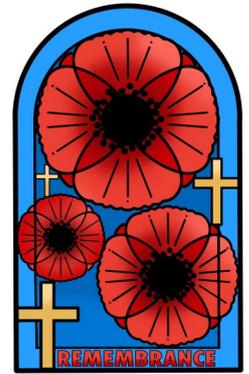




# Stockport Sunday School

November 2025 Newsletter 65



Early last month I attended a fund raising event for what we all know as St Ann's Hospice.

In fact, for the record, as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 the Hospice has changed its name to the 'Moya Cole Hospice'. Dr Moya Cole OBE was a distinguished cancer specialist at the Christie Hospital and in 1967, together with the then Bishop of Manchester, had the idea of building a hospice for Greater Manchester.



This project was established in 1969 and the hospice at



Dr Moya Cole OBE

Heald Green opened in 1971 and has grown ever since. A new building to replace the original is due to be opened very soon. At the meeting, I was fortunate to sit next to one of the ladies who was involved from the very early days in the project; when the initial efforts involved coffee mornings and social events! Later major funding was achieved, but 'Great oaks from little acorns grow!'

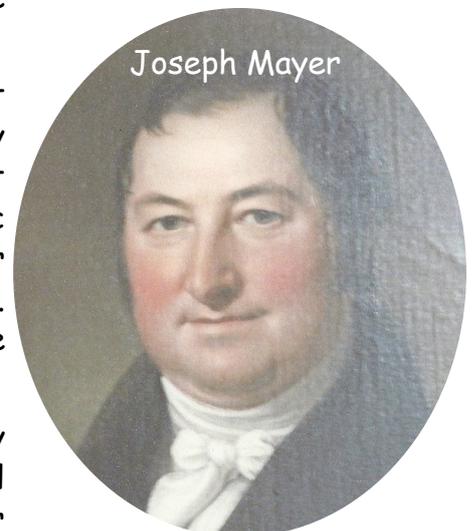
I felt it was a privilege to sit with her and hear her stories in the light of the subsequent history of this highly valued initiative.

These thoughts were prompted by the opening comments of our Anniversary preacher, the Rev Jonnie Hill. He looked back at the origins of our School, its name, what

it's aims had been and how things had altered over the years to meet the changing needs of society.

The original funding of SSS was very different to St Ann's. Joseph Mayer and his many colleagues were wealthy businessmen, factory owners, and traders. But like St Ann's founders, they were conscious of a pressing public need in their time; namely to educate children for their personal wellbeing and for the sake of our town as a whole. They joined together to take steps to remedy the situation, and very successfully too.

As we know, those tasks were taken over in due course by the state but religious education coupled with social activities took their place. In our day, there are still major social problems, not least the problem of homelessness, which organisations such as Wellspring address.



Joseph Mayer

However, the need for religious action is more problematical in a society where time seems at a premium. In that context, the words of one of our hymns in the service seemed to jump out of the page.

*'In our joys and in our sorrows,  
Days of toil and hours of ease  
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,  
'Christian, love me more than these!'*

What is the significance of the words 'days of toil'. For me, it has hints of compulsion, weariness.

Toil to obtain payment for life's essentials. That is one thing. Toil at the expense of family life just to achieve material wealth is another.

'Hours of ease' seems to imply indulgence somehow, selfishness even. Yet we all need to have some time to relax and recharge our batteries.

Whatever, time is God's gift to us, and we are called to use it wisely, responsibly. Not to the detriment of our relationships with one another.

St Ann's and SSS have one thing in common - a history of people finding time to help others.

In loving God we are called to love each other, - family, friends, and all we meet.

May we always be open to God's guidance as we seek to serve Him through our fellowship together at SSS.



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year Remembrance Sunday takes place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November when our speaker will be Peter Hall. We look forward to hearing him at this special service.

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



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Maureen Jewsbury on November 4<sup>th</sup>

Gerald Walsh on November 20<sup>th</sup>

Joyce Sellers on November 27<sup>th</sup>

Judith Higgins on December 4<sup>th</sup>



## THINKING OF YOU

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



## SHOE BOXES

We hope people will be able to donate shoe boxes for Teams 4 U again this year. There will be leaflets available in School suggesting items that can be included. As prices are rising we understand that people may not be able to fill a shoe box but if anyone would like to donate individual items there will be a box available in the entrance hall to put them in and these will be combined to fill a box.

