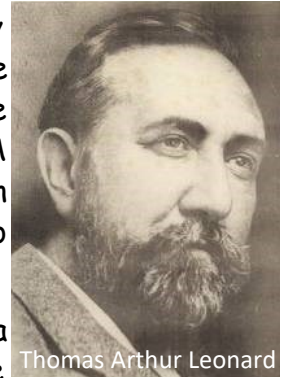


KITES

The Kites Group are busy preparing for their February 2023 show to be held at Compass Point. More details and tickets will be available soon on www.kitesgroup.com.

'HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP'

At my 21st birthday party, a friend introduced me to CHA holidays - the Co-operative Holidays Association. It had been started in 1893 by Thomas Arthur Leonard, a country pastor, who wanted to improve the lives of the working classes by offering guided walking holidays in the countryside. Later that year, my friend and I went on our first CHA holiday together, to Hythe in Kent and so began a wonderful association for me with, first CHA and then HF (Holiday Fellowship) holidays, also started by T. A. Leonard, in 1913 and still going strong to this day.



Thomas Arthur Leonard

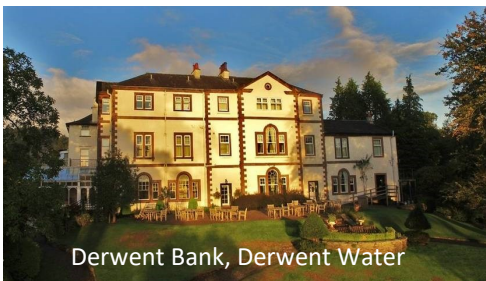


Over the years, the original concept of CHA and HF has changed a great deal. Grace is no longer sung before meals, there is no longer an optional Sunday morning service, guests no longer have to queue for the bathroom on returning from a walk, packed lunches are no longer carried by male members of the party in huge rucksacks, there are televisions in each bedroom and bars have been introduced!! However, the defining principles of our founder still hold strong! These are:- friendship, fellowship, fun, fresh-air and the feel good factor!

Before I was married, I volunteered to be a 'Hostess' for CHA at Grasmere, Totnes, Barmouth and Kinfauns in Scotland. This involved brining up the rear of some of the walks as 'back-marker' and organising evening activities with games, quizzes country dancing. I loved this and met many lifelong friends and interesting people in the process. Needless to say, Hosts and Hostesses no



longer exist in HF, the leaders now take on all the responsibility for organising walks and entertainment in the evenings.



Derwent Bank, Derwent Water

Both my children and their families have enjoyed CHA and HF holidays since they were very young. My son qualified as an HF leader when he was 20 and has led walks in Austria, Poland, Switzerland and all over the UK. He regularly takes his family to UK Houses as far apart

as Glen Coe and the Isle of Wight. My favourite house is Derwent Bank, situated on the edge of Derwent Water. It is so beautiful and holds many memories for me. Gareth and family are there this half term. Lucky people!

TA Leonard has a Memorial plaque on 'Cat Bells' in the Lake District, where he is hailed as 'Father of the open air'. I expect that he would be thrilled to think that 110 years after first founding CHA and HF, his organisation is still going strong, with houses in the UK. Holidays abroad, and 44,000 members! (Special Interest Holidays, too!)



A big 'thank-you', Mr Leonard, from me, for more than 60 years of happy, healthy holidays!

Margaret Morris-Jones

13TH NOVEMBER - THE POPPIES OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



FIVE SENSES

It seems sometimes we live our lives
Within our walls and fences
So nothing of the world outside
Can breach our strong defences;
So fully do we concentrate
On stresses and expenses
We fail to quite appreciate
Our five God-given senses.

Just touch and stroke a cat's soft coat
And smell a fragrant flower,
The taste of honey in your throat
A song's inspiring power!
The sight of rolling countryside
Of nature, gently thrilling
Just let your senses be your guide
To daily joys fulfilling.

