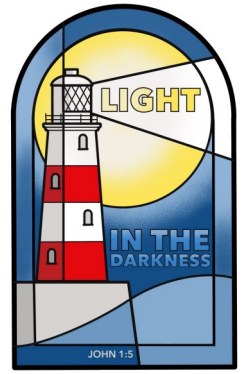


Stockport Sunday School

July/August 2024 Newsletter 51



Well, Fathers' Day has been and gone.

Unlike Mothers Day, or rather Mothering Sunday which we celebrate in the UK with a lot of publicity, Fathers' Day seems to be a relatively low key event.

Perhaps that is understandable. Babies and the very young spend the bulk of their early lives in the company of, and being physically dependent on their mothers, creating a strong bond. Grandparents who have provided close support at such times will also often find they have close bonds with their grandchildren.

On the other hand, perhaps fathers are seen by society as a little more remote than mothers, more authoritarian maybe.

In the context of our Christian faith, it begs the question - How do we see God, our heavenly Father?

In my NIV Bible, the word Father as applied to God appears 6 times in the Old Testament, and 35 times in the New Testament.

I think this demonstrates that the concept of God as a loving Father was at the core of Jesus' teaching, and also it was what was challenging for the religious authorities of His time.

However, for the ordinary folk, it was exciting, inspiring.

This topic was the subject of a commentary by the Rev John Ryeland, an Anglican priest who for 25 years was Director of the Christian Healing Mission, which I found interesting.

He tells us that traditionally, when it came to their healing ministry, they had attended to the specific needs of the people who came to see them, lifting them up in prayer.

But in time they discovered that what was more important was to investigate with them what their perception of God was, and how they approached Him.

Did they feel He was uncaring, or judgemental; that God has high standards and expects His people to live up to them?

If that was the case, how honest and open would they be willing to be?

Would they bring personal details of their lives, their weaknesses, to Him with any confidence in His desire to touch and heal them?

So the Mission changed the way they prayed for people, beginning their prayer time with a focus on God's love for all His children.



Rev John Ryeland

And it made a huge difference!

This message of God's love is what can be seen throughout the ministry of Jesus' who was the purest reflection of the Father's love.

Later in his commentary, Rev John quoted the words of Psalm 103:-

'As the father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him.'

The words 'compassion' and 'fear' may seem a strange combination, perhaps reinforcing the reluctance of people to open up their hearts to God.

But the words are better translated as 'respect' or 'honour', acknowledging God's supremacy while accepting He has compassion and that He cares for us.

The message is that what is important for us in life is our relationship with God and how we are able to approach Him with confidence in His love for us and all His people.



Perhaps we should also remember that God knows us better than we know ourselves, and we can always put our trust in Him.

Christian Healing Mission
Logo

And finally, the Rev John finished his commentary with the following practical advice for us:-

*'When you have brought all your requests to God, rather than rushing off,
sit in the quiet, knowing that He is still there
You do not have to say anything or expect anything to happen
Simply be there, knowing that He is there too.'*



The whole point of this life is the healing of the heart's eye through which God is seen.
Augustine of Hippo.

I am a man of hope, not for human reasons, nor from any natural optimism, but because I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and in the world even when His name remains unheard.

Cardinal Suenens

We are not made to rest in this world. It is not our true native land.
Fr Andrew SDC

The existence of the Bible is the greatest blessing which humanity has ever experienced.
Immanuel Kant

God has given us two hands - one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.
Billy Graham

CONDOLENCES

ROSIE STEAD

We were all sorry to hear of the death of Rosie Stead, the wife of our Senior Inspector, Walter. Rosie had remained cheerful throughout her long illness and difficult treatment and was an example to us all.

Although not a member of the Sunday School, she had always supported our work and attended all our special services. 'Rosie's Stall' at the Christmas Fair, was always a popular attraction and Rosie's crackers were enjoyed in many homes at Christmas.

We thank God for her friendship and will miss her gentle nature and happy smile.

Walter and all his family are in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.



NORMAN SELLERS

We were very sad to hear of Norman's death.

He had played an important role in the life of SSS for many years.

Norman's mother, father and sister, Muriel, were also committed members of the School and his Aunty Alice qualified as a Jubilee Teacher.

Norman was a teacher in the YPD before becoming leader of the Ladies' Class.

He was appointed Inspector in 1993 (provided, he said, he could carry on as leader of the class). Norman would have celebrated 70 years as a teacher at SSS in October this year.

As an Inspector, he was deeply involved in dealing with Aquinas College and the sale of the Joseph Mayer Building and the construction of our present building. He was a member of our Pre-School Committee. Norman worked closely with his wife, Joyce, the School Treasurer, in organising the School finances and had previously overseen the School Bank until its closure.

