



Stockport Sunday School

October 2023 Newsletter 42



As I look through the bedroom window, I can see there are still a few apples amongst the old tree's foliage. They look a good size, with a rosy colour, but are too high to reach with the extending pruning cutter. The combination of a warm spring, followed by a cool and wet August, seems to have thrown the natural growth process out of kilter, and it seems too late for the tree to recover, which is disappointing. We shall just have to wait till the apples fall to the ground, when hopefully we can collect them before the birds and other garden visitors try to eat them.

Generally, in recent weeks any sunny spells have been few and far between, and it's too late to expect any 'sitting out' days, so the garden furniture cushions have had to be brought in. All signs of Autumn taking over.

'Too late', - a familiar phrase we often use without thinking too much about it, but described by my form teacher, in my first year at secondary school, as "the saddest words in the English language." Perhaps not a description that immediately springs to mind, but it bears thinking about.

In truth, it is worse than 'what if', where the speaker is thinking of alternative scenarios that might have happened, but, for some reason, didn't.

'Too late' implies the right outcome would have occurred, if there hadn't been some delay, due to the action or inaction of someone. It might be a minor error - if we hadn't been late at the bus stop - we would have got to the meeting on time, and achieved a better outcome. Or, perhaps looking back further, if in the past we had changed our ways, our habits, as we knew we should, then we would be in a happier and healthier situation now. Whatever the cause, being 'too late' leaves you with a feeling of 'unfinished business.'

Perhaps, with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, we will know enough to avoid falling into the same trap again, - learning from past experience not to put things off. On the other hand we sometimes have to be patient when circumstances mean we can't do or change things just when we want. To be patient, but nevertheless to be ready.

It struck me that Jesus' parable of the landowner hiring men to work in his vineyard, is relevant here. The landowner goes out early in the day to recruit labour for an agreed rate, similar to what a Roman soldier would earn in a day. Some of us will recall that this way of hiring was how dockers, for example, were employed in the immediate post war years, a system of casual labour which became a practice subject to much unfairness and corruption.



Jesus tells how the landowner continues to hire at three-hourly intervals. Finally, with only one hour to go, he finds other men standing around, and asks them why they were doing nothing. Their answer is - no one has hired us - so he sends them off to join the other workers.



It is not clear why they had not been hired - were they too late to join the queue?

- had they been looking for work elsewhere, but chose the wrong place - what did they expect for one hour's work late in the day?

Whatever the reason, they had not given up hope of finding some kind of employment; still willing to work though perhaps feeling the chance had passed to earn a significant amount of pay.

At the end of the day, they must have been delighted to receive a full day's wage, even if their fellow workers were, perhaps understandably, somewhat disgruntled.

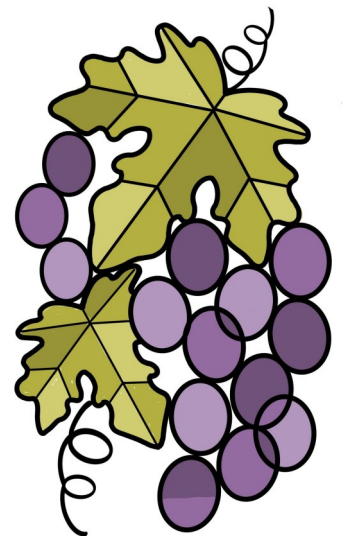
The parable isn't meant to be a guideline for industrial relations, even if there are several aspects that do give food for thought - especially, as Jesus points out, not being envious of those who have benefitted from someone's generosity in their time of need. Perhaps, the key is that the men had remained hopeful and available when called.

It is usually interpreted as a story of believers and unbelievers being willing to meet God's call to faith and to trust in Him, at whatever stage of life they may be. God will welcome them, no matter how late it may seem.

It is also directed at those who already believe; to remind them that there are others who have been left behind, who may not have been in the right place at the right time; who need encouragement and hope to help them find their way to God.

The underlying truth is that it is never too late for anyone to join in working with God and for God. For some, it may be the first time they have heard His call. But it may also be for those of us who have already been working for Him, to be open to His call to do something extra, something new.

