

Stockport Sunday School

September 2023 Newsletter 41



"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the sun" (Ecclesiasties Ch 3 v1),

and we are now in the closing days of our current season.

'Summertime, and the living is easy' to quote the words of 'Porgy and Bess'. Certainly, people seem generally more relaxed when the weather gets warmer.

As to the actual date when we move from summer to autumn - we probably all have differing views -September 1st maybe, or the first full week in September, when the schools go back.

In scientific terms, it is probably September 23rd – the Autumn Equinox, when in our hemisphere the hours of daylight and night are the same.

Our Midsummer, on the other hand, while being the day of maximum daylight, occurs when the earth, on its orbit, is furthest from the sun. The warm weather is the result of the tilt of the earth's axis as it means we get longer days and more of the sun's heat.

This phenomenon provides the changes in climate through the year which enable crops to grow in their natural environment.

It is one of the wonders of nature we usually take for granted - but a vital detail of God's creation.



Traditionally we look forward to summer for the opportunity to enjoy the relaxing climate; for fresh vegetables and fruit - perhaps even from our own gardens.



The impact of the seasons on what we can eat has been reduced in modern times as a result of the use of refrigeration, freezing and increased speed of transporting goods.

Transport has also extended the choice of time of year for holidays, although Covid and political unrest seems to have resulted in many people taking holidays in the UK rather than abroad. As a result, in recent months, travel in the UK to popular resorts has caused much congestion on the roads - as we found to our cost this last week on our journey to the North East. We came to the conclusion that 'Yorkshire was full'.

Despite such inconveniences, holidays are a welcome chance to recharge our batteries, so to speak.

References to growth in the natural world abound in the Bible, praising God for His goodness - in the Psalms in particular. They are also used by Jesus, in his teaching - such as his references to the lilies of the field; fig trees, and the size of a mustard seed, for example.

So it's perhaps a time for us to pause and thank God for the many blessings we enjoy from His bounty.

For the beauty of nature, the food and sustenance it provides; the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities; perhaps opportunities to visit friends and family who live afar.



And just the simple pleasure of enjoying warm, summer days.

So we hope you have had time to enjoy the summer season - despite the unexpected variations in weather from the traditional norm.

At the same time, we need to be aware of the threat of global warming, conscious that the resultant extremes of flood, fire, and rising sea levels are warnings that mankind needs to take care of our environment - wisely and urgently.

As the writer of Psalm 24 reminds us:

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it - the world and all that dwells therein

That is a challenge for all of us. To resolve it we will need the guidance of God. Let us pray that mankind will listen.



STAMP PRICE INCREASES

On October 2nd, stamp prices will once again be increasing. The new prices will be as follows:-

1st Class Standard£1.251st Class Large Letter£1.952nd Class Standard75p2nd Class Large Letter£1.55

The second class standard postage charge will remain the same price. Other postal services, including Royal Mail's 'Signed For' and 'Special Delivery Guaranteed' services will increase from 2 October, as will its Parcelforce also 'Worldwide Next Day' and 'Two Day UK' services. All these prices will be available from your local post office or can be MoneySavingExpert.com online found at or at www.royalmail.com. Martin Lewis, founder of MoneySavingExpert.com, suggests people may want to look at buying stamps now for Christmas cards and future post,



if they are likely to use anything other than the second class standard, to avoid the price increases.





In September, we wish the following a 'Happy Birthday'.

2nd - Cath Brown

2nd - Joan Thompson

4th - Marjorie Barlow

7th - Janet Moore

17th - Garth Higgins

We also wish a Happy Birthday to the following whose birthdays fall at the start of October:-

2nd - Walter Stead 6th - Elizabeth Keeling

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VICTORIAN AFTERNOON TEA

Taylor Dignan, son of Sam, the manager of 'Little Stars' pre-school has been undertaking several challenges to raise money for Manchester Eye Hospital where he receives treatment. He has walked several marathons and raised over £11000, which doesn't include a walk he did on Saturday 15th July when he walked from the Rams Head in Disley to Manchester Eye Hospital, which is 11 miles, no mean feat for a small boy. He is registered with the hospital as a fundraiser, so with this information and seeing his mum, Sam, on the This Morning television programme, spurred us on to support him. We felt that this was a worthy cause as Taylor had been bullied at school about his eye problem and he wanted to do something for the hospital to stand up for this sort of thing.



