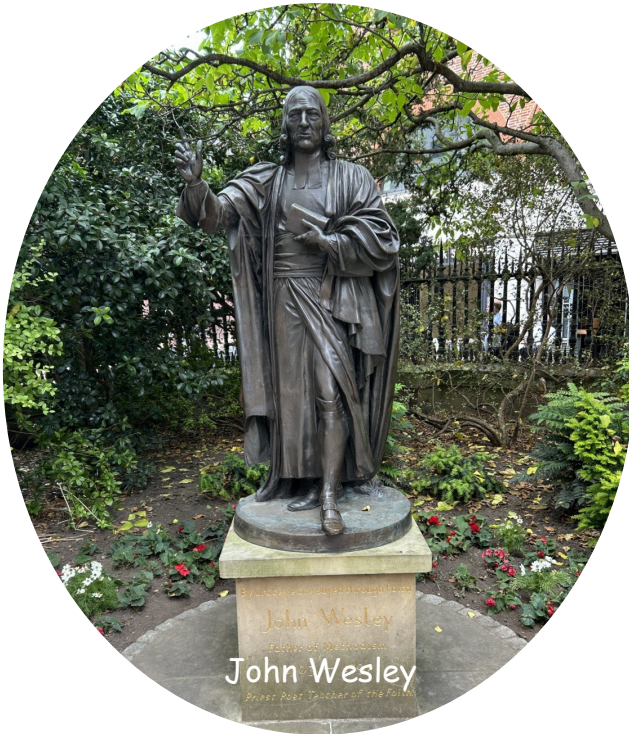




Stockport Sunday School

September 2026 Newsletter 74



John Wesley is reputed to have said. "I am going to be so busy today that I cannot afford to spend less than 4 hours in prayer."

A daunting prospect for us and probably the vast majority of people who count ourselves as followers of Christ. But he was making a valid point.

When faced with difficult situations, we often need to be able to step back and look at the wider picture, without being distracted by all the other issues that we feel are demanding our attention.

And we should perhaps just remind ourselves how often Jesus went up into a mountain to pray to find solitude when he had vital decisions to make.

Often such moments come when a number of other questions are putting demands on our time. And it is easy to give attention to these first; to try to clear the decks, so to speak.

But, so often we find we have then run out of time to address the most pressing question, and it gets left to tomorrow's list!

Like the Old Testament prophets before Him, Jesus' solution was to find somewhere secluded, away from distractions, in the desert or on a mountain away from the crowds, to seek His Father's guidance.

And if Jesus needed such moments, when faced with the manifold challenges of His ministry, how much more do we need to make time for prayer when we need to seek God's guidance?

For human relationships to prosper, we know we have to commit time to each other; to share our problems and thus gain a better understanding of them.

And our relationship with God is the same. We need to make time to put our problems to Him in prayer, with open minds, seeking His will.



It may often be the case that we do not seem to get an immediate answer. And sometimes that may be because we are asking the wrong question. God may want us to look at the problem from a different perspective; and to put our trust in Him.

For when we look back on our lives, sometimes we can see how He answered our prayers in a way we were not expecting.

As the words of the hymn say :-

'God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform'

But let us also remember :-

'Trust in God and do the right'

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

HARVEST

Our Harvest this year will be on Sunday 13th September at 2.30pm, when the speaker will be Keith Tongue from Short Street United Reformed Church.

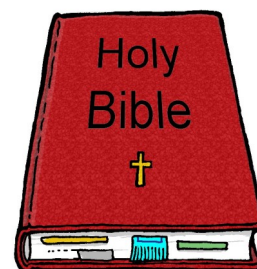
The harvest gifts will be taken to Wellspring so we ask that you do not bring fresh fruit and vegetables but tinned or dried products so that they can then store them until they are ready to use them. They also require toiletries as they have facilities where the homeless can wash or shower.

ANNIVERSARY

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Jonathan Bramwell as our speaker for the Anniversary. Jonathan is a former pupil of the Sunday School and son of Barbara and the late Ralph Bramwell, who were both teachers at the School.

UPCOMING SERVICES

September 6 th	Judith Higgins
September 13 th	Harvest Service Speaker Keith Tongue
September 20 th	Walter Stead
September 27 th	Judith Higgins
October 4 th	Walter Stead
October 11 th	Judith Higgins
October 18 th	Anniversary Service Rev Jonathan Bramwell
October 25 th	Walter Stead



THINKING OF YOU

We were sorry to learn that Stuart Dean has spent some time in hospital recently and we hope that he will soon be feeling much better, and that his mother, Margaret, was in for a few weeks prior to this and we hope that she is now fully recovered.

We also send out our best wishes to Judith Curry and Janet Moore who haven't been well recently and we hope that they will soon be feeling better.