Our time is in God's hands; so let us be willing to seek employment in His 'vineyard', to do whatever He has planned for us - in Jesus' name.



Exercise daily - walk with the Lord. - Anon



We don't change God's message - His message changes us. - Anon



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



GET WELL SOON

We send our best wishes to those of our friends who have been ill recently and hope that they will soon be fully recovered.

It was good to hear that Doug Manley is now home and Marjorie Barlow is also home and recovering from her operation



SAD NEWS

We were all sorry to hear of the death of Jean Norton (née Heavyside).

Jean had a long connection with the School, as did her parents. She was a scholar at Heaviley Sunday School and then taught in the Junior and Primary Departments. When the School moved up to Heaviley, she continued to teach in the Primary. Jean was a member of the Sunday School Bowling and Tennis Clubs and sang in the Heaviley Sunday School Choir.



Jean was very creative, a talented knitter, embroiderer and bobbin lace maker.

She was a good cook, and as well as making cakes, she excelled at decorative icing. She made special occasion cakes for many School members, including wedding cakes and the School Bicentenary cake. For many years she also enjoyed going to the Hallé with friends from Sunday School.

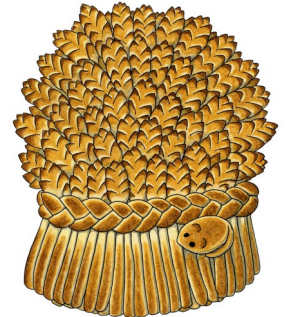
Although a very quiet person, Jean was always willing to help. As senior teacher, she chaired several Election of Inspectors meetings.

We will miss her, and her well-loved step daughter, Anne, is in our thoughts and prayers.

HARVEST

HARVEST LUNCH

Fifteen people sat down to a ploughman's lunch and gateaux before the service on September 17th. We would like to thank Margaret Forster, Joyce Darvil and Judith Curry for all their hard work in making this possible. The meal was enjoyed by everyone.



HARVEST SERVICE

Thank you to all those who donated to the harvest gifts which made the hall look really festive and they will be appreciated by Wellspring. '

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Alison Termi from Short Street Methodist Church as our speaker. She had prepared a large sheet of paper with the heading HARVEST at the top and asked members how many words they could make from the letters from the word. It was quite a long list:-

vest, save, tear, star, tea, shave, seat, rest, share, haste, heat, stave, hare,
shaver, have, starve, rave, art, heart, the, hear

Many of them relate to our harvest thanksgiving. Perhaps the most important is SHARE. Let Jesus move in our hearts so that those who have will share with those who have not.

Alison's readings were from Isaiah 25 verse 6-13 and 2 Corinthians chapter 18 from verse 10 and 9 verses 6-9.



In the second reading, Paul urges the Corinthians who have plenty to give freely and joyfully to those in need. Paul is seeking help for the church in Macedonia. He asks the Corinthians to give according to their ability and give freely. A gift given grudgingly harms both the giver and receiver, giving to others enriches the giver.

Alison worked for four years in nature, conservation working with farmers in Lincolnshire. Today we are more aware of sustainable living, and a green economy where all of us can contribute. Alison spoke of climate change, rising sea levels and forest fires with good fertile soil being lost and polluted rivers. We can sing the songs of 'harvest home'

but all is not well in our world. Our thanksgiving should not be restricted to good times. As we celebrate good or poor harvests we must remember all good things are sent from God whether we produce our own food or rely on imported foods we should give thanks to God.



We must repay God's generosity by responding to the needs of the world. Let us give freely and restrict practices which provide riches for ourselves and poverty for others.

Thank you, Alison, for your message given in a clear and inspiring way. We hope that you will visit us again soon.

Thank you to Margaret Forster for taking our gifts to Wellspring.



ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

We will be holding our annual Anniversary Service on October 22nd when the speaker will be Rev. Paul Deakin, vicar of St Cross Church, Knutsford. We are delighted that Paul has accepted our invitation to speak to us at this special service.

