



# Stockport Sunday School

May 2024 Newsletter 49



In a Bible commentary recently, the writer asked, "What proverbs did you learn as a child?" I'm not sure to what extent it is part of the modern primary school syllabus nowadays, but I certainly remember Miss Hallworth, my teacher at Cale Green Primary School, often quoting them to us.

Two, in particular have stuck in my mind. First - 'Empty vessels make most noise' - usually applied to boys in the class who she felt were getting a bit unruly. Mind you, I think it is a trait shared with some politicians of note, and so called "on-line influencers".

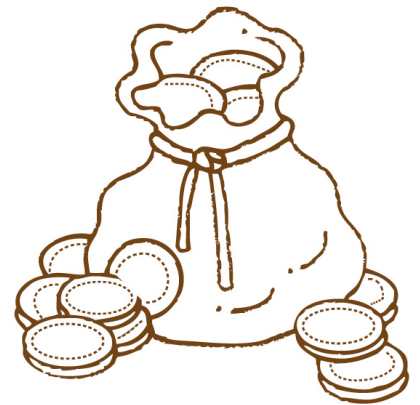
Then there was the saying - 'More haste, less speed'. It's something that I repeat to myself when I rush a task, something goes wrong, and I finish up having to go back to square one.

In general, proverbs are short sayings stating a truth or piece of advice, often dating back over many centuries.

Sometimes they can seem contradictory: 'Look after the pennies, and the pounds will look after themselves'. In other words, be thrifty with everyday costs.

Compare that with - 'Penny wise, pound foolish', in other words be sensible with whatever you have managed to save. In appropriate circumstances they each contain worthwhile advice.

Perhaps the answer is 'Moderation in all things' - based on the words of the Roman poet, Horace, who lived in early Roman times, and is credited with over 100 quotes in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.



Horace, Virgil and Varius at the house of Maecenas

So, do you have any proverbs, or sayings, which you still use from time to time?

This question was prompted by reading words by St Paul, written in his final Epistle to the Corinthians, Ch15,v32, which surprised me. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" he says. I must confess they are words I associate with the exhortations to the Gladiators in ancient Rome before they were going into combat in the Colosseum - more commonly quoted - "Let us eat, drink and make merry, for tomorrow we die".

Paul's words are actually a quotation from the Old Testament book of Isaiah, Ch22 v13, written in about 700BC, when the nation of Israel was about to be taken into captivity in Babylon.

In both these cases, the words are used when the people have lost hope for the future and resort to short term basics.

Paul was writing to the Corinthians because he had received news of factions developing amongst the congregation with regard to Christian beliefs and also reports of moral laxity.

Primarily, he is telling them that the essence of the Christian faith is the Resurrection of Jesus. If that is not true, there is no hope for those who claim to follow him, just a philosophy of eat, drink and die.

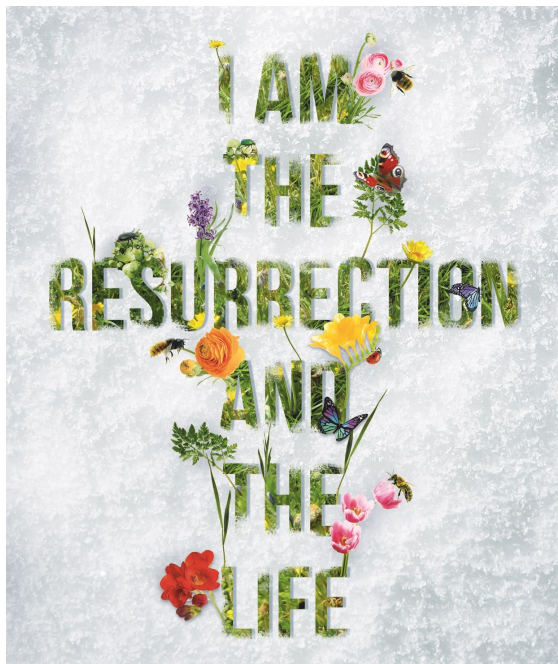


The Colosseum, Rome

Paul was a very well-read man, and he reminds them of another saying in use at that time, words of the Greek poet and dramatist, Menander, in around 300BC: "Bad company ruins good morals". Perhaps in contrast to "Birds of a feather, flock together" - for mutual strength and support.