We don't always hear right away when people are unwell, so we would like send our best wishes to all our friends who are unwell or who have been recently and wish you a speedy recovery.



AUSTRALIA

After Beryl Manley's earlier plans to travel to Australia to visit her son and his family were sadly halted, we hope that she manages to get there this month and has a great time spending time and catching up with her family. We will look forward to hearing all about it when you return.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Cath Brown on 2nd September

Joan Thompson on 2nd September

Marjorie Barlow on 4th September

Janet Moore on 7th September

Garth Higgins on 17th September

and at the start of October

Walter Stead on 3rd October

Elizabeth Keeling on 6th October



Instead of letting a mob of hoodlum tasks surround and trample me to death, I force them into a single file and handle them one at a time. - D Mallough

The Christian believes that he was created to know, love, and serve God in this world and to be happy with Him in the next. - Evelyn Waugh

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. - St Augustine of Hippo



SERVICES

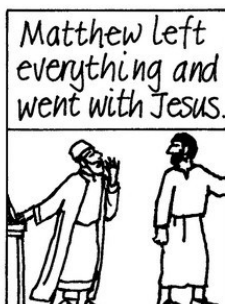


SUNDAY JUNE 28TH 2026

Walter started his service this week by telling us about St Georges' Assistant Priest, Jennie, who has been very busy recently, both looking after St Georges' church during the inter-regum while the process of appointing a new vicar has been going on, alongside her regular job as a working vet. (She can be followed sharing both her roles on Facebook under the title @thereverendvet.) He felt it was worth sharing one of her recent sermons, which was based on the words in Matthews gospel, chapter 9 verses 9-13 and 18-26 'There is Always Room at Jesus' Table', with the theme being 'belonging'.

Throughout our life, whether we realise it or not, we often ask, 'Do I belong?', 'Do I fit in?', 'Am I accepted?' and 'Is there a place for me?'.

The Bible reading is a story about inclusion, about who belongs, and about the surprising wideness of God's welcome, showing how God's invitation is often far wider than our own expectations.



The Reverend Vet

In this passage, it talks about how Jesus approaches Matthew, a tax collector, whilst he is at his booth and asks him to follow Him, which he does. The Pharisees were horrified by this as tax collectors were disliked people, being associated with corruption and greed. Jesus sees Matthew as a person rather than his job and He goes even further by eating with the tax collectors and sinners, showing them that God's love has a place for them. He shows that Jesus sees holiness as moving towards all people rather than the Pharisees who would move away from such people. Jesus says, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice", meaning that God is interested in love that opens doors and is not interested in religion that creates barriers. The passage provided other examples including that of a woman whose condition meant others would treat her as an outsider, but Jesus calls her 'daughter', which is a word of belonging, dignity and inclusion. There is also the synagogue leader whose daughter has died and whereas others would step away from the death, Jesus moves forward. Jesus continually moves forward towards people society would rather avoid; inclusion is not a modern idea that we are trying to squeeze into the Gospel, it begins with Jesus Himself.

Jennie recently came across some negative comments on her @thereverendvet Facebook page following a post she made wishing Muslim friends and neighbours a blessed Eid al-Adha (the festival celebrating Abraham's faithfulness to God and his willingness to even sacrifice his son, Ishmael), a story that Christianity recognises too, that saddened her. Despite many kind comments there were some comments that were openly hostile and even

racist. Her page is for all faiths and for those who have none.

Social media can sometimes bring out the worst in people, encouraging us to react rather than reflect. Jennie was struck by how quickly some people wanted to decide who belongs and who doesn't; who deserves respect and who doesn't; whose celebrations are worthy of acknowledgement and whose are not. As Christians, we should be deeply concerned whenever people are diminished because of their race, culture, or faith. We may not all share the same beliefs, but every person is made in the image of God and worthy of dignity and respect.

Wishing our Muslim neighbours joy on one of their most important festivals does not diminish our Christian faith, instead it reflects something of Christ's command to love our neighbours and seek the good of our communities. The Church is at its best when it reflects the welcome of Christ. Every person bears the image of God. Every person is someone Christ loves. Every person is someone Christ calls. Jesus continues to call unlikely people, welcome excluded people, and gather diverse people into one family, and thanks be to God, there is plenty of room at His table.



Walter felt her sermon was relevant for a wider audience, not just St Georges' congregation. St Georges has made special efforts to make new visitors feel welcome by inviting them for a drink and a chat at the end of a service. There are various reasons why people stay, including people whose children have just joined the choir, people visiting family living locally, people who have just moved into the area and are looking for a church to join, those exploring the Christian faith, people who have spent time away from churches and feel a need to reconnect; no matter their reason for joining it's important to make them all feel welcome and included.

