



Stockport Sunday School

June 2025 Newsletter 61

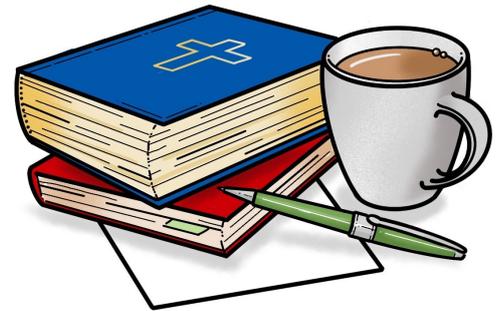


One advantage of the Church of England Lectionary is that it takes you to parts of the Bible not often addressed in our usual SSS Services.

On occasion, the selections can be heavy weather but from time to time unfamiliar scripture can encourage us to think anew about aspects of our faith.

The same thing can occur when reading publications of Bible commentaries where there is a wide range of knowledge for us to gain access to.

I was recently reading a series on St John's three Epistles to new churches, probably located in Asia.



St John

The author, Michael Mitton, had recently read the letters in one sitting (they are quite short!) and in doing so he was struck by how certain words caught his eye which otherwise he might not have given much attention to.

The first word was 'evil'.

It's a powerful word and in our present day we can see many things which would qualify for this description - the current conflict in Palestine, prompted by the massacre carried out by Hamas, and the overwhelming response by the Israeli forces - the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army - and so many other outbreaks of war around the world. St John is not afraid to address the problem of evil in his letter. Evil will not go away of its own accord, and, as followers of Christ, it is our responsibility to oppose it wherever it manifests itself. And John appeals to his readers, members of the young churches, (addressed by him as 'little children!'), to oppose evil in all its forms and overcome it. It does not necessarily need to be drastic or high profile; it can often be overcome by simple acts of goodness, works of compassion, by challenging injustice, every prayer of faith. Such acts can be powerful ways in which we as individuals can shed the light that can overpower the darkness of evil in our world.

Then John goes on to address the word 'World', - the world we live in. In his Gospel, he has written 'God so loved the world that He gave His Son that whoever believes in Him would have everlasting life'. But, as Michael says in his commentary, this seems to be at odds with John's warning in his Epistle that



Jesus' followers should not 'love the world!' However, John is speaking here about the materialistic society in which we live, with its selfishness, pride in possessions, damaging cravings and many other failings. He is warning us to constantly be on our guard and not be contaminated by what we are surrounded by in our daily lives, to remember that God calls us to work with Him as witnesses to His love for humanity as a whole.



The next word to think about is 'Children'. Frequently in his writings, John refers to followers of Jesus as 'Children of God'. It's something we implicitly acknowledge whenever we say the Lord's prayer and speak to 'Our Father in Heaven'. It is the relationship which is at the core of Our Lord's teaching. But while we may still be

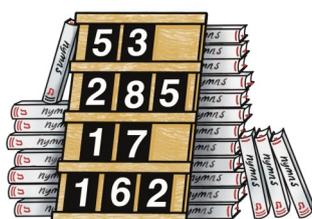
children in terms of our faith, we are still called to grow up, as children do at school; to seek to expand our understanding of life.

John acknowledges we cannot know what we may grow up to be in the future. But God's wish is that we become more and more like Christ as we progress through life, and not remain childish with regard to our faith. Moreover, as John says in chapter three of his epistle, 'let us not love with words and tongue, but with actions and in truth.' So, as God loves each one of us, let us love one another in practical ways, however we can.

And a final thought.

Children grow up well if they believe they are loved, and hence they will be loving to others. And so it is for us - knowing we are loved by God, and, also loved by one another, we can be encouraged as we journey together in witness to our faith, as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**For, we have a gospel to proclaim
Good news to men (and women) in all the earth.**



SERVICES

1 st June	Judith Higgins
8 th June	Margaret M Jones
15 th June	FOUNDERS' DAY - speaker Stuart Dean
22 nd June	Walter Stead
29 th June	Judith Higgins
6 th July	Walter Stead



THANK YOU

Many thanks everyone for the cards and good wishes received on my retirement. A big thank you to Walter for the kind words and cheque from Sunday School, and Judith and Don for the lovely hydrangea plant and card. It's been a pleasure working in our lovely building.

Joyce Darvill



THINKING OF YOU

We send best wishes to our members who have been poorly recently and hope to see you back in School when you are better. Some of our members are no longer able to join us each Sunday, but we know that some 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 - 15th 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 29th at the very latest.



