



Stockport Sunday School

September 2024 Newsletter 52



Here we are again at the beginning of September, and it poses a question.

Are we now moving out of the holiday season?

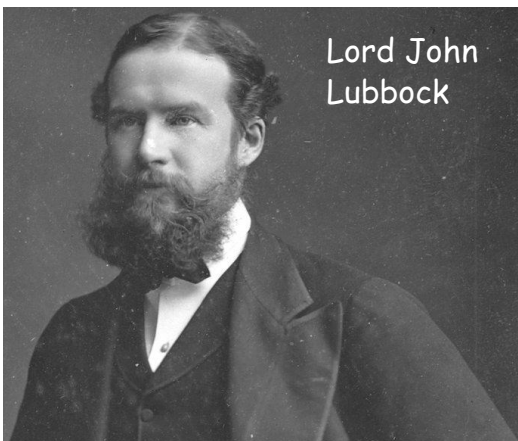
One indication is that the relatively low amount of road traffic over recent weeks is returning back to its normal level, (but hopefully the numerous sets of recent roadworks will disappear).

Once upon a time the summer period was pretty clear. Holidays revolved around the school year, and the August holidays in particular. In our younger days, Stockport, like many other towns in our region, would seem to empty at that time as employers granted their workers their Wakes Week holiday. For the rest of the holiday season, when the family was at home together, it was what my mother called 'Teachers' rest, mother's pest!'



Nowadays things are very different from Wakes Week times. Many more people can get away to enjoy a welcome break. Come September, air fares and holiday package companies greatly reduce their prices, and as a result, for many, the holiday season will carry on for some time yet. It may be in the UK or abroad, visiting favourite resorts regularly, or you may be the type of person who likes to experience new places and culture. Whichever options you prefer, holidays are something we welcome. They are seen as a good thing, but maybe they have become something we too easily take for granted.

The legal right for the population to have holidays only came into force in 1871 thanks primarily to the endeavours of a Liberal MP, Lord John Lubbock who was a prominent banker, notable scientist, and a man with a keen interest in social issues. The initial legislation only applied to bank employees and financial institutions (hence the name of Bank Holidays) but soon spread to other areas of activity and eventually for all workers.



Lord John
Lubbock

It marked a big change in the mindset of employers, who accepted the need and advantages of their workers' welfare when at first sight it was probably seen as a financial burden.

Prior to that there were of course other one-day holidays linked to religious festivals and customs - Christmas and Mothering Sunday for example.

In fact the root of the word 'holiday' comes from 'Holy Days'.

The instruction not to do any work on the Sabbath seems impracticable for many in modern times. We always need people to provide essential services - gas, water, electricity, medical care, essential transport. And it wouldn't have been easy for the ordinary folk then. Who would look after the cattle and sheep etc. ?

However the concept of having regular days of rest goes back to Old Testament times, when the Hebrews had left Egypt in their search for the Promised Land, and the Sabbath was enshrined by Moses in the Ten Commandments.

It sounds like one rule for those with status in their society and another for the lesser folk.

As a result, Jesus warned the religious authorities that their application of the Sabbath rules was more concerned with exerting control over the populace than with God's intent. In His words, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath'.

Everyone needs time for refreshment, both physical but also spiritual.

And Sunday, the Christian Sabbath is our opportunity for to find time to focus on God, not just ourselves., and to acknowledge His Lordship.

A time to lift our eyes up from the things that preoccupy us during the rest of the week .

To use this weekly 'Holy-day' to think about who God is, and what He wants us and the rest of creation to be.

To offer Him our worship together, and to remember His love for us and all His people.

And then to go out on our daily journey of faith to show the world what it is to be a true follower of Christ.



REMEMBERING NORMAN

On Sunday 6th October at 2.30pm, we will be holding a special service to remember and celebrate the life of our late friend and colleague, Norman Sellers.

Please invite anyone who knew Norman to join us and his family to celebrate his life and work.

HARVEST

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.

COMMUNITY COFFEE LOUNGE

We are planning to have a McMillan Coffee Morning on Tuesday 24th September. If anyone is able to donate a raffle prize or cakes, it would be much appreciated. Please come along to support this good cause.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There will be a short service on Sunday 29th September followed by the AGM and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance. This is the meeting at which we set the calendar for the coming year and appoint Officials.

