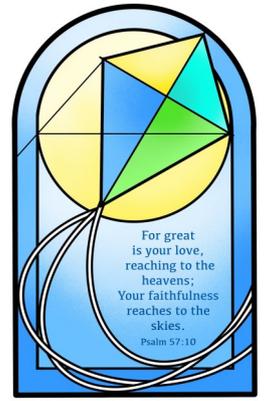


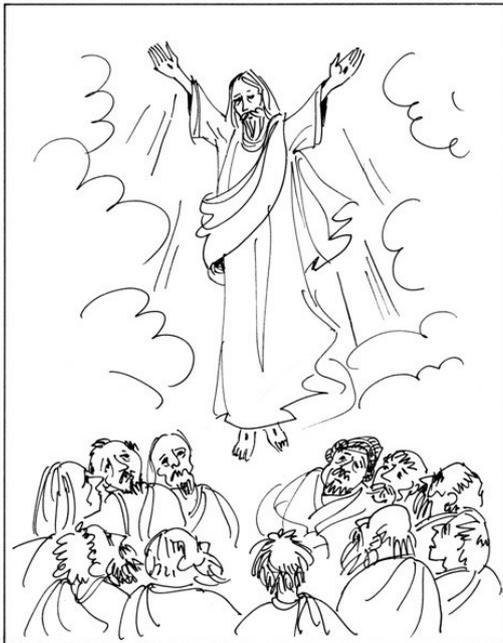
Stockport Sunday School

July/August 2025 Newsletter 62



Recent weeks have been notable ones in the religious calendar - Easter, Pentecost (or Whitsunday as we used to call it) - Holy days and traditional Holidays; and then Ascension Day to mark Jesus' last encounter with His disciples.

A series of events that truly merit the adjective of 'Amazing', a word so frequently used nowadays.



But I suppose for most of us, life is now getting back to its usual routine.



But for Jesus' disciples life was anything but 'usual'.

The Gospels, each with their message for particular groups of readers, vary widely in what they record, and some of the words of Jesus that they do quote are very challenging.

In John's Gospel, he tells how Jesus appears to Peter and his companions while they were engaged in their occupation of fishing just offshore; perhaps trying to get some normality back into their lives. Jesus challenges him with the words 'Simon, son of John, do you truly love me?'. He asks the question three times.

It's a bit like asking a friend, who is going through a difficult time, how they are. Usually the answer is, 'Oh I'm ok, thank you.' But if you repeat the question quietly, you may be allowing them the opportunity to unburden themselves to someone who is prepared to share their problem. If you were to repeat the question a third time, you are asking them at a more serious level, and allowing them time to really address what is the source of their troubles.

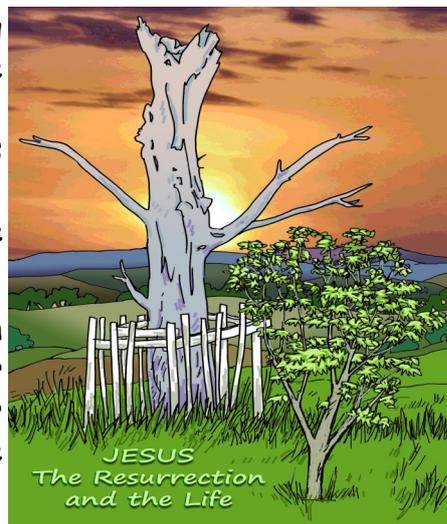
In the case of Peter, Jesus is allowing him to come to terms with his past denial of his Lord, and to take up the challenge of being the leader of the band of disciples in their task of spreading the Gospel news.



Matthew has very little to say about the events following the Resurrection except when Jesus appears to the remaining disciples, when 'some still doubted'. Nevertheless, Jesus tells them 'to go and make disciples of all the nations; not just the Jewish people.' A challenge indeed for men who had been taught that their race were especially favoured by God.

Mark records how Jesus appears to the disciples when they were assembled together and rebukes them for their lack of faith and stubborn refusal to believe their colleagues. This of course included Thomas, to whom He

showed His wounds to convince him of the truth.



Jesus and Thomas

Jesus' rebuke seems like a team manager giving his players a pep talk when they are falling behind and losing their confidence; not taking their opportunities to score; not committing themselves to winning the ball in tackles; not remembering and utilising what they have been taught. Life certainly wasn't easy for Jesus' followers, but they did have the promise of God's Holy Spirit to help and support for them in their endeavours, and they responded bravely and wholeheartedly.