The Community Coffee Lounge organised the Victorian Afternoon Tea with support from



members of the Knit 'N' Natter group to help him raises some money. Ι suggested wearing an apron and cap and one of the knitting ladies made an apron and organised the pattern and two other volunteers made two aprons each, they turned out well and that is why we called it a Victorian Tea Party. The 'waitresses' were dressed in long black skirts with the long white aprons and head pieces. One of the knitting ladies the china provided all and the tablecloths and bunting.

As people arrived they found the hall set out beautifully with all the tables set out with individual place settings with the brightly coloured china, including cake stands and also flowers

to decorate the tables. There was seating for 46 people and it was nice to see people from school, the Bowling Club, Tai Chi and people who support the Coffee Morning and the Knit 'N' Natter, plus parents from the Pre-School. They brought out plates of cakes and individual pots of tea. The cakes were donated by those who helped organise and run the event and also the parents of the Pre-School children, who also donated prizes for the raffle.

I had asked anyone who wanted to to dress up to give the occasion some atmosphere and I

discussed this with Sam. She was really moved that we would support her son.

The pre school then joined us, all the staff had dressed in Victorian dresses and many of the children had dressed up too. They had their own table at the back of the hall, and when their classroom door opened and the children walked in, it was a picture to see them dressed up. After they had eaten Sam got the children to the walk around tables SO everyone could see them and then they entertained us with songs, 'The Wheels On The Bus' and 'Twinkle. Twinkle Little Star'. Many of the adults joined in with the singing and actions and



everyone gave the children a big round of applause for their beautiful performance.



A pleasant afternoon tea was had by all present and money was raised to help Taylor's charity collection. £200 was taken on the raffle, but we won't know how much else was raised until Sam takes the collecting box into the hospital as they are the only ones who can open it. We will let you know later how much we raised in total. There will be some photos on the board in the corridor of the event.

The feedback I have had has been tremendous. People said how they really enjoyed it and I felt it was great to see how all the community came

together to support this event and how the various groups who use the school came. I would like to say a big thank you to all our helpers from Coffee Morning and Knitting Group, for all their hard work in making this happen. A big thanks to Brenda from the Knit 'N' Natter Group for supplying the tables settings, flowers and bunting and to her husband, Mike, for helping put the bunting up, along with Vida another of our knitters, Chris who made the pattern for the aprons (6 were made in all) and a big thank you to those who volunteered to wear them, they really worked hard that afternoon and they were glad they didn't work in hospitality as a job. Thanks for all your support.

Beryl Manley

Congratulations from all of us who attended, to Beryl, the Community Coffee Lounge, Knit 'N' Natter and anyone who worked so hard to make this event such a success.

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TRIP TO GORTON MONASTERY

16 people from Sunday School took a mini bus to Gorton Monastery on Thursday 20th July. The trip had been organised by Community Coffee Lounge. It was a lovely sunny day. When we arrived at the monastery at about 12, the monastery was very busy and we wandered around the cloisters looking at pictures of what it was like before they started to rebuild it. What a gigantic task





that was and they had to work hard to get funding for this beautiful place. It just shows what you can achieve when you have got the determination. It was fantastic. After walking around the cloisters, which took some time with stopping and reading information, we then went into the café. The café was also very busy and we had to wait a little while, but it gave us a chance to have a chat. The lunch was very nice. After lunch we went into the chancel, a

large empty hall with the alter at one end and pictures all around the walls. We then went to sit in the healing gardens outside. It was lovely in the sun and I took some pictures, including a group photo of us all under a tree. We sat and chatted until the bus came, it was a lovely afternoon, everyone enjoyed it. Photos will be on display in the corridor. Thank you for all your support and tell all your friends about our coffee morning on a Tuesday.

