



# Stockport Sunday School

June 2024 Newsletter 50



In the church's calendar of worship we have just celebrated Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, and then ten days later the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



In practice it is a short period of time, and tends to get glossed over in our worship.

After forty days of experiencing Jesus' presence in His resurrected form, suddenly He was gone.

St Luke tells us that the disciples stayed continually in the Temple praising God. But it must have been a time of challenge and trepidation for them.

Jesus had told them they would be clothed with power from on high. But what did that mean? What kind of power was He preparing for them?

They were still very much aware that in the eyes of the authorities they were heretics who were challenging the ruling powers that be, and that their lives were under threat.

At Pentecost, we read that many people witnessed the coming of the Holy Spirit and were baptised.

But then Stephen was arrested and martyred for his faith and "a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem" and the new converts were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria and beyond.

What was important was that they took their new faith with them, and preached the Gospel to the wider world. It was not the way humans would plan an evangelical campaign but in God's hands it was effective.

This diaspora, together with the military road network built by the Romans to control their Empire, were critical factors in enabling the Christian message to spread so rapidly.

In the words of the well known hymn 'God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform'.

We are living in difficult times nowadays, with threats to world peace, lack of integrity amongst some of those in positions of power and authority, widening gaps in the levels between rich and poor.

And they are not problems that we feel we are able to put right personally.

But like the early disciples did, we can and should take them to the Lord in prayer, and trust in God's plans for us and His world.

Sometimes when we have prayed, we may feel God is not listening, or we don't like the answer we seem to be getting. But we should continue to pray and listen. Perhaps when you look back over your life, you will see times when you prayed and what you asked for wasn't granted. But then, in hindsight, you may realise your need was later answered in a different and better way.

When it comes to our Sunday School life, like many churches today, we are challenged with regard to our numbers. We are blessed with a core of committed regular attenders at our Services, but are concerned with regard to the longer term. If there were straightforward answers to the challenge, we would have responded accordingly.



What we need is God's answers, His guidance, which we can seek in open-minded personal prayer.

So, in the light of the disciples example at Pentecost, may we ask you, our readers, to hold our School in your prayers, so that by listening and responding we can carry out our Father's plans for us, and "His will be done here on earth as in heaven".



### **A GRAPE, A WELL, A SPARK, A SEED**

Lord, how much juice You can squeeze from a single grape.  
How much water You can draw from a single well.  
How great a fire You can kindle from a tiny spark.  
How great a tree You can grow from a tiny seed.

My soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray;  
Yet You can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.  
My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;  
Yet You can draw from it boundless love for You and for my neighbour.

My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;  
Yet You can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.  
My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;

Yet by Your power my faith grows to a great height.  
I thank You for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;  
Let me always be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.

*By Guigo the Carthusian (d.1188)*



### GET WELL SOON

We were pleased to hear that Joyce Sellers was out of hospital, but she and Norman are not very well at the moment. We have just heard that Norman has now been admitted to hospital, but hopes to be out again soon.

Marjorie Barlow is now out of hospital and receiving support at home.

We hope that they will all be able to join us again soon.



### THINKING OF YOU

We send our best wishes to members who are no longer able to join us each Sunday, Hilary, Christine and Maureen. We know that they keep in touch with our activities through the newsletter. We are thinking of you and would love to hear from you.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday wishes this month to:-

Hilary Wood - 15<sup>th</sup> June



### AUGUST

Just a reminder that there will be no newsletter in August, so if you wish anything to go into the July newsletter relating to August or early September, please send your notes in by Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> at the very latest.



### FOUNDERS' DAY

On June 16th, Founders' Day, we will be pleased to welcome Jo Crowhurst, the team leader from the 'Christians in Schools Trust in Stockport' who will be telling us of their work in schools in the area. The kind of work they do in introducing schoolchildren of all ages to the Christian faith has parallels to what our SSS founders and subsequent generations have been engaged in over the years, albeit in very different circumstances.

Founders' Day is always a great opportunity to meet up with friends and share in the celebrations of the work of the Sunday School.





## SERVICES



### SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

Judith took this service. Some weeks before we had looked at the banners from the house system started in the School in 1931.