Reading these accounts 2,000 years later, we perhaps sometimes feel like the disciples did, needing reassurance, and direction in our faith as we try to follow our Lord's commands.

Jesus assures us of God's love for each one of us, but any parents know that sometimes love has to be coupled with plain speaking if their children go astray.



UPCOMING SERVICES

As you know, our numbers on a Sunday are depleted with ill health. If anyone feels they could put together a service or part of a service, please have a word with Walter Stead or Judith Higgins. Thank you to everyone who has been able to do services.

July 13 th	Walter Stead
July 20 th	Beryl Manley and Elizabeth Keeling
July 27 th	Judith Higgins
August 3 rd	Walter Stead

Dates for the rest of August and moving into September, have yet to be arranged.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

There are no birthdays in July.

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

18th - Joyce Darvill

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

2nd - Cath Brown

2nd - Joan Thompson

4th - Marjorie Barlow

7th - Janet Moore

8th - Brenda Richards



MISSING YOU

Several of our members are unable to attend our weekly services for various reasons and we want them to know that we miss them and are thinking of them and their families. It is always nice to see and catch up with past members who visit us at our different services when they are able to.



JOYCE DARVILL



Joyce and Colin are currently enjoying a holiday in France in their caravan. She has sent a photograph of the caravan carpet she bought with the cheque she was given on her retirement from working for Sunday School. She had decided she wanted to buy something more tangible with the money and thought this would be a nice addition to their hobby. It does look stunning, thank you for sharing Joyce. We hope you and Colin enjoy the rest of your holiday, the sun definitely seems to be shining for you looking at the blue sky.

POSTAGE STAMPS

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has been bringing in stamps to support the RNLI. Margaret Forster has just sent off another parcel of them to the RNLI to raise much needed funds for their valuable work at sea and all the boats and equipment they need to rescue people in all weathers. It's hard to believe that 2024 was 200 years since the RNLI began. In 1867 Stockport Sunday School members raised money for a lifeboat and it was actually launched on Sykes' Reservoir. At the time it would have been the best they had, but when we look at it alongside the boats and technology of today, it looks almost like a fishing boat. The men and women who have gone out over the years and who still go out in all weathers to rescue people are certainly very brave and deserve all the support we can give them. Thank you Margaret for organising this for us.



Lifeboats



ADVANCE ALARM INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER

At around 3pm on Sunday 7th September 2025, the government will send a test alarm to all smartphones on a 4G or 5G network throughout the United Kingdom. All compatible phones will vibrate and sound a siren noise for approximately 10 seconds. Alongside this, a message will appear on phone screens stating that the alarm is only a test. Many will remember a similar test made back in April 2023, when some people got the test early and others didn't get it at all.

The government states that the alarm could be used in times of danger whether it be flooding or extreme bad weather, so that a message could be disseminated to as many people as possible warning of any danger nearby. They say that it is important they test the system just as people would with fire alarms in their own home.



REMINDER



Just a reminder that there is no newsletter in August, the next one will be in September.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer break, whatever you are doing, lets hope the nice weather lasts a little for us.





SERVICES



SUNDAY 25TH MAY 2025

Walter opened the service by mentioning that two weeks earlier we had celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe. A time of rejoicing after five years of struggle and danger, but there were still difficult times ahead - there was still the war in Japan, extensive damage to building in this country and Germany to repair.



There was also the ongoing damage done to people's lives, loved ones lost or permanently injured. Getting back to 'normal life' as troops returned, severe financial hardship for many and the national economy under pressure and yet it was in such difficult times that the NHS was established.



Walter went on to tell how his own family had

been affected during two world wars.

Looking back on TV coverage there was little mention of the ordeal and suffering of prisoners of war.

During World War 2, Walter's father-in-law, Lesley, had been a POW for three and a half years in Egypt, Italy and Germany. During this time he managed to keep a diary for his young daughter, Pauline, and later published a short book of his experiences. He told of the hardships, the overcrowding, poor conditions and lack of food suffered by those who had been serving their country.

Returning home after the war was not always easy. At first, Lesley's daughter resented the stranger who had come into her life. She had been born whilst her father was away and she was not used to sharing her mother with anyone else. She would ask, "who is this man, why has he come, can't you send him away?"

