



Stockport Sunday School

October 2022 Newsletter 31



When preparing to draft these magazine notes, I usually check back to recent previous issues - primarily to avoid revisiting previous themes !

However, sometimes a particular topic proves to be a useful starting point for the next issue.

At our Founders' Day service, Stuart Dean referred to Pope Francis saying that we all have a need for each other in our lives - even if we may not be aware of that fact when life is going well.



But over the last three years or so, events have perhaps been sharp reminders of this truth, both practically and emotionally.

The effect of Covid on our health service resources, food supplies, social contact, and general way of life has demonstrated how interdependent we are at all levels of society and circumstances.

Internationally, the war in Ukraine has focussed attention on how our national security is intertwined with other nations.

And, in the last few days - the passing of our Queen, Elizabeth II, has made us realise how much she meant to us as a nation.

It was not just the length of her reign which was remarkable, but, more importantly, how the monarchy has changed under her influence. She has allowed it to develop to reflect the world we live in, while retaining the traditional aspects which are so important to its continuity.



During her reign, she experienced the Blitz in London during World War II, and, as a member of the armed forces, gained a proficiency in vehicle maintenance, of which she remained proud.



In later years, the Falklands War took place and, at the end of her rule, the war in Ukraine, with its implications for western democracy, has reminded us of how fragile peace can be.

She has coped with family crises, and had to deal with a wide variety of Prime Ministers, where her wisdom, based on experience of her role, has been widely acknowledged. In all this, as Head of State, she provided an invaluable focus and continuity to the nation's life.

Underpinning all this was her unswerving Christian faith, which was a source of strength in good times and in difficult times.



Book of Condolence at Stockport Town Hall

On her accession, she undertook to serve our nation to the best of her ability, and she was true to her promise. No doubt influenced by the example of her father, King George VI, she chose the course of duty, accepting she would not have the freedom to live her life just as she might choose.

Like so many of the good things in life, we, as individuals and as a nation, perhaps took all this for granted.

But the events of the last few days have caused us to pause, think and then express our appreciation for the way in which she has served our country, not just in the demands of high office, but with a genuine interest in all her subjects, whenever and however she might meet them.

The Chief Rabbi has pointed out the Hebrew scripture concept of kingship is not to be served, but to serve.

And, of course, Jesus himself said 'the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.'

And that is how our Queen ruled.

As Christians, we can be particularly grateful for her example in living out her religious faith.

I felt certain phrases used in the funeral services had a particular resonance.

- Her title as 'Fidei Defensor' - Defender of the Faith
- The words from the Book of Common Prayer - 'that we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not our hold on things eternal.'
- To be able to say, in the words of St Paul - 'I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.'
- And to quote the poet, John Donne - 'No man is an island unto himself... so ask not for whom the bell tolls - it tolls for thee.'

May we, in our own individual lives, be encouraged by our late Queen's example in our own service to God and each other.



Stockport's Memorial Garden for the Queen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Walter Stead on October 3rd
Elizabeth Keeling on October 6th
Wendy Hill on October 19th
Margaret Forster on October 26th
Maureen Jewsbury on November 4th



CONGRATULATIONS

We send our congratulations to Norman and Joyce Sellers who celebrated their Platinum, 70th, Wedding Anniversary on September 20th. What an amazing achievement, we hope you had a lovely time celebrating such a special day.



THINKING OF YOU

We would like to send our best wishes to all our members and friends who are unwell at the moment, have had operations and are having treatment. We hope that you are soon feeling much better and we look forward to seeing you again back at Compass Point. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.



SHOE BOXES AND SHOE BOX SERVICE

T4U

The Shoe Box service this year will take place on Sunday 20th November. If you wish to make up a shoe box, please bring it along for this service. For those who would like to donate individual items to go into shoe boxes, there will be a box in the entrance hall at Sunday School each week where they can be placed. Please invite your family and friends to join us for this service.