Joyce and Norman had enjoyed a long married life and received one of the first congratulations cards sent out by King Charles III to mark their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Norman was a true Christian, a lovely kind and gentle man who always welcomed people into School each Sunday by shaking hands with them. We were pleased to call him a friend and he will be very much missed by everyone at SSS.

To Joyce and their son, Neil, we tender our condolences. They are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

There are no birthdays in July.

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

18th - Joyce Darvill

29th - Ken Dean

With no magazine in August, we wish a 'Happy Birthday' in early September to:-

2nd - Cath Brown

2nd - Joan Thompson

4th - Marjorie Barlow

7th - Janet Moore



Our Harvest Festival this year will be celebrated on Sunday 15th September, when the speaker will be Sheila Hulme.

Sheila has spoken to us many times before and we are looking forward to hearing her harvest message.

Once again we will be sending our harvest gifts to Wellspring so we would appreciate Harvest gifts of dried or tinned food from all over the world that they can be stored until they are ready to use them.

We will be serving Harvest Lunch before the service (at 12.30pm in the Lounge). If you would like to have lunch, please let Margaret Forster know no later than Sunday 8th September.



FIRST AID COURSE

A reminder to all those booked on the course. This will take place in the Bowling Pavilion on Friday 19th July 11.15 - 12.45. Please use the Bowling Club gate as the Pre-School will be using the playground.





SERVICES



SUNDAY 2ND JUNE 2024

Garth took today's service on St Columba.

St Columba was born about 521 in Gartan. He is an Irish Saint whose feast day is June 9th and he is credited with having had a main role in the conversion of Scotland to Christianity in the 6th century. He is a patron saint of Scotland and one of the three patron saints of Ireland along with St Patrick and St Brigid. He is revered as the patron saint of the city of Derry, poets and bookbinders. St Columba and his associates (12 monks) and their successors spread the gospel more than other contemporary group of religious pioneers in Britain.



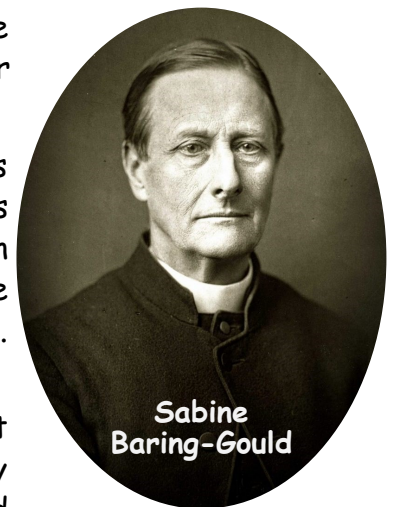
His group had left Ireland in a currach (a small boat with a wooden or wicker frame and covered over in tarred animal hides) to the island of Iona in the Inner Hebrides. Here they founded a church, which became an Abbey.

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024

As this year marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Sabine Baring-Gould, Judith Higgins told us about the life of this author and hymn writer.

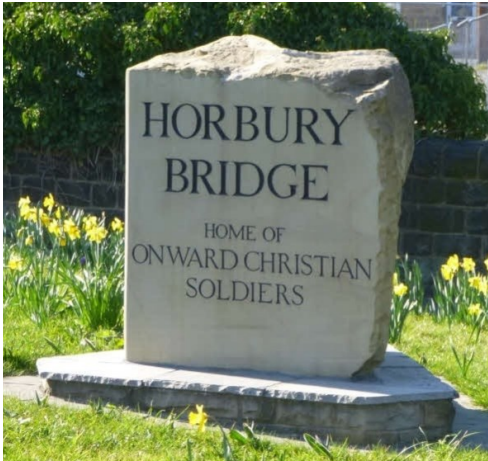
He had been born into a wealthy family and was named after his great uncle Sir Edward Sabine KCB. When Sabine was three his family set off on a grand tour of Europe which lasted thirteen years. Sabine was educated by tutors. On his return to England he studied at Cambridge gaining Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees. He became a teacher and later trained for the ministry.

He obtained the post of curate at Horbury, a village in West Yorkshire. His vicar sent him to set up a mission in Horbury Bridge, a nearby Hamlet. Sabine rented a small cottage and converted the lower floor into a school where he taught the local children and men to read and write on winter evenings. On the upper floor he held Sunday services which were so popular that the congregation often overflowed down the stairs and into the schoolroom.



Sabine
Baring-Gould

They built a substantial mission chapel in the hamlet, everyone donating everything they could to the building fund.



Sabine fell in love with 16 year old Grace Taylor from a poor family. He paid for her to be educated privately in York where she was taught middle class manners. Sabine aged 34 married Grace, just 18 and despite the difference in age and upbringing had a happy marriage lasting 48 years which only ended when Grace died. They had fifteen children.