Many ex POW's found it difficult to settle. The effects of long-term imprisonment and ill treatment could not be readily put aside.

We should acknowledge suffering and sacrifice they all endured on our behalf and be grateful that since 1945, we as a nation have not had to face the challenges that our parents did.



Sadly, there is still conflict in the world. Let us pray that Truth, Justice, Peace and Commitment to the common good will prevail.

SUNDAY 1ST JUNE 2025

The 1st June is officially the first day of summer, when we hope for blue skies, sunny days and time spent outdoors in the garden, countryside or the coast. A time when gardens are most colourful. Judith Higgins read Rudyard Kipling's poem, 'The Glory of the Garden' (see later in newsletter). She told us that the Bible Garden at Bangor Cathedral was being transformed as part of the city's 1500th anniversary celebrations.



During the rest of the service, she told us more about the life of Barnabas. He had been christened Joseph by his parents, Barnabus was a nickname meaning 'son of encouragement', because of the way he helped and encouraged others especially St Paul and his own cousin, John Mark (who wrote Mark's gospel). Barnabus played an important part in the spread of the early Christian Church to both Jews and gentiles, by his own ministry and his support and encouragement of others like Paul and John Mark. St Barnabus' feast day is celebrated on June 11th.

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025

Margaret Jones took this service and we were pleased to welcome Jamie Schofield, who Margaret had invited along to play the piano for the hymns. It was also lovely to catch up with Margaret's daughter, Rachel, who joined us for the service.



Margaret's theme for the afternoon was creation and God's beautiful world. She opened by reading the words of the song 'Think of a world without any flowers' (included later in newsletter). Her other readings were 'Who put the colours in the rainbow' (included later in newsletter) and Psalm 8.

Although she lived in a town Margaret was lucky to have a mother who loved the countryside and often took Margaret on walks in the country or to parks where she learnt about the birds, trees and flowers. Her mother was keen to keep the world as beautiful as God had made it and insisted on taking their litter home and stopped others leaving litter.



Most of us have gardens, large or small, where we enjoy God's creation.

What can we, as individuals, do to keep our planet safe, to stop climate change? David Attenborough can't do it all on his own!

Margaret had visited many different countries and enjoyed going on cruises until one year she witnessed a large cruise liner emptying effluent into the sea and realised how cruise ships were polluting the ocean and affecting marine life.

"The world and all that is in it belong



to the Lord, the earth and all who live on it are His."
Psalms 24:1

She suggested we could all play a part in preserving God's world. Using non plastic shopping bags and bottles, using recycling bins, not buying extra clothes when we didn't really need them.

Margaret learnt a lot from her mother, as parents and grandparents and the older generation we can pass on good practice to the younger generation.

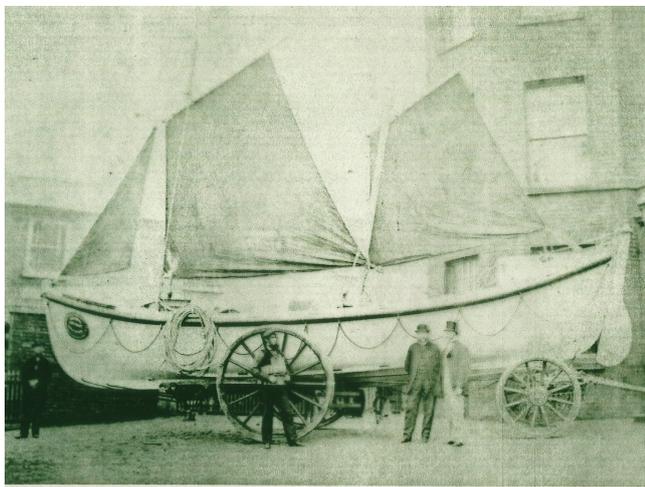
God has given us a wonderful world, let us pray for his help in keeping it so for future generations to enjoy.

FOUNDERS'S DAY, JUNE 15TH 2025

Our speaker, Stuart Dean, had brought two books with him.

The first was by James Burke, a science historian, author and TV presenter, who wrote the book and hosted the TV series in which he explained how science and technology are connected to historical events, nothing can be considered in isolation, all are interconnected.

The invention of the telephone enabled people across the world to communicate quickly and



The Stockport Sunday School Lifeboat in front of the School.

today's technology has made this even easier. Communities are held together by communication.

