



Stockport Sunday School

March 2023 Newsletter 36



When our family lived in Seymour Road, back in the 1970's, it was a period when people actually put their cars in their garages! At the time, we had a rather flimsy wood and asbestos structure, at the rear of the house, so we decided to have a brick built, single storey garage, attached to the side of the house.

Plans were drawn up, the builder appointed, but it was only when excavations for the footings were started, that we discovered the ground on which we were to build was infill of some sort. This necessitated much deeper, more substantial foundations to carry the load - and increased costs of course!

Nevertheless, it proved a very useful improvement to our house.



Some years later, as the children grew up, we decided we could do with an additional bedroom and the logical solution was to build on top of the single storey garage. This would obviously increase the load on the foundations and could have been a problem. However, the stronger base which we had been forced to put in previously, was more than capable of carrying the additional loading, with only minor additions.



The moral of the story is perhaps - *'always build on good strong foundations - you never know when it may become essential.'*

Or maybe, *'Today's problems can make you stronger for what tomorrow may bring.'*

This memory was prompted by the TV coverage of the earthquake disasters engulfing Turkey, and also the ruined towns and cities in Ukraine. How on earth will these communities be able to recover and get back to normal life?

Perhaps the experience of Germany after the Second World War will provide some hope. Berlin, and many other cities, had been devastated by bombing. Importantly, the Allies realised that the population would need substantial aid to rebuild. The alternative of little or no aid would leave a well of resentment amongst the population, as happened after the First World War, which then proved a feeding ground for Hitler and the Nazi movement.

There were still many years of hardship ahead for the German people - but recovery was made, and so there is hope for the victims of the current disasters.



One worrying aspect of the Turkey disaster is the alleged faulty design and construction of many high-rise buildings - where deviations from the recommended Design and Construction standards had been glossed over by the builders and government authorities. No doubt there will be demands that those responsible should be taken to task for their failings.

And perhaps we may be congratulating ourselves in the belief that that sort of thing couldn't happen here.

But then we should remember the Grenfell Fire disaster where similar shortcomings have come to light - contributing to so many deaths and both physical and mental injury.

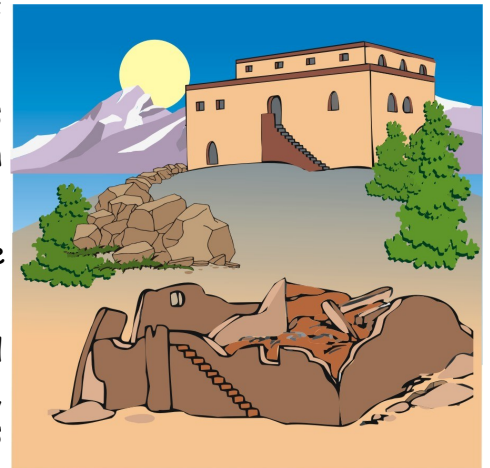
And at a less obvious level maybe, the terrible living conditions some tenants of rented property are experiencing due to their landlords - often large companies - continually neglecting their duty to provide safe and healthy living conditions for their tenants, again resulting in the deaths of innocent children.

The lack of sure moral foundations at varying levels of society is a common thread in all these situations.

Jesus used the concept of firm solid foundations in his teaching - most memorably in his parable of the two men who built on rock and sand respectively.

It's logical that rock is always a better base for a structure than sand.

But sand is easier to work, and more readily available - and it may do the job - for a while at least. But, in the end, when testing times come - the structure on sand will fail, as do the sandcastles on the beach when the tide comes in.



Jesus' parable had a great effect on his listeners - as Matthew records in his Gospel account, 'because He taught as one who had authority and not as their teachers of the law'.

This policy of building firm foundations is at the centre of the Christian faith.

To trust Christ above all, even when we can't see the way out of the problems we face.

We refer to it in our worship hymns:

- 'Christ is made the sure foundation.....'

- 'All my hope on God is founded

- 'God is our strength and refuge,.....

.....though mountains shake and tremble, God is with us evermore -'

When disaster strikes - whether natural or manmade, it may be hard to believe that God is near. But, whatever the hardship, He can be a source of strength - to help us cope, if we can put our trust in Him and let Him be the foundation for our decisions and actions.