Judith said that amongst the School memorabilia, there was another piece of historic fabric, the Millennium banner. This had been planned by the Primary teachers who asked departments and groups to decorate a piece of fabric to represent their group. The banner had been on display in the Joseph Mayer building, but had not been out in the Compass Point building. We were able to have a close look at it.

Judith went on to ask why we celebrated the Millennium. At midnight on 31st December 1999, we moved from the twentieth century to the twenty first century. How do we number the years? AD stands for anno domini, the year of our Lord, so our calendar is connected to the life of Jesus.



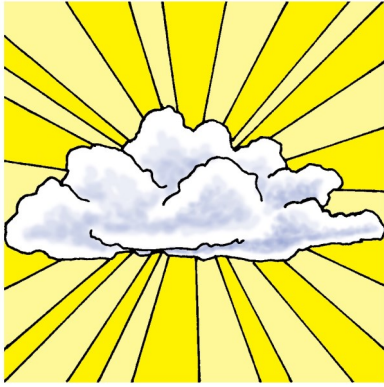
Before Jesus, the Hebrew calendar was based on the phases of the moon, a new moon marked the beginning of a new month. The years were not numbered but were marked by who was in power or an important event. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for the Roman census which happened not in a numbered year but "when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. The anno domini system was introduced by the monk Dionysius in AD 525, counting from the year of Jesus' birth. Because of some mathematical errors, the calendar got out of sync with the solar movement, so religious festivals were being celebrated at the wrong season. The Julian calendar was adopted in 46 BC and the Gregorian calendar in 1752, but all date back to the birth of Jesus, recognising Jesus' impact on human history and salvation. Jesus still remains the focal point of our time.

As someone once said, the word history comes from HIS STORY.

### SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

It was Garth's turn to take the service today. He began by asking if anyone knew anything about 9<sup>th</sup> May, last Thursday. It was, of course, Ascension Day, which celebrates the act of Jesus ascending into heaven after His resurrection where He was exalted as Lord and Christ.

Ascension Day is not the most observed occasion on the Christian calendar, but it is considered one of the most important. The Feast of the Ascension, as it has also been known, is the conclusion of the Easter story and an important turning point in the New Testament.



Ascension also celebrates the passing of the Holy Spirit from Jesus to carry on His work.

Acts chapter one states, "And He said to them it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority, but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

### SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

The topic for Walter's service was 'silence' prompted by a set of Bible commentaries by the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker.

One of the earliest examples of silence in the Bible is found in the book of Kings. The prophet Elijah was hiding in a cave on Mount Sinai when he was fleeing the wrath of Jezebel. Elijah heard a mighty wind, an earthquake and fire, but God did not speak to him through these, but in the silence that followed he heard the voice of God.



In the reading, John 8 verses 1 - 11. A woman taken in adultery is brought to Jesus in an attempt to trap Him, they wanted to stone her. Jesus knew the law did not specify stoning and only the Romans could carry out executions. Jesus was silent for a long time eventually saying ' Let him who has committed no sin cast the first stone'. The accusers drifted away.



Jesus remained silent before Pilate fulfilling this the prophecy of Isaiah. "He was oppressed ..... and afflicted yet he did not open his mouth .... " Silence can be an indication of strength and purpose.

Walter read Psalm 131, one of the shortest and most beautiful psalms. This is one the Bishop says he needs to remember when faced with things beyond his capabilities especially during disputes between Christians even within the same church.

Bishop of Manchester

Today we are surrounded by background noise but our brain learns to shut out noise. We need to learn to switch off from other distractions and learn to listen in silence for God's voice of wisdom.

Silence can be used negatively. Silence is not positive if it is related to injustice, oppression or abuse.

Let us ask God to show us how to determine when we should be silent or speak out for what is right or true.

Thank you, Walter.