The second book was 'A History of Stockport Sunday School and its Branches. Stuart showed slides of some of its pages. Our founders were Christians and philanthropists who started the School to teach the poor to read and write and would probably be surprised that the School was still in existence.

There have been many changes in the School throughout its long history as the world has changed.

As well as the Sunday lessons and services there were many weekday activities and societies. Each class and society raised money for public causes, for example the Choral Society raised money for the Infirmary and the Blind Institute. Change is not a new experience to SSS. There have been new buildings and a closure of branch Schools.

We need to change with the times and seek God's help and guidance.

We pray that world leaders will also listen to Him and be led by Him.

Thank you, Stuart, for another interesting service.

SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2025

Walter based his service on commentaries of Luke's gospel written by Margaret Silf. Luke chapter 14 speaks of counting the cost of following Jesus. We need to stay close to the one we follow, however far we drift away He will always stay close to us.

The parable of the lost sheep is told in chapter 15. This parable is being lived out every day by people who care deeply about others and bring them to safety. Some are highly trained (working for the emergency services) others are ordinary people - they may even live in your street.



Later in chapter 15 Jesus tells of the woman who lost one of her silver coins and searched until she found it and rejoiced with her friends when it was found. We may think we have lost God but whenever we meet kindness, generosity, compassion and love then we have found God and others will catch a glimpse of Him when they meet these qualities in us.



Margaret Silf

In the parable of the prodigal son, the younger son asks his father to give him his inheritance. As soon as he has it he squanders it. Eventually he decides to return home, to seek forgiveness. All this time the older son has worked hard for his father, prepared to work for his inheritance. He is angry when he sees his father rejoicing at his brothers return and celebrating it without recrimination. The older brother cannot let go of his resentment. His father subsequently assures him, "See you are always with me and all that is mine is yours." Can we let go of our own ideas of justice and hear that assurance too?



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD TWO SONS.

Finally, in chapter 16 we are told to be faithful in small things and we will be trusted in bigger things. This provides sound guidance for example in how we chose our leaders and how we live our own lives.

SUNDAY 29TH JUNE 2025

Judith Higgins spoke about water. After the warm weather in May, the driest for 50 years, June began with some much needed rain. Farmers and gardeners were pleased to see the drenched soil encouraging plants to grow. Water levels in reservoirs was at an all time low but despite the lack of rain no-one was without water.

Water is mentioned frequently in the Bible, first mentioned in the second verse of the Old Testament.

Some examples from the New Testament:-

- Jesus was baptised by John before beginning his ministry.
- He called His first disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- He calmed the storm and walked on water and was responsible for the large catch of fish.

- The meeting of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well is well-known but the curing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda is not as well known.
- After the last supper, Jesus washed His disciples feet.

Water also appears in the Old Testament:-

- In the story of Moses, his mother saved him from Pharaoh's soldiers by hiding him in a basket of bullrushes in the reeds at the edge of the river.
- When Pharaoh refused to let the Hebrew slaves go, one of the plagues sent by God was to turn the water of the Nile to blood.
- God parted the waters of the Red Sea so that the Israelites could cross but the Egyptian soldiers were drowned.

Water can be a source of power, water wheels and steam engines driving machinery in the mills.

We also saw the damage caused by the flood water sweeping away trees, cars, bridges, houses, and people when rivers burst their banks.

In the Old Testament, floods were seen as God's punishment when He was angry with His people - Noah and the flood.

In developed countries we take water for granted, it is there at the turn of a tap, but we have seen TV pictures of children collecting dirty water from pools to supply their family's needs.

Next time you turn on a tap or take a shower, remember to thank God for His most precious gift of water.



WHEN I SAY I AM A CHRISTIAN

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting, "I am saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost; that is why I chose this way."

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Someone to be my Guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging I am strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak, and I pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are all too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches, which is why I cry His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority; I only know I'm loved.

Author unknown



THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

by
Rudyard Kipling

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You will find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all;
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dungpits and the tanks:
The rollers, carts and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing:--"Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick.
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hand and pray
For the Glory of the Garden, that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!



WHO PUT THE COLOURS IN THE RAINBOW?

Who put the colours in the rainbow?
Who put the salt into the sea?
Who put the old into the snowflake?
Who made you and me?

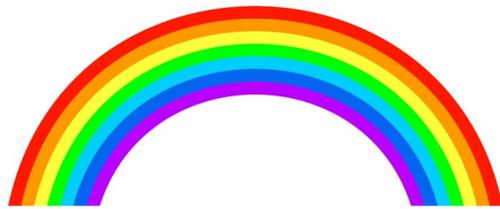
Who put the hump upon the camel?
Who put the neck on the giraffe?
Who put the tail upon the monkey?
Who made hyenas laugh?

Who made whales and snail and quails?
Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?
Who made bats and rats and cats?
Who made everything?

Who put the gold into the sunshine?
Who put the sparkle in the stars?
Who put the silver in the moonlight?
Who made Earth and Mars?

Who put the scent into the roses?
Who taught the honey-bee to dance?
Who put the tree inside the acorn?
It surely can't be chance!

Who made seas and leaves and trees?
Who made snow and winds that blow?
Who made streams and rivers flow?
GOD MADE ALL OF THESE!



THINK OF A WORLD WITHOUT ANY FLOWERS

Think of a world without any flowers,
Think of a world without any trees,
Think of a sky without any sunshine,
Think of the air without any breeze.
We thank You, Lord, for flowers and trees and
sunshine,
We thank You, Lord, and praise Your Holy Name.

Think of the world without any animals,
Think of a field without any herd,
Think of a stream without any fishes,
Think of a dawn without any bird.
We thank You, Lord, for all your living creatures,
We thank You, Lord, and praise Your Holy Name.

Think of a world without any people,
Think of a street with no-one living there,
Think of a town without any houses,
No-one to love and nobody to care.
We thank You, Lord, for families and friendships,
We thank You, Lord, and praise Your Holy Name.

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Easy madeleine babas

Serves 2

100g caster sugar

125ml golden or dark rum

2-4 madeleines

Scoop of crème fraiche or whipped cream, to serve



Put 75ml of water and the sugar in a small pan, and bring to a simmer, swirling the pan to start to help sugar dissolve.

Bring to the boil and bubble for 5 minutes to make the syrup a little thicker, and then add the rum off the heat. Chill the syrup.

Arrange the madeleines in small bowls or glasses and, when you are ready to serve, pour over a good dose of the syrup, leaving to soak for a minute or two. Serve each with a scoop of crème fraiche or whipped cream.



See how the wild flowers grow! They don't work to earn, or craft their own clothes, but even King Solomon with all his wealth was not dressed as well as they are.

Luke 12:27-28

Worry is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

- Anon

If you can't shine, at least twinkle!

- Alistair Begg

Many years ago, a good friend of mine, who I'd met through Stockport Parish Church Operatic Society, chose to have this poem at her funeral. It was beautifully sung by Webster Booth and I've never forgotten the impact that it had on everyone there on that day. I thought that it was appropriate at this time, as, I suspect that most gardens are looking beautiful at the moment (I know that mine is!)

"I leave my heart in an English garden,
Safe where the elm and the oak stand by.
Tho' the years rise and roll away
Still shall those watchmen stay,
Bold in the blue of an English sky.



Breezes in the long grass, ruffling my hair,
Hollyhock and bluebell scenting the air,
Nothing in the world can ever be
Such a sweet memory:
Nothing in the world was ever so fair.

I leave my dreams in an English garden,
Safe where the breezes of England blow,
When the highways are dark and drear,
I'll know there's sunshine here,
Bright, where the roses of England grow.



Dawn on the Aegean reddening the foam,
Sunset over Cyprus, springtime in Rome,
Lovely are the lands where, I dare say,
I could stay for a day
But none of them are quite as lovely as home."
By Christopher Hassall

Margaret Morris Jones



THE VICAR WHO WON WIMBLEDON

Ninety years ago, on 21st August 1935, John Hartley, the British tennis player, died. He was the only clergyman ever to win Wimbledon and was World Number One in both 1879 and 1880 - winning Wimbledon both years.

The Revd John Thorneycroft Hartley was born in 1849 in Wolverhampton and was well connected: his parents were both from Staffordshire industrial business families, and he married Alice Lascelles Murray, daughter of the 4th Earl of Mansfield and a granddaughter of Henry Lascelles, 3rd Earl of Harewood. They had no children.

He won the 1879 Gentlemen's Singles title against Irish champion Vere St Leger Goold in three sets on 15th July, retaining his title the following year. But in attempting the hat-trick in 1881 he lost the shortest ever men's final, 0-6, 1-6, 1-6, in 37 minutes. He was said to have been ill at the time.