As we make our way through Lent in the coming days, perhaps we could give some thought as to how well we are building on our Lord's teaching and example, and accepting His promise to be with us always - in good times and hard times.

For, in the words of the chorus we sometimes sing:

*'God is building a people of power
and making a people of praise...
who will glorify His precious name.'*

May we all have a fruitful Lent!



THANK YOU

We would like to thank Mrs Olive Gosling for the gift of a silver teapot, which was presented to an ancestor of James Gosling, our former Senior Inspector. The inscription on the teapot reads:-

Presented to

J. G. Gosling

By the teachers and scholars

Of the Female Improvement Society

1874



WELL DONE

Thank you to the ladies of the Sunday School Knit 'N' Natter group who have just knitted 140 chickens for the Francis House Appeal. The chickens will be filled with Cadbury cream eggs and sold in shops, schools and churches to raise money for the hospice, it is one of Francis House's major fund raising events.



Thanks to the work of two other knitting friends, I was able to deliver over 340 chickens to Francis House this week.

If there are any other knitters out there who would like to knit some chickens or rabbits for next year's Easter appeal, I have copies of the simple patterns. It's never too early to start. I can be contacted in Sunday School or ring me on 0161 285 0089.

Judith Higgins

CONGRATULATIONS KITES

Congratulations to everyone involved in any way with the latest Kites production 'Through The Decades Past And Present'.



This was a series of short sketches describing the events that took place in the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000's including the performers and music of each decade. We were reminded of the Morecambe and Wise 'breakfast' sketch, Elvis Presley, Eddie the Eagle, the internet and Tik Tok and much more.

There was a lot of foot tapping, clapping and cheering from the audience who enjoyed it as much as the performers on stage. The large chorus or children were a delight.

During the interval of the Wednesday night's show, a special event took place on the stage. Many of the children taking part in the show were Brownies or Rainbows. They put on their uniforms and joined two of the girls who were making their Rainbow Promise. The audience watched as the Commissioner presented the girls with their badges and handbooks. She then asked any members of the cast or audience who were Brownies, Guides or Leaders to renew their promise. It was a moving event for everyone present.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

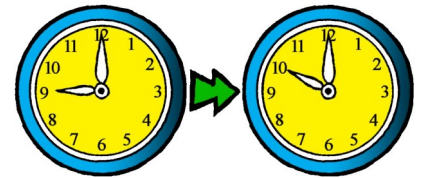
Happy Birthday wishes this month to:-

Judith Curry 5th March
and
Bill Higginbotham - 4th April



CLOCKS GO FORWARD

This year the clocks go forward on Sunday 26th March. Officially they say the change happens at 1am on Sunday morning, however, most people will change their clocks the night before or wait until the next day to update clocks (some electronic devices will do the update automatically), although if you have an alarm clock set, you will need to ensure the time is changed for your alarm to continue functioning and giving the correct time to you.



POSTAGE STAMPS

Royal Mail has announced that they will once again be increasing the cost of postage stamps. This increase will happen from Monday 3rd April and the new prices will be as follows:-

1st class stamps - increasing from 95p to £1.10

2nd class stamps from 68p to 75p

1st class large letter - £1.45 to £1.60

2nd class large letter - £1.05 to £1.15



If you know that you are going to be using stamps after Sunday 2nd April, it may be worth considering stocking up, ensuring that you are only sold stamps with the barcodes on. There is still time to use or exchange any of your old stamps that do not have the barcode. To exchange them for barcoded stamps, you can obtain a form and Freepost envelope from a local post office and Royal Mail aims to replace your returned stamps with new ones within 7 days.



SERVICES



SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2023

We were pleased to welcome back Sandra Woodhead as our speaker for this special service. Walter opened the service by welcoming Sandra, her husband and several members from St George's who had joined us that afternoon.

Sandra said that people with faith and those without it could find inspiration in the Bible.

Sandra based her service on the Bible passages from St Luke's Gospel.

The first passage was from chapter 2, the record of Simeon's statement when he saw the baby Jesus brought into the temple forty days after His birth, for the purification of Mary. He said, "This child will be a light and a revelation to all the world."



On 5th February, Candlemass, the end of the Christmas period the church candles are blessed. Candles symbolise Jesus, 'Light of the World', hope for all.