ANNIVERSARY

This year our Anniversary service will take place at Compass Point on Sunday 23rd October, when Stockport's previous mayor, Mr Adrian Nottingham, will be the speaker. Please invite family and friends to join us for this service. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

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.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Beryl Manley and the ladies of the Tuesday Community Coffee Morning held a Special Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care on Tuesday 19th September.

The theme for the morning was the 1940's. Coffee and cakes were served on china tea services and several of the members were dressed for the occasion.

At the front of the School, a jeep was on display with a couple dressed in WWII uniforms. This attracted the attention of passers by and the children from Little Stars Playgroup enjoyed sitting in it.

£214 was collected, an excellent effort by everyone involved.



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



KNIT AND NATTER



The ladies of the Knit and Natter Group will be holding their next fundraising event on Tuesday 25th October from 2pm - 4pm, when they will be selling some of their knitted goods and serving tea and coffee. Please invite your family and friends to come along to join in this event.



ACTION FOR CHILDREN COLLECTION LANTERNS

It is time for the Action For Children (formerly National Children's Home) lanterns to be emptied and the money to be sent to the charity. If you have a lantern at home, if you are able to deliver yours to Judith Curry at 109 Lisburne Lane, please leave it in the porch if there is no-one in.

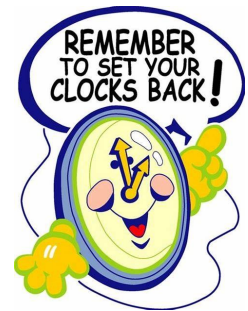
If you would like Judith to collect your lantern, please ring her on 0161 483 4039.

Thank you.



CLOCKS GO BACK!

Just a little reminder that the clocks go back on the evening of Saturday October 29th (or officially 2am on Sunday October 30th).



PROPOSED POSTAL STRIKES BETWEEN NOW AND CHRISTMAS

As you may be aware there have been several more postal strikes planned before Christmas. Each strike does not apply to all postal departments, but to help in planning ahead here are the different proposed strike dates coming up.

13th, 20th, 25th October

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 28th, 30th
November

1st, 2nd December





SERVICES



SUNDAY AUGUST 28TH 2022

Judith Hadfield took the service on August 28th. She began by showing us a picture of the beautiful well dressing at Chadkirk. We then saw some beautiful slides of her holiday in Greece at Cephalonia made popular by the story of Captain Corelli's mandolin and in Ithaka home of the legendary Greek King Odysseus (also known as Ulysses). He left Ithaka to fight the



Trojan war. He lay siege to Troy for ten years and eventually gained entry by building the wooden horse in which several of his soldiers were hidden. After his victory the journey home took another ten years overcoming many difficulties including being shipwrecked several times. Homer wrote

the Ilyad about his adventures and his story inspired Constantine Peter Cavafy to write the poem, Ithaka. He talks of Odysseus homeward journey to Ithaka and the difficulties he overcame but it applies to our journey through life searching for our personal goal. But it is not the goal that is important but the journey which matters it gives us wisdom, experience knowledge and maturity.



Thank you, Judith, for an interesting beautifully illustrated service and introducing us to the lovely poem.

ITHACA, By C P Cavafy

*When you set out on your journey to Ithaca,
pray that the road is long,
full of adventure, full of knowledge.
The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops,
the angry Poseidon - do not fear them:
You will never find such as these on your path,
if your thoughts remain lofty, if a fine
emotion touches your spirit and your body.
The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops,
the fierce Poseidon you will never encounter,
if you do not carry them within your soul,
if your soul does not set them up before you.*

*Pray that the road is long.
That the summer mornings are many, when,
with such pleasure, with such joy*

*Always keep Ithaca in your mind.
To arrive there is your ultimate goal.
But do not hurry the voyage at all.
It is better to let it last for many years;
and to anchor at the island when you are old,
rich with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.*

*Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.
Without her you would have never set out on the road.
She has nothing more to give you.*

*And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you.
Wise as you have become, with so much experience,
you must already have understood what Ithaca means.*

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH 2022

Beryl Manley took the service on 4th September when her theme was musical instruments mentioned in the Bible.