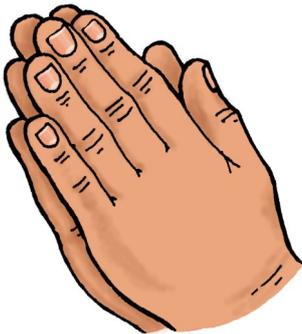
Hartley had become a priest in 1873. He was firstly curate of Christ Church, Southwark, and then became vicar of Burneston, a village in North Yorkshire, from 1874 to 1919. In 1891 he became Rural Dean of East Catterick, and later he was Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.

As an amateur, he received no cash for his Wimbledon wins, and in the course of his first finals win he caught a train to Yorkshire so that he could do his duty and take his services at Burneston on the Sunday. Not only that, but he stayed with a dying parishioner until he passed away on the Monday - the day of the semi-finals. A rain delay helped him to get back to London in time.

At the Golden Jubilee Championships in 1926 he received a silver medal from Queen Mary as one of 34 surviving champions.



LORD'S PRAYER TOPS SHAKESPEARE, DICKENS, CHURCHILL AND NATIONAL ANTHEM IN PUBLIC RECOGNITION POLL



People in the UK are more likely to identify correctly a short extract from the Lord's Prayer - also known as the Our Father - than one from the National Anthem and other sources chosen for their deep cultural resonance, a new poll has found.

The polling, carried out for the Church of England, also found the reference in the prayer to being forgiven and forgiving others was the element people found most meaningful to them.

Pollsters Savanta surveyed more than 2,000 people across the UK. They asked them to match seven famous lines - spanning areas

ranging from literature and history to popular culture - with their source, from a list of correct answers.

Overall, the phrase from the Lord's Prayer was recognised correctly by the largest number of people (80.3 per cent), just ahead of Star Wars (79.9 per cent).

They were followed by Hamlet's "To be or not to be" (73 per cent) the extract from the National Anthem (63 per cent); the line from Churchill's 'The Few' speech (61 per cent); and You'll Never Walk Alone (58 per cent).

Overall, 89 per cent of those surveyed said that they had previously heard of the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father. This was highest among those who described themselves as Christian (95 per cent), but also by 88 per cent of those who said they had no religion.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, is currently leading a 'Lord's Prayer Tour' of events at churches and cathedrals across the north of England attended by thousands of people, as part of his *Faith In The North* initiative.

He said: "In a world of shifting cultures and changing circumstances, the Lord's Prayer remains a steady guide - perhaps never more so than now.

"Lines like 'Give us this day our daily bread' speak powerfully to today's challenges, reminding us to seek sufficiency, not excess, and to consider what 'enough' truly means."

VICTORY IN JAPAN 80TH ANNIVERSARY



Although May 1945 celebrated the end of the war in Europe, there was still a fierce war taking place in the Far East. Japan surrendered on August 14th 1945 ending the Second World War and the following day was declared VJ day. Before VJ Day many troops were deployed to take part in this extremely difficult war and which ended with two atomic bombs being dropped and ultimately killing an estimated

200,000 people. The first atomic bomb was dropped by American troupes over Hiroshima, followed two days later by a second atomic bomb being dropped over Nagasaki.

Earlier this year, in May, we commemorated 80 years since Victory over Europe (VE) Day and on August 15th we will be marking Victory over Japan (VJ) Day. Once again, events will take place throughout the country, serving to remind us of the importance of peace and the lessons we learned from the war.

Some of the events taking place for VJ Day are:-

- A National Commemorative Event will take place at the National Memorial Arboretum at midday, organised between the Royal British Legion and the Government
- 'The Tower Remembers' display of almost 30,000 original poppies from the 2014 installation continues until 11th November 2025
- A civic service will be held at Stockport Parish Church, St Mary's, starting at 11am
- VJ Day Concert with SAFCO and KNDS Fairey Band, at Romiley Forum, Sunday 17th August 4-6, . Tickets and information can be found at www.theforumtheatre.co.uk
- Bell ringing - (Taken from central council of church Bell Ringers website) "VJ Day - ...As part of the nationwide remembrance, bellringers are encouraged to ring at their local tower, beginning at 6:30pm, to honour those who served and sacrificed in the Far East. This symbolic act of bell ringing echoes the celebrations that swept the nation 80 years ago and offers a moment of reflection and gratitude for peace restored."