FOUNDERS' DAY, SUNDAY JUNE 15TH

On June 15th, Founders' Day, our speaker will be Stuart Dean, well known as one of our Inspectors and also for the many Christmas Carol Services he and his Lancashire Hill colleagues produce for us each year.

Founders' Day is always a great opportunity to meet up with friends and share in the celebrations of the work of the Sunday School. Please invite family and friends to join us for this special service.





SERVICES



SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2025

Walter began his address by asking who was Jorge (Mario) Bergoglio. No-one recognised the name although Walter said he had been very much in the news recently. We all knew of him by his adopted name Pope Francis.

Two shots from his funeral service remained in Walter's mind. President Trump and Zelensky sitting together having a conversation and later Donald Trump being overheard saying he'd like to be a pope.



Francis did not want to become pope for personal glory and esteem, but to live out his Christian

faith for the benefit of the disadvantaged in society and to reject personal pomp, ceremony and privilege. He has been a role model for us all. He aimed to restore the role of Pope and the whole church as one of service to the people. He looked beyond the Catholic Church calling on the wealthy nations to hear the call of the poorer ones.



In his early twenties, he joined a Jesuit Seminary swearing an oath of poverty, chastity and obedience.

He taught for a while before being made a bishop in Argentina and later a Cardinal.

He would say he did what the Jesus of the gospels told him to do. He believed the Pope should be a servant leader.

He will be long remembered, a source of encouragement to all who serve Jesus in spirit and in truth.

Thank you, Walter, for telling us more about a true Christian leader of our time.

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - *John Wesley*

When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025

Beryl Manley took the service which was to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.



Beryl had been busy before the service. When we arrived she had decorated the hall with bunting and a large VE 80th Anniversary Union Jack at the front of the hall. She had also set out a long table with VE tablecloth, union jack hats, plates and serviettes. She had also prepared all the refreshments, sandwiches, sausage rolls, pies,

crisps, salad and cakes, strawberries and cream or ice cream.

She had based the service on the service of celebration of St Paul's Cathedral in 1945.

Her readings were Luke 2 verses 8 - 14, 'The angels proclaim Jesus' birth', part of Abraham Lincoln's speech of 1865 and Winston Churchill's speech given to the country when peace was declared. The hymns were 'All People That On Earth Do Dwell', 'O God, Our Help In Ages Past', 'Now Thank We All Our God' finishing with the National Anthem.

After the service Beryl showed a short film from the Woolworth's archive showing the end of the war celebrations. All members sat down to the refreshments.

Thank you, Beryl, for all your hard work leading to a very special service.





A selection of photos from our VE Day celebration service, followed by our indoor street party, organised by Beryl Manley



SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

Judtih Higgins said that after the death of Pope Francis, we heard a lot about his life and work, especially about his concern for the poor and dispossessed of the world. As she listened to the many tributes, she was reminded of the work of Mother Teresa who also dedicated her life to serving the poorest in society.



From the age of twelve she was convinced she should commit herself to a religious life. She felt called to be a missionary. She joined the Sisters of Loretta and taught at the convent school for more than twenty years in Calcutta.



Stained glass in Cathedral of Saint Mother Teresa in Pristina, Kosovo, depicting Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa

Whilst travelling by train to her annual retreat, Teresa felt that she had been called to serve the poor in India. She received permission from the Vatican to found a new order, 'The Missionaries of Charity' to care for 'the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, lepers and all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society and are shunned by everyone.' She and her fellow nuns lived amongst the poor. Life was not easy and she often had to beg for food to feed the hungry.

She opened hospices, a home for lepers and outreach clinics providing medication and dressings and food for lepers. She opened a children's home and the work began to spread beyond India to Venezuela, Rome, Tanzania and Austria by 1968. During the seventies she opened houses in the United States, Asia, Africa and Europe.

The work was attracting attention and attracted more recruits and donations. She started Missionary Charity of Brothers and she was helped by lay workers, both Catholic and non Catholic.

She appealed for support world wide, and spoke Bengali, Algerian, Serbo Croat, English and Hindi.

Towards the end of her life Teresa's health deteriorated she had two heart attacks, pneumonia, malaria and heart failure.

She died in 1997 and was given a state funeral in Calcutta by the Indian government.

SUNDAY 25TH MAY 2025 - JOYCE DARVILL RETIREMENT

After 14 years service as our cleaner at Compass Point, Joyce has decided to retire from that role.

After the Service on 25th May, there was a short presentation by our Senior Inspector, Walter Stead, to mark our appreciation of her contribution to the life of Heaviley and Stockport SS over the years.