For sometimes, through our ailing health
Our senses are denied us
No doctor's skill or plenteous wealth
Can put them back inside us;
So if you have your senses, five
Thank God - and daily use them
Part of the joy to be alive -
And one day we may lose them.

By Nigel Beeton



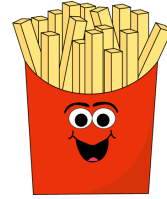
SMILE LINES

Where?

A rather long-winded preacher was dealing with the Old Testament prophets, one by one. "And now," he propounded, "we reach Isaiah. Where shall I put Isaiah?" At that, a little man in the front row stood up. "He can have my seat. I am going home!"

What happens then?

A little boy was taken Christmas shopping by his mother. He watched the escalator going down for several minutes, and then asked with concern: "What happens when the ground floor gets full of steps?"

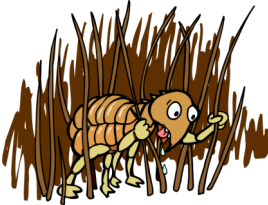


"'Exercise?'" I thought you said, 'Extra fries.'"

Bible story

The minister called all the children up to the front for the weekly Bible story. She said, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt."

Very concerned, one youngster asked, "What happened to the flea?"



Purring

Little George was visiting his aunt. He found the cat in a sunny window purring cheerfully. "Oh Auntie, come quick," cried George. "The cat has gone to sleep and left his engine running."



Quiet

A Sunday School teacher asked her children: "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One little girl replied helpfully: "Because people are sleeping."



When I grow up

A small boy returned from Sunday School in floods of tears. When questioned by his mother about his distressed state, he sobbed: "We sang 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam', but I want to be a train driver!"

How well do you know your spouse?

At a seminar on Marriage, the minister was stressing how essential it is that couples discern what is important to their partner. He challenged the men: "Can you even name your wife's favourite flower?" Baffled silence followed, until one husband nudged his wife with a hopeful smile and hazarded: "It's MacDougall's Self-Raising, right?"



PUZZLES

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

Sudoku

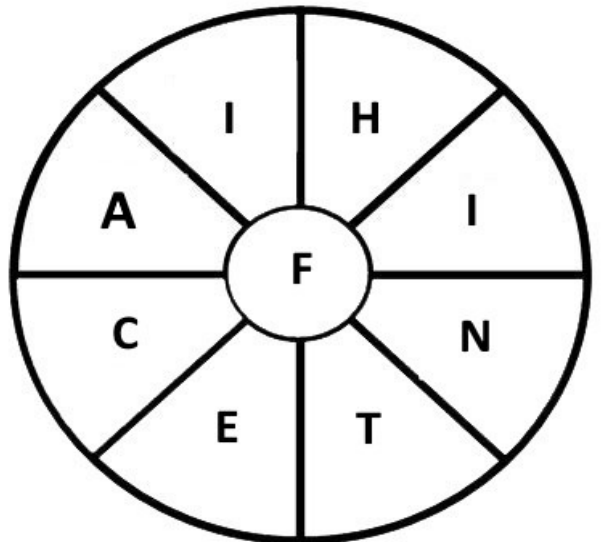


WORD WHEEL

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

Good score 10+ Excellent 15+

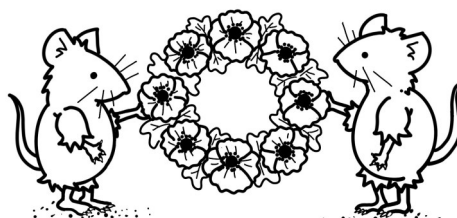


November is a wistful month, tinged with sadness and good-byes. The last of the leaves are falling, as the trees go to sleep for winter. It is a month of remembrance, of poppies, of remembering lost loved ones, and of letting go. It is a month of bonfires for the 'Guy', and Thanksgiving for Americans. It is a month of remembering Saints and looking forward to triumph - the church year ends with the joyful Sunday of Christ the King. And then Advent begins...looking forward to a very special Baby!