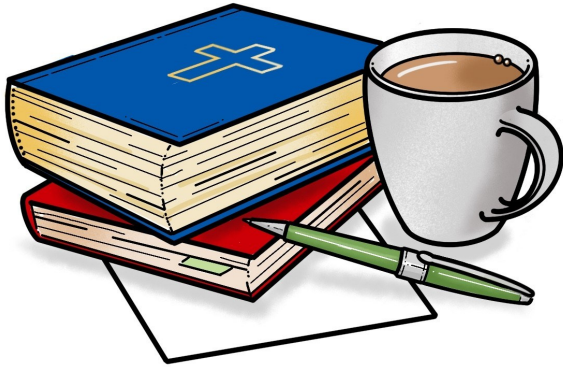
Walter explained that Jesus looked at the individual's predicament and was prepared to engage with them and we should let His demonstration of care be an example to us all, for us all to be welcoming and inclusive. We are all different and some of us find it easier to talk to people than others and it can be a challenge for some throughout their life, but a kind word of welcome can make all the difference. It took Walter back to when he first started at Heaviley Sunday School, when he was quite shy. His parents had already tried to enrol him at St Georges and then at the Baptist Church at Cale Green, both without success. His father had contacts at Heaviley Sunday School as he was a player for the cricket team. His first teacher, Mrs Goodier, quickly made him feel at home and as a result, he has been at the Sunday School ever since. Later two of his cricketing friends introduced him to St Georges where he was made welcome in the senior youth fellowship and he has made many friends their over the years, all personal memories of his of feeling included.

Returning to the Bible passage again, Jesus is asking us to share relationship experiences with a wider range of individuals, people who we may not feel comfortable with, whose backgrounds may be very different from ours, maybe even the outcasts of society. It's not necessarily about accepting wrongdoing per se, but it is asking us to put away our inbuilt prejudices. Sadly there is a lot of prejudice about in modern day society - via this Bible passage, Jesus is asking each of us to examine our own attitudes, and if and when we fall short, to endeavour with His help to overcome them.

Thank you, Walter.

SUNDAY JULY 5TH 2026

Judith Hadfield began by speaking about a Bible club she attended in Woodsmoor when she was a teenager. Bible clubs at that time were run in the UK by the Scripture Union and also in other countries as well.



These clubs were designed to help young people explore the scriptures, develop their faith and connect with Jesus through engaging in activities like games, crafts, quizzes and story telling. The bible stories were always illustrated by using felt pictures of the characters in the story on a flannel board and at the end of the session pupils were given a memory verse from the bible which had to be learnt for the following week.

During the summer, week long Bible Club camps were held at Barnston Dale on the Wirral.

In a time of significant social and cultural change in the 60s and early 70s, these clubs kept a lot of children grounded in Christian beliefs and values and provided a space for young people to discuss and question their faith. They also provided a lot of young people with a sense of community and purpose. During the discussion other members of the congregation also said that they had attended similar groups in their teens.

One of the characters which Judith learned about in depth was the Apostle Timothy.

Timothy was born in the Roman Province of Galicia, which is now part of modern day Turkey. He was the child of an unusual union between a Greek father who was a pagan, and Eunice his mother who was a Jewess. As a young mixed race boy growing up between two different cultural worlds, Timothy received a deep spiritual education from the women in his family and from a very early age Timothy was taught the scriptures. Such an education was uncommon for a boy from a mixed race family, however this multicultural upbringing uniquely prepared Timothy for his future ministry, giving him an understanding of Jewish traditions and at the same time as an understanding of the mindset of the Gentiles at that time.

Timothy's destiny began to take shape when Paul and Barnabus arrived in Galicia around 47AD. Timothy witnessed the stoning of Paul by hostile Jews where he was dragged out of the city and left for dead. But by the next day Paul had recovered.

Seeing the violent stoning, followed by Paul's miraculous recovery, must have left a deep impression on young Timothy. The fact that Paul survived a stoning and continued his mission, demonstrated to Timothy the divine power accompanying Paul.

Two years later, Paul returned to Galicia around 50 AD. This time he was accompanied, not by Barnabus but by Silas. This visit would change the course of Timothy's life. Paul, the experienced Apostle, at once saw Timothy's fitness for the work of an evangelist and he ordained Timothy.





From that time, Timothy became the constant and much-beloved fellow-worker of the Apostle. Paul decided to take Timothy along with him on his future missionary journeys.