There will be many more events happening both locally and nationally that you may want to look out for.

Why not let us know how you marked the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day or your memories of VJ Day 80 years ago in the next newsletter in September? For the 75th Anniversary several members sent in their memories and it was very interesting for everyone to read.

16TH JULY - ST OSMUND, BISHOP WITH A GENIUS FOR CATHEDRALS

Osmund is the saint for you if you like cathedrals, or if you have ever met the dean, precentor, chancellor or treasurer of one.

Why? Because nearly 1,000 years ago, it was St Osmund who first invented all those roles, and it was he who also decreed that a cathedral is to be the 'mother church' of a diocese.

Yet Osmund did not start out as a priest. He first appears in history as the newly appointed Chancellor of England, in 1072.

He may well have arrived with William the Conqueror.

But the Church seems to have appealed to him more than straight politics, because in 1078 he was made Bishop of Salisbury. In those days, that included Dorset, Wiltshire and Berkshire. The headquarters of his diocese was the fortress of Old Sarum, set on a hill and surrounded by massive walls.

14 years later, Osmund finished building his own cathedral at Old Sarum, and consecrated it on 5th April 1092. Tragically, only five days later a violent thunderstorm destroyed the roof! Thus, St Osmund became the first of a long line of bishops who, down the centuries, have found their cathedrals harder to manage than they had first anticipated.

Osmund was a brilliant administrator - not only did he initiate the 'cathedral chapter' with the duties of dean, precentor, chancellor and treasurer clearly defined, he also created 32 cathedral canons, to act as advisers to the bishops, and to carry out missionary work for the diocese. Many other cathedral bodies soon followed his example, until his influence on the Church in England was profound.

Osmund left another massive legacy for England: he was deeply involved in the preparation and evaluation of the Domesday survey, and he was at Court the day that the Domesday Book was finally presented to King William in 1086.

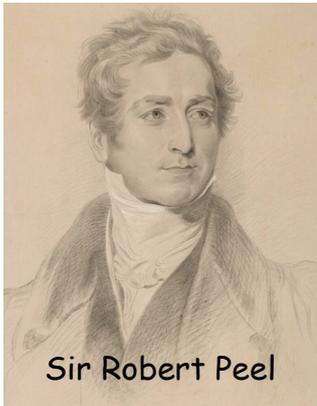


St Osmund on front of Salisbury Cathedral

THE 'FATHER' OF MODERN BRITISH POLICING

It was 175 years ago, on 2nd July 1850, that Robert Peel, who was Prime Minister from 1834 to 35 and from 1841 to 46, died. He founded the Metropolitan Police Service and is seen as the father of modern British policing.

Peel, born in Bury, was one of 11 children of the first Sir Robert Peel, who as well as being a textile manufacturer was also an MP and moved his family down to London. He had his son educated at Harrow and Oxford, where he got a double first; he then entered Parliament and married Julia Floyd: they had seven children.



Sir Robert Peel

Home Secretary twice in the 1820s, Peel founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829, reforming criminal law to emphasise rehabilitation and creating a new kind of police officer, nicknamed a 'bobby' or a 'peeler' for obvious reasons.

A committed Christian and member of the Church of England, Peel became involved with the dispute about employment of Roman Catholics (and non-conformists) in public office - initially supporting the status quo but later changing his views and backing legislation such as the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, partly in order to avoid what he called "civil strife".

He is also known for - in 1846 - repealing the Corn Laws, which had imposed high tariffs on imported grain; and for being one of the founders of the modern Conservative Party. He held old-fashioned views, however, on the function of ministers of the crown, who he regarded as primarily servants of the state.

Peel was an outstanding debater, but rather shy and could be autocratic, which may have been why Queen Victoria allegedly found him difficult. Having survived a failed assassination attempt by a paranoid stalker in 1843 (his personal secretary was killed by mistake), Peel died at the age of 62 after injuring himself when falling from his horse.



Image of 'Peeler' of 1850s



SMILE LINES

BAPTISM

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

LIFE CHOICE

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

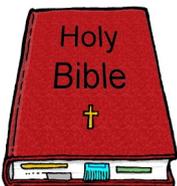


NO WORRIES

A 102-year-old lady was asked if she had any worries about the future. She replied: "Not since I got my eldest son into an old people's home."