# T4U

The shoe boxes will be blessed at the service on November 16<sup>th</sup> before being collected to start their journey to people across the world. Please make sure that boxes or donations are in School on or before 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you.



## CANDLE AND CAROL SERVICE

This year the Candle and Carol Service will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December and will be taken by members of The Triangle. This is always a popular and enjoyable service and you are invited to bring family and friends along to join us.





**CHRISTMAS POST FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERS**

Once again, the post box will be out in the entrance hall of Compass Point for members to post their Christmas cards to each other. The post box will be out on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.



**2026 CALENDAR**

January 18th	Election of Inspectors
January 25th	Committee Meeting 3.15
February 1st	Bible Sunday
February 16th - 21st	Kites Pantomime Week
March 15th	Mothering Sunday
March 29th	Palm Sunday
April 5th	Easter Sunday
April 19th	Committee Meeting 3.15
June 14th	Founders' Day
June 28th	Committee Meeting 3.15
September 13th	Harvest
September 20th	AGM
October 18th	Anniversary
November 8th	Remembrance Sunday
December 6th	Christmas Post
December 13th	Candle and Carol Service
	Christmas Post
December 20th	Official's Service
December 27th	No Service



**T4U**



## SERVICES



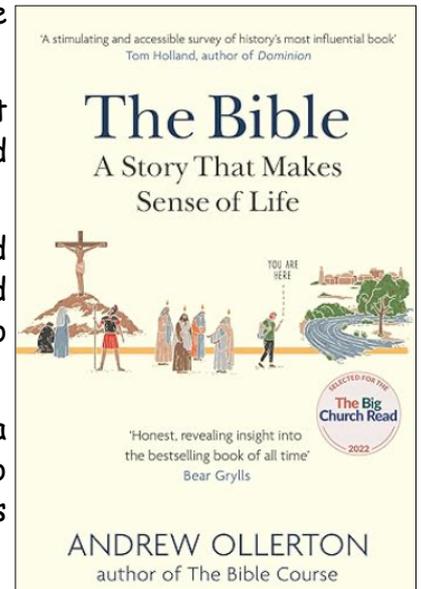
### SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

Beryl Manley led this service and also played the piano for the hymns.

She had recently been reading the book, 'The Bible - a story that makes the sense of life!' by Andrew Ollerton. Beryl read extracts from the book during the service.

Genesis tells how the people of Sodom and Gomorrah turned away from God and built the tower of Babel and were punished by God by being scattered through the earth. They were no longer able to speak to each other or understand each other.

God chose to bless Abram and promised to make his family into a great nation if he continued to obey Him. He moved his family to Canaan. He was blessed with a son late in life and his descendants became the twelve tribes of Israel.



By the end of the book of Genesis, Joseph's family were living in Egypt. Many years later the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt.

In the New Testament we can read how God sent His Son Jesus into the world.

Today we live in a violent world and people are not living in harmony. There was a discussion about the rise in anti sematism.

The book went on to speak about how Paul spread the word to Jews and Gentiles using the communication methods of the time, letters and epistles. He believed there was no difference between Jews and Gentiles. All are God's children.

Thank you, Beryl. You gave us a lot to think about.



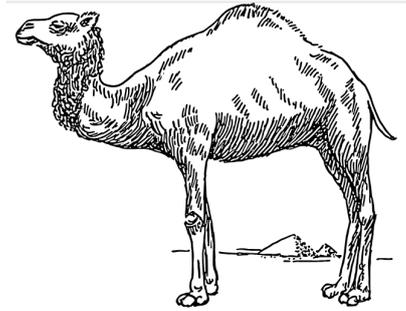
### SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

In His teaching, Jesus very often referred to everyday aspects of daily life which His listeners could identify with.

And often this would involve animals, a subject Judith had referred to in her recent Service. Walter followed up this theme, looking at some specific examples. The most frequently used example by far was sheep; mainly due to Jesus referring to His role as the good Shepherd to us, His flock. Lions and fish were next on the list. And as for the Jonah's

'whale', he doesn't get a mention; Jonah was swallowed by a 'large sea monster' according to the Bible text.