Beryl Manley



KNIT 'N' NATTER

The Knit 'N' Natter ladies will be holding an Autumn Fair on Tuesday October 24th in aid of St Anne's Hospice. Please come along with your family and friends to help us raise money for this worthy charity which helps and supports many people.

St Ann's Hospice

eveny day makes a difference





We will be holding our harvest service on Sunday 17th September at 2.30pm, when we hope that you will be able to join us. Our speaker will be Rev. Alison Termie from Short Street United Reform Church in Hazel Grove making her first visit to the School and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her and hearing her message.



THE RHYTHMS OF CREATION

The rhythms of creation -The never-ceasing beat Of seasons in rotation As cold gives way to heat; We know, when it is raining The sun will dry the rain And when the moon is waning It soon will wax again.

The farmer drills his acres When springtime rains shall fall Then gathers wheat for bakers As sunflowers grow tall; In spring, the fruit trees, blooming Attract the busy bees; As autumn clouds are looming We pick from loaded trees. The Lord, our Great Creator Allowed us, by His grace To be the regulator Of earthly time and space But mankind has been greedy In burning coal and oil So farmers now are seeding In dry and desert soil.

The rhythms of creation Are wand'ring from their beat Increasing suffocation, Of fire, flood, and heat. Lord, teach us new behaviour To spend, with care, our days: Dear loving Lord and Saviour Forgive our foolish ways!

By Nigel Beeton for Parish Pump



SERVICES



SUNDAY, 9TH JULY 2023

Walter took the service on Sunday 9th July and he referred to the previous week's service when Judith had read from Melvin Bragg's book entitled 'Book of Books'. Walter had been interested to hear how the first printed version of the Bible in English, 'The King James

version', had impacted on the English language and history generally.



The Bible is a mini library covering many topics similar to those covered in modern libraries. Walter chose a 'hero's story' from Genesis 22 verses 1-14. Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac at God's request.

At this period in history child sacrifice was an acceptable religious practice so Abraham's actions were not unusual.

What would be going through Abraham's mind as he walked with Isaac? We don't know how old Isaac was but what would he have been thinking. He knew they were going to make an offering to God and questioned his father who didn't seem to have brought anything to sacrifice. Abraham's reply - "God will provide".

Isaac must have been afraid when his father bound him, perhaps realising what was about to happen to him. But God did provide an important message to Abraham and his descendants that God does not want human sacrifice from His believers, human life is sacred.

Walter asked if Jesus was the New Testament equivalent of Isaac, God's son. When did Jesus know He was to be sacrificed?

Towards the end of His ministry, Jesus does tell His disciples that He would be killed and rise after 3 days, but the disciples did not seem to take this fully on board until the crucifixion.

How do we distinguish between Abraham receiving and obeying what he sees as a clear instruction from God and what seems abhorrent to us today? There are national leaders who still invoke God as their motivation to use violence to get their will eg Putin's attack on Ukraine.

Jesus himself warned, "Beware of prophets". Walter recently had a cataract operation and was surprised at how much more detail he could see, how brighter colours appeared.

This reminded him of Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

As we go about our daily lives sometimes our vision of what we as Christians are called to do may lose some definition. In his letter, Paul is telling his followers of the importance of



worshipping together. For us, our regular meeting together for worship is our opportunity to check that we are maintaining our vision of what following Christ means and to support one another as we journey together to serve our Lord.

SUNDAY 16TH JULY 2023

We were pleased to welcome Rita Waters as our speaker for this service. Rita had actually lost her voice. After welcoming Rita, Walter helped her out by reading her chosen lesson, Romans chapter 8 beginning at verse 11

Rita said we all make mistakes but God is always willing to forgive us, His grace and love are beyond comprehension.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul says that God sent Jesus into the world as a man and he paid the price for all that we have done wrong.