So began Timothy's ministry journey, accompanying Paul and Silas who were later joined by Luke. They travelled across Macedonia crossing the Aegean Sea to Europe where they helped found early Christian communities in places like Corinth, Thessalonica and Phillippi. Timothy was jailed at least once during the period that the New Testament was written. In AD 64, Paul made Timothy the first Bishop of Ephesus and left him to govern the newly founded church there. Here Timothy received the two letters or epistles from St Paul which form the two books of Timothy in the New Testament. The first epistle was written from Macedonia, and the second from

Rome, in which St Paul, from his prison cell, gives vent to his longing desire to see his dearly beloved Timothy once more before Paul's own death.

Timothy himself was martyred in AD 97, when the by then 80 year old Bishop tried to halt a pagan procession in honour of the Goddess Diana, by preaching the Gospel to them. The angry pagans beat him, dragged him through the streets and stoned him to death.

Timothy may not shine as brightly as Paul or Peter in the pages of the New Testament. Yet Timothy's quiet influence helped shape early Christianity. He rose from a timid provincial youth to become the leader of one of the most important churches in the ancient world. Facing his youth, timidity and health problems, he overcame all obstacles to become the man Paul would entrust with his legacy.

Thank you, Judith, for a very interesting service looking at someone who we don't often consider in our worship.

SUNDAY JULY 12TH 2026

In his service, Walter discussed the life of Abraham and the consequences that resulted from the choices he made.

When there was a famine in the land Abraham took his household to Egypt. He persuaded Sarai (later renamed Sarah) to say she was his sister, not his wife because he believed Pharaoh would kill him, so that he could take Sarah into his harem. Abraham chose to sacrifice Sarah to save himself. When Pharaoh discovered the truth he expelled them all from Egypt - the consequence of a poor choice.



Abraham casting out Hagar and Ishmael
by Guercino (1657)

When Sarah realised that she was unable to have children she gave her slave Hagar to Abraham but Sarah became jealous when Hagar gave Abraham a son, Ishmael. Once again a bad choice had the consequence of turning what seemed a solution into a bigger problem.



Rembrandt 1635 oil painting of
Abraham being tested on
Mount Moriah

God sent three visitors to Abraham who welcomed them. When Sarah overhears them telling Abraham that she will have a son, she laughs as she was old, but God keeps His promise and Sarah gives birth to a son, Isaac.

When Sarah sees Isaac playing with Ishmael, she is jealous and wants to make sure her son Isaac inherits all Abraham's wealth. She persuades him to send Hagar and Ishmael away. When their food and water run out, Hagar leaves Ishmael under a bush as she does not want to watch her son die but God intervenes and shows her a well and tells her that her son, like Abraham, will become the father of a great nation.

God then tested Abraham telling him to take Isaac to the land of Moriah where he was to sacrifice him.

Abraham sets out to obey God. We have been shown Abraham's obedience to God and his willingness. But now

Abraham has reached a point of such complete trust in God that he is willing to entrust the life of his son to God's care.

We know that God did not let Abraham sacrifice his son but provided a ram for sacrifice.

Thank you, Walter, for another informative service during which we saw how Abraham learned to put his trust in God.

SUNDAY JULY 19TH 2026

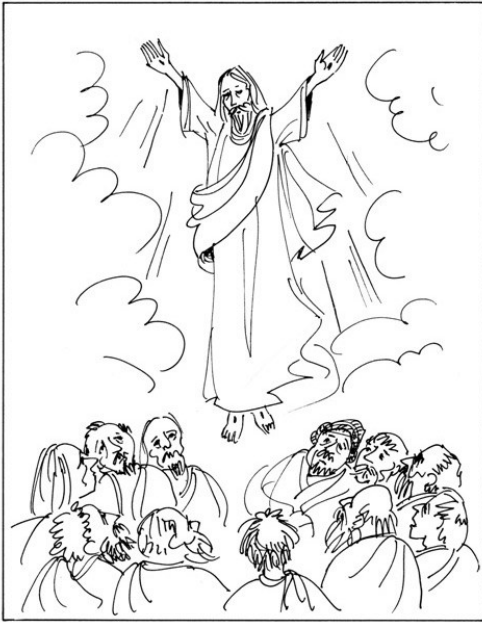
In her service, Judith Higgins spoke about the life and missionary journeys of Paul. Scholars have calculated that he must have travelled about 10,000 miles and established at least 14 churches.

As a devout Pharisee he was keen to defend the God of his fathers. He had begun by persecuting and arresting Christians but after his conversion on the road to Damascus he became a prominent disciple of Jesus. At first many Christians did not believe he could have changed so completely but they learned to trust him.

He was the first intellectual in the Christian church, a man who was able to set down the events of the life and teaching of Jesus and especially his death and resurrection into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith.



His intellectual status and leadership gifts quickly marked him out and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian church preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East. His special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles.



Paul was busy travelling the world, sometimes he was imprisoned so he only occasionally had the opportunity to revisit the churches he had founded. He kept in touch with them by letter.