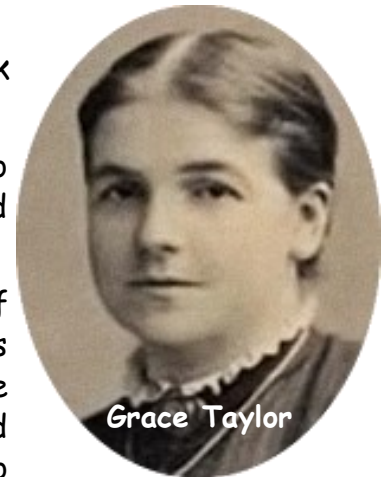
Rev. John Sharp, a vicar of Horbury had introduced a Whitsun Procession of the local churches in 1840 and in 1865 it was decided that the children of the mission school at Horbury Bridge should join the procession.

This meant that the children would have to walk over a mile to Horbury mostly up a steep hill. Baring-Gould thought that it would help the younger children if they sang as they walked. He wrote 'Onward Christian Soldiers' for the occasion.

In 2024 the children from the local schools re-enacted the walk to mark the centenary of Sabine's death.

After three years in Yorkshire, the family moved to Dalton to take up the position of vicar. Later he moved to Mersea Island in Essex. Whilst there he wrote sixty books.

On his father's death, Sabine inherited the 3,000 acre estate of Lew Trenchard, where his uncle was the local vicar. After his uncle's death, Sabine became minister of the church where he served for forty three years. He was a much loved squire and minister caring for all his parishioners. He also found time to write several novels and books about the lives of the saints as well as hymns.



Although he only lived in Yorkshire for three years, to the people of Horbury and Horbury Bridge, he will always be remembered as their curate who wrote 'Onward Christian Soldiers' for their Whit Walk.

FOUNDERS' DAY, SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 2024

Walter welcomed Jo Crowhurst, our speaker from Christians In Schools. Jo works full time and is helped by Catherine Fullalove 3 days a week. They work in 41 of the town's primary schools. Last October, Beth Preston joined the team and works in 5 secondary schools.



They run lunch time clubs and activities in the schools, their mission to share the relevance of Christian faith with young children.

Jo brought in some of the 'props' they use to get the children talking about religious festivals, such as Christmas, Lent, Pentecost and Easter, but they also talk about more secular occasions and connect them to Christianity. World Book Day was a chance to

dress up like the children to represent a character from a book but also a chance to talk about the great book, the Bible. Mother's Day was a chance to tell the story of Moses and how his mother and sister protected him.

At Easter, the primary children open large golden Easter eggs. What they find inside leads to discussions of what happened on the first Easter. Secondary school scholars look at the Leonardo da Vinci picture of the Last Supper discussing what the disciples were expecting and how they were feeling.



They have set up prayer spaces in schools and sometimes used space in local churches, a chance for some children to see inside a church for the first time. Church members may help.

The group would not be able to do the work if it was not for the many people in Stockport who are praying for them and some who help financially.

Stuart read from 1 Corinthians verses 12-27, we are one body each of us with different talents. Judith Higgins led the prayers.

We thank Jo for telling us about the work of Christians in Schools and pray that her small group will continue to take the message of Christ's love to children for years to come.

Tea and cakes were served at the end of the service, a chance to meet up with old friends and talk to Jo about her work.

Thank you to Stuart for arranging to put the words of the hymns on the screen, to Cath Brown for the beautiful floral arrangements and to Kirsty Higgins for preparing the service sheets.

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE 2024



William Tyndale

Garth was in charge of today's service. He began with a reading from the book of Ezekiel, chapter 8 verse 1 and verses 16-18, in which God shows Ezekiel how the people of Judah had disgraced and insulted God in the worst possible way,

Garth then went on to speak about William Tyndale and the English Bible.

As a young man, Tyndale promised a priest:- "If God spares my life ere many years pass I will cause a boy that drives the plough to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost."

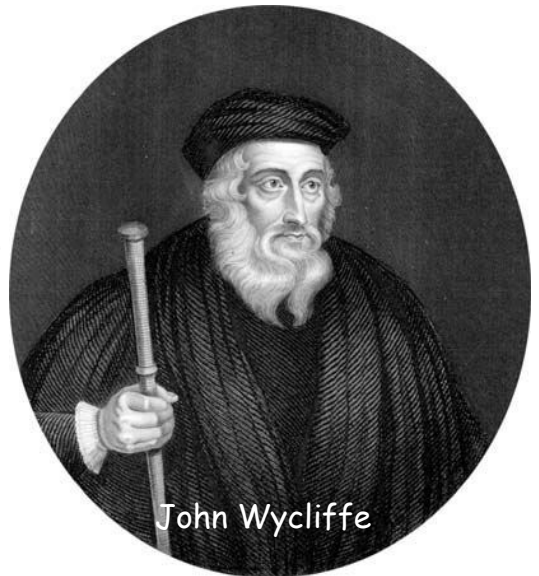
Tyndale was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford and probably at Cambridge University too.

Whilst he was tutoring a Gloucester family he became appalled by the ignorance of parish priests. It was this that helped persuade him to try to translate the Bible into English.

Since 1480, the English Bible had been banned, partly because the Wycliffe Bible had been used by the outlawed Lollards who were followers of John Wycliffe, a 14th century theologian and reformer.

Wycliffe questioned conventional religious beliefs and rejected the authority and wealth of the Roman Catholic Church. His unorthodox teachings made him a forerunner of the 16th Century Protestant Reformation.

The Lollards who emerged in late Medieval England continued Wycliffe's ideas. They advocated for Church reform and believed in a spiritual enchantment and challenged the established Church. Despite risking persecution they left a lasting impact on religious thought and paved the way for later religious movements.



Tyndale wanted to make a better translation of the Bible; rather than translating from the Latin Vulgate - as Wycliffe had done he would work from the original Greek and Hebrew of the Old and New Testaments using the new learning of Western Europe.

Tyndale hoped to win the English bishops' support for his task but they feared it would help spread Lutheran ideas. When it became clear that he couldn't safely remain in England he fled to Europe to complete his work, but his life was at risk even there.

He completed work on the New Testament but had to leave Cologne before it could be published.

He now moved to the Old Testament finishing work on several of its books but then his work was interrupted by enemies who had him arrested near Brussels in 1535. The following year he was burnt at the stake, his work still unfinished.

Tyndale's work was completed by Miles Coverdale an English ecclesiastical reformer known for his significant contributions.

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 2024

Judith Curry took the service on June 30th. She opened the service by reading the poem, 'I Dream a World', by Langston Hughes. Her Bible reading was Mark chapter 3 verses 13-19, Jesus chooses twelve apostles, whom He says He will send out to preach and who will have authority to drive out demons. Judith said we know quite a lot about some of them, like Simon and Andrew, James and John. During the service she told us what she had found out about some of the others.



Matthew, a custom official taxed imports and exports based on his own judgement. Hated by the Jews because he worked for the Romans. He left everything on hearing two words from Jesus - 'follow me'.

Bartholomew, brought to Jesus by Philip, he became a faithful follower of Jesus and witnessed most of His miracles. He was sent out with Philip and was given the power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and drive out demons.



St Simon by Rubens

Simon the Zealot, one of the most obscure among apostles. He was a member of a radical sect of Jewish Patriots before becoming a disciple. It is possible he joined Jesus for political reasons, believing the Messiah would be a revolutionary leader who would lead the Jews in a revolt against the Romans. We know little about him.

Thomas, often known as 'doubting Thomas' because he did not believe in Jesus' resurrection until he saw and touched Jesus' physical wounds.



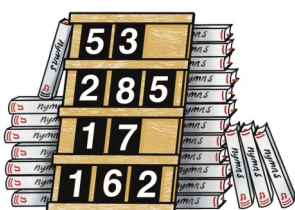
St Philip by Rubens

Christians often treat scepticism as weakness, but it is important Jesus welcomed it and challenged it. If we are to learn from Thomas, it should be this - our doubts lead us to a deeper, richer faith.

Jesus said, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed."

Philip may have been a follower of John the Baptist before following Jesus. He was well versed in Jewish scriptures. He was the group administrator for arranging meals and handling logistics. He was there for the feeding of the five thousand and knew they did not have enough money to buy food for everyone. He played a key part in spreading the gospel in Europe and Asia.

Thank you, Judith, for an interesting insight into some of Jesus' apostles.



SERVICES

7 th July	Judith Hadfield and Wendy Hill
14 th July	Judith Higgins
21 st July	Walter Stead
28 th July	Garth Higgins
Speakers for August to be arranged	
15 th September	Harvest
20 th October	Anniversary

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Grilled peaches with burrata

Serves 2-3

2 ripe but firm peaches, halved and stoned

Olive oil

2 handfuls of rocket

6 slices of serrano ham

1 ball of burrata

Small bunch of basil

2 tbsp of toasted pine nuts

Crusty bread to serve (optional)

DRESSING

3 tbsp olive oil

2 tbsp white balsamic vinegar

1 tsp honey

1 red chilli, finely chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ garlic clove

1. To make the dressing, whisk together the oil, vinegar and honey in a bowl, then stir in the chilli and garlic clove.
2. Heat a griddle pan over a high heat. Brush the peaches with oil then griddle until charred and caramelised on the surface.
3. Scatter the rocket on a platter. Drape over the ham, add the peaches and sit the burrata in the middle.
4. Discard the garlic clove from the dressing, then spoon over everything. Scatter over the basil and pine nuts, and serve with crusty bread.



'MORE MEMORIES'

A few weeks ago, I had a surprise 'phone call from my son, to ask if I would like to spend a few days with him and his family in Scotland. An offer not to be missed! He drove from Scotland to pick me up and our 4 days were carefully planned. First of all we went to grace one of our ancestor's gravestones in a small village called Crossmichael near Castle Douglas. Much to my amazement, Gareth found, (not without some difficulty), the right gravestone containing our ancestors' names - William, John and Barbara Kay Fletcher. (Fletcher, a Scottish name meaning 'the maker or seller of arrows'). My Grandma often talked about Castle Douglas, but more research is needed on my part, to discover more about the Fletcher family.



On the next day, I was taken once more down 'Memory Lane' to see the Guest House where we stayed on a family holiday, our very first visit to Scotland, in 1980. How amazing that Gareth, who was 8 on that first Scottish holiday, should end up living with his family not that far away in Annan. The Guest House, which is now a family home, is in a village called Rockcliffe, and Gareth and I then did a 4 mile walk up through a wood to Kippford, another village, which has an amazing

beach covered in millions of tiny sea shells.

We returned to Stockport on the next day, but, much to my delight, on the way home we visited Grasmere, one of my very favourite places, and where Derek and I spent our honeymoon. We picked the right day, as it was hot and sunny and, as we walked around Grasmere Lake, we were amazed to see many



people in swimsuits swimming and paddle boarding and reclining on the beach. There was not a wet-suit or a sweater in sight!! After walking a few more miles, we arrived at the 'Fairie Glen', complete with Lakeside tables and chairs, rowing boats and coffee and snacks!! Many years ago, my family and I, and then later, Peter and I, had hired rowing boats and there are photos to prove it, on my kitchen wall! Finally, we arrived in Grasmere village and said 'Hello' to several lovely Hotels and a Guest House called 'Herringdales' where we had stayed many years ago. It was the first place in Grasmere where we stayed as a family.

Eventually, sadly, the visit had come to an end, and we had a quick bus ride to Rydal, where the car was parked and then home to Stockport, full of sunshine, Grasmere gingerbread and wonderful memories.

Margaret Morris Jones

PS I forgot to mention that Derek and I have a slated tile (with hundreds of others), engraved with our names on the path in Grasmere churchyard.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN JULY OVER PREVIOUS DECADES

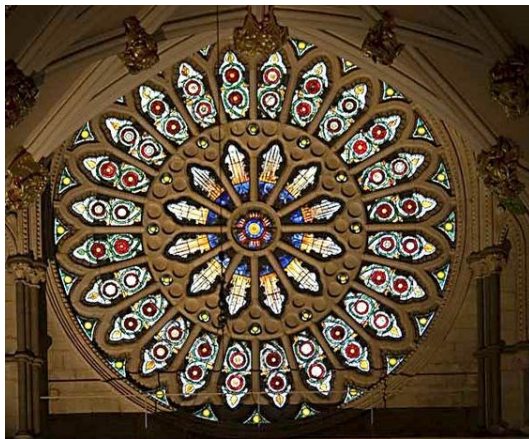
1984 - THE BURNING OF YORK MINSTER

Forty years ago, on 9th July 1984, York Minster was struck by lightning, which set fire to the roof and destroyed the south transept.

It was the most recent of five fires that have occurred there over the years: the causes have ranged from workmen burning coals (1753) through arson using torn-up hymnbooks (1829) to an unattended candle (1840) and a tarpaulin catching fire (1971). Although night lightning was the official explanation in 1984, some suggested that God might have been reacting to the very recent appointment as Bishop of Durham of the Rt Revd David Jenkins, a famously controversial cleric whose comments had seemed to cast doubt on the virgin birth and the Resurrection. He had been consecrated at York Minster three days earlier.



The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, described that idea as "ridiculous", though some - including a few members of the fire service - felt that arson by objectors could not be ruled out. As many as 114 firefighters from over North Yorkshire were involved in tackling the blaze. Insurance cover on the Minster had just been increased by its treasury department: the damage to the south transept, with its wooden vaulted roof, amounted to £2.25 million.



York Minster is a huge landmark and tourist attraction in the city: many consider it to be one of Europe's most impressive Gothic buildings. The glass in its famous 16th century Rose Window, which had recently been renovated, cracked into 40,000 pieces, but the new lead edges held it all together.

Queen Elizabeth attended the rededication ceremony in October 1988. This year a new exhibition called *Out of the Ashes* tells the story of the blaze and marks its anniversary.

by Tim Lenton

THE LORD OF THE RINGS TURNS 70

Seventy years ago, on 21st July 1954, the first part of J R R Tolkien's epic fantasy novel *The Lord of the Rings* was published.

The Fellowship of the Ring, the first volume of a trilogy later published together, was a much more adult-oriented sequel to *The Hobbit*, published in 1937. It occupied the same ground - the fictional Middle Earth - and followed the quest of a hobbit, Frodo Baggins, to Mount Doom to destroy a powerful ring that symbolised evil in quite a subtle way.



The fantasy world was peopled not only by hobbits but by such creatures as wizards, elves and the malevolent orcs, among others.

Tolkien, who was born in Bloemfontein in 1892 but moved to England with his English parents at the age of three, became a professor of Anglo Saxon at Oxford, where he met and befriended C S Lewis. Tolkien was a convinced Roman Catholic, and it was partly as a result of this friendship that the sceptic Lewis became a Christian. They had a strong common interest in myths and ancient stories, which of course came out in their writing - though in different ways.



Tolkien, who wrote much of *The Lord of the Rings* during the Second World War, saw his book as fundamentally Christian - Catholic, in fact - but in no way an allegory (an idea he revolted strongly against). He saw myths as "splintered fragments" of a greater story and his own creative work as a kind of worship. The parallels between Christ and Frodo are obvious to many, but not explicit, and the book stands without that interpretation as a masterpiece.

It was filmed in 2001-2003 in three parts by Peter Jackson and enjoyed great success.

by Tim Lenton

125 YEARS OF GIDEONS AND BIBLES

It was 125 years ago, on 1st July 1899, that Gideons International was founded. The evangelical Christian association places free Bibles in hotel rooms, hospitals, schools, military bases and prisons around the world.

It started when two traveling salesmen from Wisconsin in the northern USA - John Nicholson of Janesville and Samuel Hill of Beloit - met in a room at the Central House Hotel in Boscobel, Wisconsin, to talk about forming an association to strengthen the faith of people they came into contact with by distributing free Bibles "through designated traffic lanes of life".



The Gideons International Most people encounter Gideon Bibles through their placement in hotel rooms, and research by Gideons International shows that about 25 per cent of travellers read a Bible when there is one in their room. The Gideons are exclusively Protestant evangelical businessmen with a belief in the Bible as the inspired Word of God and Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

In 2018 the UK section of Gideons separated from Gideons International over the issue of women's full membership, which is not allowed by the international organisation, but which received nearly 80 per cent support in a UK members' vote. After losing a dispute about the use of the name Gideons UK, they are now known as Good News for Everyone! They have links with Gideons in Canada and Sweden who have made similar decisions.

GOOD NEWS
for Everyone!

formerly known as **GideonsUK**

A very small number of men in the UK still belong to Gideons International. They are known as The Gideons International in the UK, and still remain a men's ministry.

by Tim Lenton

AND NOW LOOKING FORWARD

THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN PARIS

This month sees the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, the writer of Hebrews (12:1-2) challenges us to finish well.

'throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles' (1)

As in a normal race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down (eg possessions, worries, what others think of us) and besetting sins (wrong habits or attitudes). We can cast our burdens on the Lord (Ps 55:22) and be assured of His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

'run with perseverance the race marked out for us' (1)

The Christian life is like a marathon not a sprint race, which calls for endurance. The course is *marked out* for us, as we all have a unique race to run, with its opportunities and difficulties. God knows our path and will provide all that we need to complete the race.

'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (2)

The runner keeps their focus on the finishing line and avoids all distractions. Our focus is on Jesus, who has run the race before us ('author'), but is the one who can show us how to finish well ('perfecter').

We are also surrounded by a ***'great cloud of witnesses' (1)***. These are God's people, both past and present, who are cheering us on!

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore, and he fell to the ground in pain. However, his father ran on to the track to support him in completing the race. Let's not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside to enable us to finish the race!

Canon Paul Hardingham



PARIS 2024



DO YOU NEED A NEW PAINKILLER?



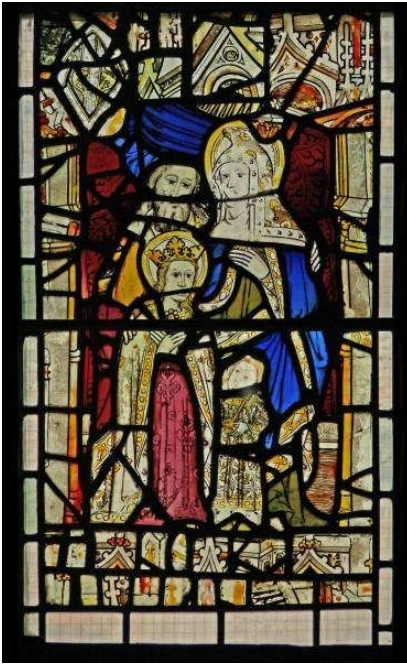
Do you ever take pain killers? If so, do you take one for your shoulder, and another one for you knee? Of course not - once the painkiller enters your bloodstream, it goes everywhere, soothing and damping down the pain, and hitting all the right spots.

