

the NEW Messenger

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2018



The Lord
watches over you ~
the Lord is your shade
at your right hand

Psalm 121:5


Third
Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

Sunday Preaching plan for Gillingham & Hartlip

AUGUST 2018

THIRD AVENUE | MORNING | 10.30AM

HARTLIP | EVENING | 6.30PM

05 AUG MANDY HARRIS
ALL AGE

DEACON PRU
FAREWELL

12 AUG KAREN WILLING
ALL AGE

REV TONY GRAFF
HOLY COMMUNION

19 AUG SARA CROUCH
ALL AGE

BRIAN DAVIES

26 AUG REV ROBIN SELMES
ALL AGE | HOLY COMMUNION

REV ROBIN SELMES

SEPTEMBER 2018

02 SEPT REV ROBIN SELMES

DEACON VIC DOWNS

09 SEPT SIMON WILCE
CAP OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

REV ROBIN SELMES
HOLY COMMUNION

16 SEPT REV ROBIN SELMES
HOLY COMMUNION

REV TONY GRAFF
HARVEST FESTIVAL

23 SEPT DEACON PRU

DEREK GALLAGHER

30 SEPT HARVEST FESTIVAL
LED BY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

LESLEY TROTT

Hello and Welcome to the Latest edition of the New Messenger...

This week, I have worked at home now for seven years! Apart from a short stint in the dining room, my studio (fancy designer term for office!) has been in our bedroom. This has its merits - I can be at work within minutes of waking; and if I need a power nap in these hot afternoons, well the bed is right there, beckoning me! But both of these can be its drawback too...

So this summer I have decided to build a log cabin in the garden for my studio. Now I say 'I' in the loosest of terms - I couldn't do any of this without my lovely wife and our close circle of friends. They support, carry, advise, sweat and labour, all on my behalf. I'm not sure what I've done to deserve them or where we'd be without them. They not only do the physical lifting, they lift us when we fall; support us when we are ill and share in some momentarily good times, with much laughter, mirth and tears!

Our friendship has grown out of meeting at Third Avenue - a great place for sharing love and fellowship - and has taken us on many adventures together, both physically and spiritually.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of the New Messenger, as it celebrates many such moments of friendship, fellowship and much more: from our fabulous group of youngsters

going to Hillsong Conference together (pg 8), to Pru, thanking us for her time at Third Avenue and Hartlip (pg 6); from smiling faces at our first 'Seaside Special' (pg 5), to shared memories of a glorious 'Summer at Hartlip' (pg 19). Not forgetting the special bond between Lola and Trudy and her visit to the excited children at Kiddiwinks (pg 29).

I really appreciate my friends, not just because they are great with a 'spirit level'...! But because they love and watch over me, Ruth and all my family in good times and bad. And more importantly that love is reciprocated to each and everyone of them.

"A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."

Donna Roberts

In John 15 Jesus says:

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends..."

...This is my command: Love each other."

Mark and the editorial team

You can contact us anytime by email: messenger@gillinghammethodists.uk
by post: New Messenger | Third Avenue Church & Community
Gillingham | ME7 2LU or come and chat to any of the team.

Deadline to receive articles for the OCT | NOV edition will be 20 Sept 2018.

*A message from our Minister
Rev Robin Selmes...*

Summertime & the living is easy

"Summertime and the living is easy, fish are jumpin and the cotton is high,"
so begins Gershwin's musical Porgy & Bess.

Summer we hope is upon us!. A Time to relax, refresh, recover..... time for a holiday.

Yet families have been hit so hard by the government's approach to balancing the books that many can no longer afford a holiday. Over the last 10 years we have seen a decline in real earnings, with the recession and subsequent austerity period hitting people's pockets. The introduction of the minimum wage and personal allowance has brought some relief but overall there has been no real improvement in living standards over the last 5 years.

And so, as finances are slowly being squeezed, families are making that hard decision to go without a holiday. This is not helped by holiday companies taking advantage of the school holidays, by increasing their prices more than 60% in this period, resulting in many families making the hard decision to go without.

This is a shame, as I have always believed that holidays provide an opportunity for families to come together, which provide so many long lasting memories, as well as valuable rest for adults.

As adults, we are not always very good at resting, we feel guilty even if we pause just for a few moments. A lot of us are workaholics – we need to be busy! Yet, the problem is that too many people pay a heavy price with their families, their health, and their well-being for just being too busy and not finding time to rest. We need to pause and give our bodies chance to restore our normal balance. Without such



rest, our bodies begin to wear down and we are not able to do the things that we should do.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). You see, Sabbath, that sacred time of rest and re-creation, was given to us as a gift – a gift of renewal, revival, and restoration.