Paul has a long association with the School. Paul and his sister and brother were scholars and later Paul became a teacher and leader of the Challenges Department. His parents and grandparents were also Sunday School members.

Once again we will be serving tea and cake after the service. To help with the catering, will you please let Joyce Sellers know by Sunday 15th October if you are coming to the service and will be staying for refreshments.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday November 18th 2023

11am - 1.30pm

There will be a raffle, bottle tombola, books, jigsaws, crafts, cakes, jam, white elephant and soft toys.

Donations to the above stalls will be very welcome.

Don and Judith are happy to collect items.

Tea, coffee, cakes, bacon baps and toasted teacakes will be available.



SHOE BOX SERVICE

This will be held on Sunday 19th November. We hope that people will bring in their shoe boxes on that afternoon.

If you are not able to make up a shoe box but would like to donate an item to be put in a box, please put it in the box on the table in the entrance hall. There are leaflets on the table suggesting items that can be put in the boxes.

If you need further help, please speak to Beryl Manley or Margaret Forster.



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, please can you deliver it to Sunday School or if you would like Judith to collect your lantern, please ring her on 0161 483 4039.

Thank you.



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.



Beryl Manley



CLOCKS GO BACK!

Just a little reminder that the clocks go back on the evening of Saturday October 28th (or officially 2am on Sunday October 29th).





SERVICES



SUNDAY, 27TH AUGUST 2023

An article about the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem written by a lady brought up in the Hindu faith, a culture involving many gods, each with their own temple, prompted Walter to look at the importance of the temple in the Jewish religious faith.

The Jews worshipped one God and the Old Testament records the development of the relationship between man and God. Often men forsook God but He still helped them. God saw potential leaders where others did not.

At the time of Moses, the Jews were a nomadic people with no permanent homeland. God told Moses to create a tabernacle, a mobile temple that could be carried with them on their travels, a symbol of God with them wherever they were.



King David undertook to build a permanent temple and started the preparations but just as Moses never entered the Promised Land, David never saw the building of the temple, instead it was entrusted to his son, King Solomon.

It would be a place in which to worship God. Although it was known as the 'house of God' it was not the place in which God lived. In his dedication of the temple Solomon said, 'Even heaven, and the highest heaven cannot hold you, much less the house I have built.'

It was a magnificent monument with a deep sense of holiness in which to praise and honour God and also a statement that Israel had secured a homeland.



Sadly they were invaded by the Babylonians the people taken into slavery and the temple destroyed. When the Babylonians were conquered by the Persians the Jews were allowed to return to their homeland and the temple was rebuilt and survived for 600 years when it was destroyed in 70AD. All that remains now is part of the western wall, a place of prayer for Orthodox Jews, known as the Wailing Wall.

Here in our own country we have many ruined churches and abbeys, a reminder that our own nation has also suffered violence and destruction.

Churches are places where we can join together to worship God, a place of fellowship in Christ where we meet with God.

In his letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians chapter 3 verses 16 and 17), Paul says, "How we behave towards one another is how the church of God will be seen by the world." "We are called to show that we are the dwelling place of God's Holy Spirit".

In John 2 verses 18-22, Jesus describes himself as a temple.

The Jews believed the temple was sacred, a way of accessing God, a place where their prayers would be heard. Jesus said, "Believe in me, pray through me, a living temple." We do this when we say in our prayers, "Through Jesus Christ, our Lord", trusting God will hear us.

Thank you, Walter, for an interesting service giving us much to think about in the way we worship God and demonstrate our faith in the way we live our lives.



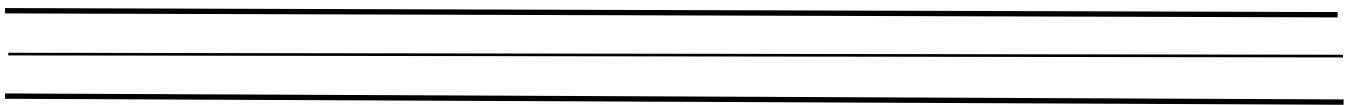
SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023

Due to many members being on holiday this week or unable to come it was decided to close for this one Sunday until many of the members would be back.



SUNDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Elizabeth Keeling and Ken Dean ran the service on Sunday 10th September. The theme of the service was LINES or LINE. The following lines were shown at the top of the board.



It was a very pleasant, unusual afternoon, with everyone participating, giving examples of the many ways we all, in life, come across or use these words. A few examples were



washing line,
white / yellow road lines,
phone line,
fishing line,
keep in line,
toe the line,



overstepping or not following the line.

Approximately 25 examples were listed. The heavy lines shown, like railway lines, also called the tracks, how often have we said or heard others say after a difficult time,

"I feel as if I am now back on track".

The thin one we can call the fine line. Sometimes we tread this fine line ourselves.

Finally we have the life line, the most important one, we Christians call it the Holy Spirit, from hence we get all the power and help we need in life.

All the above along with the Scripture readings, poems and hymns put together by Elizabeth all made for a happy, pleasant afternoon. Among the hymns were 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'Fight The Good Fight'.

Thank you Ken and Elizabeth for another interesting service.



SUNDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday 17th September was our Harvest led by Rev. Alison Termi from Short Street Methodist Church. There is a write up on this service and the Harvest Lunch that preceded it earlier in this newsletter.



SUNDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023



Wendy Hill told us the interesting history of a very small church she had visited whilst on holiday.

The church of St Tysillio is situated on Church Island in the Menai Straits (Welsh name Ynys Tysillio, island of Tysillio) between the Menai Bridge and Britannia Bridge which link mainland Wales to Anglesey.

Tysillio was a sixth century Welsh saint thought to have established a church on the island. The present church dates back to the 1400's but extensive restoration was done in 1890's.

The church is tiny and has no electricity but is still used and is very popular for weddings. The window on the east wall was installed during the restoration but is a reproduction of the original fifteenth century window and the octagonal baptismal font originates from the fourteenth century.

The island is reached by a causeway from the Belgium Promenade. During World War 1 refugees from German occupied Belgium were welcomed by the Bishop of Bangor and accommodated in Menai Bridge. In gratitude for the town's hospitality the Belgians built this promenade which was opened in 1916. Some refugees remained in Anglesey after the war and when the promenade was rebuilt and widened in 1963 by Eduard Willhelms, the only surviving refugee.

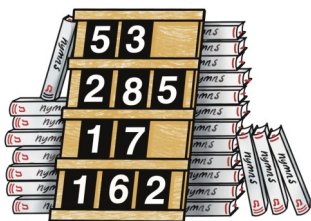


The little church is surrounded by a large graveyard. As well as graves of local families there are graves of the men who worked on the two bridges who died during the construction or who settled in the town when the work was finished. At the highest point in the graveyard there is a cross erected in memory of those who died in both world wars.

Thank you Wendy for an interesting insight into the ancient small church, it was good to hear that it is still in use today.

COMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

1 st October	Judith Curry
8 th October	Judith Hadfield
15 th October	Judith Higgins
22 nd October	ANNIVERSARY - Rev Paul Deakin
29 th October	Garth Higgins
5 th November	Walter Stead
12 th November	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - Stuart Dean
18 th November	CHRISTMAS FAIR
19 th November	SHOE BOX SERVICE



LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Tomato and Vermouth risotto

Serves 4

30g butter

2 shallots, finely chopped

1 garlic clove, crushed

250g risotto rice

100ml vermouth

400g tin chopped tomatoes

2 veg stock cubes, dissolved in 1.2 litres of boiling water

1 tbsp balsamic vinegar

50g parmesan, grated

2 tbsp shredded basil



Melt the butter in a large pan and cook the shallots and garlic for 5 minutes until softened. Stir in the rice and continue to cook, stirring, for 2-3 minutes or until the rice is hot. Add the vermouth and let it cook until absorbed, followed by the tomatoes, pressing down with back of a spoon to break up any large pieces.

Once the tomatoes have softened, add the stock a couple of ladlefuls at a time, stirring all the time. Add more stock when the mixture starts to look dry. Continue until the rice is cooked and looks creamy - you may not need all of the stock. Stir in the vinegar along with half of the parmesan. Season to taste before serving, topped with the basil and remaining parmesan.