The first animal we looked at was the Camel, referred to when the rich young man asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life.



Jesus realised that the problem was the man's attachment to his wealth and hence his reference to the Camel and the Eye of a Needle.

(Sometimes, modern commentators suggest the 'Eye' was actually a very narrow passage in Jerusalem, but apparently that is untrue).

Jesus is telling the man that eternal life is impossible if he doesn't change his priorities in life, and that remains a challenge for everyone - as the saying goes, the love of money is the root of all evil.



The next animal was the Dog. In Jesus time they might be kept as pets, or possibly working dogs, but many would be wild scavenging dogs spreading disease.

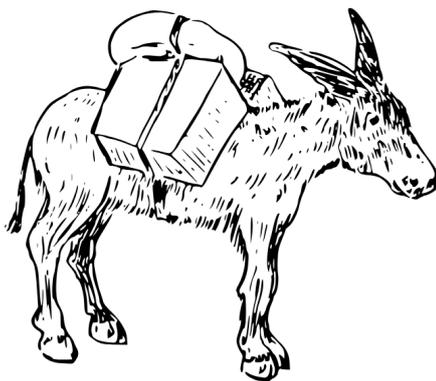
They are referred to when a Syrian woman approaches Jesus to ask Him to heal her seriously ill son. When Jesus refers to such an act feeding the dogs, it is a shock for us.

What He is really stating is that His ministry must be first to the Jews, God's chosen people.

It would be unusual for a foreign woman to approach a man such as Jesus, even more so for her to challenge His comments. Perhaps Jesus recognised her personality and uses strong words to test her out. She succeeds in meeting His challenge and in doing so shows that Jesus' message of God's grace is for all mankind.



The next animal we looked at was the Sheep. In the New Testament, the only reference to Sheep is with regard to Jesus' commitment to us, His flock, other than that they were sold in the Temple for sacrifices.



The care and hardship associated with being a shepherd, his willingness to defend his flock from danger, encapsulate Jesus' care for us. For our part, like sheep, we are called to trust in Him and to follow in His footsteps.

Lastly, we looked at the Donkey, in the context of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

In those days, Donkeys were seen as beasts of burden whereas horses were associated with war.

It was considered improper for monarchs to ride a horse in peacetime. Instead royalty would ride a donkey to demonstrate their peaceful intentions.

That was Jesus' message to the people and authorities. He was and is a Lord who comes in peace; a meek and gentle King.

## ANNIVERSARY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2025



Rev. Jonnie Hill

The Anniversary speaker this year was Rev. Jonnie Hill from Short Street URC and several other churches in our area.

He began by asking the question, "What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the name Stockport Sunday School?" Suggested answers were - children, learning, singing, teaching. But now we are a church full of grown ups, the reality does not fit the name, it does tell our story, we are a family of faith that keeps evolving.



He asked if we could complete the saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones ...." We would say that words can never hurt me. In Ireland they say names can never hurt me. In fact names can be wounding and hurtful. Walter read Jonnie's chosen lesson, Genesis chapter 32, beginning at verse 22, the story of how Jacob's name was changed to Israel. Jacob walked away from the encounter with the stranger wounded but blessed.

In our own lives we may encounter minor battles and have fears and regrets; a strong faith does not mean we will have an easy life. During our lives we may have many names, child, parent, teacher, carer, but God calls us all 'beloved'.



On our Anniversary Sunday, we remember and give thanks for all those who went before and founded our School and all those who taught there; for those who are members today, as we wrestle with change, doubts and falling numbers. May each of us remember that God endures forever and that we are blessed and loved by Him.

Thank you, Jonnie, for an inspiring and meaningful service. We look forward to your next visit.

At the close of the service, we enjoyed cream scones, cakes and tea or coffee, which had been prepared by Margaret Forster and Joyce Darvil. Thank you both. We would also like to thank Cath Brown who once again provided the beautiful flower arrangements in autumn colours.

## SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

Judith Higgins spoke about neighbours who were moving house. Would anyone ever consider living in a stately home?