I think to be healthy, to be free from all the stresses of life, we must find time to receive that gift and use it. We must find time to renew our spirits, to catch our breath and to become a living being once more. The "Mars Bar" advert reminds us to work, rest and play and so this is a gift for us in which we are called to take time, to play, to enjoy life and to experience the great gift of abundance and joy.

So, this summer let us live into Jesus' lesson about the Sabbath. Let us not feel guilty, you can still do all the gardening jobs or clear out the loft or finish that DIY job — but just don't let it get in the way of your rest, your Sabbath. Remember that Summertime and Sabbath were made for us.

Enjoy some rest this summer.
I know I will!

Robin

Lord, help me to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence. Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people. Amen



SEASIDE

Special 10.30am



ALL AGE WORSHIP

- 05 AUG **JESUS CALMS THE SEA**
- 12 AUG **WISE & FOOLISH BUILDERS**
- 19 AUG **PETER WALKING ON WATER**
- 26 AUG **BARBEQUE ON THE BEACH**
HOLY COMMUNION

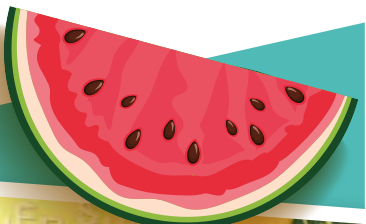
*Worship to encourage all
to share and grow
in faith.*



Third Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY





Fun at our First
SEASIDE
Special



Thank You!

These two words feel very inadequate to express appreciation for all your kindness, generosity, gifts, kind words and prayers, but gratitude comes from the bottom of my heart. The concert put on for me will live long in the memory; the gardening vouchers and equipment will be put to good use; the books will be read over the autumn evenings, and the hand-crafted bread and fish will be found a suitable home in my new home. I really appreciate how carefully you have chosen these gifts. Thank you all!

Some of your money gift will go to the Angel Tree project at one of the Rochester prisons. This project helps prisoners to send Christmas presents to their children, thus going some way to maintain and strengthen family relationships. As you know, I've been a part of Prison Fellowship in Medway and am thrilled that your generosity (and that of the Circuit) will make a difference in this way.

I have really enjoyed being a minister here over these last three years. In the early days it was a little tricky, trying to figure out what it means to be a deacon in this context. Many of the tasks and opportunities, though, have simply presented themselves and we've done them together in God's strength. It has been a privilege to share in significant times in the life of our church family and community, and I will continue to treasure those moments. I'm thankful for having had some great colleagues to work alongside together with an enthusiastic leadership team.

Over the last few weeks I've started to think more about the move north and of beginning work in Manchester. I'm excited about getting to know the city centre, working out how the transport system works, meeting new people



and being part of the ministry team at Central Hall. Most of all, of listening to God and discerning which projects to be involved with. The church has two cafés, an auditorium, offices as well as a chapel. I already know that I'll be supporting the city centre chaplaincy which operates out of the building. The ecumenical spirit is strong in the city and I'm looking forward to working with other church leaders across the denominations.

I promise to let you know how I'm getting on in the frozen north and as you have promised to pray for me I too will continue to pray for you.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

With love, Pru

A message from Our Youth Worker...

1000 Letters

3generate is the youth and children's assembly that the Methodist church runs every November. Last year we took a group and we are planning on doing the same this year.

This year they are asking people to write letters to those attending.

Could you write a letter to those attending 3generate? A letter to help them be courageous in their faith by sharing something of your own faith story?

Could you share something about your experiences of being part of a church/faith community? Maybe you remember special people or moments from growing up in a church – could you share some of that story?

The purpose of these letters is to help children and young people feel connected to, and part of, the wider body of the church; to feel part of the big Methodist family!

The letter you write will be displayed at 3generate to be read by a number of children and young people.

The age bracket of those at 3generate is 8-23 years. If your letter is written particularly for younger children or the older attendees, then please make a note of that when you post it to us. Otherwise, you can write a general; letter aimed at all ages.

Include something of your faith story, experiences of being part of the church, things you have learned and encouragement to the



younger generation in their faith. Please make sure that the language you use and the stories you refer to are appropriate for the age group.

How to write it:

A handwritten letter is more personal, but a typed letter is fine too

Please **DO NOT** put your address, or any personal contact details on the letter

Please **DO NOT** put your surname on the letter; simply sign it with your first name

Ideally your letter should be one side of A4

Please send your completed letter to:
**3generate | 1000 Letters, 6th Floor,
Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone
Road, London NW1 5JR**

You can send the letter anytime, but please make sure it arrives by the end of October at the latest.

I think this is a wonderful thing and that it would be great for as many of us as possible to join in.

Please speak to me if you want more details/have any questions.

God Bless, **Helen x**

3GENERATE
CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY

THERE IS MORE!



Hillsong Conference Europe

a gathering of the church on a major scale.