'POYNTON SHOW'

My daughter says, "We'll have a treat,
Bank Holiday, you know -
So we shall have a special day
And go to Poynton Show".

POYNTON



The day dawned sunny, warm and bright,
So there were smiles all round,
The tractors are the first display,
Let's hurry to the ground.

We watched the many tractors pass
My son-in-law was happy,
His tractor managed all the route,
- no need for 'break-down chappie!'

The grass was nicely drying out
So we'll have lots of fun
There are horse, donkeys, dogs and sheep
We'll sit here in the sun.

Oh dear! But this was not to be,
We had a sunny hour and then,
Alas! What happened next?
A most tremendous shower!



But, never mind, there's lots to see
To the marquees we shall go,
There's hobbies, photos, food and flowers
Its such a brilliant show.

The rain it stopped for half an hour,
But then it came again,
Not just a shower but hail-stones too
Why does it have to rain?

The grass was turned to muddy slush,
The marquees full of folk,
There's no room in the Beer Tent
- now that is not a joke!

I'm glad I brought my brolly,
Will my trainers hold together?
No sheltering in the 'Ladies'
Come out and brave the weather!!





Alas! A lot we didn't see,
The marquees saved the day,
My favourite was the flower one,
a brilliant display.

The Handicrafts and cookery never fail to impress,
Huge cabbages and onions -
How do they choose the best?

It's 5.00pm and still it rains,
The mud is thick as glue,
But 3 rosettes have brought a smile
- photos and art-work, too.

And then, at last, it's time to leave -
A thunder-storm is near
But in my heart, I know I'll come
To Poynton Show
Next year!

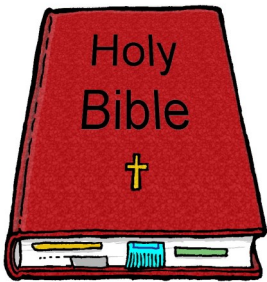


Margaret Morris Jones

BIBLE SUNDAY - 29TH OCTOBER

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words '*the most valuable thing that this world affords*'. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! '*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('*the word of God in the words of men*') and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: '*when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth*' (John 16:13).



How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

Right time: We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

Right Place: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

Right Version: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

Right Help: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

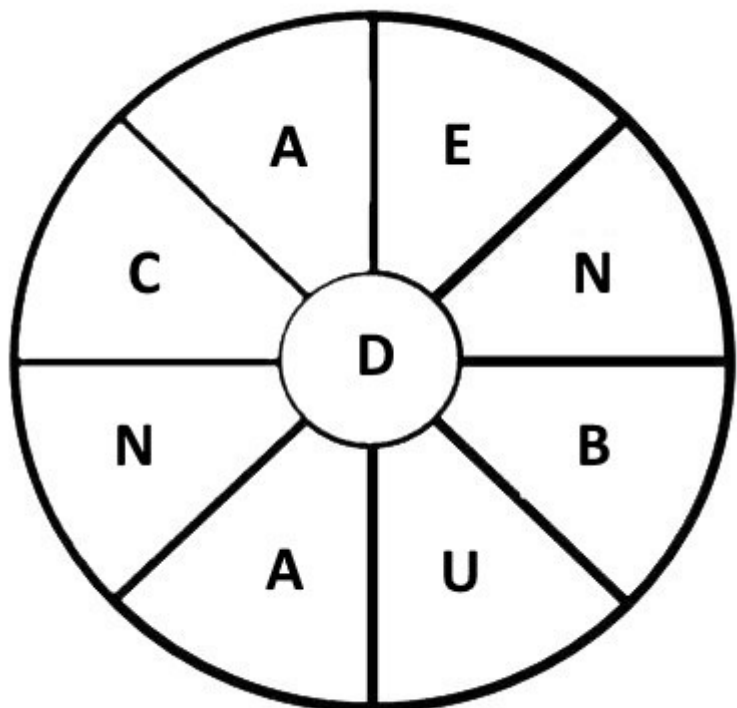


Word Wheel

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

Good score 6+ Excellent 11+



WORDSEARCH



Can you find the words shown in bold capitals in the passage below in the grid?