KNIT 'N NATTER AUTUMN FAIR

The Knit 'N Natter group are holding an Autumn Fair on Tuesday October 22nd 1.30pm to 3.30pm, in aid of Broughton House Veteran's Care Village in Salford. Beryl would be grateful for donations of cakes or raffle prizes for the event. There will be North West military vehicles on display and some of the veterans will be there in their uniforms.

Please bring family and friends along to support the fair.

ANNIVERSARY, SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER

The Anniversary Service will be slightly different this year.

We will be celebrating the 219th Anniversary of Stockport Sunday School.

As this year the Royal National Lifeboat Institution will be celebrating their 200th Anniversary and the Sunday School raised the money to buy a lifeboat for the RNLI in 1867, so we decided to combine the two Anniversaries and the main speaker at the service will be telling us about the work of the RNLI,

THINKING OF YOU

We know that some of our members and friends have had or are awaiting investigations, treatment and operations and we want them all to know that we are thinking of them and they are in our prayers. For all those who have been unwell, we hope that you are soon feeling better and we look forward to seeing everyone back at Sunday School.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Cath Brown on 2nd September

Joan Thompson on 2nd September

Marjorie Barlow on 4th September

Janet Moore on 7th September

Garth Higgins on 17th September

and

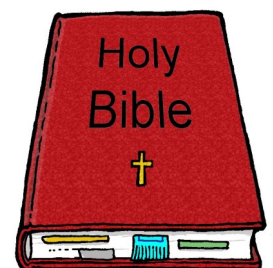
Walter Stead on 3rd October

Elizabeth Keeling on 6th October



UPCOMING SERVICES

September 1 st	Judith Curry
September 8 th	Garth Higgins
September 15 th	Harvest
September 22 nd	Judith Higgins
September 29 th	Walter Stead & AGM
October 6 th	Service to remember Norman Sellers
October 13 th	Garth Higgins
October 20 th	Anniversary
October 27 th	Judith Higgins
November 3 rd	Walter Stead





SERVICES



SUNDAY JULY 7TH 2024

Wendy Hill opened the service by considering what had happened on July 7th in previous years. In 1991 an agreement was signed that marked the end of the Slovenian War of Independence, 7th July 2005 saw a suicide bombers attack on the London underground.



Judith Hadfield also looked back at some of the entries from the SSS magazine towards the end of World War II. The hope that the war would soon be over, thinking of those who had lost their lives and their bereaved.

Families. As peace was declared the formidable task of reconstruction faced the Nation and the tasks of Government in peace would be as formidable as those in war.

Judith went on to talk about the often overlooked humour of Jesus. There is nothing worse than a humourless Christian, judgemental, unsmiling and puritanical. In His parables, Jesus spoke directly to the people using everyday situations.



Judith concluded that we should hear the message of Jesus with fresh eyes and ears and meet Him with renewed joy

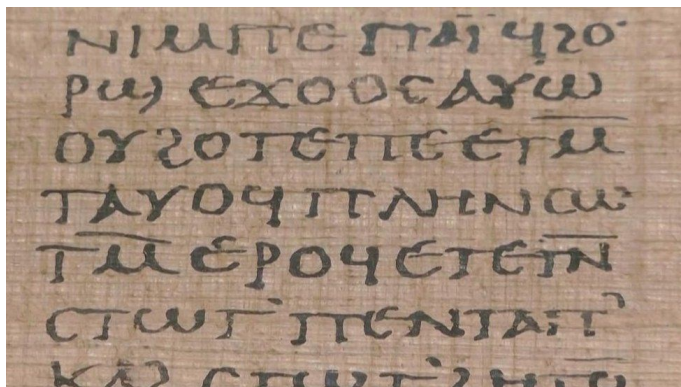
and laughter in our hearts and not take ourselves too seriously.

Thank you Judith and Wendy for another interesting and informative service.

SUNDAY JULY 14TH 2024

Judith Higgins took the service. She had seen a report in the press that one of the oldest known Christian books has been sold at Christies for an incredible £3,065,000.