God works a bit like that on the pain in our lives. He has a prescription for ALL the problem areas of our lives. Most of us carry emotional scars, or a burden, or some heartache, around with us. It may be the trauma of loss, it may be anxiety for our family. It may be uncertainty over our jobs, and our futures.

Whatever it is, God offers us a prescription to help the pain. The psalmist writes: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1) Jesus added: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

This kind of help is real and immediate and there for the asking. We don't have to put up with our dis-ease and struggle alone. God, our heavenly Father, is only a prayer away. Not just twice a day, after meals, but whenever we need Him.

26TH JULY - ANNE AND JOACHIM, PARENTS OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



St Anne, Joachim, the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child

One thing is certain - Mary the mother of Jesus must have had parents. Beyond that, nothing is certain - but church tradition offers some details.

The first mention of Anne and Joachim as being Mary's parents was found in the apocryphal Gospel of James (second century) which has no historical validity. James says that after years of childlessness, Joachim was praying in the desert one day when an angel appeared to Anne to tell her that she would conceive. Anne then promised to dedicate the child to God, as Hannah had done with Samuel.

Certainly Anne, mother of Mary, has been honoured from as early as the sixth century, when a church was built in her honour in Constantinople. Other relics and pictures of her found in Rome date from the 8th century.

The sad truth is that, as the Bible is silent on the subject, we will never really know about Mary's parents. But one thing we can assume, because it is based on the character of Mary herself. Her gentle humility and graciousness and informed knowledge about her faith point to a childhood spent among devout believers in God.

1 & 2 SAMUEL

1 & 2 Samuel was originally a single work, which focuses on Samuel, Saul and David, around 1,000 BC, mid-way between Abraham and Jesus. It was Samuel who established the monarchy in Israel after the period of the judges. He was commanded by God to give the people a king, although their request is seen as a rejection of God's rule over Israel (8:7). The people simply wanted to be like other nations, however their king was still subject to God's law and the word of the prophet. Although Samuel anointed Saul, he soon showed an unwillingness to submit to these requirements, leading to his rejection as king (15:23). God chose David as Saul's successor, and 1 Samuel depicts David's years of waiting until the right time arrived to claim the throne.



Samuel anoints Saul

2 Samuel depicts David's rule, in which the nation prospers and its enemies are defeated. The promise of the perfect king is fulfilled in Jesus Himself, as David's descendant. The second half of the book depicts the darker side of David's reign, describing his weaknesses and failures, including his adultery with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son Absalom.

Nevertheless, David remained a man after God's own heart: *'The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'* (1 Samuel 16:7). The characters in this book are not always great examples of faith, however, *'They do not show us how we should live but how in fact we do live, authenticating the reality of our daily experience as the stuff that God uses to work his purposes of salvation in us and in the world.'* (Eugene Peterson).

There is a quiz in the 'Puzzles' section at the end of the newsletter based on 1 and 2 Samuel.



SMILE LINES

In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify ..." I answered, "a doctor."

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.



Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright - until you hear them speak.

Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.



Signs found outside churches

- ~ It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- ~ If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- ~ Looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon.
- ~ This is a ch__ch What is missing? (U R)
- ~ Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- ~ In the dark? Follow the Son.
- ~ Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
- ~ If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.



Gary sang a solo

The pastor will light his candle from the altar candles. The ushers will light their candle from the pastor's candle. The ushers will turn and light each worshipper in the first pew.



PUZZLES

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



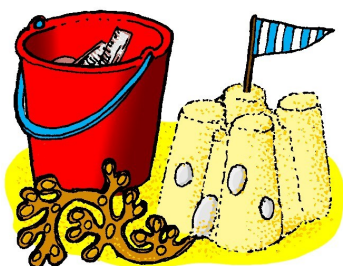
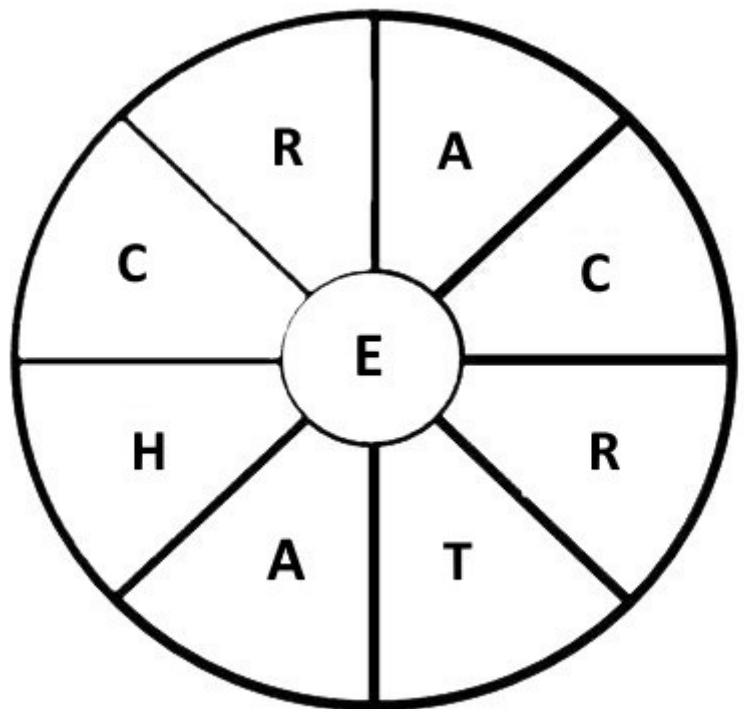
Sudoku