She had set out a display of instruments tambourines and cymbals and had a drawing of a Kinnor, an early stringed instrument.

The earliest stringed instrument mentioned in the Bible is the shofar, made from an animal horn. It was blown in short blasts, often in battles.

Beryl played us a piece of music played by the military band of The Light Calvary, in which were played horns, wind instruments, drums and cymbals, all mentioned in the Bible.

Jubal, a descendant of Cain is mentioned in Genesis as being the father of all who handle the harp and the organ.



The Israelites used music to praise God. When the Egyptian army following Moses and the children of Israel perished in the sea, Moses praised God in song and his sister, Miriam, took her timbal (a kind of tambourine) and led the women with their timbals, dancing and praising God.

But it was King David who really introduced formal music into worship. He appointed professional musicians to oversee music in the palace and temple worship.

Beryl told us that bagpipes were invented in the Middle East a thousand years ago and she played a recording of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards playing the hymn, 'Amazing Grace', on the bagpipes.

We also listened to a recording of 'And Did Those Feet In Ancient Times', William Blake's poem inspired by Joseph of Arimathea's visit to Glastonbury set to music by Parry.

Thank you, Beryl, for an interesting musical afternoon.



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH 2022

Judith Higgins led the service on September 11th. As we had learned on Thursday 8th September of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the service began with a short tribute to the late queen, giving thanks for her long reign during which she made good the promise made on her twenty first birthday to devote her life to the service of the people of the British Empire and Commonwealth. She spoke openly of her faith and the Archbishop of Canterbury described her as a faithful Christian disciple who lived out her faith every day of her life. We stood for a moments silence in her memory.

This part of the service concluded with prayers of thanks for her life and for our new King Charles III.

It closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The rest of the service was spent looking up some Bible verses that had given rise to some everyday sayings.



HARVEST, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH 2022



Our speaker for the Harvest Service on September 18th was Sue Shilito and we were pleased that she and her husband were able to join us for the Harvest Lunch before the service.

We had a good display of dried and tinned food on the harvest table which would be sent onto Wellspring at the end of the service.

Sue read us the Harvest Supermarket poem, a thanksgiving to God for all He provides for our needs.

She had asked three members, Marjory, Joan and Elizabeth, to read a sketch about two ladies eating in a café offering food from around the world. One lady ordered a Sahara Surprise. When the meal arrived there was hardly anything edible on the plate. When she complained she was told that was all many people had to eat every day. She was then given her complimentary drink. A glass of dirty water. She complained that it looked as though it came from the local pond but was told it came from an African pond. Although it was dirty and carried disease it was all some people in the world had to drink. An amusing sketch with a clear message.

Sue told us the parable of the sower. We all know that good soil and water provide a good harvest. But there are areas where the earth is baked or flooded and the yield is poor, people go hungry and need our help.

As we celebrate the harvest we should thank God but also think of others in need.

As Christians we do not only praise God at special services but take every opportunity of praising Him and helping others.



Thank you, Sue, for an enjoyable and informative service. We hope to hear from you again soon.



At the centre of the harvest table was a huge sunflower head more than twelve inches across provided by Judith Curry. The seeds provide sunflower seed oil but are also enjoyed by the birds or squirrels. The seeds are still in School if you would like some to plant in your garden.

Thank you to Margaret Forster, Cath Brown and Elizabeth Keeling for providing the Harvest Lunch and Joan Heald who helped with all the washing up.