It had been written by early Christian monks in a monastery in upper Egypt in the 3rd century AD. It was written in Coptic script on papyrus and had been preserved in the warm dry sand until its discovery in 1950.



It contained the earliest complete versions of two books of the Bible, Jonah and 1 Peter.

During the service we considered what was in these books. 1 Peter contains the letters within by Peter to members of the early church in Pontus, Galicia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia and lists how he feels Christians should behave, to keep strong their faith through trials when they will receive

salvation, love one another, exercise self control, rid themselves of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander, be compassionate and humble and repay evil with blessings.

The book of Jonah consists of the well known story of what happened to Jonah when he disobeyed God's instruction that he was to go to the people of Ninevah and deliver the message that God would destroy the city if the people did not repent their evil ways. We all know how Jonah was swallowed by a large fish but once he was released he did go to Ninevah and give the people God's message. Those present did not know the final part of the story God did forgive the people when he saw that they repented and gave up their evil ways. The whole of this gospel is read in Hebrew at afternoon prayers at Yom Kippur. The Jews consider the story of Jonah as demonstrating God's great love for His people a God who will forgive those who truly repent whatever they have done.

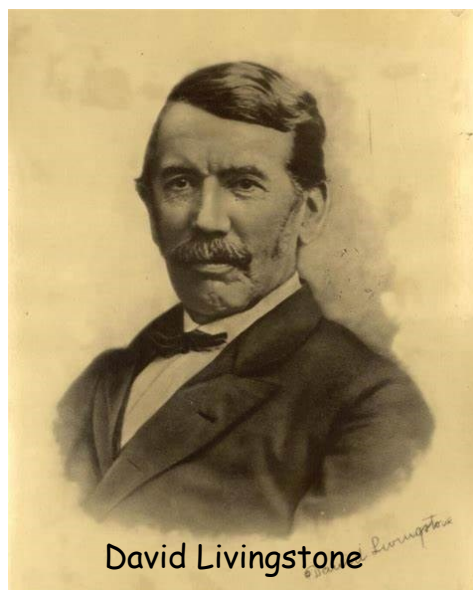
SUNDAY JULY 21ST 2024

The houses in the SSS House System had been named after famous people. In his service, Walter said some of the people could be linked in pairs.

David Livingstone and Mary Slessor were both Scottish and as children worked in mills which entitled them to an education in the mill school. Both later served as missionaries in Africa.

Livingstone studied medicine and theology and became a missionary doctor. His desire to reach the people in the interior of Africa to introduce them to Christianity and free them from slavery inspired his explorations.

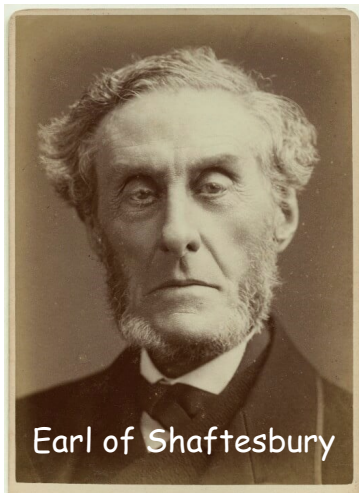
Mary Slessor's mother was a devout Christian. Mary developed an interest in religion and wanted to teach.



When she learned of Livingstone's death she determined to follow in his footsteps. She trained with the Church Missionary board in Edinburgh before going to Africa. Through her work she gained the trust and respect of the people and also the authorities in Africa and England. In time the ravages of malaria caught up with her and she died aged 66.

The Earl of Shaftesbury and Elizabeth Fry both came from privileged families but both worked hard to improve the lives of the poor and underprivileged. Shaftesbury worked hard to improve the conditions in lunatic asylums. He helped change the child labour laws, and the conditions in mines and

education reforms.



Earl of Shaftesbury

Elizabeth helped local charities and at a Sunday School which taught children to read but she will be remembered for her work to improve the conditions for those in prison.

We felt that the Sunday School officials in 1931 had chosen well respected people of their time when they named the houses.

We wondered who we would choose today if we wanted to find people of similar status - Nelson Mandela, Father Trevor Huddleston and Christian Barnard were mentioned. Not an easy question to answer.