### PSALM 131

*LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor mine eyes lofty: Neither do I exercise myself in Great matters, or in things too high for me.*

*Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, As a child that is weaned of his mother: My soul is even as a weaned child.*

*Let Israel hope in the LORD From henceforth and for ever.*

### SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

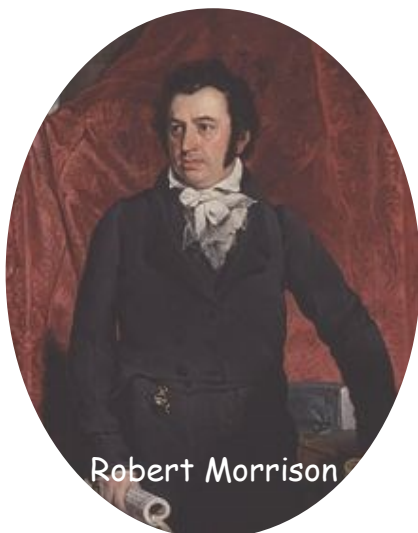
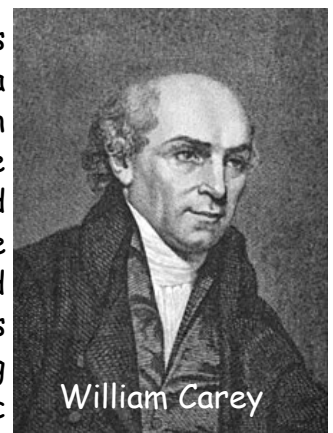
Judith Higgins reading, Matthew chapter 28 verses 16 - 20, was the last command Jesus gave to His disciples, to preach the gospel throughout the world.

During the service Judith told of four men (not disciples) who later obeyed this command.

Saint Augustine was sent to Britain by Pope Gregory to take the Christian message to the pagan people living in the south.

William Carey who together with a group of Baptist ministers formed the Baptist Missionary Society. William travelled as a missionary to India. He had a gift for languages and whilst in India learned thirty four Indian languages.

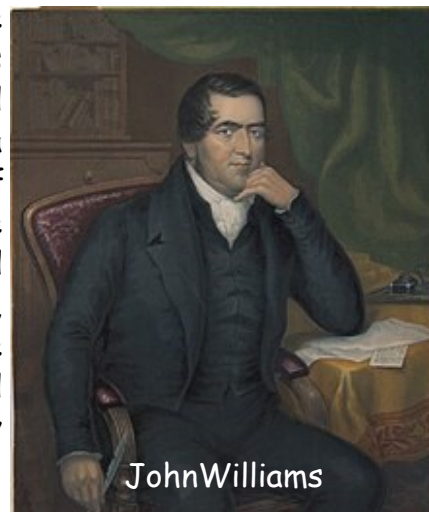
He translated the whole Bible into seven of them and the New Testament into twenty more in addition to teaching, preaching and visiting the needy. He started schools for underprivileged children teaching them reading, writing and arithmetic and Christianity. He founded a theological college and campaigned for the humane treatment of lepers. A true Christian who cared for his fellow men.



Robert Morrison was determined to preach in China and spoke fluent Chinese. He could not preach openly but set about the task of translating the Bible into Chinese.

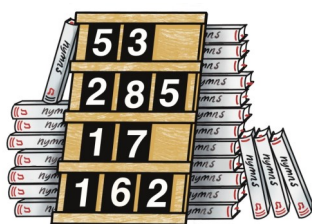
When all foreigners were ordered to leave China he moved to the island of Macao. He worked day and night to complete his work. He had copies of his translation of St Luke's gospel smuggled into China in sacks of rice. He continued to work on his translation for twenty five years. Once missionaries were allowed into China they found people wanted to hear more about Jesus and the word they had already read for themselves.

John Williams was sent by the London Missionary Society to the Pacific Islands. He and his wife sailed for thousands of miles between the heathen islands spreading the word. He was loved and respected wherever he went and was known as William Tama - William our Father. Finally he arrived at the island of Erromange where he was not known. Unfortunately the islanders had been badly treated by some white traders and they beat John Williams and his companion, James Harris, because of their white skins and they were eaten by the cannibal tribe. His work in the Pacific still carries on today and the London Missionary Society have operated seven missionary ships in the Pacific named after him.



JohnWilliams

There is still a need to spread the word in this country and we are pleased that our speaker at Founders' Day this year will be Jo Crowhurst who will be telling us of the work of the group Christians in Schools are doing in local schools.