The second passage was from chapter 10, the parable of the Good Samaritan. A Jewish man had risked travelling alone along a dangerous road in the hope that he would reach his destination safely, but he was robbed, beaten and left by the roadside. A priest and a Levite passed by but did not stop. Jesus did not judge or blame them. The Samaritan stopped, dressed the man's wounds and took him to an inn and paid for his care. He shared compassion for a man who held different beliefs and demonstrated it in a practical way, responding to a need.



God's presence in the world is seen through the way people treat each other. We should care for each other. We should confront what is wrong and show compassion even to those who do not share our beliefs. Jesus told this parable in answer to a young lawyer, who had asked "who is my neighbour?" When He had finished, Jesus asked, "who was his neighbour?". The lawyer replied, "The one who showed compassion",

Thank you, Sandra, for an enjoyable and thought provoking service.

SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2023

Garth took the service on February 12th. He had two Bible readings. The first from Matthew chapter 14, Jesus feeds the five thousand people with five loaves and fishes. The second reading was an account of the same event from Mark's gospel. Jesus fed four thousand people. Two people writing about the same meeting some time after the event and remembering it slightly differently. Today, we can't always believe what is written in the newspapers, it's not always accurate.



During the rest of the service, Garth read some articles from the magazine from St Edward's Church in Cheddleton, including an article about the church bells which are due to be overhauled soon, which means they will be regularly ringing again soon, good news for those who love to hear the church bells but aggravating those who do not. It was interesting to learn that the parish council and not the church is responsible for the repair of the clock chimes and not the church. As this is the only timepiece in the village it is maintained by the parish council.

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2023

We had an interesting service run by Wendy Hill. At Christmas, Wendy had been sent a booklet printed in 1955 recording the first hundred years of Great Moor Church. Wendy read us some interesting parts from the booklet.

The first part described what Stockport was like in 1855. Buxton Road was a quiet country lane with only a few farm carts rumbling along it to Stockport market which was considered the most important agricultural market in Cheshire. A horse drawn omnibus half hourly service between Hazel Grove and Stockport began in 1870, there were no street lights. There was a windmill on the corner of Edward Street opposite the town hall to produce flour and a second one on Lancashire Hill.



The new Wellington Road was opened in 1826 and the Manchester and Stockport Railway was extended from Heaton Norris to Edgeley after the completion of the viaduct in 1840.

In 1850 Joshua Marriott who lived at Dial House at the corner of Dialstone Lane and Mile End Lane realised the need for education, both secular and religious for the children of the district. He founded a school cum chapel in Great Moor, where he erected a building which later became St Saviour's Parish Hall. It was originally intended as a school only but in 1852 the southern part of the building was being used as a chapel known as Great Moor

Episcopal Chapel which was supported and attended by people of all denominations.

It later became part of the Church of England licensed by the Bishop of Chester in 1855 as a Chapel of Ease to St Mary's, Stockport.

In 1875, St Thomas' became a separate parish which included Great Moor. A new church was built in Store Street, known for the first time as St Saviours. This building is now used by the corporation as a welfare centre. This had always been intended as a temporary building until the new Sunday School and Church on Buxton Road was built.



St George's Church



St Mary's Church

In 1897, the new St George's Church was consecrated and a separate parish formed which included Great Moor, so now St Saviour's became a daughter church of St George's.

In 1932, a petition was sent to the Bishop of Chester to constitute St Saviour's parish. This was successful and the Parish Church of St Saviour's was consecrated in 1934.

Thank you, Wendy. It was interesting to learn about the history of Stockport and of St Saviour's Church which had been part of the parishes of St Mary's, St Thomas's and St George's, before becoming a parish church itself.

SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2023

Walter began his service by asking how many of us owned a mobile phone, iPhone or iPad, and how often we used them beyond phoning friends, ie for shopping, as a Satnav, camera, etc. Although many of us owned a mobile phone, we did not use all its functions. We are not a typical example of society. The younger generation use its technology much more. The Internet Highway, as it is known, is an important part of modern life, but is it a good or bad influence?



It can be a source of contact with others, a source of information, but can we trust that information as reliable? There is also the worry of its influence on young people, the use of the internet to bully and exploit the young and vulnerable.