Joyce and her sisters had all been scholars at the Heaviley School. Joyce in due course became a teacher there and has maintained her contact ever since.

However, as Walter said, she is probably best known to most of our present members as the person who has kept our building spick and span while it has been so very busy over the years.

Joyce's working role in life was as a kitchen cook and her professional knowledge and skill could be seen in how she carried out her tasks at SSS.

When someone does their work to a high standard, we often don't realise how much expertise and effort is put into it.

Joyce falls into that category and we have been fortunate to have benefited by her contribution to the life of our School.

Judith Curry then added a few words about the time they enjoyed together as teachers in the HSS Primary Department.

Then, on behalf of our membership, Walter expressed our thanks to Joyce for her contribution and friendship over the years, accompanied with a token gift, followed by a short response by Joyce.



"A GARDEN FOR DAILY LIVING"

Plant three rows of peas:

- Peas of mind
- Peas of heart
- Peas of soul



Plant four rows of squash:

- Squash gossip
- Squash indifference
- Squash grumbling
- Squash selfishness



"To enjoy our garden
We must have thyme:
Thyme for fun
Thyme for rest
Thyme for ourselves

Plant four rows of lettuce:

- Lettuce be faithful
- Lettuce be kind
- Lettuce be happy
- Lettuce really love one another

No garden should be without turnips:

- Turnip for service when needed
- Turnip to help one another
- Turnip the music and dance



Water freely with patience and
Cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden
Because you reap what you sow.

Anonymous



Knit 'N' Natter
VE Day
celebrations





Bowling Club VE Day celebrations



LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Herby Pork Meatball and Gnocchi Melt

Serves 2-3

*2 tbsp olive oil
12 pork meatballs
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tsp fennel seeds
400g tin chopped tomatoes
1 tsp dried oregano
1 tbsp chopped rosemary
small bunch of basil, torn
400g gnocchi
125g ball of mozzarella
crusty bread and green salad, to serve*



Heat oil in a shallow ovenproof pan over a medium-high heat and brown the meatballs all over. Scoop out onto a plate.

Sizzle the garlic and fennel seeds for a couple of minutes. Tip in the tomatoes and half a can of water, and bring to a simmer. Stir in the oregano, rosemary and half the basil, then season.

Return the meatballs to the pan and cook covered for 10 minutes. Stir in the gnocchi, cover and cook for another 5 minutes until the gnocchi is just tender. Tear over the mozzarella, and then slide under a hot grill for 2-3 minutes or until melted and bubbling. Scatter over the rest of the basil and serve with the bread and salad.

You can change the meatballs to beef or chicken if you prefer



Happy Birthday

28 June - Stuart Dean

"CORNWALL"

Having just returned from a wonderful week in Cornwall, with my son, I thought that I would share some of my outstanding memories with you.

Cornwall's Springtime coat was definitely golden, the hedges were ablaze with golden gorse, and, as we drove from Devon into Cornwall, we were welcomed by miles and miles of gorse bushes, all gleaming and glorious in the Spring sunshine.



Then there were the primroses! I love primroses and have



tried to grow them in my garden, with no success. However, in Cornwall, in April, the primroses are out in abundance. They can be seen in their hundreds on mossy banks, on hillsides, in meadows and, of course, in gardens and lawns of houses large and small. They were magnificent and lifted my spirits each time I saw them.

The Atlantic Ocean, of course, dominated the view from all the windows in our cottage and we were lucky enough to see it in many different moods, ranging from calm and placid to tumultuous and turbulent, with great, crashing breakers hitting the cliffs and sending showers of spray in all directions.



It's wonderful to wake in the morning to the sound of the seagulls calling to each other and to walk down to Newquay



harbour past the stalls of mussels, crabs, lobsters, prawns and a variety of freshly caught shell fish on display and emitting their usual fishy odour!

We had a mixture of sun and showers, but nothing to dampen our enthusiasm and, encouraged by my son, I walked up hill and down dale, over beaches and rocks and

was ably assisted by his arm on the difficult bits. By the end of the week, we had visited Mevagissey, Porthleven, Gorran Haven, Praa Sands, Rinsey, Caerhayes Castle, Porth Island and Bedrathan Steps. We even had time to sit on the patio and drink Asti Spumante (my favourite tippie!!)



Thank you, Gareth, for a brilliant taste of Cornwall and here's to the next time!

