



# Stockport Sunday School

April 2023 Newsletter 37



*'Nothing is as beautiful as Spring',*

wrote the poet Gerald Manley Hopkins, and it is a time we certainly look forward to, after the dull hues of Winter. It's a time when shoots break through the bare earth, soon to develop flowers of bold colours, the trees start to bud and then suddenly bring forth their green canopy. Perhaps we take this annual miracle of Nature for granted, just accepting that small seeds can produce so much growth and the bulbs will, once again, spring into life.

In our part of the Northern Hemisphere, Spring takes place over a

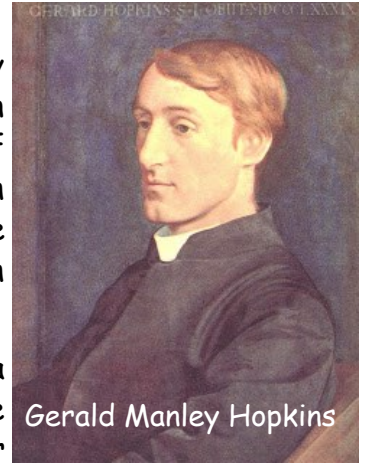


Plum Blossom

period of time. It will be several weeks before our

beech hedge is fully in leaf, whereas the blossom on cherry and plum will soon be blowing away.

Each species has its own time to demonstrate new life, and we learn to accept Nature's programme. We can enjoy apple blossom in the near future, but it will be Autumn before we can sample the fruits.



In the words of Ecclesiastes,

*'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.'*

It is a philosophy that doesn't fit readily with present day culture, when people are encouraged to expect to get whatever they want here and now, and if it doesn't happen — complain. 'Patience' in the sense of waiting on God's time, 'is a virtue' as the old proverb goes. And, looking back over my life, there have been times when earnestly hoped for events haven't materialised, resulting in disappointment. But, in hindsight, subsequent events have shown that they led to better outcomes later.

But, together with patience, we also need hope. Hope that better times can come, will come — for us, our families, our friends and the world at large. It is when hope fades that both mental and physical illness can set in, with serious consequences, and support is needed.

Like Christians throughout the world, we have just celebrated Palm Sunday, when the common people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, believing him to be the Messiah, who could free them from the oppression of their Roman occupiers and their own Jewish religious authorities.

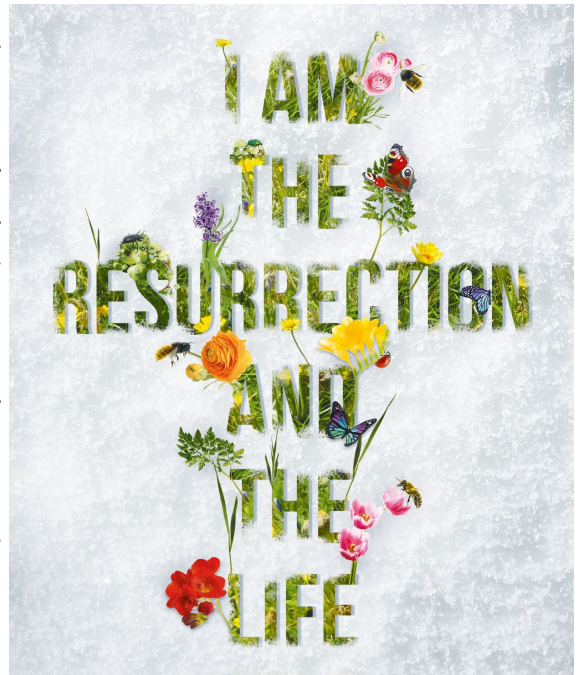


Their hopes were dashed in that Christ's coming kingdom was not an earthly one, but a spiritual one. For Jesus' disciples, who had been his companions during his ministry, His crucifixion must have been a terrible blow. But God's power was shown by Jesus' Resurrection, bringing new life to all of God's people, an event we celebrate every Springtime. New life that spread beyond the borders of Israel and Judea, and eventually to the whole world.

Their despondency, arising from the events of Easter week, would be replaced by the joy of the good news of the risen Christ.

So, once again, let us join with Jesus' disciples and followers, and rejoice that we are able to celebrate this spiritual springtime, and be encouraged to re-commit ourselves to His service in whatever way, and whatever time He asks of us.

And may we all have a happy and fulfilling Eastertide.



### SMARTPHONE ALERT TO BE AWARE OF IN APRIL

In order to test out a new government public warning system, in the early evening of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, it is thought that all smartphone users will receive a siren-like alert, which they will have to acknowledge before they are able to continue to use any other functions on their phone.

Similar siren alerts have been used in other countries to warn large numbers of people in the most effective way that there is a possible danger to life, and has given people the best possible time to react to the forthcoming emergency situation they may find themselves in.



The idea is that the government and emergency services in England would in future be able to send out this alarm at any time there may be a danger to life in an area, for example, if there was a risk of flooding or wildfires or coastal erosion risks.

Even if your phone is set to silent, your phone will vibrate and a loud warning sound will ring for approximately 10 seconds. You can opt out of this service by searching your phones settings for emergency alerts and turning them off, but officials advise against doing this as the alarm would only ever be used in certain situations and could ultimately be a lifesaver. Beyond this test siren, it is expected that most people will never hear the siren again, but for those times and areas it is needed, the alarm alert would be ready to be rolled out at short notice.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday wishes this month to:-

Bill Higginbotham - 4<sup>th</sup> April

Beryl Manley - 12<sup>th</sup> April

and

Judith Hadfield - 2<sup>nd</sup> May

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Judith and Don Curry who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years) on April 16<sup>th</sup>.



## GET WELL SOON

We were pleased to see Anne Mather back at Sunday School on Mothering Sunday and we hope to see Joan Heald back with us soon after her operation.

We send our best wishes to Maureen Jewsbury and Hilary Wood. We are thinking of you.



## POSTAGE STAMPS

Thank you to everyone who has brought stamps and collectibles which were sent to the Leprosy Mission to raise funds for people affected by Leprosy in Africa and Asia.

Now that bar-coded stamps have been introduced, the stamp value has decreased so there is not really any money to be made. When you read this the last parcel will have been posted to the Leprosy Mission.

Please continue bringing postage stamps from the UK and countries abroad which I will be sending to the Royal National Institute for the Blind for them to raise funds. Please leave some paper surrounding the stamps.





## SERVICES



### SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

Judith Higgins led the service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. She had been reading an old magazine which brought back many pleasant memories from the past. She read out some of the notes which included present members and their families.

She also had a copy of the opening ceremony of the first building on the site later known as the Joseph Mayer Building, and we sang one of the hymns from that service and heard again one of the readings 1 Corinthians.

She then asked people present three questions:-

1. What is your earliest memory of coming to Stockport Sunday School?
2. Is there one particular event that you remember?
3. Why do you come to Sunday School now?

We had a pleasant time reminiscing about old friends and events, some quite funny.

We agreed that we come to SSS every week for fellowship, a chance for worship together and learn from others and to look again at some familiar Bible passages and their meaning for us today.

### SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

This service was devoted to singing hymns chosen by members who told us why they were favourites.

In the Bible readings we heard how it had been King David who had first appointed officials to oversee the music in the temple and also psalms about praising God with music both by singing and playing musical instruments.

Thy hymns chosen were:-

*Now thank we all our God - Judith Curry*

*What a friend we have in Jesus - Elizabeth Keeling*



*O perfect love* - Joyce and Norman Sellers  
*O Lord my God (How great Thou art)* - Beryl Manley  
*Blessed assurance* - Janet Moore  
*Lord of all hopefulness* - Jean Norton  
*Glory be to God this night* - Margaret Forster

We had an enjoyable afternoon singing.

Thank you to all those who took part and a special thank you to Ken for his marathon afternoon playing the organ for all the hymns. Thank you to Judith Higgins for organising the service.



### SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

The speaker on Mothering Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, was Sue Shilitto, and we were pleased to welcome Sue's husband to the service. Sue based the service on the book of Ruth. Orpah leaves, but Ruth stays with Naomi Margaret Forster took the first reading, verses from the first two chapters of Ruth.



Naomi and her husband and two sons had left Judah during a famine and travelled to Moab when there was no food. The sons married Moabite women. After the death of her husband and sons Naomi decided to return to her family home in Bethlehem where there was now food. Her two daughters-in-law went with her. Naomi tried to persuade them to stay in their own country and find Moabite husbands. Orpah did return home but Ruth showed love, kindness and total commitment to her mother-in-law and went with her to Bethlehem. She could not be certain of her reception in Bethlehem as the Israelites looked down on Moabites. At this point, Ruth made the statement which is probably one of the best known in the book of Ruth, "wherever you go I will go .... Your people will be my people, and your God my God."

Ruth went into the barley field of Boaz to glean grain. Boaz asked who this stranger was and learned of her kindness and care for her mother-in-law, leaving her own country and family to support her. Boaz prayed that God would reward Ruth for what she had done for Naomi.

Judith Hadfield read the second lesson from Ruth chapters 4 and 5. Naomi showed a mother's love for Ruth by planning a good marriage to a kind rich man.



She hoped Boaz would marry Ruth. By Jewish law a close relative would become a redeemer for a widow, he would marry and care for her. There was a closer relative to Naomi than Boaz but he agreed to Boaz buying Naomi's land and marrying Ruth.

A close mother-daughter bond had grown up between Naomi and Ruth. The women showed love, care, responsibility and respect for each other and they both remained faithful to God.

Ruth and Boaz had a son, Obed. In Matthew, chapter 1 we can read of Jesus' lineage going back to this son.

Thank you Sue for your lesson, what a wonderful message for Mothering Sunday. At the end of the service every member received a bunch of daffodils and some chocolate.



### SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Judith Curry had been watching the series, 'Saving Lives At Sea' on TV which was about the RNLi and the brave crew members who risk their lives to save people in danger at sea.

This made Judith think about boats mentioned in the Bible, the first example showed how God protected Noah, a God fearing man. He told Noah to build an arc to protect his family and two of each creature during the flood.

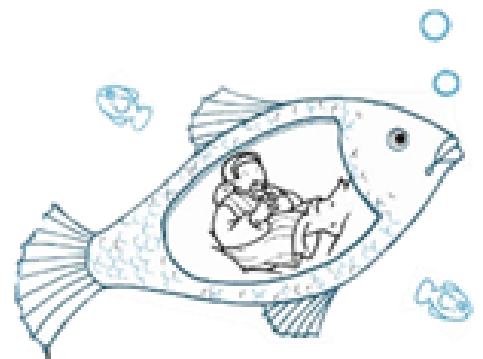


The second - 'No boat is too small when God is watching over you', was the story of Moses. His life was saved when his mother placed him in the smallest of boats, a basket made of rushes, which she hid in the plants at the edge of the Nile.

Her third example - 'No boat is safe when you are running away from God', was the story of Jonah who tried to avoid doing God's command by taking a boat to the wrong destination.

Her fourth example - 'When Jesus calls leave everything behind', was the story of Jesus calling His first disciples.

The fishermen Simon and Andrew and James and John left their boats and families and followed Jesus when He called them.





In her fifth example - 'God's message is not just for church', Jesus preached from a boat to the crowds on shore.

In her sixth example - 'Jesus can provide more than enough'. The fishermen had been out all night and caught nothing. On their return, a stranger on the shore told them to cast their nets over

the other side of the boat and they caught so many fish that they could not haul in the nets. They realised that the stranger was Jesus.

In her final example - 'God's message comes through people who travel', Judith told us about Paul's missionary journeys by boat to take God's message to many countries, suffering hardships including shipwrecks on the way.

Thank you, Judith, for such an interesting service.



### SERVICES

2<sup>nd</sup> April

Walter Stead, Palm Sunday  
Short service followed by Committee Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Sunday, Speaker Sheila Hulme

16<sup>th</sup> April

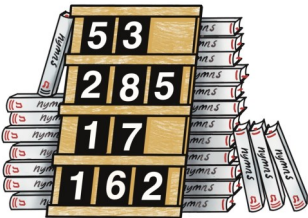
Judith Higgins

23<sup>rd</sup> April

Margaret Forster

30<sup>th</sup> April

Garth Higgins



The stone at the tomb of Jesus was a pebble to the Rock of Ages inside.  
*Fred Beck*

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet.

*E Thomson*



# LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



## Recipe

### *Roasted Cauliflower with lemon parsley dressing*

*Serves 4*

*1 large cauliflower  
2 tbsp olive oil*

*For the dressing:*

*4 tbsp olive oil  
Juice of 1 lemon  
1 tbsp caster sugar  
4 tbsp drained capers, roughly chopped  
2 tbsp roughly chopped parsley  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper*

Preheat the oven to 220°C/Gas 7/200°C Fan.

Remove outer leaves of the cauliflower and discard. Break the cauliflower into even-sized florets and place in a large, resealable freezer bag. Add 2 tablespoons of olive oil and some salt and pepper and toss the florets in the bag so that they are coated in the seasoned oil.

Tip the florets into a shallow roasting tin and roast in the oven for 20-25 minutes until golden brown and crisp.

To make dressing, mix together the oil, lemon juice, sugar, capers and parsley, and season with salt and pepper.

Tip the roasted cauliflower into a warmed serving dish, spoon over the caper dressing and serve at once.





## SPRING

There are snowdrops in my garden,  
The 'Heralds of the Spring'.  
More magic, too, with crocus bright,  
And birds begin to sing.



I've seen robins, blackbirds, sparrows -  
They enjoy a bath each day.  
But, oh dear me! Here's next door's cat,  
And they all flew away!

I love all of our seasons,  
But my favourite one is spring.  
It's so exciting waiting for  
The next fantastic thing!



The daffodils on my window ledge  
Bring smiles to us each day  
And, many times I've noticed  
That the squirrels come to play.

So, even though it's cold outside  
With hats and scarves and gloves  
We know that soon spring will burst forth  
And fill our hearts with love.



Margaret Morris Jones



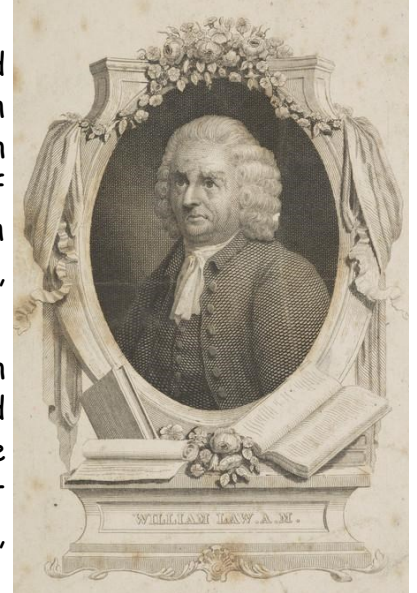
## 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL WILLIAM LAW, SPIRITUAL WRITER EXTRAORDINARY

William Law is the saint for anyone forced to choose between losing their job or losing their integrity.

It had all begun so straightforwardly. Born in King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire in 1686, William had studied at Emmanuel College Cambridge, been ordained a deacon, and been made a Fellow of the college in 1711.

But soon politics interfered. At his ordination, William had made his Oath of Allegiance to the House of Stuart. But with the accession of the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I in 1714, William found he was now expected to make his Oath of Allegiance to King George I. This he felt he could not do, with any integrity. But without the Oath, William lost his Fellowship, and was unable to be priested.

It would have been a bitter blow to anyone wanting a career in the Church, but William did not change his mind. He wanted more than a career in the Church, he wanted to live a holy life before God, and to keep his conscience clear. And so he spent many years as a simple curate (he was not priested until 1728), living by tutoring, but also writing extensively.

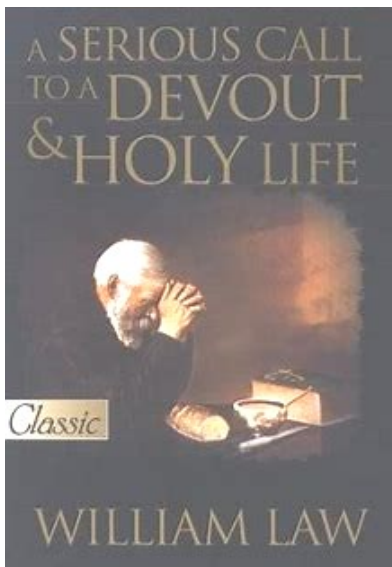


And it was through his writings that William Law went on to make a lasting impact on the spirituality of the nation. One of his numerous books, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, is recognised as having had more influence on the English people than any other English post-Reformation spiritual work, except Pilgrim's Progress.

William Law's writing greatly influenced the leaders of the evangelical movement of his day, including John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. Law was also praised by Enlightenment thinkers such as the writer Dr Samuel Johnson and the historian Edward Gibbon.

And 20 years after his death in 1761, William Wilberforce, the politician, philanthropist, and leader of the movement to stop the slave trade, also paid tribute to the effect Law's writing had had on him.

Law's spiritual writings remain in print even today - nearly 300 years later.



## SMILE LINES

### SEA OF GALILEE

A vicar planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land was shaken when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well," said the vicar, "at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"



### PALM SUNDAY VISIT

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

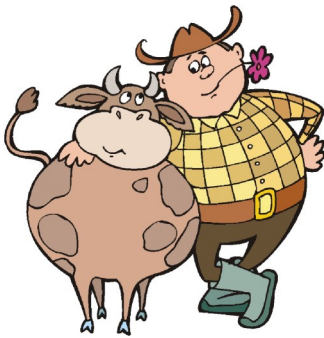
Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"



### OUT WEST

A devout cowboy lost his Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up to him, carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Well, hardly that," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."



### OUTSIDE

A little boy had spent all afternoon playing outdoors, and accidentally left his jacket at the end of the garden. When his mother realised this a couple of hours later, she told him to go back and get it. But by now the garden was dark, and so the little boy hesitated. "Don't be frightened," she said. "The Lord is out there too."

That gave the little boy an idea. He opened the back door and called softly: 'Lord, please could you pass me my jacket?'