As well as the development of modern technology, Walter said that there had been two information revolutions in the past. The first was the development of phonetic script in Ancient Egypt, allowing people to make a written record of what had been said, information which could then be stored. The second was the invention of the printing press in the fifteenth century which made information about ideas, concepts, religion and politics available to the general public.

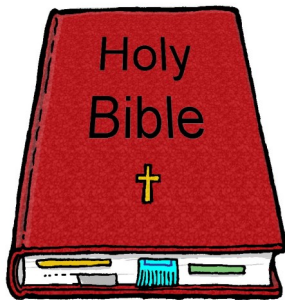
Walter said that one other event must rank even higher than these three. It was the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His coming was a challenge, first for the Jewish and then the Gentile world. Jesus was born at a time when geographical communication was changing. The Romans constructed major highways for their advancing armies but these enabled commercial travel to expand between countries and with it the spread of information and knowledge.



Jesus challenged the religious authorities of the time. He preached not of an authoritarian or judgemental God, but of a loving and accessible God.

He challenged His followers, "what do you do more than others?" In effect:

- don't just accept the standards of the world order
- seek to adhere to a higher level of behaviour
- follow Jesus' teaching.



We must not be swayed by the distraction of the media, TV, press, the information super highway.

We come together at Sunday School on a spiritual information highway, to worship God together, hear words from the Bible, a vital source of information.

How can we apply Christ's teaching to our daily lives, support each other on our journey of faith and show the world at large the value of faith in Christ through our relationship with those we meet?

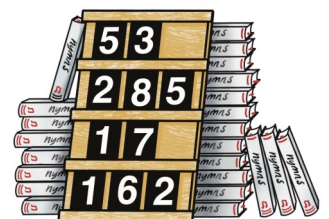
Let's challenge ourselves as Jesus challenged His followers, "what do you do more than others?"

Thank you, Walter, for an interesting and thought provoking service.



SERVICES

March 12th	Favourite Hymn Service
March 19th	Mothering Sunday Sue Shillito
March 26th	Garth Higgins
April 2nd	Walter Stead, Palm Sunday Short service followed by Committee Meeting
9th April	Easter Sunday, Speaker Sheila Hulme



KNIT 'N' NATTER

The ladies have been busy knitting chicks for Francis House. The great number collected along with a photograph of some of the chicks can be found earlier in the newsletter.

Tuesday 4th April from 1pm will be our Spring Fair supporting Motor Neurone Disease.



There will be a lot of hand made gifts, knitted items, raffle, guess the weight of the cake and a Bric-a-Brac stall, lovely home made cakes and tea/coffee. We hope to see you there supporting this worthwhile charity, all welcome.

The ladies are also preparing for our Christmas Tree for St George's tree festival, and we shall be making angels to put on



the fence outside School at Christmas. We get a lot of lovely comments from people, they look forward to seeing them. People like to take them for a sick relative, or to hospital, or to give to a neighbour who may be on their own. We put 38 out at Christmas 2022 and all went, people think it's a lovely gesture what we do. We had been so busy with various projects last year, we will try to make more this year. The group is growing, with lots of ladies interested in knitting and crocheting.



More news next time.

Beryl Manley

INDOOR BOWLING

We have had one or two new people coming, they really enjoy it. We start back on Wednesday 1st March and we shall be in for the next four weeks which will take us to 22nd March, when we finish until October.

On Saturday March 25th the club will open, not for bowling just a get together and anyone who wishes to can pay their fees.

Outdoor bowling starts on Saturday 1st April from 1.30pm and the following week from Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th, Saturday 8th, all from 1.30pm and this will continue until the end of the bowling season in September.





Last year the Bowling Club celebrated, on Saturday 10th September, our 90th year as a club and we had a buffet, everyone enjoyed it, and in that year one of our members, who has been a life long member, had his 90th birthday. Ron Oakley loved coming to the club and did a lot over the years, so to honour him, it was decided by the Committee to have a cup done with his name on and call it the Ron Oakley cup, so this was put to Ron and he was over the moon, so this means every year, this cup will be played for in September. This year, it will be played on Saturday September 9th and we shall have a buffet on that day.