Fortunately after his death one of his followers collected some of the letters, edited them very slightly and published them.

They remain one of history's most remarkable personal contributions to religious thought and practice and form a large part of the New Testament.

The Acts, thought to have been written by Luke begin with the Ascension and Pentecost and the establishment of the church in Antioch and record Paul's travels ending

with his imprisonment in Rome awaiting trial.

Paul did not have an easy life, he was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, shipwrecked, hated and imprisoned and finally martyred, but he never stopped teaching people about Jesus and establishing Christian churches.

Thank you, Judith.

SUNDAY JULY 26TH 2026

Walter's topic for the service was the wonders of God's creation. His reading was Luke, chapter 12 verses 22- 24 in which Jesus reminded the disciples how God cared for His creation and of the beauty of the lilies of the field.

We sang the hymn 'Hills of the North Rejoice' which mentions some different aspects of our world mountains, river valleys, lowlands, seas and deserts.

We also sang the hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' written by Cecil Frances Alexander from Ireland. She was a prolific hymn writer including the hymns 'Once in Royal David's City', 'There is a Green Hill Far Away', and 'Jesus Calls us O'er the Tumult'. Married to a vicar she was very active in charity work, using her talents to live out her Christian beliefs.

She was criticised by some people for what they saw as her endorsement of the rigid class system.



Cecil Frances Alexander

The third verse of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' -

The rich man in his castle
The poor man at his gate
God made them high and lowly
And ordered their estate.

was removed from many hymn books. This attitude to the poor was a product of the times and her charitable works and hymn writing are more of a reflection of her character.



We listened to a recording of the beginning of Beethoven's 'Pastoral Symphony' entitled 'Awakening of Pleasant Feelings on Arriving in the Countryside'.

Walter then asked members to describe occasions when examples of nature's beauty reminded them of God's creation.

Judith Hadfield, Margaret Jones, Margaret Forster and Judith Higgins spoke of beautiful mountains and lake views at home and abroad, beautiful sunrise and sunset and God's creation in our own gardens. Cath Brown read a poem by Emily Dickinson.

Past memories that will continue to remind us of God's many blessings.

Thank you, Walter, for helping us to recall happy times in God's beautiful world.

SUNDAY AUGUST 2ND 2026

Today, Judith Higgins' service was inspired by the loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to England from France for the first time in 900 years. The tapestry was commissioned by Bishop Odo of Bayeux, the half brother of William the Conqueror, in approximately 1070, and tells the story of the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. It is



The hand of God can be seen in this image

believed one person drew out the 58 individual scenes before the piece was embroidered by several people in England, probably nuns in Canterbury. It can be seen as a historical



piece rather than a religious piece however one of the scenes does show the hand of God extending from heaven over the burial of Edward the Confessor at Westminster Abbey.

One of the scenes shows ships setting sail for the UK in 1066, which ultimately led to the death of Harold.

Her Bible reading was from Paul's letter to the Romans (Romans 12 verses 17-21) in which he tells them to live in peace and overcome evil with good.

The tapestry itself marks the end of the Viking Age in England, and slowly Christian ideas started to return. William's invasion of England was backed by the pope so it can be said that the tapestry marks a period of change from pagan invaders to Christian champions and over time Christianity returned throughout Britain and the wider European continent. Even before the battle of Hastings, the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne had tried to make people be baptised as Christians threatening them with the sword if they refused, but Bishop Alcuin stopped him saying that this was not the Christian way, faith is a free act of will, not a forced act. He said that they must appeal to people's conscience, as although you can force people to be baptised, you cannot force them to believe.

There are subtle inclusions of religious elements within the tapestry which primarily depicts the Norman Conquest of England and it suggests how an act of perjury is punished. Bishop Odo is prominently featured on the tapestry showing his dual role, both as a cleric but also as a military leader. He can be seen carrying a consecrated papal banner on his ship symbolising the church's endorsement of William's campaign. This reflects the medieval notion of divine sanction for political and military actions.

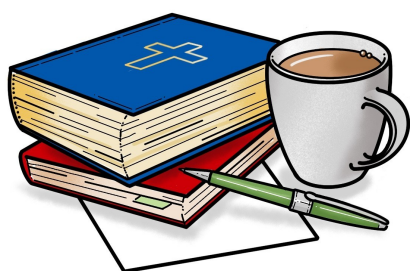
It is not known where the tapestry was intended to be displayed and even if it ever was displayed, being found in Bayeux Abbey hence giving it its name. The abbey inventory shows they had it in 1476. With the size of the piece, where could it have been intended for? Professor Pohl of Bristol University led a team of students in a study looking at both the size and topic of the piece, and essentially looking where it would fit and serve the most useful purpose and they decided upon the refectory at St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, where the monks would gather for daily meals in silence and someone would read from the Bible or another religious, moral or historical text. This was their time for listening and reflecting and the tapestry's continuous story would unfold gradually scene by scene. There is however no actual evidence of this, with Professor Pohl reiterating that no-one knows where or if it was hung before 1476, but the Abbey refectory would have been big enough to hold the piece and it would give it purpose. As the Abbey and the monastery were still being built, it's possible that the tapestry was put into storage until the refectory was completed and then maybe forgotten about.