### SERVICES

2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Garth Higgins
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Walter Stead
16 <sup>th</sup> June	FOUNDERS' DAY - speaker Jo Crowhurst
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Judith Higgins
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Garth Higgins Committee Meeting 3.15
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Walter Stead

# LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



## Recipe

### **Potato, Onion and Bacon Soda Bread**

*Serves 4*

*170g wholemeal self-raising flour  
170g plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
300ml buttermilk  
200g potatoes, peeled cooked and diced  
4 spring onions, diced  
125g bacon lardons, fried*



Preheat oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 4.

Put all the soda bread ingredients in a large bowl and mix to form firm dough.

Shape into 2 circles and push down - they should be 15cm in diameter and 3cm deep.

Place on a baking tray dusted with flour, dust the bread with a little more flour and cut a cross on the top. Bake for 15 minutes.



## **Happy Birthday**

28 June - Stuart Dean



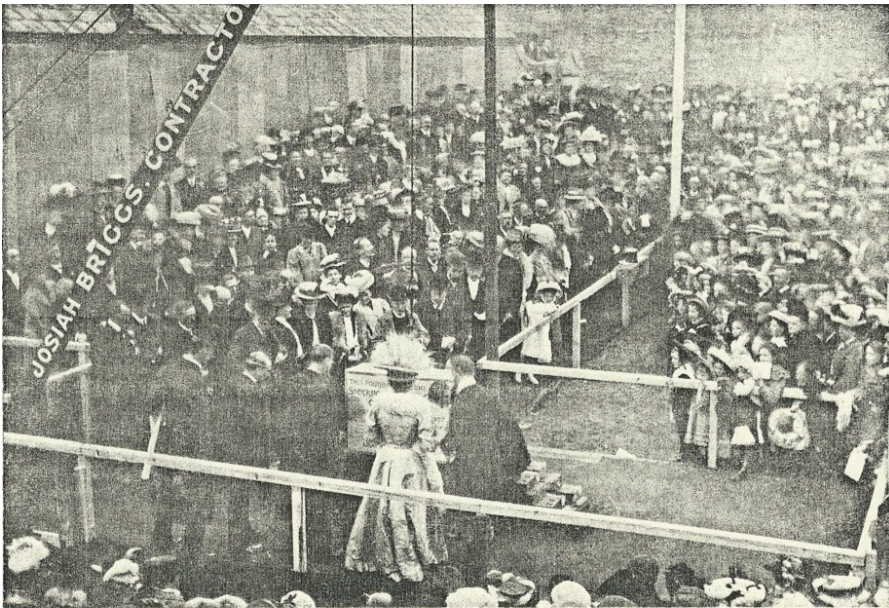
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis. - Anon



When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds. - Anon



When searching recently, through some old photographs, I discovered two interesting memories of my Grandma. The first one was a 'Motto Book', published for, and by SSS members. It has my Grandma's signature inside the front cover - S. Griffiths. October 17<sup>th</sup> 1905.



to by Bullock Bros., Stockport.

LAYING FOUNDATION STONE OF S.S.S. NEW HALL, OCT. 5TH, 1907.

The second memory was an Invitation for Miss Sarah J. Griffiths to attend the Foundation Stone laying of the 'New Hall', by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Henry Bell'. It was to take place on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> 1907 at 3.00pm and would include 'Selections by a Band from 2.00 - 3.00pm'. After the laying of the stone the Hallelujah Chorus would be sung, followed by a hymn and the National Anthem.

The 'Motto Book' contained over 200 mottos, some well-known, some funny, many deeply religious and, much to my amazement, my school motto, by Tennyson, "Self reverence, self knowledge, self control; these three alone lead life to sovereign power." This motto is still there in Stockport High School's (now "Hulme Hall") Large Hall on four huge windows.



Stockport High School Windows Showing School Motto

Hopefully, I shall see it on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, when the Headmaster of Hulme Hall Grammar School has invited the Stockport High School 'Old Girls' for 'Tea on the lawn'. I have a feeling that it will probably rain, but, it will be lovely to be there again, renewing old friendships and the memories of seven very happy (mainly)! years.

It will be the SHS Old Girls 3<sup>rd</sup> invitation and each time, we have also been offered a 'guided tour', which is incredibly interesting to see how much the old building has changed and yet still kept a lot of its character. Here's hoping that it remains in situ in Beech Road for many, many more years, giving hundreds of children the benefit of a full and interesting education.