Sadly, Ron passed away. He fell just before Christmas and broke his leg and finished up in hospital. A week before Christmas he got moved to a home in Bramhall where he would have been getting some physio, but he got an infection and was sent back to hospital. He was in a room on

his own and sadly passed away. Some of the members used to go and see him, he was a character, you could have many a laugh with Ron. He did come to Sunday School to the Break N Chat Coffee Morning. Ken Dean came and brought Ann Mather, Joan Heald, Jean Norton, Maureen Jewsbury, and we used to get an occasional visitor. Ron did come to one or two of our special services. His funeral was on Thursday February 16th at the Rowan Chapel. It was full of all people he knew from bowling, not just our bowling club, he had been the President at Thornfield for many years. Joyce Darvill was Ron's niece. He had one sister and Saturday 18th February would have been his 91st birthday. He will be sadly missed, RIP.

Beryl Manley

TAI CHI QIGONG

Class is improving, some weeks are better than others. People are off with chest infections, there appears to be a lot of that about, but they are gradually coming back. Jolie does very well, there will be no class on 4th April because of Knit N Natter Spring Fair.

More news later.

Beryl Manley

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

We have our regulars most weeks, and ladies from the knitting. Occasionally we get people popping in to see what it's like, but we enjoy it. People who do pop in we chat to them, tell them what we do at School and give them a leaflet.

During April, coffee will move to the afternoon with Knit 'N' Natter. They have been told and will come if they can manage it. People are quite happy with that.

That is all for now, more news next time.



Beryl Manley

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday

14 March - Eileen Harrington



Recipe

Meatloaf

Serves 4-6

*1kg minced beef
1 large onion, chopped
2 slices of bread, made into crumbs
3 tbsp tomato ketchup
1 medium egg
2 tbsp brown sauce
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
50-100g Parmesan, grated
1 tbsp oregano
1 tbsp chopped parsley
1 tbsp milk
Salt and pepper*



Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4/160°C Fan. Mix all the ingredients together until the mixture pulls away from the sides of the bowl and forms a ball. Add more breadcrumbs if you need them. Form the mixture into a loaf shape.

Place the mixture in an ovenproof dish or loaf tin and bake in the centre of the oven for 50-60 minutes until the centre is firm. Great hot or cold served with a potato salad.



Kites

Kites would like to thank everyone at SSS for their help and support during the run up to, and performance of 'Kites through the decades past and present'. Hopefully we did not cause too much disruption or make too much of a mess. We had a very successful show this year, the first since Covid.

Thank you Margaret Morris Jones for finding the following poem for us all to enjoy and think about.

THIS CHURCH IS OURS



'This church is ours' the cleaning rota cried,
We mop, we polish, we keep all in its place,
Without us, this church would be a disgrace.

'This church is ours,' chimed the members of the choir.
Our music delights all who come near,
It's fair to say that we're special round here.

'The church is mine' came a voice from the pew,
I've been here the longest, I have served all my life,
I have given my all and this church is mine.

'This church is ours' came a heckle from the back.
You've had your day, we've heard your fuss,
But we're the future, and this is for us.

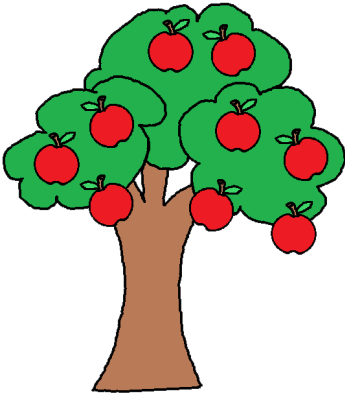
'The church is mine' boomed a voice from the pulpit.
I'm in charge, I have the right,
It's written here in black and white.

'This church is ours' came an indignant cry,
We're the elders, the chosen few,
I think you'll find only we know what to do.

'This church is mine' whispered God at the door
And you break my heart with your selfish din.
The church is mine: please let me in.



SMILE LINES



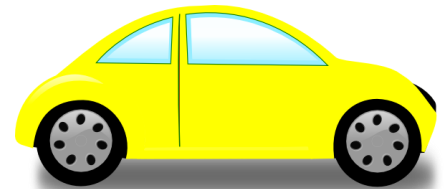
THE BIBLE ACCORDING TO CHILDREN

Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).