Religion in the Bayeux Tapestry is expressed through its clerical patronage, monastic craftsmanship and symbolic references to the church, particularly the papacy. It is embroidered on linen, a fabric traditionally associated with the clergy and wool sourced from monastic flocks. The designs draw inspiration from religious texts and manuscripts kept in monastic libraries whilst the main narrative remains focussed on secular events. This illustrates the intertwined nature of religion and politics in 11th century Norman society, where ecclesiastical authority legitimised military and political power.

Thank you, Judith, for an enjoyable, informative service.

SUNDAY AUGUST 9TH 2026

Walter began his service with a question, "What feature of our services is an essential part of that service?" The answer was - books. We have a reading from the Bible and use hymn books. We take them and also any form of printed items such as magazines, newspapers and books for granted.



Moses took down the commandments from Mount Sinai on stone tablets and the basis of the Hebrew faith was probably written by hand on papyrus

William Caxton was important for the introduction of printing into England. He did not invent the printing press, that was Johannes Gutenberg in Germany. William Tyndale was the first person to translate the Bible into English. He was able to speak and write in Hebrew, Latin, French and German. In 1522 he obtained a copy of Luther's Bible written in German and in 1528 started translating the New Testament from its original Greek and Hebrew sources.

His work was not popular and the English Authorities were pursuing him so he moved to Worms where he translated the New Testament and the first five books of the Old Testament. Copies were smuggled into England. Any that were discovered were burned.

He was under constant threat of death from his enemies in the English Church and Catholic supporters on the continent. He fled to Antwerp where he was arrested, tried and executed for heresy.

He had played a vital role in making the Bible available to the general population.

Let us celebrate the work of committed Christian believers such as Tyndale, who made the Bible accessible to people like us. At great risk to themselves, they established the religious freedom we enjoy

Thank you, Walter, for another interesting service.



William Tyndale

SUNDAY AUGUST 16TH 2026



World Council of Churches
Logo

Judith Higgins spoke about the different churches there are in the town, Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed and Evangelical, all places to worship the same God in different ways.

Her reading from Ephesians chapter 4 showed Paul's concern about the divisions forming in the early church in Ephesus.

The World Council of Churches, formed in 1948 meets every five years to discuss matters of concern to all Christian churches and ways of helping each other and people in need.

In the sixteenth century the church in our country was really divided. Henry VIIIth said the church in England would no longer recognise the Pope. His son supported the Church of

England but when he died aged sixteen, the Catholic Queen Mary came to the throne.

Unfortunately today there are people from both churches who still fail to agree.

Judith asked "What is a church? Is it a building or the people who worship God there?"

After they received the Holy Spirit the disciples went out into the street telling people about Jesus and about 3,000 people were baptised. Since then Christian missionaries have travelled the world spreading the 'Good News'. Several came to Britain.

Judith spoke about St Ninian who took the message to South West Scotland.

She also spoke about Charles Hadden Spurgeon, an excellent preacher who regularly spoke to congregations of many thousands but he also put his preaching into practice founding a college, an orphanage, alms houses and schools. He wrote many books, but also found time to visit sick and elderly in their homes, giving them money to help them in difficult times. He knew that a Christian Church must be a caring church.

Thank you, Judith, for this interesting service.



Charles Hadden Spurgeon

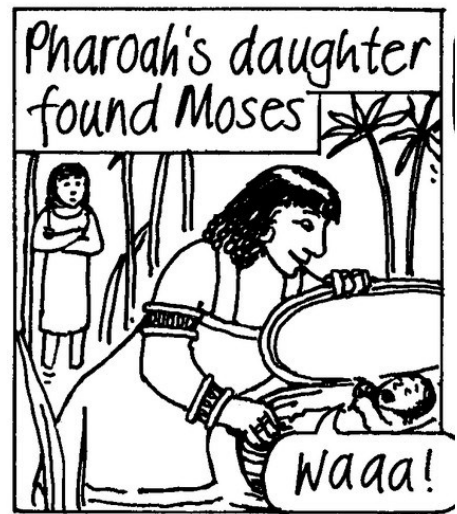
SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026

Walter opened with the question, "Who was the most famous murderer in history? - Moses."