Paul's words are a warning for us to take care in choosing the company we keep who may influence our attitudes and actions in our daily lives.

Paul closes his Epistle by promising to make time for an extended visit to Corinth to help them in their difficulties as a new church. It is a reminder for us that we should use our time wisely. In the final analysis, time is something we try to control in our lives - but ultimately we cannot. As they say: "Time and tide wait for no one"; while "Procrastination is the thief of time".



How often do we think - "I wish I had done that, but now the opportunity has passed". It may just be a kind word to someone who needs support at a difficult time - or some practical help for a person who is struggling. Or giving time to listen to their problems.

Possibly it's a question of being better at managing the many demands on our time; deciding our priorities. Life has its complications for all of us and Proverbs won't provide instant solutions. But they do incorporate scraps of wisdom from the past, many of which can be found in the Bible.

So, let us ask God to help us to live in hope and not despair; not to be attracted by the noise of the media, but consider carefully the content of what is being said; avoid rushing into comments and actions before we have thought them through.

And, most of all, bear in mind the most important saying of all - our Lord's command in all things - "Love God, and love our neighbours as ourselves".

Live within your income. Always have something saved at the end of the year. Let your imports be more than your exports, and you'll never go far wrong.

- Dr Samuel Johnson

The Spirit is not given to make Bible study needless, but to make it effective.

- J I Packer





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday wishes this month to:-  
Judith Hadfield - 2<sup>nd</sup> May



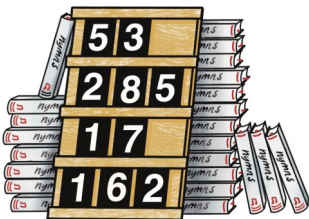
## GET WELL SOON

We were sorry to hear that two of our members, Joyce Sellers and Marjorie Barlow, were in hospital. We send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery and hope that they will soon be able to return home.



## SERVICES

5 <sup>th</sup> May	Judith Higgins
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Garth Higgins followed by Committee Meeting at 3.15
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Walter Stead
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Judith Higgins
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Garth Higgins



## FOUNDERS' DAY

On June 16th, Founders' Day, we will be pleased to welcome representatives from the organisation 'Christians in Schools' who will be telling us of their work in schools in the area.





## SERVICES



### SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

When Garth took the service, he spoke about Mary Magdalene. Her name suggests that she came from Magdala, a city of ill repute, so some think Mary was a reformed sinner, but there is no mention of this in the gospels. Mary was obviously sick as Luke tells us that Jesus cast seven devils out of Mary. From that moment, Mary became a follower of Jesus and became one of the groups of women who travelled with Him.

She was present at the two most important moments in the story of Jesus, the crucifixion and the resurrection. She was one of the women who remained at the base of the cross until Jesus' body was taken down. She was also the one who found the empty tomb and she was the first to see the risen Lord.

Several other old texts have been found which tell more of the story of Mary but they have not been authenticated.

Thank you, Garth, for telling us more about Mary and the part she played in the life of Jesus.



### SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

On April 14<sup>th</sup> we arrived in School to find the hall laid out with tables set out in a café style with tablecloths and a vase of narcissi on each table.



Beryl Manley took the service and spoke about

God's beautiful creation linked with what she had seen on her visit to Australia last year.

To get to Australia she and Doug had to fly and she began the service with a short video of the flight of the last Qantas Boeing 747 into Australia.



Kiama Blowhole, New South Wales

This was followed by a video of the Kiama Blowhole in New South Wales, a natural phenomenon, the highest blowhole in the world.