Elizabeth Fry

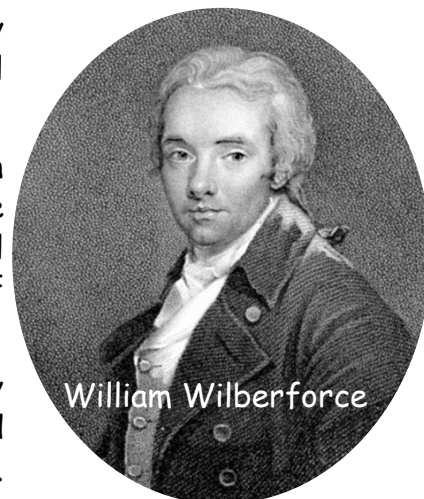
SUNDAY JULY 28TH 2024

Once again, it was Garth's turn to take the service. He spoke about three people who were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano, and Thomas Clarkson - three very different men but all tireless campaigners against the evil practice.

During the 18th century, many people in England were involved in this campaign among them being the three gentlemen named above. All were remembered by the Church of England for their efforts.



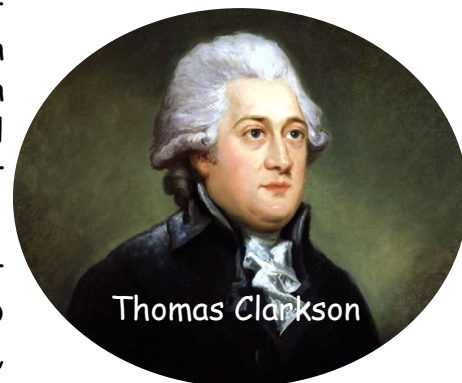
Olaudah Equiano



William Wilberforce

Wilberforce came from a healthy family in Kingston-Upon-Hull and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within Parliament and Wilberforce was an inspired choice. Not only wealthy and well connected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785. He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, and as a Member of Parliament he found some support but a great deal of opposition. It was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed which forbade the carriage of slaves in British ships. It was a beginning. Wilberforce fought on. In 1833, as he lay dying, he learned that all slaves on British soil were to be freed. Wilberforce died on 29th July, knowing that he had won a great victory.

Olaudah Equiano had been kidnapped along with his sister, at around the age of 11 in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. He was sold to a Royal Navy officer, Lieutenant Michael Pascal who renamed him Gustavus Vassa after a 16th century Swedish king, and with whom he travelled the seas for 8 years during which time he was baptised and learned to read and write. He was sold again. When he finally escaped he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners.



Thomas Clarkson

SUNDAY AUGUST 4TH 2024

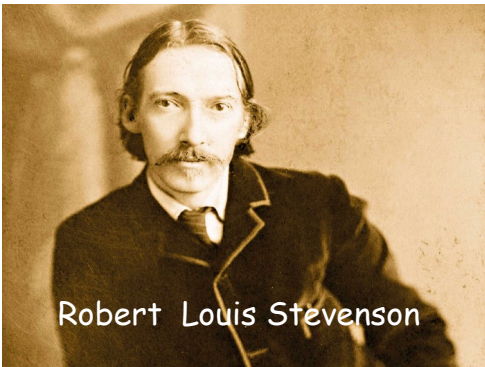
Judith Higgins' first reading was from Mark chapter 1, Jesus called His first disciples, - four fishermen. She wondered how many other occupations were mentioned in the Bible. Those present were asked how many they could think of. The results were written on a large sheet of paper. Judith then went through some other examples she had found. Many were to be found in the Old Testament record of Solomon building the great temple, a permanent stone building. When Moses asked the Israelites to make a holy tent where they could worship on their journey to the Promised Land many different craftsmen were involved.

By the end of the service we had a list of fifty different occupations but we are sure that there are many more that we had missed.

It was an interesting challenge to revisit many stories from the Bible looking for different occupations.



SUNDAY AUGUST 11TH 2024



The theme for Walter's service was 'hope'. Robert Louis Stevenson once said, "to travel hopefully is better than to arrive". We can certainly learn from our journey, especially on our journey through life.

The word 'hope' can be used in different ways. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul said, "Three things last forever, Faith, Hope and Charity." Hope can mean looking forward in some way, perhaps not as firm as expectation where we feel sure about the outcome but more definite than a wish.

The competitors going to the Olympic Games hope for success. Some won medals, some exceeded their expectations but some missed the ultimate prize sometimes by the smallest of margins. Even those who didn't have their hopes realised that an essential part of the competition. It is the taking part that is important.

Walter had recently heard a quote on the radio, "It is the hope that kills you." It had been used in the context of people in an ongoing situations of suffering,, where hopes were being continually destroyed, where the only way of coping seemed to be not looking forward to the future, just surviving from day to day.

The reading, Luke chapter 2 verses 13-24 told how Jesus appeared to two friends on the road to Emmaus after the crucifixion. The disciples had put their hope in Jesus, they had witnessed His triumphant entry into Jerusalem but their hopes were dashed when He was arrested, tried and crucified. As the 'stranger' spoke to the friends they began to understand more about Jesus' teaching.

Jesus chose not to speak to the religious leaders or His own chosen disciples but to two ordinary men who had almost lost hope in God's plan for mankind. They returned at once for Jerusalem to tell a story full of hope for the future.

We are living in difficult times - economic challenge, civil strife in our country and wars in other countries with a threat of escalation. The reaction of ordinary people in the country to the civil unrest is of course for hope for us all. It is up to each one of us to make our voices heard and stand up for what we know to be right in God's eyes.

SUNDAY AUGUST 18TH 2024

Judith Higgins had asked members to choose a hymn to be sung at this service and to tell us why they had chosen it.

The opening hymn, 'I Vow To Thee My Country', had been chosen by Anne Mather. It had been written by Sir Cecil Spring Rice and describes how a Christian owes his loyalties to his homeland and the heavenly kingdom. Anne had just been to Lytham St Annes to a 1940s weekend where there were displays of WWII military vehicles and uniforms to commemorate the men and women who had fought in the war.



Margaret Forster had chosen two hymns. Her father's favourite hymn had been the one based on Psalm 23, 'The Lord's My Shepherd', but when the School bought new hymn books that hymn was not included. Instead they started to sing 'The King Of Love My Shepherd Is', which soon became a favourite. Margaret's second hymn was 'One More Step Along The Road I Go', which is also a favourite of Joyce Darvil.



The Bible reading was John chapter 13 verses 1-17, Jesus washes the disciples' feet. The verses had inspired the writer of Margaret Morris Jones' choice of the hymn, 'Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You,'

Judith Curry had chosen a hymn sung at her wedding, 'Now Thank We All Our God', a hymn thanking God for His many gifts given to us, yet written by Pastor Martin Rinkart who had just lived through a most difficult time, during the 30 Years War in Saxony when disease had swept through his besieged wall city, killing 8,000 people and he was the only priest to bury them.

The final hymn, chosen by Walter Stead, 'The Duteous Day Now Closes', was new to us all but after Ken played the tune for us, we were able to sing it and appreciate the words.

Thank you to all who took part and shared your stories with us and especially to Ken for playing all the hymns.

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Peri-peri chicken traybake

Serves 4-5

*2 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp smoked paprika
1/2 tbsp ground coriander
1 tsp chilli powder
1 tsp dried oregano
4 garlic cloves, crushed
1 lemon, zested and juiced, plus wedges to serve
1.1kg chicken thighs and drumsticks
Parsley, to serve*



Combine the oil with the dried spices, herbs, garlic and lemon zest and juice in a small bowl, seasoning well.

Put the chicken in a large roasting tin then spoon over the marinade. Use your hands to massage in well, then leave to marinate in the fridge, covered, for at least 1 hr, or overnight, if possible.

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Remove the chicken from the fridge 30 mins before cooking, then bake for 45-50 mins or until cooked through, turning once halfway. Serve sprinkled with the parsley, and lemon wedges.

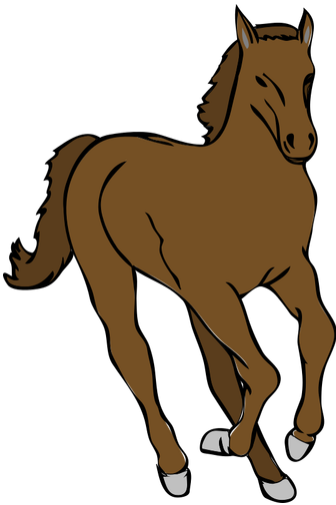


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to:
Pam Bowden - 3rd September
Pat Mellor - 9th September

HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES

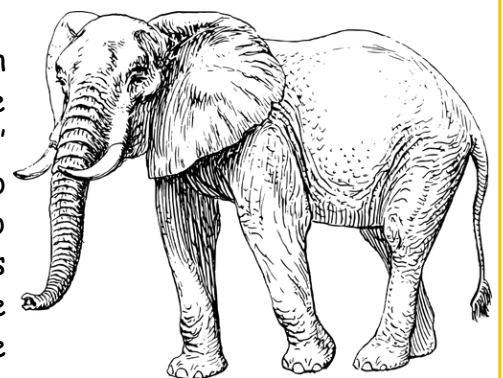
I thought that this time, I would tell you about some of my interesting holiday experiences with animals over the last 50 years.



My first one was when I was 12, and on holiday with my Mum, and Mary, my best friend, in Windermere. We saw a sign for 'horse riding for beginners' and asked if we could go. Mum said yes and we went to the nearby stables for our first lesson. A rather grumpy lady said that they only had 2 horses available, one large and a small pony, and asked Mary and I how much we weighed! I was 6lbs lighter and was given a very small pony, 'Flash', whilst Mary was given an elegant large horse named 'Joan', the next week we went for 1 more lesson and Mum asked if I could try a bigger horse this time. She was told, 'It's 'Flash' or nothing!!' so poor me on the little pony again! I was very disgruntled, but Mary did well on 'Joan'. However, I don't think that either of us felt a pressing urge to continue with riding lessons!

The second horse experience was many years later when Derek and I were on holiday in Southern Ireland. We saw this trip advertised - a horse ride up to the 'Gap of Dundore', under supervision, and a short stop to take in the view then down the hill in time for tea. We started off in an orderly procession, with about 12 horses and several young lads, with sticks to keep the horses on the path, This proved very difficult, as the horses insisted on stopping every few yards to nibble at the vegetation by the side of the path. We also noted that the saddles were rather worn and wobbly and there were thin ropes for reins! However, the view point was reached safely. We dismounted, admired the view, got back into the saddle (with difficulty) and then - the trouble started! The horses knew that it was 'time for tea' and forgot about the sedate, orderly procession, the young boys' sticks were to no avail, and our horses trotted, cantered and galloped down the hill, with we poor tourists hanging onto our rope-reins for dear life. I had a vision of Derek's horse thundering past mine with Derek roaring with laughter, (or panic), and holding onto the horse's neck and mane for dear life. How we all arrived at the bottom safely I'll never know. An 'oirish' pixie must have been looking after us!!

The next experience took place again, many years' later in Thailand, where we were on holiday in Chiang Mai. We chose to go on a special day out with a guide to 'show us the sights' He seemed to have rather a lot of 'friends' and relatives' who were waiting to welcome us. First of all, we were taken to admire his uncle's shrubs and herbs, then to his cousin's jewellery establishment and finally to a friend's riverside shack which included a changing room and an elephant! We were asked to put on our swim-wear, and I went first! The elephant was led out and I was helped up onto a cushion for a saddle and, again, something like a pommel to hold onto. The elephant was quite docile, but suddenly, (he/or she) lifted his trunk and showered me with warm water - hence the swim-suit! This happened several times, and mud to the amusement of our guide, his friend, and even Derek, who later, had to take his turn on the elephant and have his showers too. All ended very amicably and it was to be the first of many elephant rides in the mountains near Chiang Mai.



I have several more adventures which I really want to share, but they will have to wait until next time!

Margaret M. Jones

JUST FOR SMILES

Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer."

Visit

A bishop visited a primary school in his full episcopal attire - with his mitre, robes and bishop's crook or crozier. A little lad's mother asked him later what he had thought of the bishop's visit to his school. The little boy replied: "It was great - now I know what a *real* crook looks like!"



Not all

Dear Minister: I know that God loves everyone, but He has never met my sister. Love Peter (aged 7)

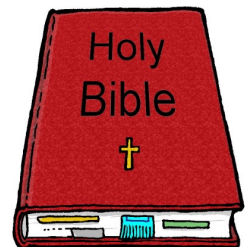


Unseen

A small girl greeting her father on his return from a journey by air and learning that he had flown above the clouds, asked if he had seen God. "Well, no," said her father, "you can't see God like that because He doesn't have a body."

Bible sense

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man's job, his wife replied simply: "2 Kings 21:13", and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: 'And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.'



Egg

What did the egg in the monastery say?
"Out of the frying pan and into the friar."

Eating out

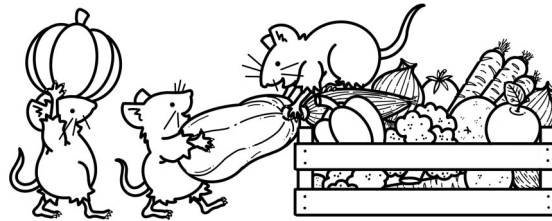
After the fall in Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked, "Father, what's that?" Adam replied, "Boys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home."

PUZZLES

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

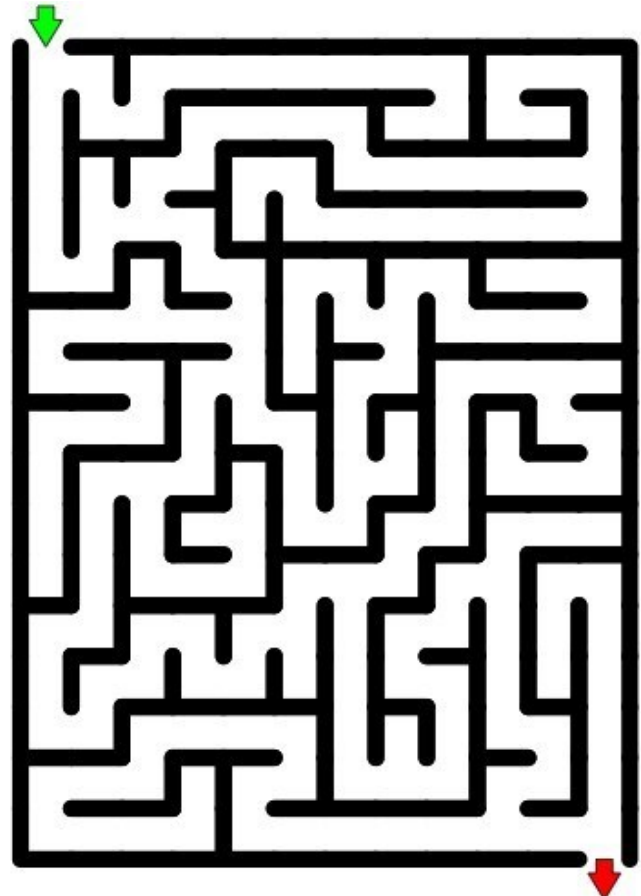


Sudoku



MAZE

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



WORDSEARCH

Can you find in this grid the words that are in bold and capitals in the passage below? The words can be found in any direction.



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

Michael and All Angels

The Church remembers angels this month, with the feast day of **MICHAEL** and **ALL ANGELS** on the 29th. The Bible is full of angels, where they often had a **KEY** role in **CRUCIAL** events. It seems that Michael is their **LEADER**, an 'archangel'. In **STAINED GLASS** he's often seen with a **SWORD**, because in the Book of Revelation he leads the **ANGELIC HOST** who fight and **DEFEAT SATAN** and his army.

In the Gospels, angels make numerous **APPEARANCES**. Just two examples: **GABRIEL** was sent to **MARY** to announce the coming of her **BABY, JESUS**, the Messiah, the Son of God. Another **ANGEL** was sent to sit in the empty tomb on Easter morning, **WAITING** to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5)!