The Israelites emigrated to Egypt 200 years before Moses' time, a time when Joseph, Jacob's son, had risen to be Pharaoh's Chief Advisor, but by the time of Moses, the

Pharoah knew little of their history. In Exodus 1, we hear how the Israelites had become slaves and the Egyptians were worried that their numbers were increasing. Today antisemitism seems to be on the increase.

In Exodus 1 verses 15-17 and 22, we heard how midwives were told to kill male Hebrew babies but the midwives disobeyed saying the babies were often born before they arrived. When Moses was born his mother hid him in a basket in the rushes on the edge of the Nile where he was found by Pharoah's daughter. Moses sister, Miriam, offered to find a Hebrew nurse to look after the baby, so Moses was brought up by his own mother and when a young man, he moved into the palace and was brought up as Pharoah's daughter's son. In Exodus 2 verses 11-14, we hear how Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew and Moses fled from Egypt.



In the second and third books of Exodus, we hear how Moses helped the shepherdesses who were stopped from drawing water for their flocks by some shepherds and how he was called by God from the burning bush.

Thank you Walter, for reminding us of the early life of Moses before he led the Hebrews out of Egypt.

BACK TO SCHOOL

The summer days of leisure
Give way to autumn cool;
Our mood is hard to measure
As we go back to school.

The table that was bearing
The fizzy pop and snacks
The surface is now caring
For books and packed lunch packs.

It's sad when times of easy rest
Give way to daily grind;
The bright side, when we're feeling stressed
Can be quite hard to find!

But we can't live forever
On a beach of golden sand;
It wouldn't be so clever
To live our lives unplanned!

A new phase is beginning
New scope of things to learn,
New ways we can be winning
New corners we can turn!

When school days are behind us
And faded, like a ghost -
The summertime will find us
With two weeks hols at most!

By Nigel Beeton

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Nectarine upside-down cake

Serves 12

TOPPING

*2 nectarines
50g unsalted butter
100g soft light brown sugar*

CAKE

*125g unsalted butter
125g soft light brown sugar
2 medium eggs
2 tbsp milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
125g self-raising flour
1 tsp ground ginger*



Heat the oven to 180C/160fan/gas4. Stone the nectarines and cut each into 18-20 slices. Line a 20cm square cake tin with baking paper and put 50g of butter in. Put the tin in the warming oven for a couple of minutes to melt the butter. Sprinkle the sugar in an even layer over the melted butter, then arrange over the nectarine slices.

To make the cake, beat together the butter and sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time with the milk and vanilla, then add the flour with a pinch of salt and the ginger. Beat to bring together, then dollop the batter over the nectarines and spread to cover. Bake for 30 mins until risen and golden, and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 mins before turning out onto a serving plate. Serve with crème fraiche or thick cream.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to:
Pam Bowden - 3rd September
Pat Mellor - 9th September

WOODLANDS PARK



A few weeks ago, I walked through Woodlands Park in Offerton and sat on a convenient bench for a few minutes. People were walking their dogs, teenagers were playing football, a group of girls were playing rounders, Mums were supervising their small children on the play-park and, inevitably, memories came flooding back. I have lived near Woodlands Park for 55 years,

and have, inevitably, accumulated hundreds of memories of my many visits over those years. Some are very happy memories, some not quite so good!

As I sat on the bench, I remembered the small boating lake, the very small paddling pool and a very amiable Park Keeper called Joe. Each morning during the summer months, it was his job to clean out the paddling pool and organise the boats on the boating lake. I would take Rachel, my 2½ year old daughter, down to the Park each morning and she could paddle in a lovely, clean, fresh pool, while Joe, who had just finished his cleaning, chatted away amiably, before he continued with his jobs.

There was just one large house being built by the entrance to the Park. Now there is a complete estate of large houses stretching down Woodlands Drive!!

There are no pools now and certainly no amiable park keeper but lots more amusements on the Play-park and more facilities for teenagers.



There was also a very tidy, small Bowling Green and, when my second baby arrived, I would take him in his pram, Rachel toddling along and also our lively, bouncy dog, Kerry, for daily walks through the park, past the Bowling Green and out through the nearby gate. Imagine my horror, when, on one occasion, as we walked past the Bowling Green, a group of very serious men were just about to 'bowl the jack', Kerry (who was not on a lead), decided that some kind man was throwing the ball for him to retrieve and to bring back, possibly, to me, and he rushed onto the Green, grabbed the jack and proudly brought it back to me!



There was a great howl of protest, four very angry men, a confused dog and a very embarrassed Margaret, as I quickly retrieved the jack, handed it over and rushed out of the nearby gate, complete with pram, baby, 3 year old and Kerry the dog, as quickly as possible!