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 17+ Excellent 25+



WORDSEARCH

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

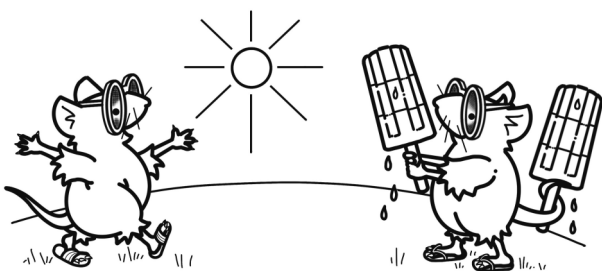
Can you find the words shown in bold capitals in the passage below in the grid?

Words can be found in the grid in any direction.

Sea Sunday

14th **JULY** brings us **SEA SUNDAY**, the day when Christian churches **REMEMBER, PRAY** and **GIVE THANKS** for the more than 1.5 million **MERCHANT SEAFARERS** worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your **DAILY** life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the **SHOPS** comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our **GLOBAL ECONOMY AFLOAT**. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are **HARSH WORKING ENVIRONMENTS**, never mind the threat of **PIRACY** or even **SHIPWRECK**.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port **CHAPLAINS** has sprung up. They offer **HOSPITALITY** and **FRIENDSHIP**, as well as **PRACTICAL**, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in **HUNDREDS** of **PORTS**, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).



QUIZ ON 1 & 2 SAMUEL

Circle the correct answer for each question.

- 1 Who taunted Hannah about her inability to have children? *Leah - Peninnah - Naomi*
- 2 What was Eli's job? *Priest - Counsellor - Baker*
- 3 How did Eli die? *He was poisoned - He died in his sleep - He fell off his chair*
- 4 In the house of which god did the Philistines place the Ark of the Covenant?
Ashteroth - Dagon - Molech
- 5 How was the ark returned? *The Philistines carried it by hand - It was carried on a cart pulled by cows - It was strapped to a chariot and pushed down a hill*
- 6 What did the people demand from Samuel? *Lower taxes - A king - A better army*
- 7 Which tribe was Saul from? *Judah - Benjamin - Dan - Simeon*
- 8 Which animals did Saul's father tell him to search for? *Donkeys - Sheep - Horses*
- 9 What did Jonathan eat, despite Saul telling his troops that they were not to eat it until they were victorious? *Milk - Honeycomb - Bread*
- 10 What job did David first do for Saul? *Chef - Shepherd - Musician*
- 11 How many shekels of brass did Goliath's coat of armour weigh? *2,000 - 3,000 - 5,000*
- 12 What did David do when he visited King Achish in Gath? *He pretended to be insane - He gave the king a gift - He offered him his friendship - He killed the king*
- 13 Where did David cut off the corner of Saul's cloak? *In a cave - In a forest - By a river*
- 14 Which of the following did Saul not turn to for advice towards the end of his life?
Dreams - Prophets of Baal - A witch/medium
- 15 For how long did David reign over Judah before he became king of Israel? *Twelve days - Six months - Three years - Seven and a half years*
- 16 What did Uzzah touch which resulted in his death? *Serpent - Ark - Poisoned Arrow*
- 17 Who did God send to rebuke David for his dealings with Uriah and Bathsheba? *Nathan - Zadok - Joab*
- 18 What type of tree did Absalom get caught up in during the battle with David? *Willow - Oak - Palm*
- 19 How many men died in a plague as punishment for David's sin? *70,000 - 100,000 - 640,000 - 1,000,000*
- 20 On whose threshing floor did God instruct David to build an altar? *Naboth's - Othniel's - Araunah's*



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.

One John three: one

LETTER CHANGE ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Numbers | 8. Galatians |
| 2. Nehemiah | 9. Timothy |
| 3. Psalms | 10. Jude |
| 4. Proverbs | 11. Hebrews |
| 5. Exodus | 12. James |
| 6. Jonah | 13. Corinthians |
| 7. Malachi | 14. Matthew |

ANAGRAM ANSWERS