We then took a video trip around Kiama, showing the beautiful coastal views and parkland.



We also saw a view of the River Clyde where her family stayed.

At the end of the service, we had typical Australian cakes baked by Beryl including Anzac biscuits and lamingtons and pavlovas.

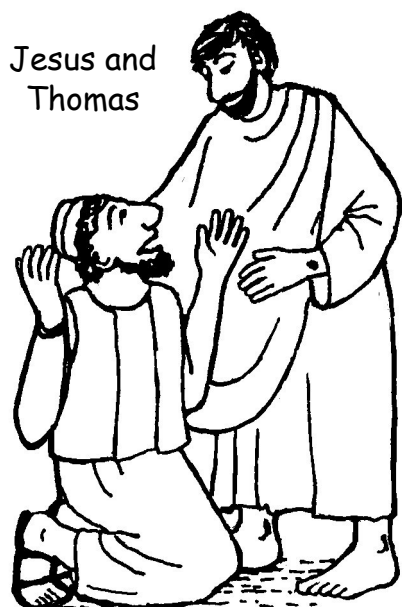


Thank you, Beryl, for an interesting service. God has certainly created a beautiful world for us all to share.

### SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2024

Walter opened his service with the reading, John 20 verses 19 - 31.

After the resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples in a locked room. Thomas was not with the others and when they told him what they had seen, he would not believe until he had witnessed it himself. Jesus appeared a second time, when Thomas was present and he accepted Jesus the risen Lord.



How would we have reacted? Many of us can sympathise with Thomas and his doubts.

What do we know about Thomas? He was a fisherman born in Galilee. His name only appears a few times in the gospels but each time is a significant one. He witnessed the risen Christ in the locked room and again on the beach when the disciples had been fishing and Jesus prepared breakfast for them. During His ministry, when Jesus heard of the death of Lazarus, He planned to go to Judea but the other disciples tried to stop Him, reminding Jesus that the Jews there had tried to stone Him, but it was Thomas who said, "Let us also go that we might die with Him.", a sign of his courage and devotion to Jesus. When Jesus tried to

prepare the disciples for His coming death He told them that He was going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house and that they knew the way to the place where He was going, it was Thomas who spoke out to say that they did not know where He was going so did not know the way. Thomas was a committed follower of Jesus, seeking to understand His mission. He had a strong, spiritual and religious nature. He went on to spread the word of Jesus in Mesopotamia, Persia and India and was later martyred for his faith..

There is a strong message for us here. Following Jesus isn't always an easy option. It does not eliminate difficulties but provides a means to cope.



## SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, we had an enjoyable service arranged by Margaret Forster. We arrived to find a table in the middle of the hall representing the earth. A blue cloth represented the sea, a wooden bowl represented trees, an inverted bowl represented a mountain, green leaves and flowers represented the plants of the earth. There was also a ring of small candles on the table.



The Bible reading was Jeremiah chapter 29 verses 1 - 14, God's promise to the Jews in exile that He had plans for them and that He was always there with them. The rest of the service was about how God cared for people in unexpected ways.

Margaret had asked several members to read examples of God at work today. After each reading, the member lit a candle representing hope.

The readers were Margaret Forster, Judith Hadfield, Janet Moore, Cath Brown, Wendy Hill, Judith Curry and Joyce Darvil.

Thank you Margaret for arranging this interesting and enjoyable service and to Ken for playing the organ and Margaret and Judith Curry for bringing the flowers.



### A POETIC PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

Happy Birthday to all Christians,  
This is where it all began;  
Out from here went apostles,  
Taking Christ to everyone.

Able now to speak to nations,  
With the good news to proclaim;  
Crucified for our salvation,  
Hear His message, learn His name.

Out they went to every corner,  
Fearless as they spread the word;  
Bringing light to those in darkness,  
Giving hope to all that heard.

So must we with every blessing,  
Follow in the steps they trod;  
Showing love and help and kindness,  
All come from the breath of God.