20,000 Christians worshipping and learning together. With good fellowship and friends gathering for food, sharing both physical and spiritual journeys. Growing in our faith as a youth group and as individuals with eye opening sermons and ear blasting worship | *David*

The best parts of the three day journey were the socialising and the spirit moving through the crowd | *Jon*

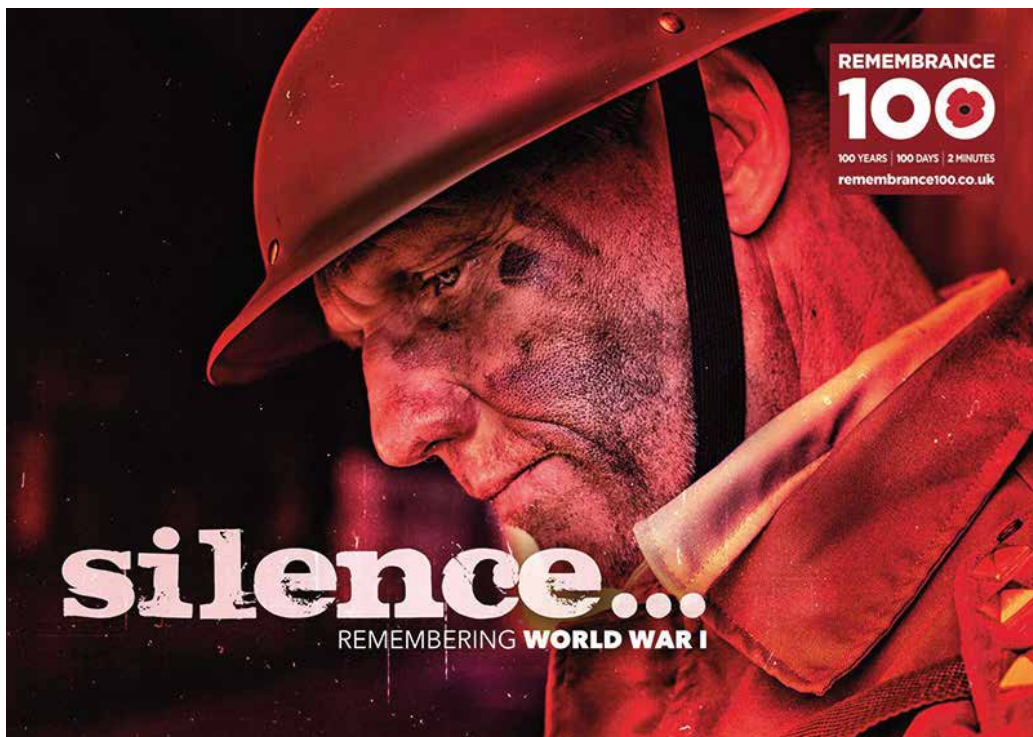
Awesome preaching and singing and preaching #pastorJohnsGray | *Sally*

With pastor Johns Gray breaking into worship and

with many people falling to their knees with worship and spiritual movement | *Manny*

Hillsong is a experience that I could never imagine would open my eyes as much as it did over the 3 glorious days of worship. The messages that the pastors delivered changed my outlook on life completely especially the main topic of More love, and how Jesus needs us to lead the blind. After all of us were able to be free and release any emotions within us, many of us feel as though we are newly refreshed and ready to find our purpose that God put us on this earth to serve through. I never expected to be so greatly affected by the wonders of his love over such a short amount of time | *Issy*





Remembrance 100: Silence

A gift book for Remembrance

A commemorative booklet called **Silence** has been produced for churches to give away at Remembrance events this November. Silence includes many of the familiar Remembrance epitaphs, poems and exhortations and aims to help all those attending Remembrance services to engage with God in the two minutes silence.

On Sunday, 11 November 2018, people around the Commonwealth will observe Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

Roy Crowne, HOPE's executive director, says: 'As well as reflecting on loss, this year also gives us the chance to look forward as we mark the end of World War 1 and pray for peace.'

We have set up Remembrance 100 in partnership with others, to help churches bring communities together to mark this significant point in our history.'

Many organisations are working together to provide Remembrance 100 resources for local churches and communities. These include the Armed Forces Christian Union, Bible Society, Christian Vision for Men, Church of England, Churches Together in England, Deo Gloria Trust, HOPE, Lifewords, the Methodist Church in Britain, the Peace Alliance, the United Reformed Church, Scripture Union, Sports Chaplaincy UK, and the World Prayer Centre.