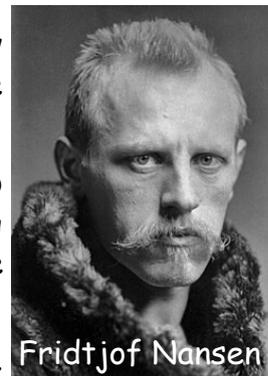
She spoke about three men who had been born into rich families who had given up a life of luxury to travel the world to tell people about Jesus and live amongst the poor and underprivileged.

St Francis Xavier joined the Society of Jesus caring for the sick and incurable and sleeping in cattle sheds and begging for food.

Dunstan was a relative of the royal family of Wessex, but gave up his wealth to become a monk. Eventually he became Archbishop of Canterbury. He crowned King Edward at Bath and wrote his coronation ceremony which has been the basis of all the coronation ceremonies for the Kings and Queens of England since. St Anthony spent 80 years living in a cave, praying and speaking with God.

God visited Elijah as he hid in a cave (1 Kings chapter 19) and Matthew tells us how Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness fasting before he began his ministry.

Finally she spoke of the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen, who after retiring from his explorations dedicated his life to helping groups of refugees and the service of the homeless people of the world.



Fridtjof Nansen

If we envy the homes of others, perhaps we should remember those who have no homes, those living in tents in refugee camps and those sheltering in schools, hospitals and cellars as their homes are destroyed and become part of war zones and give thanks to God for what we have.



### COMING EVENTS AND SPEAKERS



November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Walter Stead
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Sunday Speaker Peter Hall
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Judith Hadfield (The Shoe Boxes will be blessed during this service)
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Judith Higgins
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	First Sunday in Advent
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Walter Stead Christmas Post
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Candle and Carol Service Christmas Post
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Officials Service
December 28 <sup>th</sup>	No service



*Do the maths ... count your blessings. - Anon*



*Why is 'abbreviation' such a long word? - Anon*



## KNIT 'N' NATTER

Congratulations to all those who organised or supported the Knit and Natter Autumn Fair. Alongside a raffle, guess the weight of the cake and a tombola, there were several stalls selling lots of different items including knitted, crocheted and sewn goods, art work, soft toys and a white elephant. The Fair raised the amazing amount of £942.20 to support the Stockport Stroke Group.



## KNIT 'N' NATTER

The Knit 'N' Natter group were pleased to see their VJ Day celebrations shown in the local MP, Lisa Smart's, recent leaflet. They had been pleased to welcome Lisa to their celebrations, and this was an added bonus.

**CELEBRATING VJ DAY**

MP celebrates local spirit and pride

MP Lisa Smart has been out across the constituency this summer, visiting local groups, volunteers, and community events - including the Summer Community Wellness Festival in Vernon Park and VJ Day Celebrations at Compass Point.

Lisa said: "I was delighted to join the VJ Day Celebrations. It's always wonderful to come together, celebrate the pride we share in our community, and the great work taking place."

## BOWLING CLUB

Apologies to Beryl Manley and the Bowling Club, these pictures were omitted from previous newsletters.

Her first presenting was on June 24th when she presented two cups and the bowlers had a lovely day.

Beryl held her President's Day on 9th August, when she presented the winners with cups and the runners up with a cheque and a personal gift from her. They all had a great day.



# LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



## Recipe

### *Pumpkin curry*

*Serves 3-4*

*1 litre vegetable stock*

*500g-600g butternut squash, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces*

*100g fine green beans cut into bite-sized pieces*

*100g baby corn cut into bite-sized pieces*

*2 onions cut into bite-sized pieces*

*1 courgette sliced*

*4 tbsp fish sauce*

*Small handful of dill roughly chopped, plus extra to garnish*

*Steamed jasmine rice, to serve*

#### *Chilli Paste*

*2 large hot red chillies, chopped*

*2 large green chillies*

*4 garlic cloves, chopped*

*2 small shallots, chopped*

*2 tsp shrimp paste*



First, prepare the chilli paste, if using. Using a blender or pestle and mortar, combine the chillies, garlic, shallots and shrimp paste. Blend or pound to a smooth paste.

Heat a large pan over a medium heat, and then fry the chilli paste for 3-5 minutes until fragrant.

Pour in the stock and bring to a gentle boil. Add the squash and simmer for 15-20 minutes.