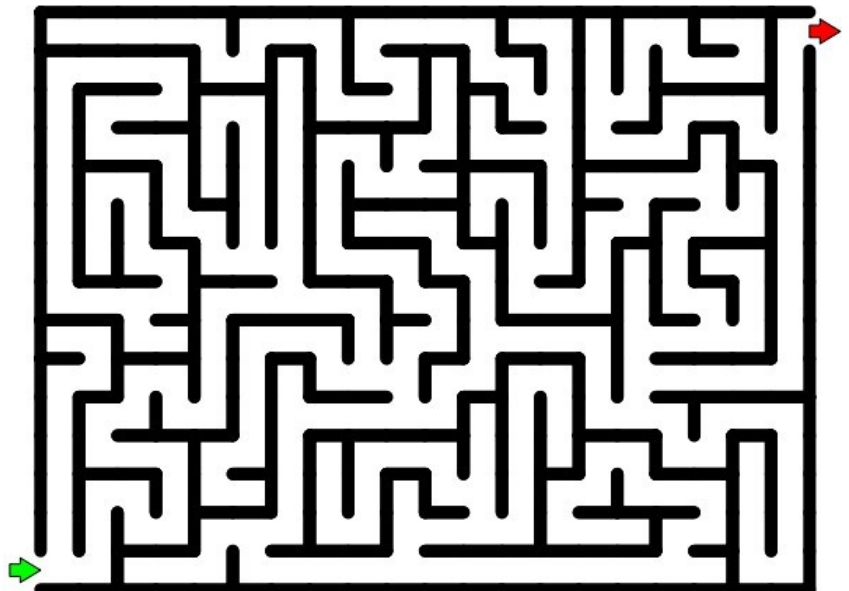
Words can be found in the grid in any direction.

St Luke

To St **LUKE**, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek **PHYSICIAN** and faithful travelling **COMPANION** to St Paul. Under **HOUSE ARREST** near the end of his life **PAUL** noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the **COMPASSION** of Christ, and offers us moving **PARABLES**, such as the **GOOD SAMARITAN** and **PRODIGAL SON**. **WOMEN** figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the **VIRGIN BIRTH**, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more **POOR** people, more **LEPERS**, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links **SACRED** and **PROFANE** history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the **EARLY CHRISTIANS** moved away from **JERUSALEM** into the **PAGAN** world, and especially on to **ROME**.

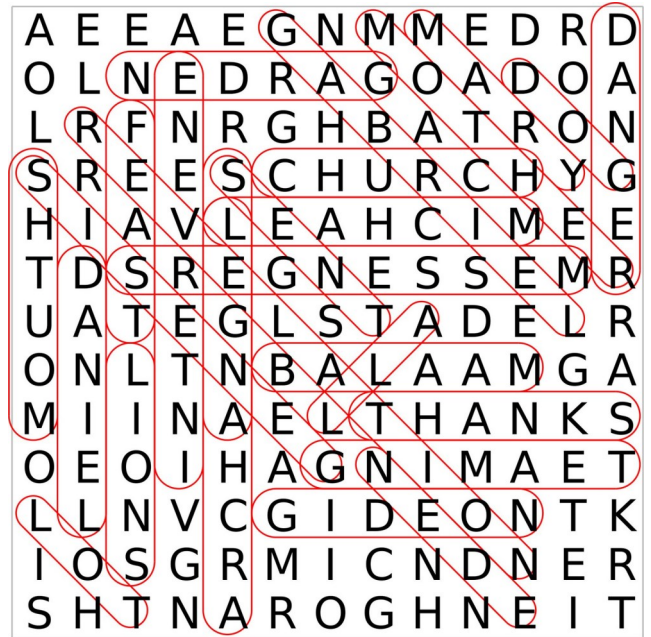
MAZE

Can you find your way through the maze moving from the green arrow to the red arrow?



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny