



Stockport Sunday School

November 2024 Newsletter 54



Last weekend was a special occasion for our family.

David, my son, and his wife Louise have been going through the process of adopting a two year old little girl, Maddie and the occasion was the final stage of what has been a long drawn-out procedure.

It was the formal granting of what is known as the Adoption Order in Court.

There have been many hurdles to jump, but Maddie is well settled in her new family and it was an occasion for us all to celebrate together.

The modern day process of adoption is much different from how I remember it when I was young. Generally it was a subject not talked about much; possibly to avoid the child feeling they were different in some way from their companions and friends.

Indeed a friend of mine only discovered she had been adopted from a chance remark by a family friend when she was in her sixties! Although a bit of a shock, it was not a cause for concern, because, as she said, she had had a happy upbringing in a loving family.

And that is what the adoption agencies are aiming to achieve.

What is different nowadays is that the process is more open, and rather than being focussed on the wish of the adoptive parents for a child, it is focussed primarily on the needs of the individual child.

It is a demanding process for all concerned. but there is lots of backup support for the parents and the wider family, (including a guide book for grandparents !)

What is apparent is that adopting can be a challenging task, and, speaking personally, those who do take it on have my highest admiration.

Writing about this topic was prompted when I was reading recently some Bible notes on Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, in which he is very critical of the direction which the developing church there is taking.

Some of the Jewish members were putting pressure on fellow Jews and Gentiles to follow particular aspects of Jewish religious laws. It may be some of them were adopting these requirements to avoid persecution by the Jewish Zealots.

In Paul's view, this approach was incompatible with the Christian gospels.

Having been a Zealot himself until his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul was well aware of what was at stake. In his letter he points out that Christ had come to release mankind from dependence on detailed written rules, and as a result Jesus had been attacked by the religious authorities.



Paul's message is that we are called to commit ourselves to building a relationship with God, as demonstrated by Jesus and His teaching, much of which is actually based on Old Testament scripture. As Jesus said, "I have not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets but to fulfil them." We have to differentiate between those rules which are based on God's will and wisdom, and what are merely man-made to establish control of the people.

What I found particularly interesting was that in his letter, Paul likens this relationship to that of God adopting us as His children; for us to feel able to call Him 'Abba, Father'.



God wants us to trust in Him, not as a ruler but as someone who loves us and cares for us, and grieves for us if we move away from Him.

For as we know, 'children' are not always compliant; especially in their teens!

But if the relationship is right, the problems can be resolved. So there is always hope for us in our relationship with God.

It is perhaps also worth remembering that Jesus himself was in a sense 'adopted' by Mary and Joseph who were taking responsibility for His upbringing. A daunting task!

And again, in a way, God calls us to 'adopt' Jesus as our Guide by following His teaching and example in our daily lives.

May we help each other to respond to His call, as members together of the family of the Faithful.



TALK TO JESUS

When all hope is disappearing
And your spirit is so low
When your days are full of fearing
And you suffer blow on blow
There's a tried and trusted method
Which will ease all sense of loss
Just kneel and talk to Jesus
The one who died upon the cross

When deep shadows overcome you
And your heart's full of despair
When your life seems torn and tattered
And appears beyond repair
When you suffer great misfortune
And need lifting from a fall
Just kneel and talk to Jesus
Who died to save us all

For when you talk to Jesus
You'll not even have to ask
Because He knows your every need
And gives courage for each task
With Him life's long hard journey
Becomes easier every day
For He's the sturdy footwear
That helps you travel life's highway

By Colin Hammacott



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Maureen Jewsbury on November 4th

Gerald Walsh on November 20th

Joyce Sellers on November 27th

Judith Higgins on December 4th



THINKING OF YOU

We were sorry to hear that some of our members and their families are not well. We send our best wishes to everyone and want to let them know we are thinking of them.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year Remembrance Sunday takes place on Sunday 10th November when our speaker will be Stuart Dean. Stuart needs no introductions and we look forward to hearing him at this special service.