*By Alan Millichip*

# LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



## Recipe

### **Burnt Basque Cheesecake**

*Serves 8*

*Butter, for greasing*  
*800g cream cheese*  
*200g sour cream*  
*225g caster sugar*  
*3 tablespoons plain flour*  
*4 eggs*  
*2 teaspoons vanilla extract*  
*600g strawberries, hulled, to serve*



Preheat oven to 240C/220C Fan/Gas 9.

Grease a 20cm deep springform tin and line it with baking paper. Whisk together the cream cheese, sour cream and sugar for 2 minutes, then add the flour, eggs, vanilla and whisk until smooth.

Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 20 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4 and cook for another 20 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

Chop the strawberries quite finely, and then tip into a bowl. Serve with the cheesecake.



## **Happy Birthday**

16 May - Margaret Dean

19 May - Jayne Dean

21 May - Beryl Barnett

I never knew the joys of a garden when I was a child. We lived in a very old terraced house with a narrow backyard and two, tiny patches of soil, which my patient Auntie, who loved gardens, tried to coax into something colourful.

However, when I married and bought a house, we were blessed with a two-tier garden which had been much loved and tended. My husband

loved it, too, and spent hours maintaining it's high standard. I'm ashamed to say that, when he died, having neither the skills, (nor the desire), to spend hours keeping it up to scratch, I acquired a gardener.



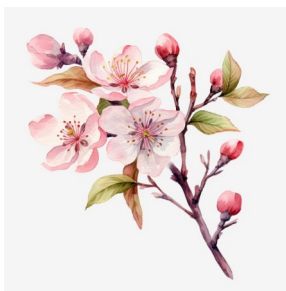
Well, today, it is at its Springtime best, with colourful shrubs, dozens of tulips in patio-pots, my huge wild cherry tree is just coming into leaf and the blackbirds are merrily splashing in the bird bath!



Many years ago, another very special auntie, wrote in my autograph book this verse by Dorothy Frances Gurney which is, for me, particularly appropriate at this time and keeps my auntie and my husband close to my heart.

"The kiss of the sun, for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden,  
Than anywhere else on earth.!"

Margaret Morris Jones



To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow - Audrey Hepburn



My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece - Claude Monet



Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the mind - Luther Burbank



## SAINT'S DAY - 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY - ALDHELM, UNCONVENTIONAL BISHOP OF SHERBORNE

Aldhelm is the saint for you if you are intelligent but unconventional.

Aldhelm was born in 640, into a family closely related to Ine, the King of Wessex. Educated at the monastic community in Malmesbury in Wiltshire, he went for further study in Canterbury. He proved a brilliant student and was sent back to Malmesbury as Abbot.

So far, so good. Aldhelm even demonstrated a great talent for administration, and helped with the reforms of Archbishop Theodore, who was trying to sort out the considerable confusion that the church had fallen into.

But Aldhelm also had his 'funny ways'. Towards other men of education, he wrote scholarly letters that were so full of similes and metaphors as to be incomprehensible. He also wrote highly complex riddles on biblical themes.

Aldhelm went to the other extreme when trying to communicate with the poor and illiterate. He wrote hymns and sang them to the people while strumming on a harp. He would begin preaching a sermon, and then break off to clown around and sing bits of songs to the people. Today we might say that he sensed the need to grab an audience's attention. Aldhelm said simply that he wanted to "win men's ears, and then their souls."

His good intentions must also have won the goodwill of the Archbishop, because in 705 Aldhelm was appointed first Bishop of Sherborne.



## THE TRUTH OF THE ASCENSION

*'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.'* (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?