Stir in the beans, corn, onions and courgette. Simmer for 10-12 minutes or until all the vegetables are tender.

Season the curry with fish sauce and stir in the chopped dill. Taste and adjust seasoning with more fish sauce or ground black pepper if needed.

Serve the curry garnished with extra dill and jasmine rice.



### **Kites Group**

The Kites Group are busy preparing for their February 2026 show Peter Panto to be held at Compass Point. Tickets will be available soon on [www.kitesgroup.com](http://www.kitesgroup.com).

# FRIENDSHIP



*"A true friend reaches for your hand and touches your heart."*

*"Make new friends, but keep the old, for the new ones are held by a silver thread, but the old ones by anchors of gold."*

The above two quotes I found in one of my autograph books.

One of the saddest things about growing old is that, sadly, inevitably, your oldest friends die and I am reaching the stage where there are only a few people left to share my memories with. Yes, I have many acquaintances, but, that is not the same as someone who remembers your school days, college days or pushing prams together round the park!



But, as I said, this is inevitable, so I thank God for the wonderful friends that I have shared my life with and all the happy memories that are tucked away in my heart.

Here is a little poem about friendship, which I wrote about 10 years ago.

Margaret M. Jones

## "FRIENDSHIP"



We make many friends as we go through life,  
And each has a place in our heart  
There are some whom we love, and some whom we like,  
And some we miss, when we're apart.

Our lives would be poorer without our friends  
- some stay with us all of our life,  
When we laugh, or we cry, a friend always stands by,  
And is with us in moments of strife.



We can tell them our secrets and plans.  
We can share happy moments each day.  
As we grow old together, we can face stormy weather,  
And they help us to cope on life's way.

So hold onto the friends that you've made,  
Keep them closer, as each year unfolds.  
You'll never forget them - they're part of your life.  
They're more value than silver or gold!



Margaret M. Jones

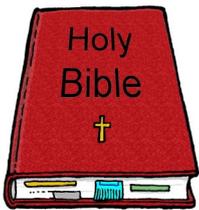
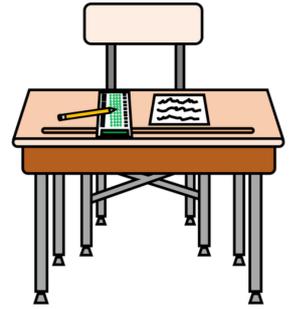


## SMILE LINES

### Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God.

The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."



### Careful!

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments."

### Dry

My minister friend put hot-air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks, took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine, but someone had scribbled on the dryer: "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."



### Hear, hear

A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. "Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

### Where there's smoke...

At our church, it was common for the minister to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would often bring in a household item, and then relate it to a teaching from the Bible.

One morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector.

My young son immediately raised his hand. "It means Daddy's cooking dinner."

# PUZZLES

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

Sudoku

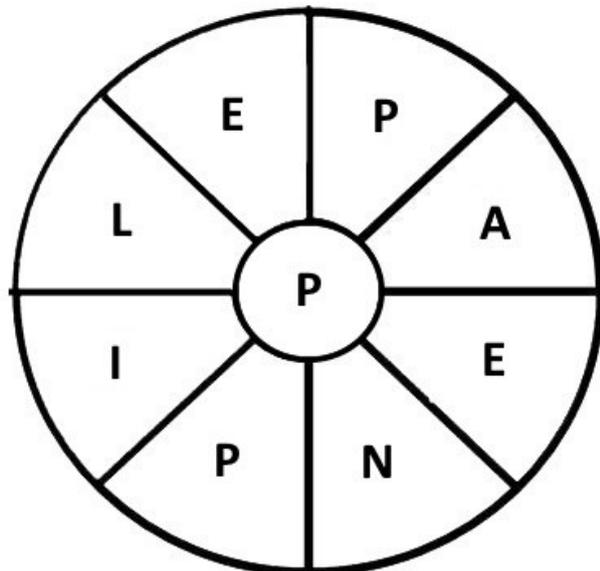


## WORD WHEEL

How many words can you make using the letters in the word wheel?

Words must be four letters or more, each word must contain the central letter E. Plurals and proper nouns are not allowed. There is at least one nine letter word.