> As Christians we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. We will still make mistakes but must try not to walk in the way of the flesh, but the way of the spirit is life and peace.

> God raised Jesus from the dead, He will also raise those who live in the spirit.

> Thank you, Rita, for speaking to us despite suffering with your lost voice, and helping us to understand the message of Paul's letter to



SUNDAY, 23RD JULY 2023

Judith Higgins led the service on July 23rd. She referred to Janet Moore's talk on Founders' Day about how the work of the Sunday School had changed during the reigns of several In discussions after the service it monarchs. became clear that the work of SSS was not restricted to Sunday, their one day off work.

The original aim was to give social and moral education to the poor on a Sunday. As well as



sports teams and youth groups.



religious education in the School all scholars were taken to church by the teachers.

Other activities were introduced, a love of music and the formation of an orchestra and choirs. There were cycling and rambling groups to promote health. The School had There were many its own gym.





the Romans.

The School developed a night school and built a fully equipped laboratory to teach elementary science. There were three libraries to encourage reading and a bank to encourage thrift.

During the wars the School was still active, fire watching from the roof of the School, a group cutting out hospital clothing for troops in hospital. The School also provided a home for refugees





from the Channel Islands.

We are a much smaller organisation now and cannot provide all these activities ourselves but can provide facilities for organisations that can eg rooms for educational groups like the pre-school, U3A groups, Stockport Horticultural Society and Stockport Historical Society. There is still music in the School as two choirs rehearse here.

The Coffee Lounge and Knit and Natter

group provide a place to meet and chat to people, health is promoted by a Keep Fit Group, Tai Chi and Country Dancing groups.

The work still goes on at Compass Point and we still enjoy worship and fellowship each Sunday.



SUNDAY, 30TH JULY 2023

Garth had always enjoyed the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. He had been introduced to them by his mother when they went to a performance of The Mikado at Manchester's Opera House. The opening of the overture had impressed him.

The first performance of The Mikado had been on March 14th 1885 at the Savoy Theatre in London.

The opera was the work of two men W. S. Gilbert wrote the words and Arthur Sullivan who wrote the music.

Gilbert loved humour and was able to work out the strangest of plots which always seemed to come right in the end. Sullivan was more serious and wrote songs, hymns and orchestral pieces as well as the operettas.



In some ways they seemed perfect partners and wrote many popular musicals and yet they quarrelled frequently over small things and eventually parted company after a quarrel about a carpet. What a pity two such gifted men were not able to work together for much longer.

In Garth's Bible reading, Galatians chapter 5 verses 21 -26, Paul gives some advice. People with the qualities he mentions are unlikely to fall out over little things.

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee He called fishermen to follow Him, those were to become His disciples and closest friends. John is called the disciple who Jesus loved. He was one of those on the mountain with Jesus at His transfiguration. He was the one Jesus spoke to from the cross, asking him to care for Mary, His mother. He wrote the gospel and epistle that bear his name and also Revelation. Jesus' disciples were also His friends although they did not always understand Him they stayed with Him and with the gift of the Holy Spirit continued to spread the gospel after the resurrection.



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SUNDAY, 6TH AUGUST 2023

Walter's theme for his service was 'seeing things differently'.

We began the service by singing the hymn, 'Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord' as a prayer, thinking of the words we were singing.

Our first hymn, 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' speaks of an unchanging, everlasting, forgiving God bringing peace and hope.



A new temporary conductor had brought a different approach to a choir in which Walter sings. As well as the technical aspects of singing she encouraged them to think of the emotional content, to enter into the feeling of the words as much as the music. Perhaps something we should do when singing our hymns each week, music plays an important part in our worship each week, but sometimes we enjoy the singing of familiar hymns without giving enough thought to the words.

That afternoon we thought about what was being expressed in the hymns Walter had chosen.