Margaret M. Jones

## THE D-DAY NORMANDY LANDINGS

Eighty years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944, the D-Day Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25<sup>th</sup> August with an Allied victory.



The question of what the D stood for has never been absolutely determined: some say it just stood for Day; others maintain it was Disembarkation, because it was an amphibious operation. What is sure is that there was a spiritual dimension. General Eisenhower, the commander of Operation Overlord, urged those taking part to "beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking", and President Roosevelt broadcast a prayer to the nation - the United States, that is.

Before June 5 - the original date for D-Day, before bad weather forced a rethink - a massive and successful series of deceptions were put in place to make the Nazis think the invasion would come elsewhere. The Germans were certainly confused. Hitler, thinking the attack was a feint, refused to send reinforcements, and their strategy was hampered by the absence of their brilliant Commander Erwin Rommel, who was on leave.

Nevertheless, the Americans suffered over 2,000 casualties at Omaha Beach, which was the most heavily defended. Altogether it was reckoned that over 4000 Allied troops were killed, but about 156,000 successfully stormed the beaches, and many landed behind the lines, including American paratrooper Private John Steele, who descended on to the pinnacle of the church tower in Sainte-Mère-Église, the first village to be liberated by the U S Army. Lit up by searchlights, he survived by pretending to be dead, was captured and then escaped, joining the invading soldiers.



This year handmade silhouettes of almost 1,500 servicemen were transported to Normandy for an art installation, *Standing with Giants*, to mark the anniversary.

By Tim Lenton





Images from the 'Standing With Giants' installation at the British Normandy Memorial



## SMILE LINES



### Grace

The graduation banquet was about to begin when the master of ceremonies was informed that the invited clergyman would not be able to attend. He quickly asked the main speaker to give the blessing. The speaker nodded, rose, bowed his head and in all sincerity, said: "There being no clergyman present, let us thank God."

### Keep it short

The minister stood up and said: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate any thing that was dull or confusing. So, in conclusion...."



'Ecclesiastic' is material used to fasten a clergyman's robes.

### Maths lesson

The only place where you can buy 64 avocados without anyone wondering why.



### Park

A journey of a thousand miles begins with trying to find a place to park your car near the church.

### Advice to young clergy on preaching

'Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.'



### Techie trouble

The vicar at our local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

### Weight

Signing the register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making his ball-point pen work. "Put you weight on it," said the vicar. So the groom complied: 'John Smith (twelve stone, four pounds)'

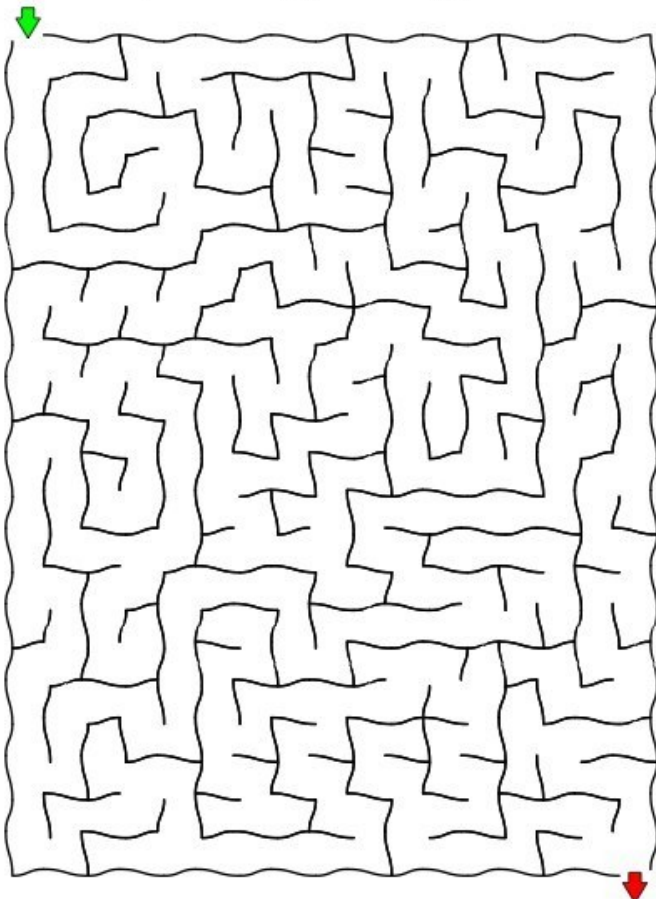


# PUZZLES

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



**Sudoku**



## LETTER CHANGE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet, eg TFF becomes SEE.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG MPWF UIF  
 GBUIFS IBT HJWFO UP VT  
 UIBU XF TIPVME CF DBMMFE  
 DIJMESFO PG HPE  
 POF KPIO UISFF: POF

