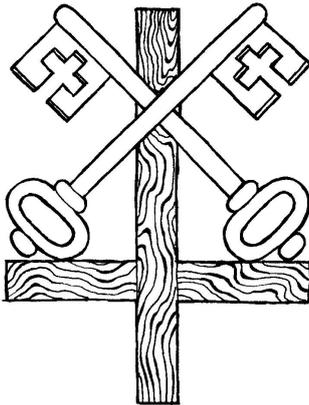
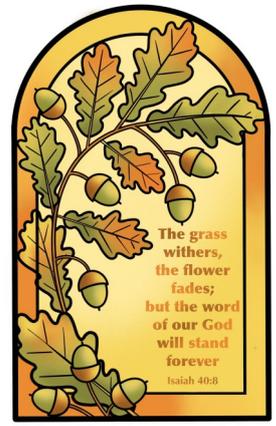


Stockport Sunday School

October 2025 Newsletter 64



Recently I have been reading a series of Bible notes on St Peter's discipleship, both before and after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension.

It was interesting to see how various incidents linked together for this leader of the early Christian church.

A man with many strengths, especially his enthusiasm and his heartfelt commitment to Jesus.

Brave, as when he tried to walk on water, copying Jesus, but then faltering. (We can perhaps sympathise with that, -

would we have even tried ?)

But also with frailties - sometimes hearing Jesus words and not realising the true significance of what He was saying - as when Jesus is warning His disciples about His imminent execution and Peter tells Him He is getting it wrong.

Then, when Jesus is arrested, Peter follows him into the High Priest's Courtyard, a risky thing to do, but then feeling forced to deny Jesus, as Jesus had prophesied.

Yet, in spite of such failings, after the Resurrection, we read of

the encounter of Peter and his companion fishermen with Jesus on the beach.

I am always amused by Jesus' instruction to these experienced fishermen to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. You can imagine Peter thinking 'I'm the one who is experienced in fishing'. But he does as Jesus tells him and lo, they have an enormous catch. It seems an unlikely event, but I remember one evening on a holiday in Scotland, being on a small fishing jetty with no fish in sight on one side, but a seething shoal of fish on the other !

But the real significance of this encounter was in what followed. Jesus challenges Peter by asking him three times, 'Do you truly



St Peter (image held by York Museums Trust)



love me?', reflecting Peter's previous three denials. Peter replies, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You'. Then Jesus, the good Shepherd, says 'Feed my sheep', and thereby passes the earthly leadership of the disciples and his followers to him.

Peter, being Peter, still does not always get it right; doesn't always fully understand God's will for mankind. But he does respond to God's prompting; such as when he acknowledges that the gospel news was open to the Gentile world and not just the Jewish nation; and that their laws on what could or could not be eaten were not mandatory for Gentile converts. Big and potentially risky decisions for Peter and the church to take.



Peter denies knowing Jesus 3 times before the cock crows

As we know, Peter went on to play a central role in the growth of the early church and suffered persecution and martyrdom as a result.

We do not often hear bible readings from his two epistles to the early Christian congregations.

His first epistle instructs them on how to deal with persecution from outside the church, while the second addresses how to deal with false teaching.

Very much the Shepherd leading his flock, rightly honoured by following generations.

And sadly such challenges are still being faced by Christians today, especially in countries with oppressive regimes.

Fortunately we live our day to day lives in less hazardous times today. But we do face a world where parts of society seem to be moving away from Christian values of truth, honesty, and compassion for those for whom life is difficult. Where religious belief is considered unimportant or unnecessary, and you can make up your own rules as you go.

Unlike the world of unbelief, as Christians we have in our Bible a guidebook for what God asks of His people. And by regular worship together, we are reminded and encouraged to follow the guidance therein.

And sometimes we fall short. But when we do, let us remember Peter's ups and downs in life, and what he achieved by trust in God and perseverance. May his ongoing commitment to his Lord be a source of encouragement for us on our journey of faith, so that God's will may be done on Earth.

And a prayer -

Loving God, as we remember Jesus has gained ultimate victory over evil, give us the courage to look to you for the ways to respond to injustice and suffering in our world.

Teach us to love what is right in your sight, to fight against what is wrong and grant us the wisdom to recognise the difference, in Jesus name.

Amen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Walter Stead on October 3rd

Elizabeth Keeling on October 6th

Wendy Hill on October 19th

Margaret Forster on October 26th

Maureen Jewsbury on November 4th



GET WELL SOON

We send our best wishes to those of our friends who have been ill recently and hope that they will soon be fully recovered.



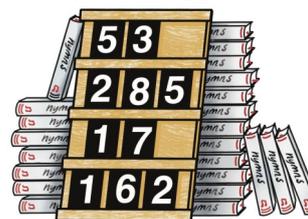
CLOCKS GO BACK!

Just a little reminder that the clocks go back on the evening of Saturday October 25th (or officially 2am on Sunday October 26th).



COMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

5 th October	Beryl Manley
12 th October	Walter Stead
19 th October	Anniversary
26 th October	Judith Higgins



ACTION FOR CHILDREN COLLECTION LANTERNS

It is time for the Action For Children (formerly National Children's Home) lanterns to be emptied and the money to be sent to the charity.

If you have a lantern at home, please can you deliver it to Sunday School or if you would like Judith to collect your lantern, please ring her on 0161 483 4039.



ANNIVERSARY, SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

For our Anniversary Service this year, we will be welcoming Rev Jonnie Hill, Minister at Short Street United Reformed Church in Hazel Grove, who will lead the service. We would like to welcome members, friends and family to join us for this service. It is a special day in the School's calendar, and it is always good to catch up with former friends and colleagues and catch up on all the news after the service. If you are planning to attend if you could let the Officials know to help with catering.

We look forward to welcoming you to celebrate with us.



KNIT 'N NATTER AUTUMN FAIR



Autumn Fair

Come and join us on

28th October, 2025

1.30pm -3.30pm

Compass Point, 96 Nangreave Rd

Stockport, SK2 6DQ

In aid of

Stockport Stroke Support

Group

***Crafts, Toys, Bric a Brac, Tombola,
Raffle and Refreshments***

Free Admission

SHOE BOXES

This year we will not be holding a specific Shoe Box service, but we will collect and bless any Shoe Boxes people have put together during our normal service on Sunday November 16th, before they go on their way to be distributed to poor communities in Eastern Europe.



For anyone who is unable to make up a whole shoe box, but would still like to make a donation, there will be a box in the entrance hall for items that can be used.

Below can be found a list of suggested items that can be used for the different boxes.

BOXES THAT CAN BE MADE UP

BOY	3 - 5 YEARS
BOY	6 - 11 YEARS
BOY	12+ YEARS
GIRL	3 - 5 YEARS
GIRL	6 - 11 YEARS
GIRL	12+ YEARS
HOME	



WHAT TO DO

Once you have filled your shoebox, it is then closed using an elastic band. A recommended donation of £3.50 is asked for each box completed which helps gets the boxes out to the communities who will receive them. Donations can be made online at teams4u.com or can be placed in the envelope attached to the leaflets available in the entrance hall and complete the form to go into the envelope with your donation.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT CAN GO IN A BOX

For Boys Or Girls

Toothbrush and toothpaste	New socks/underwear	Small ball
Hair accessories/brush	Soft toy	Sweets (use by date from June)
Soap and face cloth	Game	Photo
Stationery and paper	Puzzle	Message from you
Gloves	Small musical instruments	
Hat and scarf	Toy vehicles	

Home Box

Candles	Cooking utensils	Plastic containers
Tea towels	Washing up cloths	Hairbrush
Small toiletries	Bowls and cups	Small decoration
Soap	Clothes pegs	Headscarves
New socks and underwear	Jewellery	New makeup



ITEMS THAT SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED

Food (only exception is sweets - use by date from June)	Medicines
Anything highly flammable	Military themed items
Sharp items	
Novels	



SERVICES



SUNDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Judith Higgins began her service by setting a short quiz. If the answers to questions on the Bible were written under each other the first letter of each word spelt out the words FEET. Judith then spoke about footsteps, the story of King Wenceslas whose page was helped to walk through the deep snow by placing his feet in the King's footprints. She also read Mary Stevenson's poem 'Footprints in the Sand', telling of God's undying love and care for us even at the most difficult times of our lives.



The answers to a second quiz spelt out the word HANDS. Several short Bible readings showed how Jesus used his hands to bless and heal people.

Judith told the story behind Albrecht Durer's sketch of the praying hands. Albrecht drew his brother Albert's hands that had been damaged when Albert worked in the mines to pay for Albrecht to go to art college. We also heard the story of Louis Braille and how blind people can read using their hands and how deaf people can use sign language to communicate with others.

Perhaps we are not skillful with our hands and not as steady on our feet as we once were but God has given all a variety of talents that we can use in His service.

SUNDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Walter's lesson was Luke chapter 22 verses 24 - 30, the disciples were discussing who was the greatest.

Do we live in a world that values leaders above followers? Do we think it is important to become a leader and have influence over others? Social media seems to think that a leader is someone with the most followers. In a recent poll, Cristiano Ronaldo was top. At least it wasn't someone flooding the media with messages of hatred and incitement.

In the gospel reading, the disciples were arguing at the 'Last Supper', the last time Jesus would be with them.

The leaders of the day enjoyed power and influence, but





Jesus told His disciples they should not be like them, but should become servant leaders, a leader who serves others.

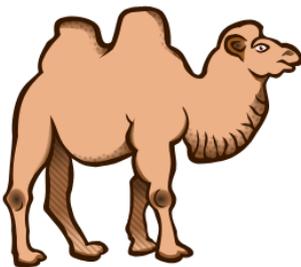
If we think of world leaders today, how many of them are humble or selfless?

In the gospel reading, we can read Jesus' words to His disciples and apply them to ourselves. We may not be leaders, but we do have influence on those around us. Do we treat people with respect and kindness? Let us allow God's spirit to transform our attitudes and actions, may we think more like Jesus so that our world might learn more of His love for them.

Thank you, Walter, you gave us something to think about. Do we apply Jesus' teaching to our own lives and attitudes?

SUNDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

A recent visit to Blackpool Zoo with the grandchildren set Judith Higgins thinking about some of the animals mentioned in the Bible.



Members were able to remember a few although not always in the right context. Christmas cards often show Mary travelling to Bethlehem on a donkey, but there is no mention of this in the Bible. The magi are shown riding camels and again the Bible does not tell us how they travelled, but both these animals are mentioned in different parts of the Bible.

Lions are the most mentioned wild animals in the Bible - everyone remembered the story of Daniel in the lions den, but most people did not know why he ended up being punished in this way.

We looked at several parts of the Bible which mentioned animals and birds. Most people were surprised that the ostrich is mentioned twice.

Although this perhaps was a light hearted look at animals in the Bible it did show all of us that perhaps we do not know the Bible as well as we thought we did and perhaps we could read it more often.



HARVEST, SUNDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025

We would like to thank Sandra Woodhead for stepping in at short notice to take our Harvest Service when our speaker was ill.

She opened the service with Psalm 24 verse 1

"The world is the Lord's and all that is within it".

Sandra told us that in the past, faithful Jews celebrated three harvests. The first for wheat, the second for barley and the third for grapes and other fruits.

They were festivals of thankfulness for the wonder of creation that God shares with all people.

She reminded us that in the Holy Land today there is no joy for a hungry people and we should be mindful of people in different parts of our world who are starving.

During her ministry, Sandra had spent time at churches in Brinnington and Withington, as well as St Georges. These areas had once been thriving farming communities but people had moved away from the farms to work in the mills and houses were built on the fields, but older parishioners still remembered the farming community.

In 1840, the Rev. Harker held a special service inviting everyone (not only church members) to attend and bring in fresh produce to celebrate God's harvest. It was so successful that other churches began to hold special harvest services.



Sandra then read from Deuteronomy chapter 26, beginning at verse 1. When the people arrived in the Promised Land, God told them to take the first fruits of the harvest to the priests to celebrate and give thanks for the wonders of creation.

Sandra remembers how pleased her grandmother had been to receive a basket of fruit from the local church harvest and realised much later that it had not been the fruit but the thoughtfulness and kindness of the church members that meant

so much to her grandmother.

Sandra finished by reading a 'Wisdom Story' by an anonymous writer about a pilgrim who set out on a long journey to find peace and love, but he only found quarrels and separation. It seemed that the more people possessed the more they fought.

Eventually he came to a little shop which seemed to glow. The shop keeper asked what he would like. The pilgrim said he was looking for peace, a cure for the sick, people to have enough to eat and all children to have a chance of education.



The shopkeeper replied that he was sorry that he didn't supply the fruits, he only had the seeds.

It is what we do with the seeds, it is entirely up to us.

Thank you, Sandra, for an interesting and inspiring service.

At the end of the service, Joyce and Margaret served tea, coffee and cakes. Thank you

to Pam Bowdon who baked some of the buns. Margaret Forster delivered our harvest gifts to Wellspring.



FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I dreamed I was walking
along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that
during the low periods of my life, when I was
suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord, "You promised me
Lord, that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods
of my life there have only been
one set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you."

- *Mary Stevenson*



LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Halloumi with honey roasted grapes and thyme

Serves 2-3

200g black or red grapes (or a mixture)

2 tsp sherry vinegar

2 tsp olive oil

1 tbsp honey

pinch of chilli flakes

2 thyme sprigs, leaves picked

250g halloumi, sliced

2 handfuls of rocket

Flatbreads, to serve



Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Put the grapes in a small baking dish and drizzle with the vinegar, oil and honey. Sprinkle over the chilli flakes and thyme, and toss everything together.

Roast for 15-20 mins until the grapes just start to burst. Meanwhile, fry the halloumi slices in a dry non-stick pan until golden on both sides.

Arrange the rocket on a small platter, top with the halloumi and spoon over the grapes and any juices from the dish. Serve with flatbreads.

No one is so much alone in the universe as someone who denies the existence of God. - Johann Richter



Beauty is God's handwriting. - Ralph Waldo Emerson



There is no better proof of friendship than to help our friends with their burdens. - Augustine



"RED IN AUTUMN"

As Autumn time is fast approaching, and the trees are beginning to show their Autumn colours, it reminded me of a little boy, named Richard, who, over 40 years ago, was in my Reception Class at Brindale Primary School. That year, each class was asked to make a contribution to an Autumn Concert, and I asked Richard, who was bright and confident, if he would say an Autumn poem. We chose a poem together, and it was called "Red In Autumn".



Years later, when Friends Re-united was available, Richard contacted me online, asking if I was the same Margaret Jones who had taught him at Brindale Primary School. I had lost touch with him when he left to go to Secondary School, but, apparently he had gone on to Further Education and was training to be an accountant. Lovely news!



Here is the poem, which he recited at the Autumn Concert, sitting in the school hall on a red and yellow cardboard mushroom!

"Red in Autumn"

Tipperty-Toes, the smallest elf,
Sat on a mushroom by himself,
Playing a little tinkling tune
Under the big, round harvest moon;
And this is the song that Tipperty made
To sing to the little tune he played.



"Red are the hips, red are the haws,
Red and gold are the leaves that fall,
Red are the poppies in the corn,
Red berries on the rowan, tall;
Red is the big, round harvest moon,
And red are my new little dancing shoon."

By Elizabeth Gould

Margaret Morris Jones



INDEPENDENT AGE'S SCAMWISE INFORMATION

Unfortunately, these days scammers are getting cleverer all the time and it is important to be vigilant. Independent Age have produced a booklet 'Scamwise' which outlines some of the things to look out for and advising what to do if you think you may have been scammed. The following includes some of their information:-

Tips for spotting scams:-

- ◆ You may be contacted out of the blue by a company or person you have not heard of or even that you have heard of but they are asking for something unlikely
- ◆ You are told to take urgent action, pushing you that you don't want to miss out or that you may be at risk legally or financially if you don't do what they are asking
- ◆ You believe that what they are saying is unlikely - if it sounds too good to be true it usually is
- ◆ You are told to keep it a secret, even to the extent of advising you not to ring, for example, your bank to check something is true
- ◆ You feel the communication is unprofessional, maybe because of bad spelling and grammar, or they are being over familiar or they are using an unusual email, a mobile number or a PO Box
- ◆ You are asked for money upfront - maybe suggesting that you have an inheritance to come or that you have won a competition, or even just they are asking for a large amount of money before goods or services have been actioned.
- ◆ You are asked for personal or banking information. Never give out your passwords, bank account details, four digit bank card PIN or National Insurance number.

Some advice given:-

- ◆ Ask for identification before letting anyone into your home
- ◆ Put up a 'no cold callers' sign
- ◆ Only pay for work being done once it has been completed
- ◆ Cover the keypad when using cash machines
- ◆ Keep an eye on your bank accounts and if anything looks suspicious or you don't recognise it, contact your bank
- ◆ Where possible, use cash machines inside banks
- ◆ Ensure you use strong passwords on the internet including numbers, letters and symbols where possible
- ◆ Install antivirus software on your computer and update it whenever prompted
- ◆ Don't give anyone access to your computer, especially if they contact you to say they can see there is a problem with your computer. Hang up immediately.
- ◆ Hang up on cold callers

To obtain a copy of the booklet or one of their other publications, ring 0800 319 6789 or by visiting independentage.org/publications.

Thank you, Beryl Manley, for supplying the leaflet for information.



OCTOBER 1ST THERESA OF LISIEUX - MAKING THE MOST OF LIFE

Theresa of Lisieux (1873-97) should be the patron saint of teenage girls and young women who want to make the most of their lives, despite being constrained by family and school or work.

Theresa grew up in a strict, devout Roman Catholic middle-class family in France, one of four sisters. Her father was a watch-maker. Like her sisters, she entered a Carmelite convent at 15, and stayed there. She was never able to go anywhere, do anything extraordinary, or hold any responsibility. She died at the age of 24 of tuberculosis. Yet this quiet young Carmelite nun became so nationally popular that she was declared patroness of France 50 years after her death. Not bad for someone who didn't get out much!



The relics of Therese of Lisieux

So how did Theresa do it? By not intending to do it at all. Theresa never set out to become famous: instead, she quietly determined in her spirit to seek God, and, having found Him, to honour Him in her life, to live as closely as she could to the teaching in the gospels.

The result was a life so spiritually radiant that her convent asked her to write a short spiritual autobiography of her pilgrimage. Theresa obliged with 'L'Histoire d'une Ame', which soon became so popular that it was translated into most European languages

and several Asiatic ones. Theresa also prayed for people who were ill, and there are many reports of miraculous healings that took place in answer.

After Theresa died in 1897, her book just went on selling. People found the artless sweet simplicity of her observations on her pilgrimage as a Christian compelling. Theresa reminded people of what Christianity was really all about: simple but utter devotion to Christ, not endless outward observance of religion. Theresa helped many in the Roman Catholic Church in France to remember the first principles of their faith.

THE LEAVES

The leaves had a wonderful frolic.
They danced to the wind's loud song,
They whirled, and they floated, and scampered,
They circled and flew along.

The North Wind is calling, is calling,
And we must whirl round and round,
And then when our dancing is ended
We'll make a warm quilt for the ground.

Author unknown



JUST FOR SMILES

Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."



All Angels?

The slightly harassed minister stood on the railway station platform with a number of lively Sunday School children, while the two Sunday School teachers went off to buy tickets. A porter came up to him and asked: "Excuse me, are you St Michael and all the Angels?"

Oddest

The parish magazine was reporting on a recent parish away-day at the seaside. It said: 'The results of our competition for the oddest item found on the beach were: First prize: Mrs Wainwright; second prize: The Vicar; and third prize, Mr Simpson.'



If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church and announced: 'Children: free'.



Listening

While visiting a cathedral recently, I couldn't hear the service over the chatter of the two people sitting in front of me. Finally, I tapped one of them on the shoulder. "Excuse me," I said, "I can't hear."

The reply was swift and indignant. "I should hope not! This is a private conversation."

Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.

PUZZLES

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



Sudoku



WORDSEARCH

To St **LUKE**, whose **FEAST-DAY** is 18th October, we owe a beautifully **WRITTEN GOSPEL** as well as the Book of **ACTS**. He was a **GREEK PHYSICIAN** and **FAITHFUL TRAVELLING** companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life **PAUL** noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the **COMPASSION** of Christ, and offers us moving **PARABLES**, such as the **GOOD SAMARITAN** and **PRODIGAL SON**. **WOMEN** figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more **POOR** people, more **LEPERS**, more '**SINNERS**', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the **EARLY CHRISTIANS** moved away from **JERUSALEM** into the **PAGAN** world, and especially on to **ROME**.

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

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

ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations



"Good news on the lottery-funding for the organ repairs, Vicar – three of our numbers came up for £25!"