'When I Survey The Wondrous Cross' goes to the core of our faithfulness and wonder at God's love for all people.

The Bible reading Luke chapter 18 verses 35 - 43 was Jesus' lesson in pride and humility shown in the rich and the poor man. God sees us as we really are, not necessarily as we see ourselves.

'Come Down O Love Divine' is a hymn asking for God's spirit to guide and help us, to open our hearts and minds, to be humble.

'What A Friend We Have In Jesus' reminds us that God sent Jesus into the world, to give His life for us, because He loves us. God listens to our prayers, we can take all our problems to Him through Jesus and also give Him thanks for His many blessings.

Thank you, Walter, for an enjoyable service and a good sing but especially for reminding us to think about what we are singing, and to see things differently.





SUNDAY, 13TH AUGUST 2023

.Judith Higgins took as her theme 'the miracles of Jesus'. There are thirty three miracles recorded in the gospels.



The Wedding Feast at Cana

The first was when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast in Cana. Only Mary, Jesus' mother, the servants and disciples witnessed this miracle. Later many more would be made aware of Jesus' power. This first miracle is only recorded by John who stated, "This was His first miracle showing His glory and His disciples saw and believed in Him". Only Mary and the disciples witnessed this miracle. Later large crowds would witness Jesus' power.

Later in the service we looked at Jesus' power to heal the sick considering the man with palsy lowered through the roof in front of Jesus by his friends and the ten lepers healed by Jesus, one of them was a Samaritan not a Jew, showing that although Jesus was the Messiah expected by the Jews he showed God's love and compassion to all men. We heard of the feeding of the five thousand and Jesus' power over the natural

world, twice calming the storm on the lake.

Christians will experience difficult times in their lives when they will pray to God for help. We probably we won't get the storm stopping effect that happened to the disciples the problem will not go away at once but with faith and God's help we can weather the storm.

SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST 2023

Garth's choice of reading for the service was John chapter 15 verses 12 - 17, Jesus tells the disciples that they are His friends and not His servants.

In the first part of the service, Garth told us about some of the friends he had made at school, friendships that have lasted a lifetime.

In the second part of his service, he spoke of changing figures recorded in the census returns since 2001, when the optional



question about religion was added. In just over fifty years, the UK has changed from an overwhelmingly Christian society to one where people with no religion are on the brink of becoming the majority.

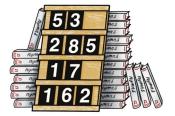
The Church of England and Scotland are looking beyond the declining numbers of people sitting on pews at services, they are undergoing transition rather than decline, offering support where needed to people with learning and other disabilities or coping with dementia etc.

In England there is still a high percentage of faith schools.

After the figures were released from the 2021 census, the Archbishop of York said we have 'left behind the era when many people almost automatically identified as Christian' so it is not surprising that the figure has dropped, but it still throws down a challenge to us to trust God and play our part in making Christ known. At a time of a cost of living crisis and war in Europe, people still need spiritual guidance. "We will be there for them, in many cases providing food and warmth We as Christians still have a lot to offer society".

Let us declare the good news of what God has done for us and do what we can to align all our resources to make that happen in our local churches whatever that church is.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for playing the CD's for the hymns while Ken is away, and to Judith, Margaret and Cath for bringing flowers.



<u>SERVICES</u>						
10 th September	Judith Curry					
17 th September	HARVEST - Rev Alison Termie					
24 th September	Wendy Hill					
1 st October	Beryl Manley					
8 th October	Judith Hadfield					
15 th October	Judith Higgins					
22 nd October	ANNIVERSARY - Rev Paul Deakin					
	17 th September 24 th September 1 st October 8 th October 15 th October					

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Ginger fridge cake

Serves 6

250-300g of thin ginger biscuits (such as Annas pepparkakor or IKEA Kafferep) 300ml double cream 2-3 finely chopped balls of stem ginger (in syrup) 2 tbsp of the ginger syrup

Arrange the ginger biscuits in a lined 900g loaf tin. The biscuits will be too wide to line up side by side – interleave them so that a small gap is created between each biscuit.