FUTURE SERVICES

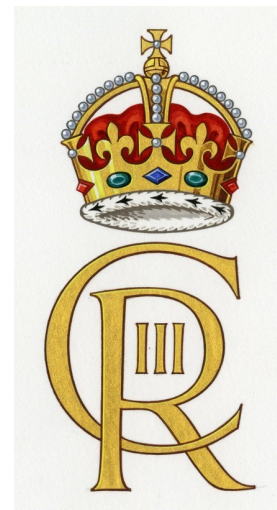
October 2nd	Walter Stead
October 9th	Judith Higgins
October 16th	Garth Higgins
October 23rd	ANNIVERSARY Speaker Adrian Nottingham
October 30th	Walter Stead
November 6th	Judith Higgins

A LONG LIFE IS ENDED

An aged heart flutters
And ceases to beat
A long life is ended
But not in defeat!
For ninety-six years
Of duty and love
A long life inspired
By her God above!

For seventy years
The crown she did wear
And "Long live the Queen!" -
God answered our prayer!
But now she is with Him
God's true to His word
We'll ask Him for guidance
For King Charles the Third!

Nigel Beeton



Lancashire Hill Sunday School



Recipe

Carrot and Cinnamon Cake

Serves 8

300ml sunflower oil, plus extra for greasing

225g soft brown sugar

4 medium eggs

175g golden syrup

350g self-raising flour

2 tbsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

275g grated carrot



Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/350°F/gas mark 4. Grease 2 500g loaf tins with sunflower oil.

Put oil, sugar, eggs and golden syrup into a food processor and then add the flour, cinnamon, bicarbonate of soda and grated carrots.

Blend everything together, pour into the loaf tins and bake for 40-45 minutes. Once cooked, leave to rest for 10-15 minutes before turning out of the tins.

Serve with a dollop of crème fraiche or soured cream.



The Bible is meant to be bread for our daily use, not just cake for special occasions. - *Unknown*

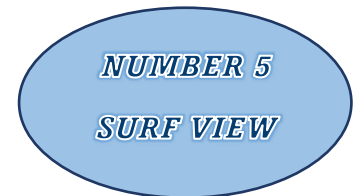
WHICH NAME?



We have a small cottage in Cornwall
And all of us love it a lot.
It's perched on the top of a headland
- a truly magnificent spot!
Now there a few of our neighbours
For their cottage have chosen a name.
We all thought that this was quite fitting,
And so, why don't we do the same?
They've got smart new name-plates with pictures,
So, our family started to wonder
Now what could we call our small cottage?
We don't want to make a big blunder!
Now, there's 'Pebbles' or 'Sea-spray' or 'Wavecrest'.



A Cornish name would be alright.
But, sadly, we don't know much Cornish,
So, back to 'Rock pools' or 'Starlight'!
But no, after much hesitation
And tired of the hassle and fuss,
We'll stick to the name that we've always had,
It's No. 5 Surf View for us!!



Margaret M. Jones

REAPING AND HARVESTING

Sometimes a law of nature is very similar to a law of the spirit. Take the process of harvest, or 'sowing and reaping'. The Bible tells us: 'A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.' (2 Cor 9:6)

It has been said that probably the most sensitive nerve on our body is the one that runs to our cheque book! Money represents our time, our security and our hard work. It gives us independence and power. So, when God begins to talk to us about giving more of our money to Him - sowing it in His service - we can feel very alarmed.

The seed a farmer sows in a field may sometimes be lost, but not the seed that we give to God. What we sow with regards to our time, gifts and money in service to others God will make sure we one day reap - in a harvest of spiritual riches that we can never lose.



HYMN: THE STORY BEHIND ... O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure...

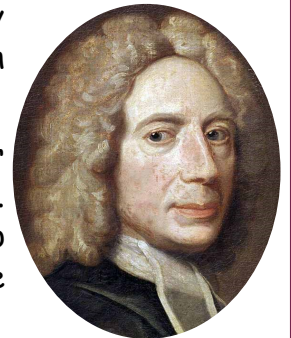
A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748) is often called the 'Father of English hymnody'. Certainly, before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business.