## MAZE

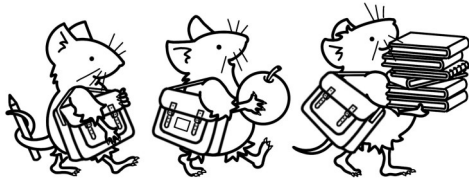
Can you find your way around the maze, entering at the green arrow and exiting at the red arrow?

## WORDSEARCH

### Erasmus, Patron Saint of Sailors

Do you like messing about in **BOATS**? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's **FIRE**. It is the **LIGHT** that is sometimes seen on **MASTHEADS** of boats after **STORMS** at **SEA**. St **ELMO** is another name for St Erasmus, a **FOURTH CENTURY** Syrian **BISHOP** who was not afraid of violent storms. **LEGEND** has it that one day when Erasmus was **PREACHING** outside, a **THUNDERbolt** hit the **GROUND** right beside him. That might have distracted modern bishops, but not Erasmus - he just kept on preaching. His **COURAGE** won him the **RESPECT** of **SAILORS**, who made him their patron **SAINT**. Erasmus finally **DIED** during the Diocletian **PERSECUTIONS** in 300AD, and his feast day is 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

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



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

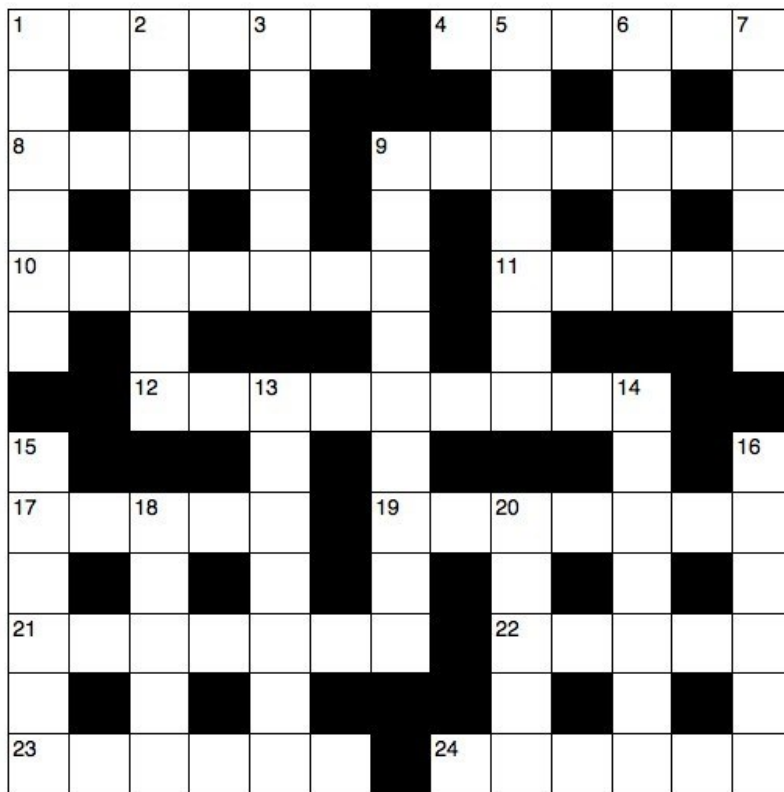
### ANAGRAMS

Can you solve the following anagrams - they are all 'Books of the Bible.'

1. SNURBEM
2. HINAMEEH
3. MSLPAS
4. VSOPERBR
5. SXOEUD
6. HJNOA
7. LIMAAHC

8. SGLITAANA
9. MYTOIHT
10. DUJE
11. WHSERBE
12. SJEAM
13. SCNROIHATIN
14. TEMWTAH

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

### Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

## ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



### SUDOKU ANSWERS

### WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