Please invite family and friends to join us to remember the service and sacrifice of those who have defended our freedom. The Royal British Legion states that the poppy that many of us wear at this time of year is not only a symbol of remembrance but also a symbol of hope for a peaceful future.



SHOE BOXES

Please could you bring in any finished shoe boxes or items to go in the boxes for the 10th as we are going to bless the boxes on Sunday 17th November before they are sent on their way.

T4U



CHRISTMAS POST FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERS

Once again, the post box will be out in the entrance hall of Compass Point for members to post their Christmas cards to each other. The post box will be out on Sunday 8th and Sunday 15th December.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year our annual Christmas Lunch will be held on Sunday 8th of December at 12.30pm. As we all appreciate, organising this takes time and planning, so to allow Margaret Forster time to sort out the catering, please could you let her know if you are attending this as soon as you can and definitely by Sunday 1st at the very latest.

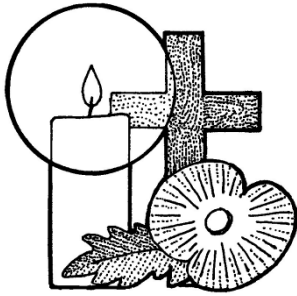


CANDLE AND CAROL SERVICE

This year the Candle and Carol Service will take place on Sunday 15th December and will be taken by members of The Triangle. This is always a popular and enjoyable service and you are invited to bring family and friends along to join us.



COMING EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

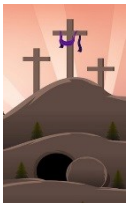


November 3rd	Walter Stead
November 10th	Remembrance Sunday Speaker Stuart Dean
November 17th	Judith Higgins (blessing of the shoe boxes)
November 24th	Garth Higgins
December 1st	Cath Brown
December 8th	Walter Stead Christmas Lunch Christmas Post
December 15th	Candle and Carol Service run by The Triangle Christmas Post
December 22nd	Officials
December 29th	No service



2025 CALENDAR

January 12th	Election of Inspectors
January 26th	Committee Meeting 3.15
February 2nd	Bible Sunday
February 17th - 22nd	Kites Pantomime Week
March 30th	Mothering Sunday
April 6th	Committee Meeting 3.15
April 13th	Palm Sunday
April 20th	Easter Sunday
June 15th	Founders' Day
June 29th	Committee Meeting 3.15
September 14th	Harvest Lunch & Service
September 21st	AGM
October 19th	Anniversary
November 9th	Remembrance Sunday
December 7th	Christmas Lunch Christmas Post
December 14th	Candle and Carol Service Christmas Post
December 21st	Official's Service
December 28th	No Service



T4U





SERVICES



SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Walter took this service. The first hymn was 'He Who Would Valiant Be', written by John Bunyan, who had spent twelve years in prison for his religious beliefs.

Walter's reading was John 9 verses 1-12, Jesus heals the blind man on the Sabbath. This provoked discussion with the Pharisees, who thought it was wrong. Others thought only a man of God could perform such a miracle. Jesus warned His disciples that they were being sent out like sheep among wolves and would suffer greatly.

The blind man had been expelled from the synagogue for speaking about being cured by Jesus. The man gradually came to understand who Jesus was. On being questioned by the Pharisees, he first spoke of a man called Jesus, later he describes him as 'a prophet', later he describes Him as 'from God' or the 'Son of Man'.

Some people in the temple tried to expose Jesus as a fraud but others believed in Him. Like all of us they had questions, an integral part of a journey of faith.

In his gospel and letters, John reminds us of "continuing in the word".

Becoming a Christian does not mean that life will always be easy. We must put our trust in God and pray for His strength and guidance.



SUNDAY OCTOBER 6TH 2024



There was a large gathering of School members, family and friends of Norman Sellers for a Special Service to remember Norman.

Walter Stead spoke of Norman's family life, his career as a design engineer, National Service, his 77 year marriage to Joyce, the birth of their son, Neil, and their life in the Post Office.

Judith Higgins said that Norman had been a member of SSS for ninety years. He had been a scholar, a teacher for seventy years, an Inspector. He also worked closely with Joyce, the Treasurer of the School, helping to organise the School finances.

Both speakers spoke of Norman's strong Christian faith which governed his whole life. He was a true Christian gentleman who read his Bible every day.

Judith Curry read a poem.

Stuart Dean read from Paul's letter to the Colossian chapter 3 and Sandra Woodhouse lead the prayers and paid tribute to Norman.

At the close of the service, the congregation enjoyed the cake provided by Joyce along with tea and coffee and shared their memories of Norman.

The collection from the service was sent to the British Heart foundation.



SUNDAY OCTOBER 13TH 2024

Garth Higgins' reading was John 14 verses 7-10, in which Jesus tells the disciples if you have seen Me you have seen the Father.

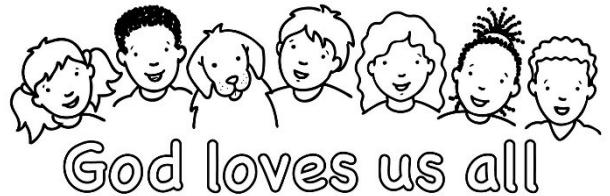
Garth asked members how they pictured God, not the old man with a long white beard? Walter said God was Spirit.



When we are young, we have a picture of Father Christmas as the kindly old man with a white beard, dressed in red. As children get older, they realise their parents and family and friends give the presents.

Is there a point in some peoples lives when they question the existence of God? Does the world situation with the newspapers and TV news showing the devastation caused by wars cause people to ask if there is a God why does He allow wars.

God created man but gave Him free will and it is men who cause war when they seek power. A small minority in power protecting their positions show how fragile democracy is if the wrong people get in power.



There was an afternoon of discussion.

ANNIVERSARY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 20TH 2024



Reservoir in Edgeley before the boat was sent to Dundalk in Ireland. By 1877, it had saved 37 lives.

Mr Mike Major from the RNLI talked about the history of the RNLI and showed slides and a film about the work of the RNLI today and the different kinds of boats used by the RNLI and talked about the training of crews, lifeguards and other volunteers who work with them.

There was a congregation of about thirty to celebrate the 219th Anniversary of the Sunday School and the two hundredth Anniversary of the RNLI. Walter Stead led the service and Stuart Dean read the lesson, Jesus calmed the storm on Lake Galilee. Judith Higgins told how the Sunday School raised £400 to buy a lifeboat for the RNLI in 1866. In 1867, 20,000 people watched the naming and launch of the boat on Sykes'



We are very grateful for Stuart Dean who recorded and played the music for the hymns and set up the IT equipment for the slides and film.

At the end of the service, everyone enjoyed cream scones, cake and a cup of tea or coffee thanks to Margaret Forster, Joyce Darvil and Judith Curry. Cath Brown produced the beautiful flower arrangement in the entrance hall. It was good to meet up with friends old and new.



Stockport Sunday School
Anniversary Service 2024



To mark the 200th Anniversary of the RNLI, Anstruther volunteer lifeboat crewman, Richard MacDonald, wrote a special verse to the hymn, 'Eternal Father Strong To Save', which was approved by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and sung in special services. (written opposite)

*O Lord, entrust their souls safekeep,
as lifeboats plough o'er oceans deep;
lend them your courage, strength and grace,
to those in peril, they must race:
Oh, hear us Lord, a sailor's plea,
guide all who save lives out at sea!*



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all those who organised or supported the Knit and Natter Autumn Fair, which raised £868.91 for Broughton House Veteran's Care Home. The North West Military Vehicle Group, who attended, donated a further £500 to the Home.



LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Crispy chicken with harissa honey butter

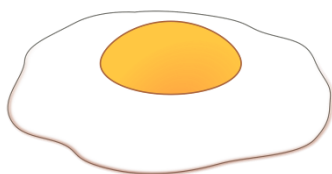
Serves 2

*2 breaded chicken escalopes or steaks
50g butter or 3 tbsp olive oil
2 heaped tsp harissa
1 tsp honey
2 tsp baby capers
200g green beans
2 eggs, fried to serve*

Cook the chicken in the oven following pack instructions. Heat the butter or oil in a pan, then stir in the harissa, honey and capers.

Simmer the beans until just tender. Drain and toss with half the flavoured butter/oil.

Divide the beans and chicken between two plates, then top with a fried egg and drizzle over the rest of the butter/oil. Serve with potatoes of choice.



Kites Group

The Kites Group are busy preparing for their February 2025 show to be held at Compass Point. More details and tickets will be available soon on www.kitesgroup.com.



I found this poem in the September edition of the URC magazine - 'The Link'. It is so relevant to me, now that the years are piling on, and I hope that it will raise a smile or two.

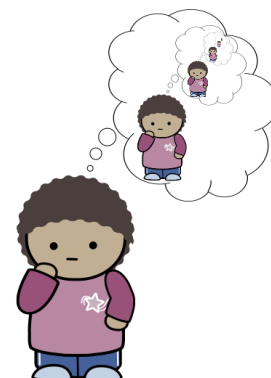
Margaret M. Jones

"My Forgetter"

My forgetter's getting better
But my rememberer is broke.
To you, that may sound funny
But, to me, that is no joke.



For when I'm "here" I'm wondering
If I really should be "there"
And when I try to think it through
I haven't got a prayer.



Oft times I walk into a room
Say "What am I here for?"
I rack my brain, but, all in vain,
A zero is my score.



At times I put something away
Where it is safe, but "Gee!"
The person it is safest from
You're right. It's usually me!

When shopping I may see someone
Say "Hi" and have a chat.
Then, when the person walks away,
I ask myself - "Who's that?"



Yes my forgetter's getting better,
But my rememberer is broke.
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And that isn't any joke.



Anon



THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT YOUR FORGETFULNESS

You know the scenario - you go into the lounge, and then wonder what you wanted. Or you need to make a phone call but can't find the phone. You go to the cash point and forget your pin number. Or your car keys are lost in the kitchen, but even when you find them and go shopping, you forget stuff on the list.

If at times you find yourself living in an annoying brain-fog, the good news is that it is not because you are ill or getting old. To varying extents, everyone does it.

A recent study at the University of Edinburgh has found that forgetfulness is as common in people in their 20s as it is in people in their 50s. Although some of the people in the study were worried about getting dementia, a neuropsychiatrist at the university reassured them: "People think that if you are starting to forget things - something like misplacing your keys - that is something to worry about. But it is normal."

Good reasons for forgetting things range from the fact that too much was happening in your life at the time, you were stressed about something, not paying attention to what you were doing, or just too busy thinking about something else entirely.

SMILE LINES

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year-old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"



Say that again?

A woman telephoned her Bank and spoke to the official who looked after her holdings. "I want to make some changes," she said.

The official needed more details. "Are you interested in Conversion or Redemption?" he asked.

"Good heavens", came the reply. "I must have got the wrong number. I wanted the Bank of England, not the Church of England."



What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, "Does anyone know what the bishop does?"

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "He's the one you can move diagonally."



Tractors

A little girl was watching her daddy repair his tractor. She asked her mother, "What happens to old tractors when they finally stop working?"

Sighing, her mother answered: "Someone sells them to your father, dear."



Cabinet

My granddad always said, "When one door closes, another door opens." Lovely man. Terrible cabinet maker.



Signs found outside churches:

- * Church car park sign...This is for MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!
- * No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.
- * Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!
- * Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- * Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'
- * When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'
- * A singing group called 'The Resurrection' was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister fixed the outside sign to read, 'Resurrection is postponed - due to snow.'
- * Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!
- * Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- * Thursday at 10am there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All those wishing to become little Mothers are welcome to meet our new minister in the vicarage....

When children tell Bible stories

(real-life efforts that didn't quite make it...)

- * St John, the blacksmith, dumped water on Jesus' head.
- * Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you.
- * Jesus ruled that "a man doth not live by sweat alone."
- * It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
- * The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
- * One of the opossums was St Matthew who was also a taximan.

And finally...

An atheist has no invisible means of support.

Have you heard about the agnostic dyslexic insomniac who lay awake at night wondering; "Is there a Dog?"

People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.

A sexton is a man who minds his keys and pews.

Dear Paddy, The Vicar here thinks very highly of your father. He's given him a job so important that he has five hundred men under him. He's cutting grass in the churchyard.

I'm not C of E, I'm from the Methylated church.

PUZZLES

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

Sudoku



REMEMBRANCE DAY this year has a special significance - it was 80 years ago this June that the D-Day **LANDINGS** of the **SECOND WORLD WAR** took place.

Those D-Day Landings and the Battle of **NORMANDY** led to the **LIBERATION** of **FRANCE** and **EUROPE**. And this year the Normandy region has been celebrating - with events including synchronized **FIREWORKS** at the major D-Day sites, a giant **PICNIC** on **OMAHA BEACH**, Liberation balls, **BAGPIPE PARADES**, and international parachuting of hundreds of **SOLDIERS** above Sainte-Mère-Église.

It has been estimated that between 15 and 20 million people died in Europe alone during the Second World War. Worldwide, an estimated 75 **MILLION** people **DIED**.

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

WORDSEARCH

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

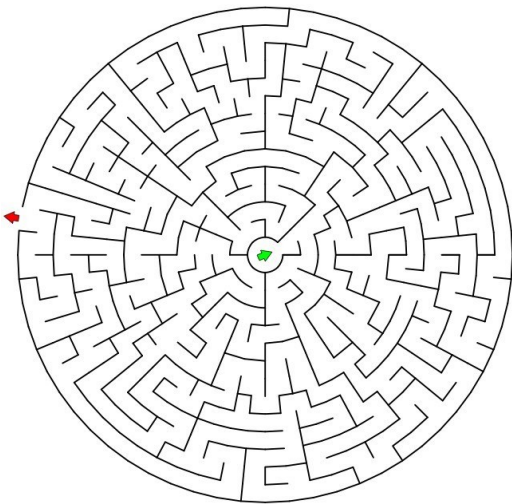
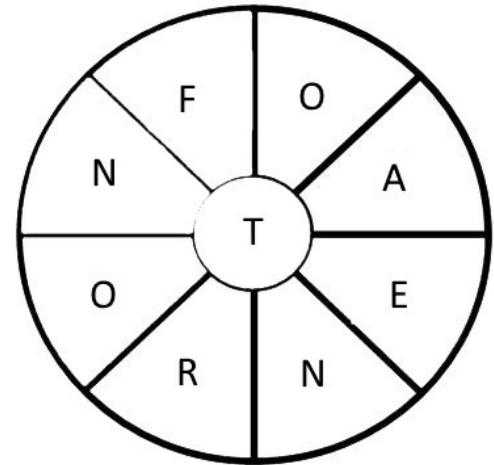


WORD WHEEL

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+



Can you make your way around the maze, starting from the green arrow in the centre of the maze and exiting the maze at the red arrow?

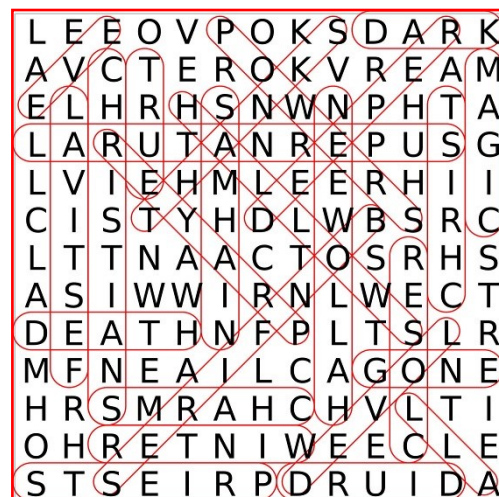
ANAGRAMS

As we start thinking about preparing for Christmas, can you unscramble the following anagrams, they all have something to do with Christmas?

- loylh
- kyoned
- snrpete
- gpdindu
- tmoseielt
- kteryu
- sclora
- ramgne
- dhpressre
- swei nme
- krreaecc
- lbsbuea
- erte
- ntasa
- erneider
- arts
- hwtare
- oswn
- dcrsa
- gtlhis

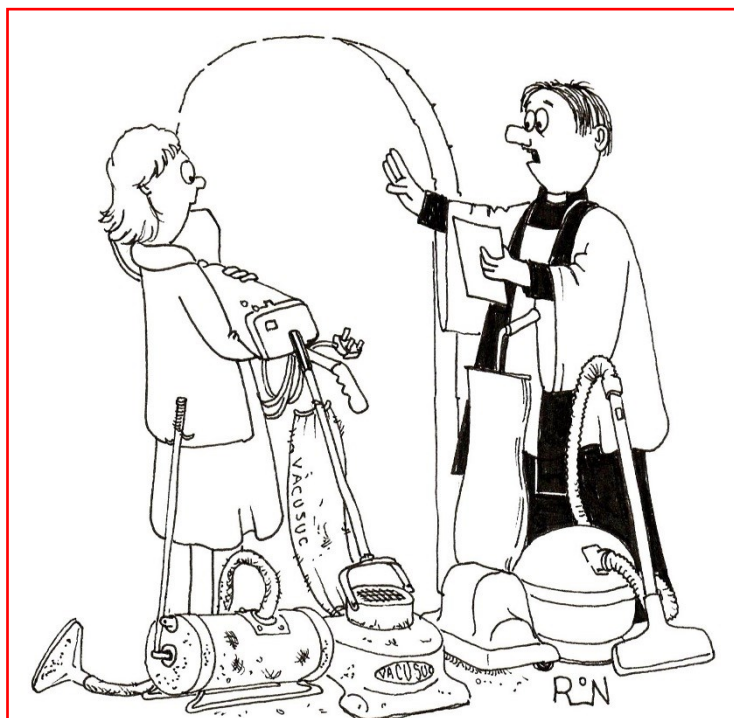
ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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

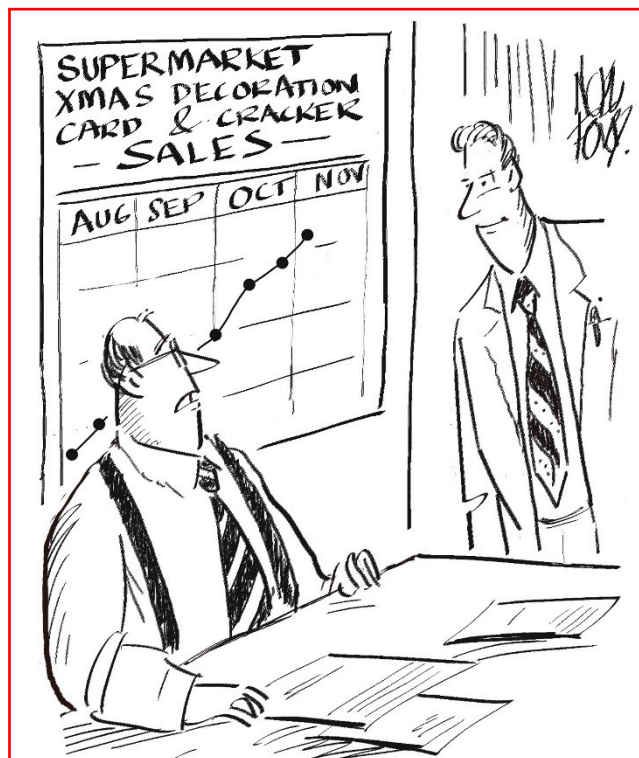


SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



*With proper ceremony, they laid it to rest
with its ancestors*



"...and don't forget we're coming
into Nativity Play season – make sure
we have extra tea-towels in stock!"