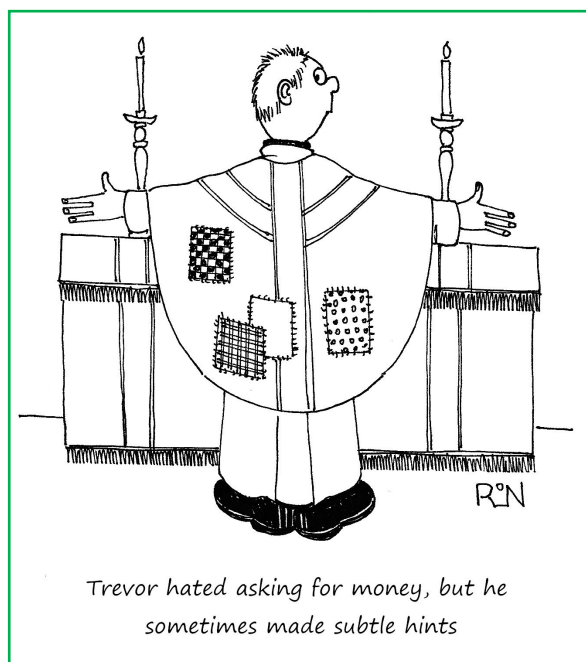
E S Y R V G Y R A A C N Y A
 E P O E I N S G Q B O T A I
 R Y Y G Z D I U I A U S D P
 E E Y K S B O N F I R E O L
 D K M R M S E S N E A I E M
 W R L E A V E S D D G P G A
 O U E A M M F N A O E P P D
 P T G B M B A E D I I O Z V
 N A N R O L R A W A N P T E
 U O A A F G H A N I S T A N
 G N I V I G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

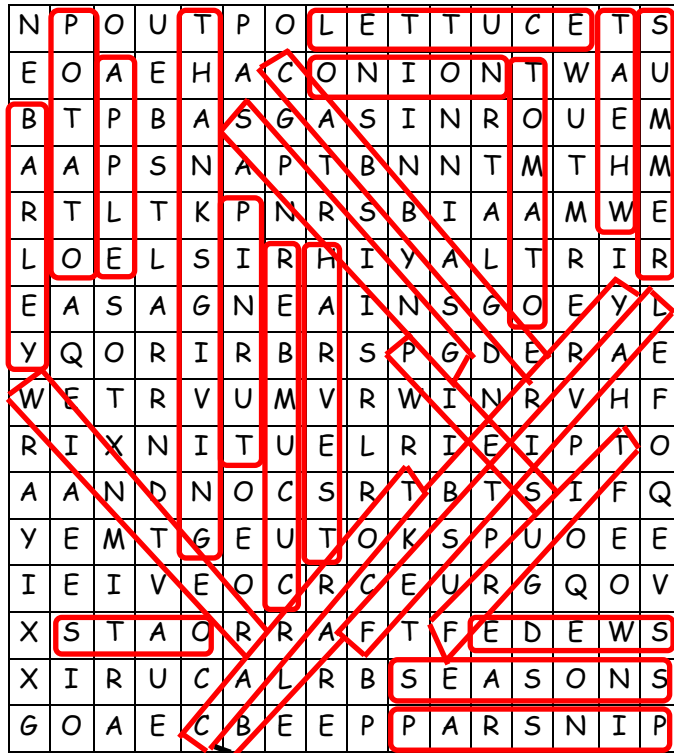
Can you find in this grid the words shown below? The words can be found in any direction.



Advent	bravery	gunpowder	Mary	Saints
Afghanistan	courage	guns	peace	Thanksgiving
all	dead	Guy	poppies	turkey
angel	Elizabeth	Iraq	remembrance	war
bonfire	Flanders	leaves	sadness	



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER



WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



SUDOKU ANSWERS

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