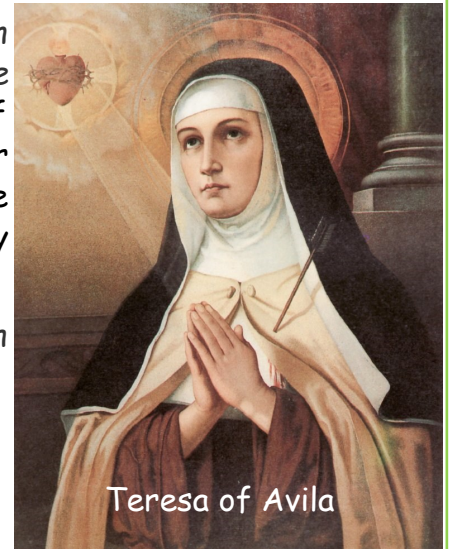
*The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand'* (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

*The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus'* (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven.

Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

*'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.'*  
(Teresa of Avila).



### The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true  
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,  
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true  
That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,  
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,  
He'd like them to know,  
But it all starts with U.





## SMILE LINES



### Lots Of Seats

*Seen in a church magazine:*

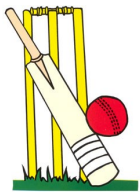
The church hall is available for hire for groups and parties. There is a well-equipped kitchen and disabled toilet facilities, with the capacity to seat up to 80 people.

### Church Welcome

Several years ago, on the gates of the Winnipeg Anglican Cathedral in Canada, which is situated in a cemetery, two notices were seen beside each other:

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU.

WARNING: THESE PREMISES ARE PROTECTED BY GUARD DOGS.



### Join In?

"Well, well," said the old gentleman to some boys who were playing cricket. "I wish I could join your game, but I'm too old."

"Not at all," replied one of the boys politely. "In fact, we need you. Our ball has just gone through that window. You can go and ask for it back."

### Old Person

I hate it when I see an old person, and then realise we went to school together.

### Walking Out

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Reverend," said an embarrassed woman after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher admitted.

"It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the churchgoer. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."



### Taking Jesus

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took the boy Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter."

### Children's Actual Exam Answers

*Where was Hadrian's Wall built?*

Around Hadrian's garden.

*Why would living close to a mobile phone mast cause ill health?*

You might walk into it.

*Name six animals which live specifically in the Artic.*

Two polar bears. Four seals.

*What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?*

Unusual names.

*What is a nitrate?*

Cheaper than a day rate.