Softly whip the cream and stir in the stem ginger and syrup.

Spoon the cream down between the biscuits, tapping the tin on the work surface so the cream travels down to the bottom. Keep adding cream until you have filled the tin, then smooth over the top.

Chill overnight and then turn the cake out onto a plate. Decorate with more stem ginger and syrup if you like.





Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to:

Pam Bowden - 3rd September Pat Mellor - 9th September Someone recently mentioned Blackpool Illuminations and it reminded me of an outing made by members of Short Street Church several years ago. I wrote this poem when we returned and am wondering why no-one has suggested a return visit since then?!

AN ODE TO THE CHURCH TRIP

"Illuminations time is here", the Elders said with glee "Now, we have had a good idea the bright lights we must see."

"We'll hire a coach and off we'll go, our warm clothes we will don, to visit Cleveleys would be fun they've got a smart new prom!"

We all met up at 10.00 am with smiles upon our faces, the weather's dodgy, but, we think, it's great to see new places.

Now some went North and some went South and some went for a chat, some had a coffee and a meal and wish they'd brought a hat!





At 6.30 we climbed on board, and sank down in our seat. We'll drive to Blackpool, we'll be first The lights will be a treat!

Alas! Things didn't go to plan too many cars were there. We crawled along for 3 long hours, the driver's in despair!

The toilet light flashed on and off the Tower's a distant sight, the lights are lovely, but oh dear! Will we get home tonight?

We're home at last - adventure done, the driver's pale and weak! We've had a very special time. Let's do it again next week!!



Margaret Morris Jones



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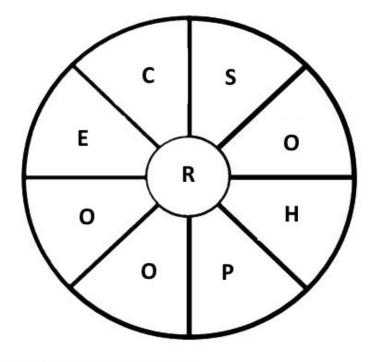
Sudoku

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

Good score 10+ Excellent 18+



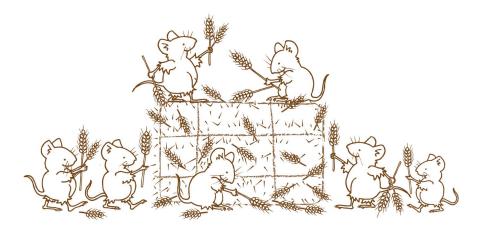


WORDSEARCH

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Can you find the words shown in bold capitals in the passage below in the grid? Words can be found in the grid in any direction.

For some reason, the CHURCH gives THANKS for angels in September. The 29th is the FEAST day of MICHAEL and ALL ANGELS. Since the days of GENESIS, these MESSENGERS of GOD have been SENT many times to INTERVENE for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the GARDEN of EDEN, they led LOT away from Gomorrah, they helped GIDEON, they stopped BALAAM, they closed the MOUTHS of LIONS for DANIEL, and, most important, the ARCHANGEL GABRIEL was sent to tell MARY that she would MOTHER the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. REVELATION is TEAMING with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal DANGER.



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

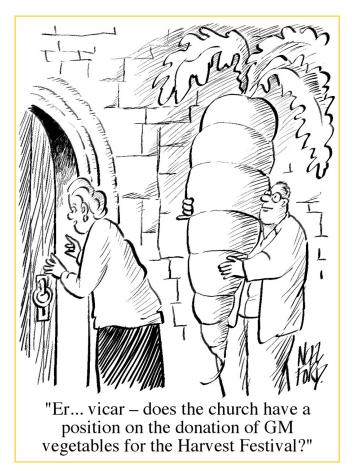
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS





Mrs Todger became a Living Artwork – "Woman who saw a snake"