Good score 9+ Excellent 13+



## WORDSEARCH

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



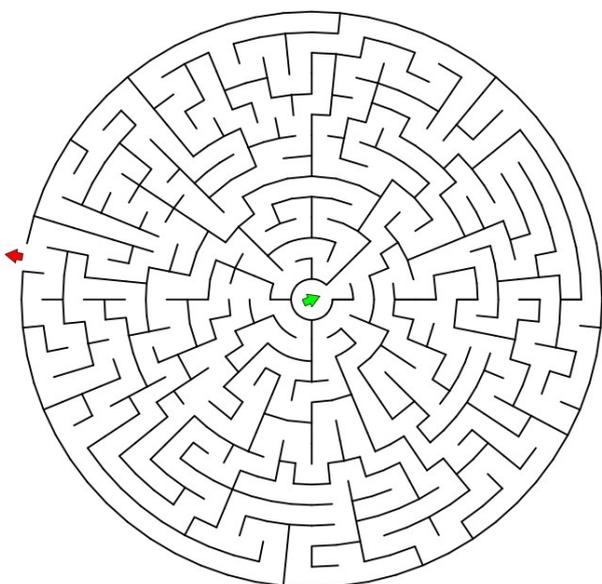
P	F	I	F	E	W	L	A	M	B	D
N	A	D	E	I	E	J	M	E	P	D
J	S	M	W	I	R	E	E	S	W	N
P	O	I	R	R	D	S	I	S	O	I
C	R	H	E	O	N	U	T	A	R	L
P	A	T	N	I	A	S	E	G	L	B
J	E	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	D	A
P	S	B	A	P	T	I	S	T	O	N
S	R	N	T	N	O	R	T	A	P	D
I	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	W	O
C	I	L	O	T	S	O	P	A	A	G

St **ANDREW** is the **PATRON SAINT** of **SCOTLAND**, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8<sup>th</sup> century to **FIFE** and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

Andrew was one of the **FIRST DISCIPLES** of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the prophet **JOHN** the **BAPTIST**. When one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend, and described him as the '**LAMB** of **GOD**', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as **JESUS** made off, they **FOLLOWED** him.

When Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could **COME** up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?'

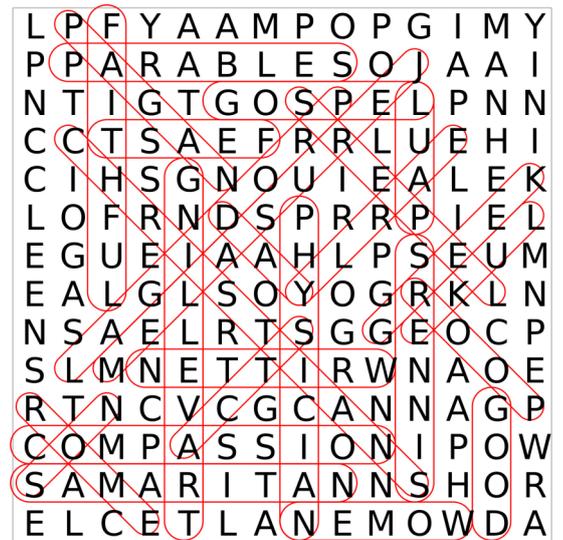
The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and **SEE**'. So they did, and the results of their response were life changing. For Andrew brought his brother, **PETER**, to Jesus, and soon the little **APOSTOLIC BAND** who would carry the **MESSAGE** of Jesus to the whole **WORLD** was formed. And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.



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

## ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

<b>7</b>	2	9	1	<b>5</b>	3	6	8	<b>4</b>
4	1	<b>3</b>	6	2	8	<b>7</b>	5	9
8	6	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	7	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	1	3
9	<b>3</b>	1	<b>2</b>	4	<b>7</b>	8	<b>6</b>	5
<b>6</b>	5	8	9	3	1	4	2	<b>7</b>
2	<b>4</b>	7	<b>8</b>	6	<b>5</b>	3	<b>9</b>	1
1	9	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	8	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	7	2
3	7	<b>2</b>	5	9	6	<b>1</b>	4	8
<b>5</b>	8	4	7	<b>1</b>	2	9	3	<b>6</b>



## SUDOKU ANSWERS

## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