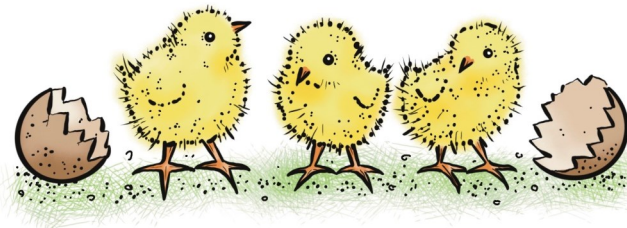


# PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

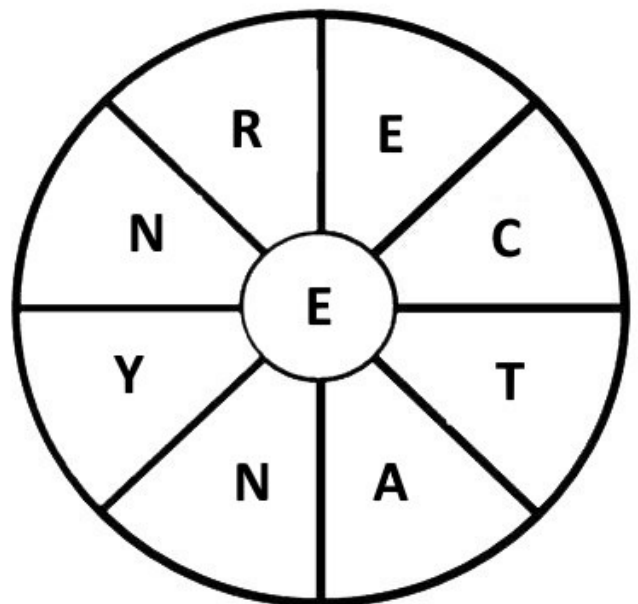


## WORD WHEEL

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

Good score 18+ Excellent 28+



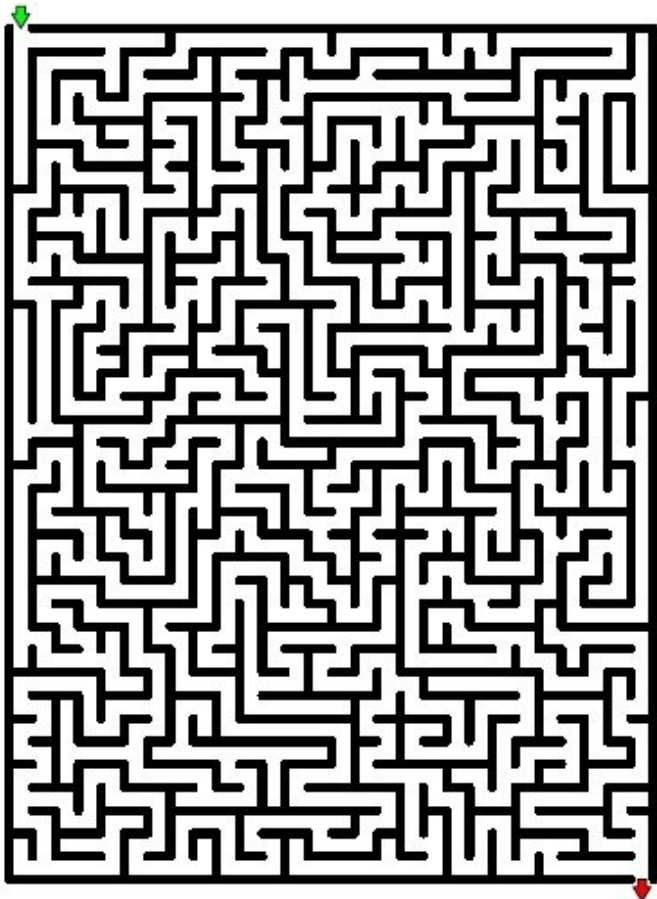
## WORDSEARCH

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!

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

Approach	Ate
Betrayed	Blessed
Blood	Body
Bread	Covenant
Cup	Disciples
Drink	Easter
Gethsemane	God
Jesus	Last
Law	Meal
New	Old
Passover	Removed
Thanks	Warned
Will	Wine

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



### MAZE

Starting at the green arrow, can you work your way around the maze exiting at the red arrow?



# EASTER

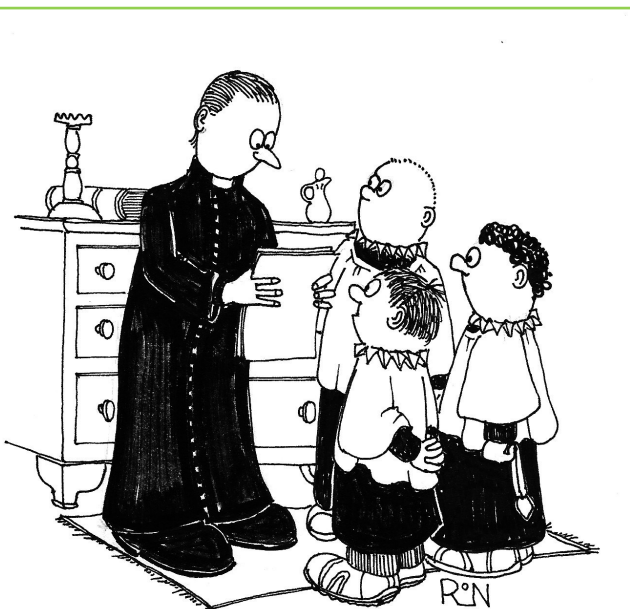
## ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



### SUDOKU ANSWERS

### WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



*Among their demands were bourbon biscuits, double fees for weddings, and Sundays off*



**"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."**