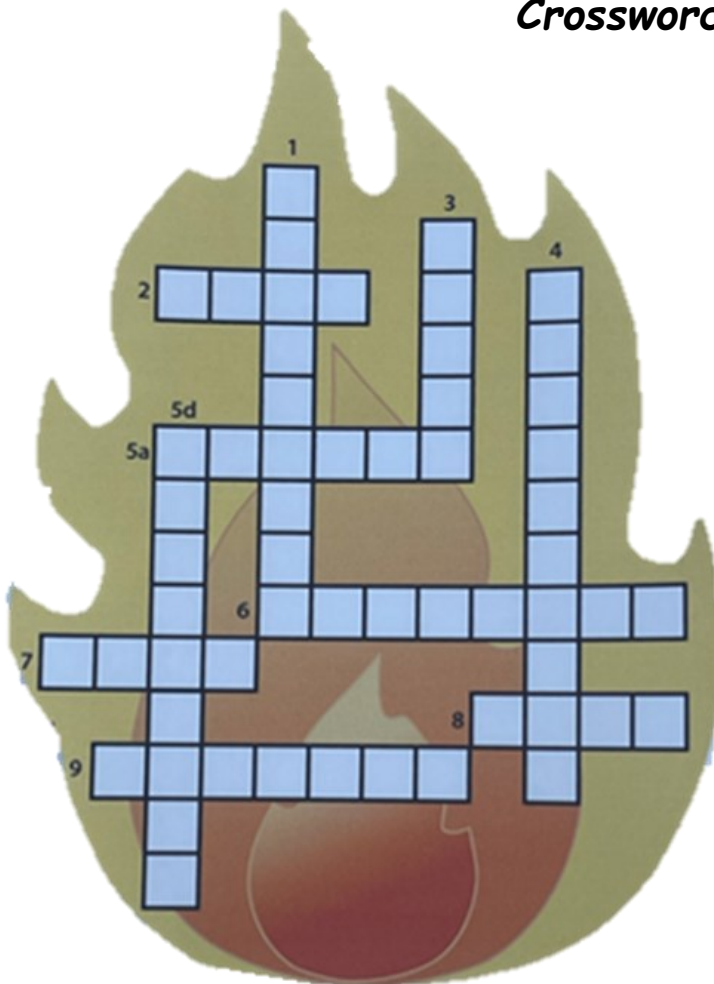
# PUZZLES

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



*Sudoku*

## Crossword

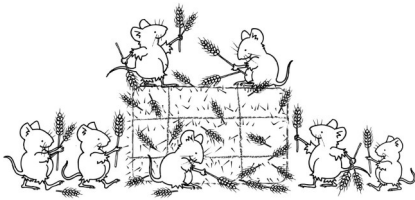


1. After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? Acts 1:12
2. What appeared? Tongues of ...? Acts 2:3
3. Who spoke to the crowd? Acts 2:14
4. What were the disciples filled with? Acts 2:4
- 5A What did the Apostles devote themselves to? Acts 1:14
- 5D Which special day was it? Acts 2:1
6. Who was chosen to replace Judas? Acts 1:26
7. Who had prophesied this? Acts 2:16
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? Acts 2:2
- 9 What did they start speaking in? Acts 2:4

## WORDSEARCH

The first **SUNDAY** in **MAY** is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'BEAT the BOUNDS'. **ROGATION** means an **ASKING** of God - for **BLESSING** on the **SEED** and **LAND**. The practice began with the **ROMANS**, who **PROCESSED** around the **CORNFIELDS** each **SPRING**, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from **EARTHQUAKE** and **STORM**. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that **PRAYERS** should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a **CROSS** to trace the **BOUNDARIES** of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to **HARVEST**. In the days when **MAPS** were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

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



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

### WORDS

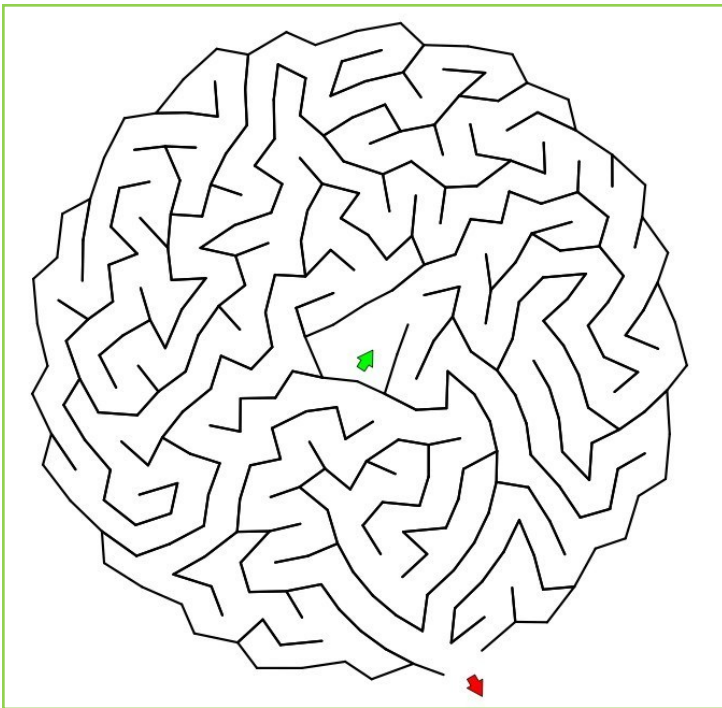
How many words can you make from the letters of:-

**DAY OF PENTECOST**



### MAZE

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



## ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



### SUDOKU ANSWERS

### WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