Margaret M. Jones

June

Flowery banks,	Song-bird pipe
A-drone with bees,	A merry tune -
Dreaming cattle	This is summer,
Under trees:	This is June.

From a poem by Irene F Pawsey

15TH JUNE - FATHER'S DAY, A TIME TO CELEBRATE MALE ROLE MODELS

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on 19th June, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.



Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday in America.

The tradition of celebrating Father's Day gradually spread to other countries, including the United Kingdom. However, the holiday did not become an official holiday in the UK until much later. In fact, it wasn't until 1972 that Father's Day was officially recognised in the UK.

Even before it became an official holiday, however, Father's Day was celebrated in the UK. The day was first observed in the UK in the early 20th century, and it was initially celebrated on June 5, which is the feast day of St. Boniface, the patron saint of fathers.

In the years that followed, Father's Day in the UK was celebrated on different dates. Some people observed the holiday on the third Sunday in June, the same day as in the United States. Others celebrated it on the second Sunday in November, which is still the official date for Father's Day in some countries, including Australia and New Zealand.

Today, Father's Day in the UK is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, just like in the United States. It is a day for children to show their appreciation for their fathers and to thank them for all that they do. Many people give their fathers cards, gifts, and other tokens of appreciation on this day.

In conclusion, Father's Day in the UK has a rich history that dates back more than a century. From its humble beginnings in the United States, the holiday has evolved over time to become a global celebration of fatherhood. Whether you celebrate Father's Day on the third Sunday in June or on a different day, it is a day to honour and appreciate the important role that fathers play in our lives.

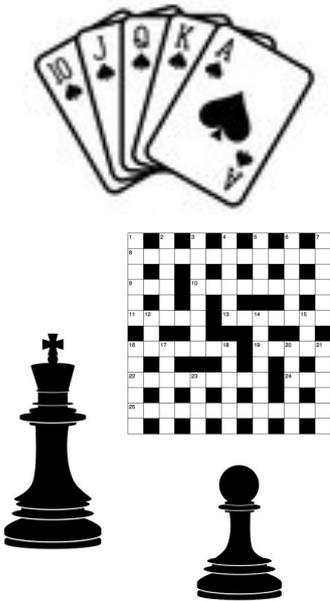
ARTIFICIAL OPPONENTS?

Wordles and Quordles and Octordles too,
Who can be bored with so much to do?
Puzzles online, and less now in print
Is it surprising that I'm starting to squint?

Crosswords and lost words in a grid you must find
Sudoku, Kakuro for the numerate mind,
Backgammon or chess, if that is your sport
And card games of every conceivable sort!

Deep in my cupboard is a box full of games
And a beautiful chess set, abandoned - a shame!
But do you remember (long ago as it seems),
When we played games with people, and not these machines?

By Nigel Beeton



FAITH

When your prayers at times appear to go unanswered,
And the words of your worse doubters seem so true,
When it seems the whole wide world is all against you,
Just put your faith in God and you'll pull through.

When your life is like a maze with no known exit,
And your future appears to be as black as night,
When it seems that all your efforts end in failure,
Just put your faith in God, he'll see you right.

For those who put their faith in God have reason,
For confidence to face each trial and test,
And know better times are just around the corner,
For faith is the soft pillow that gives rest.

By Colin Hammacott



With it being Fathers' Day this month, to the right is a poem by Christina Rossetti which describes the loving fatherhood of God...



'O LORD, SEEK US'

O Lord, seek us, O Lord, find us
In Thy patient care;
By Thy love before, behind us,
Round us everywhere:
Lest the god of this world bind us,
Lest he speak us fair,
Lest he forge a chain to bind us,
Lest he bait a snare.
Turn not from us, call to mind us,
Find, embrace us, bear;
Be Thy love before, behind us,
Round us, everywhere.

By Christina Rossetti (1830 - 94)

SMILE LINES



Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression."

Notices in a church newsheet:

- Organist required: to work with small but trying priest and congregation.
- The Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers to meet at 7pm in the church hall. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- There will be a shared supper at church this Sunday - with prayer and medication to follow.
- The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- The students will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.



Sweets

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

Life in the Circus

A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."



PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

QUIZ ON THE BOOK OF RUTH

- 1. Why did Elimelech go to live in Moab with his family?**
Disagreement with his town leaders; Famine in his home town; Distant relatives invited him
- 2. What happened to Elimelech in Moab?**
He died; He left his wife; He was killed by the King of Moab
- 3. What relationship was Ruth to Naomi?**
Daughter; Granddaughter; Daughter-in-law
- 4. Who said "your God shall be my God"?**
Naomi; Ruth; Orpah
- 5. What did Naomi tell the people in Bethlehem to call her?**
Sara; Rachel; Mara
- 6. Who was Boaz?**
Kinsman of Elimelech; Kinsman of Naomi; Town mayor
- 7. Why did Boaz allow Ruth to glean in his field?**
He was short of workers; She was beautiful; She had looked after Naomi
- 8. What was Boaz doing at the threshing floor?**
Threshing grain; Winnowing barley; Treading grapes
- 9. What did Ruth do while Boaz was sleeping?**
Uncovered his feet and lay down; Gently woke him up; Covered his head and sat next to him
- 10. How did the townspeople regard Ruth?**
As a beautiful woman; As a virtuous woman; As a caring woman
- 11. Why does the kinsman not want to marry Ruth?**
Didn't like her; Already married; Didn't want to spoil inheritance
- 12. What was the name of Ruth's son?**
Obed; Boaz; Jesse
- 13. What was the name of Ruth's great-grandson?**
Jesse; David; Solomon

PENTECOST

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues as if of fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning - and the Church was born.

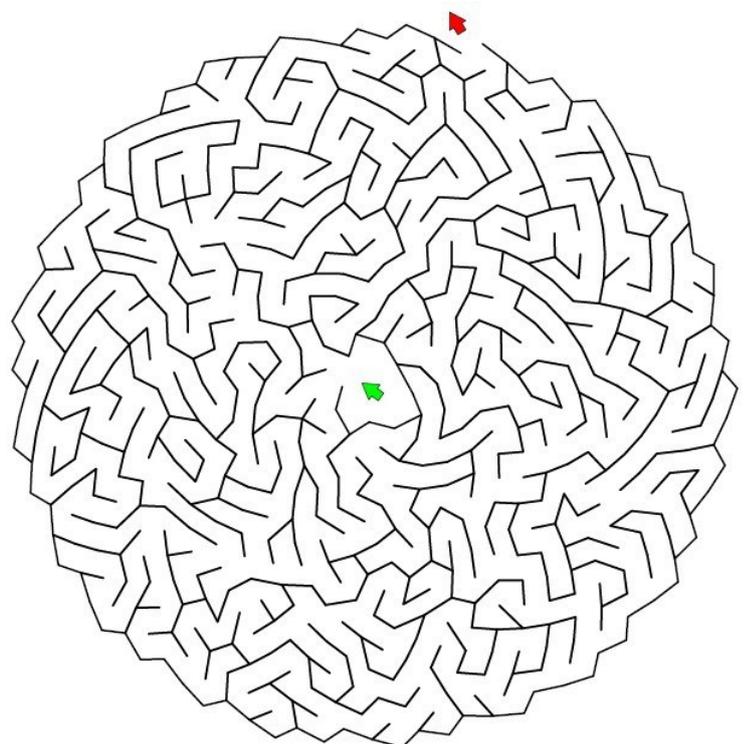
WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the words listed below in the grid opposite?

They can be found in any direction.

Disciples	Pentecost
Drunk	Place
Eternal	Power
Father	Praise
Fires	Praying
Flames	Son
Glory	Spirit
High	Tongues
Holy	Trinity
Jerusalem	Waiting
Languages	Wind
	Wine

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



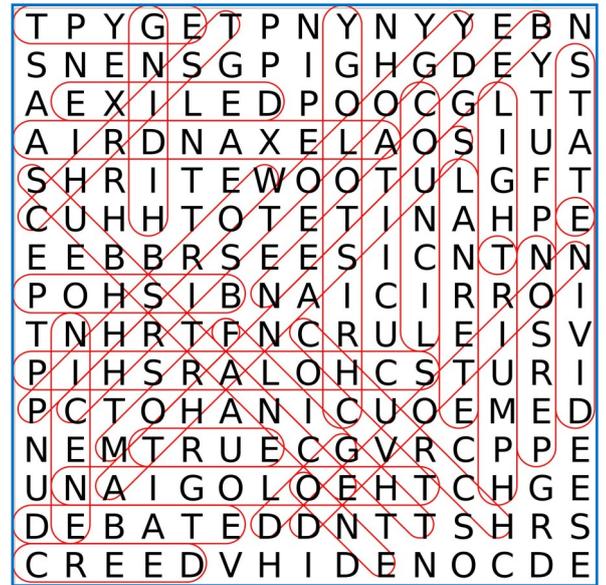
MAZE

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



ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



Thank you to Parish Pump who provide some of the articles and artwork