SPELLING

Teacher: Donald, how do you spell crocodile?
Donald: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L
Teacher: No, that's incorrect.
Donald: Maybe it is, but you asked me how I spell it.



OPEN WIDE

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'

WHAT EXACTLY IS 'A LIE'?

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote: "A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble."



CHURCH NOTICES THAT DIDN'T QUITE 'MAKE IT'...

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.
Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

VATICAN

Once asked how many people worked in the Vatican, Pope John XXIII replied: "Oh, about half."

PUZZLES

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



Sudoku



WORDSEARCH

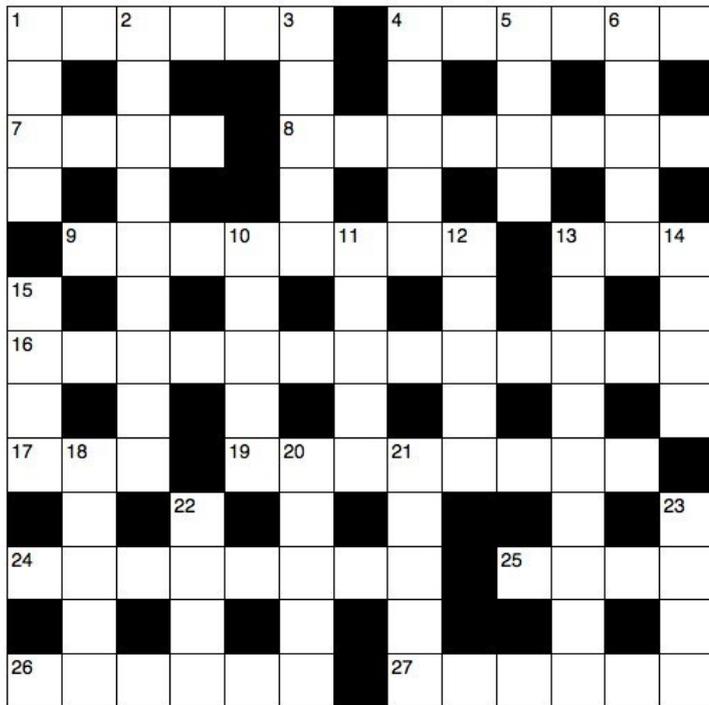
Can you find the words shown in bold capitals in the passage below in the grid?

Words can be found in the grid in any direction.

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

If you ever struggle with **DOUBT**, take heart: so did one of the **APOSTLES**, whose Feast Day is this month. St **THOMAS** just could not believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and **DEAD** on the **CROSS** could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest **SCEPTIC**, because he really wanted to know the **TRUTH**. Jesus could help such a man. And so He **APPEARED** to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply **SHOWED** him the **WOUNDS**. Thomas's response was immediate: "My **LORD** and my **GOD**" (John 20.26ff). Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a **MISSIONARY**. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in **INDIA**, and thus he is the **PATRON SAINT** of architects. It is believed that he was **MARTYRED** by a **SPEAR** on 3rd July, 72 AD in **MYLAPORE**, near **MADRAS**. 46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

CROSSWORD



Can you complete this crossword by answering the clues below

Across

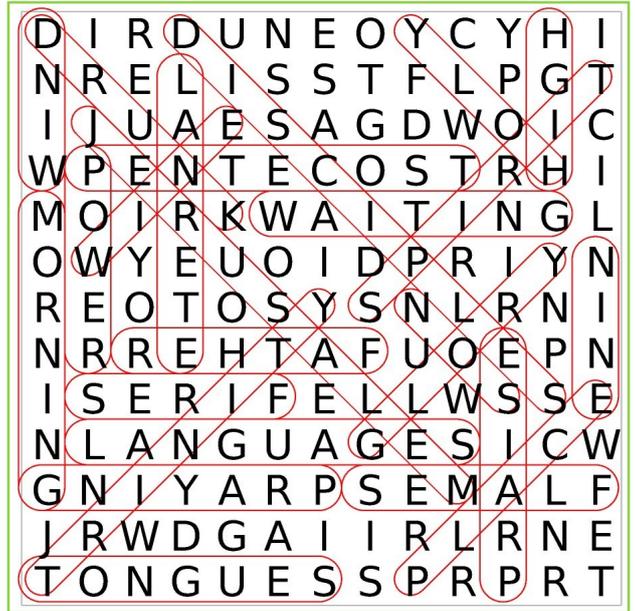
- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me"" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