Watts was born in July 1674 in Southampton. (At the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs.) As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language (learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French). He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English. (At the age of five, when scolded for giggling in family prayers, it was because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, and instantly composed the line: 'There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!')

Watts' literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with the congregational singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better. Though only 18, Watts accepted the challenge, and produced his first hymn - which was duly sung the following Sunday.

It was such a success that he wrote new hymn texts every Sunday for the next two years. In all, he went on to write more than 600 hymns. Some of them are still well-loved today: from this one, 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', which is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, to 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', and the Christmas carol 'Joy to the World'.



God doesn't want our success; He wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; He demands our obedience.

- Charles Colson

It's dangerous to try to be number one, because it's next to nothing.

- Anon

PUZZLES

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

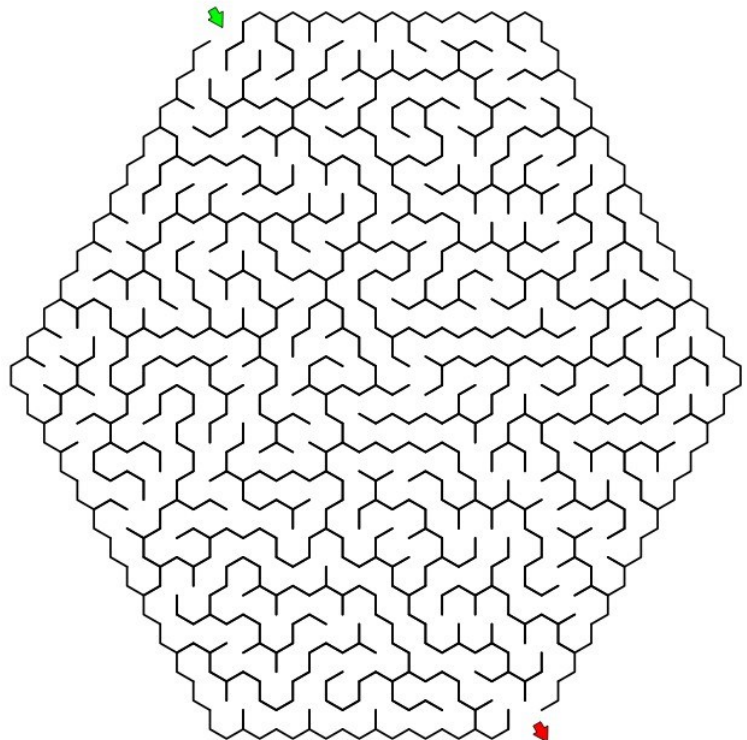


Sudoku



Maze

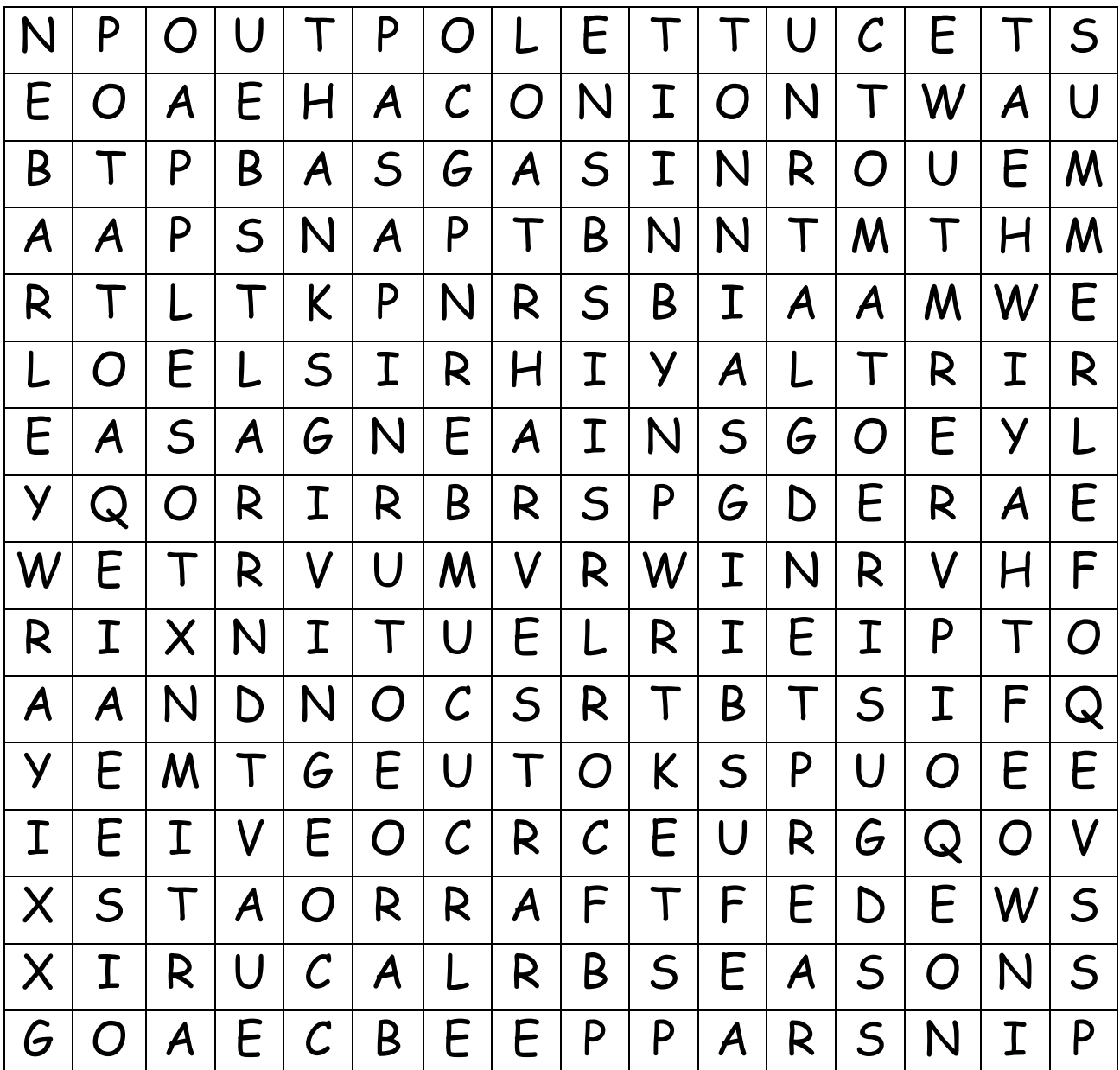
Can you find your way through the maze starting at the green arrow and exiting at the red arrow?



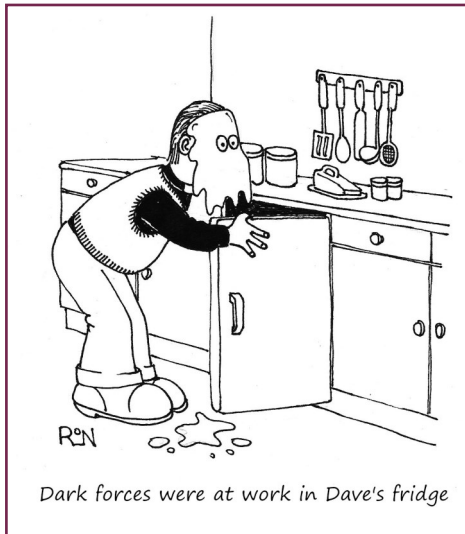
WORDSEARCH

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

Apple	Barley	Blackberry	Cabbage	Carrot
Cucumber	Festival	Fruit	Harvest	Lettuce
Oats	Onion	Parsnip	Pies	Potato
Seasons	Spring	Summer	Swede	Thanksgiving
Tomato	Turnip	Wheat	Winter	



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER



Dark forces were at work in Dave's fridge



WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



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



SUDOKU ANSWERS