If we complained less, and praised more, we should be happier, and God would be more glorified. Let us daily praise God for common mercies. - Charles Spurgeon



Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back. - Anon



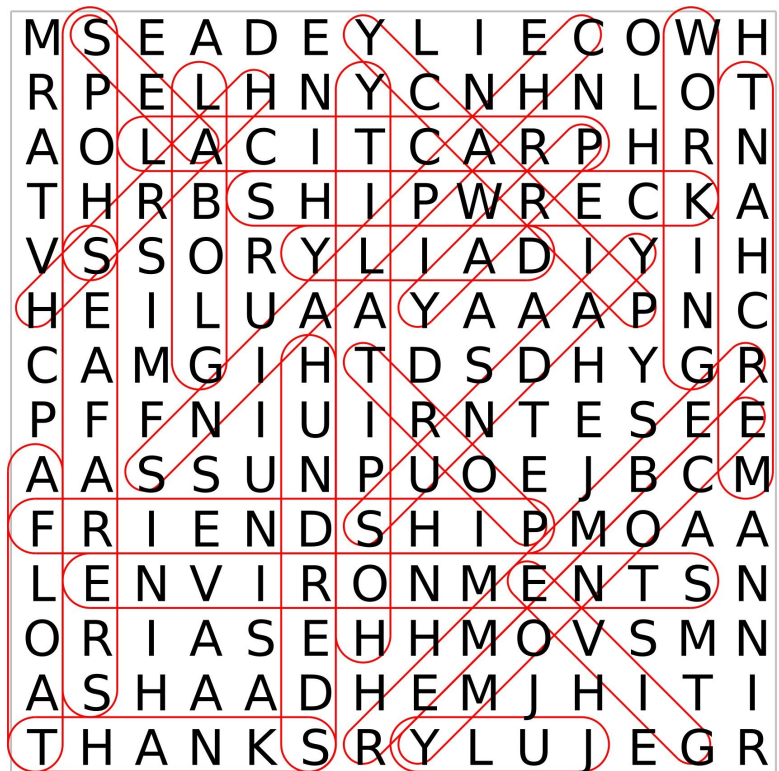
Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh how beautiful' and sitting in the shade. - Rudyard Kipling

ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



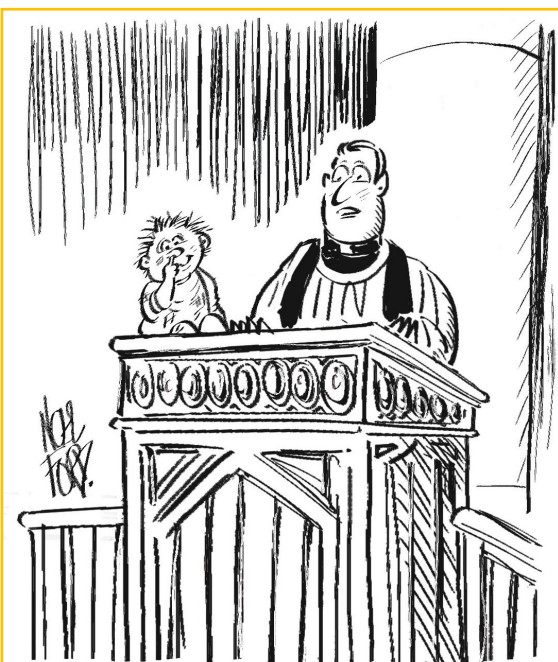
SUDOKU ANSWERS



WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

QUIZ ON 1 AND 2 SAMUEL

1. Peninnah (1 Samuel 1:4-6)
2. Priest (1 Samuel 2:11)
3. He fell off his chair (1 Samuel 4:18)
4. Dagon (1 Samuel 5:2)
5. It was carried on a cart pulled by cows (1 Samuel 6:10-12)
6. A king (1 Samuel 8:5)
7. Benjamin (1 Samuel 9:1-2)
8. Donkeys (1 Samuel 9:3)
9. Honeycomb (1 Samuel 14:24-27)
10. Musician (1 Samuel 16:23)
11. 5,000 (1 Samuel 17:5)
12. He pretended to be insane (1 Samuel 21:13)
13. In a cave (1 Samuel 24:3-4)
14. Prophets of Baal (1 Samuel 28:6-7)
15. Seven and a half years (2 Sam 5:1-5)
16. Ark (2 Sam 6:6-7)
17. Nathan (2 Sam 12:1)
18. Oak (2 Sam 18:9-10)
19. 70,000 (2 Sam 24:15)
20. Araunah's (2 Sam 24:18-25)



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!