- ~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- ~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.
- ~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- ~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- ~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

GO!

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."



PRESENT

For their elderly vicar's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. The vicar was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

MUSINGS ON DAILY LIFE

'Ecclesiastic' is material used to fasten a clergyman's robes.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

I am in shape. Round is a shape.

I plan on living forever. So far, so good.

I am having an out of money experience.

What's the leading cause of dry skin? Towels.

What's a perfect gift for a person who has everything? Storage space.



PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

ST PATRICK'S DAY MOTHERING SUNDAY ANNUNCIATION LENT

Leeks for St David's day, daffodils for the rest of the month: March brings us Spring. St Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland, is remembered with parades. Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day are celebrated with more daffodils and Sunday lunch 'out'. March brings us the Annunciation, when the angel first appeared to Mary to tell her of her coming pregnancy. March is the month of Lent, of prayer and preparation for Easter.

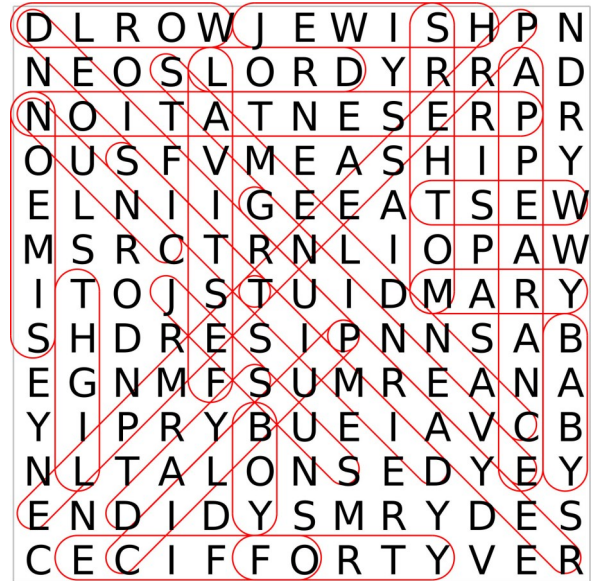
Can you find the following words in the grid?
They can be found in any direction.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| Angel | Mother |
| Daffodils | Mum |
| Day | Parades |
| Fasting | Patrick |
| Ireland | Prayer |
| Leeks | Pregnancy |
| Lent | Preparation |
| Lunch | Spring |
| Magnificat | Sunday |
| Mary | Wales |

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

ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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

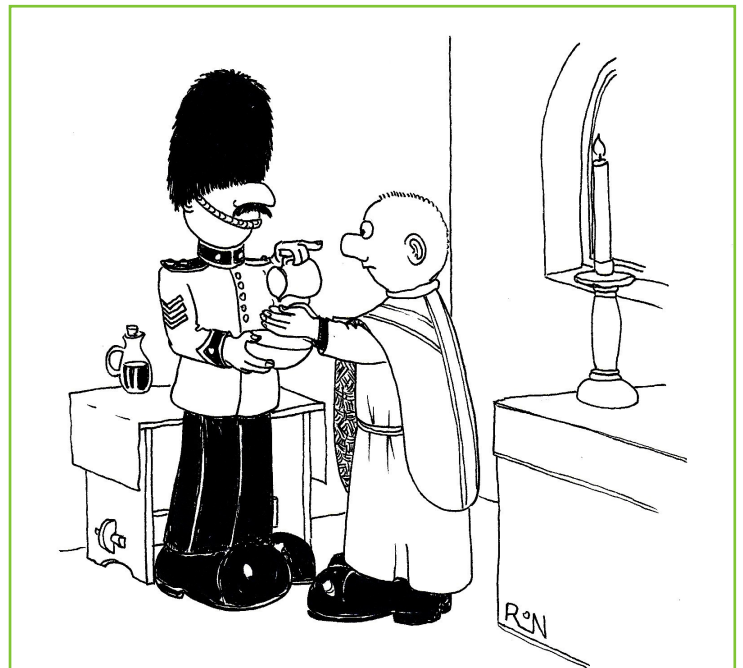


SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



"The new vicar is really cool, Dad. Did you know that God emailed the Ten Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"



As the servers's strike entered its third week, the Army was called in.