No sign of any Bowling Green now in Woodlands Park, or any boating or paddling pools, or dear old Joe, the Park Keeper, but they are still there, tucked safely away in my book of memories!

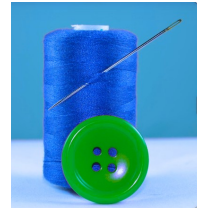


Margaret M. Jones

JUST FOR SMILES

Crafts

A class of schoolchildren were asked, "Are there any crafts in the Bible?" to which one lad put his hand up and said, "The parable of the sewer?"



Typeface

I'm working on a new typeface to be used for church bulletins. I call it Baptismal Font.

Get Rid

A man bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he decided to put it outside in his front garden, along with a sign saying: 'Free to good home.' For three days the fridge sat there without even one person looking twice at it.

So eventually the man changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale: £30'. The next day someone stole it.



Airport Security

What makes airport security think they can find something in your wife's handbag when even she can't?

Wedding

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"



Fast prayer

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran, she prayed. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

Suddenly, she tripped on the pavement, and fell over, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

Jerusalem

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter."



PUZZLES

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

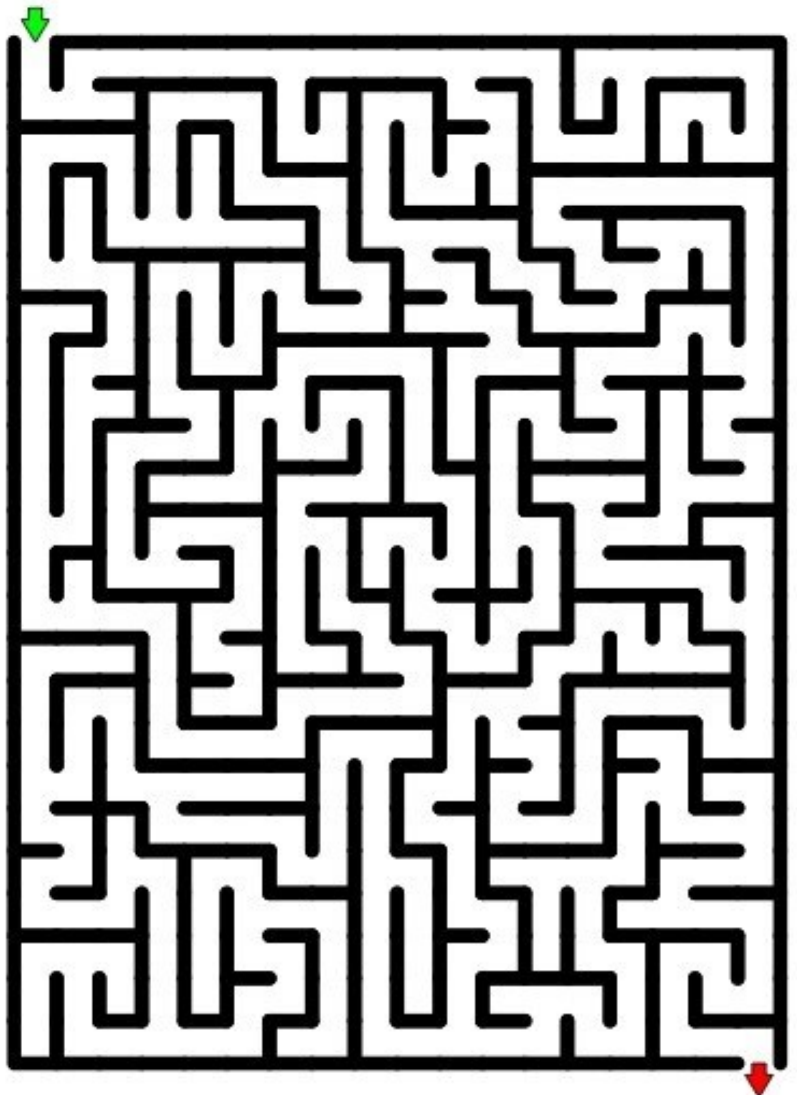


Sudoku



Maze

Can you work your way around the maze starting at the green arrow and exiting at the red arrow?



WORDSEARCH

Can you find in this grid the words listed below the passage 'The Parable of the Weeds'? The words can be found in any direction.

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

The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject - it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world - there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Barn	Let
Bundles	Master
Burned	Reap
Enemy	Root
Field	Seed
Gather	Servants
Good	Sleeping
Grain	Sow
Grow	Together
Harvest	Weeds
Heaven	
Kingdom	



Cutbacks to the school budget had somewhat restricted after-school activities.

ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS



HARVEST FESTIVAL



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!



WORDSEARCH ANSWERS