For more information visit
www.hopetogether.org.uk/remembrance or
www.remembrance100.co.uk



ARMISTICE DAY CENTENARY POPPY APPEAL

HELP US TO CREATE A
SUITABLE WORK OF ART
TO DECORATE



St George's
Memorial Church Ypres

FOR 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

SIMPLY MAKE A POPPY
TO HONOUR THE MEMORY OF ALL THOSE,
WHOSE LIVES WERE CHANGED FOR EVER
BETWEEN **1914 & 1918**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & PATTERNS VISIT
www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com
FROM UK | emmacrofton@tiscali.co.uk | 07770 808 937
FROM EU | cherryblossom@telenet.be | 0032 57 301555

EVERY POPPY COUNTS

1918 was the final year of the Great War. This year, Canon David Winter is looking back on highlights of those critical 12 months, when the very shape of modern world history was being hammered out on the battlefields.

Diary of a Momentous Year: Surviving - and singing - in the trenches

Modern people, distraught if deprived of ‘all mod cons’, must be baffled how men survived year after year of living much of the time in the trenches of the Western Front. For month after month everything was ankle deep in mud. These were their living quarters, complete with primitive toilet arrangements, permanent damp, rats and trench foot – and that’s before one mentions the enemy’s constant shelling.

There were, of course, moments of respite at rest centres behind the lines – and there was always the coveted hope of a ‘blighty’, a wound that was not too serious but would mean treatment back in the UK. ‘Blighty’ was an Urdu word passed on by soldiers who had served in India – it means ‘European’, or in this case ‘home’.

Some men, it’s true, succumbed to what was called ‘shell-shock - traumatic stress syndrome’. But the amazing fact is that most not only survived the trench conditions and the ever-present danger, but even looked back on it as a significant experience to be proud of. How on earth did they do it?

My answer, largely based on things I heard from my father and his war-time colleagues, centred on two experiences: songs, and camaraderie. When they marched and sang ‘Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag’ and called on each other to ‘smile, boys, smile’, they were celebrating being part of a strange and exhilarating brotherhood. Humour was rife in the trenches, much of it about the sheer



THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

awfulness of their situation. The ‘Wiper’s Times’, a newspaper produced by soldiers in Ypres, can still make us laugh, as its recent revival on stage has proved.

It was the camaraderie - the sense of belonging to an exclusive ‘club’ - which made the humour possible and authenticated the songs. It was a profound feeling of belonging which made the impossible bearable. There was, one must add, a third element in trench survival: the chaplains and the Salvation Army. I never heard a single veteran discount their value, right there in the heart of things, offering a prayer, yes, but also tea and cakes and understanding.

Of course the soldiers hated the war, the loss of comrades, the relentless months of deadly danger. But their songs and memories also told another story, which we should not forget.

Hartlip

Methodist Church & Retreat Centre

Our warm summer continues and thanks to the hard work of church members the church's garden looks as beautiful as ever. The garden came into its own for the Strawberry Tea afternoon though it was TOO hot for some to sit out! It was good to see some faces that visit to support us at this kind of event, and thanks to those who came despite an important football match.

Our evening services continue and we have welcomed one or two extra summer visitors because of the light evenings. On Sunday 8th July, we all went to Sittingbourne for the official farewell to our Deacon Pru Cahill and the Rev Gary Watt. However, Pru led her last service at Hartlip on Sunday 5 August. All the best Pru as you head for Manchester Central Hall, a slightly bigger Church than Hartlip. Thank you for all you have done for us.

Margaret Bowerman

This is for Pru:



On yer bike!

It seems that cycling is great for keeping old age at bay, and it also rejuvenates the immune system. A recent study has found that cyclists do better at preserving their muscle mass and strength with age, while maintaining stable levels of body fat and cholesterol. The study was done at the Institute of Inflammation and Ageing at the University of Birmingham.

Studies published in "Aging Cell"

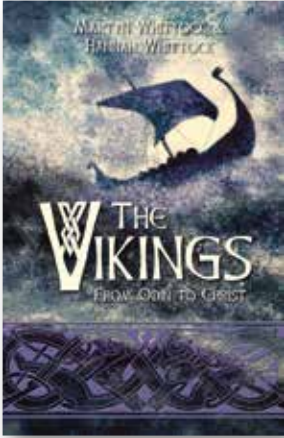
Pollock et al (2018). 'Properties of the vastus lateralis muscle in relation to age and physiological function in master cyclists aged 55 – 79 years.'

Duggal et al (2018). 'Major features of Immunesenescence, including Thymic atrophy, are ameliorated by high levels of physical activity in adulthood.'

Parish Pump



Book & Film reviews... *from Parish Pump*



The Vikings - From Odin to Christ - The forgotten story of the 'Christian Vikings' | Martyn and Hannah Whittock | LionHudson, £9.99

We are all familiar with the fierce pagan warriors that burst out of Scandinavia during the eighth century, plundering, ravaging and shedding blood wherever they went. A lesser-known fact about these infamous pillagers is that the majority converted to Christianity in the centuries that followed.

In England, children of the Vikings who had martyred the Christian king of East Anglia minted coins extolling his holiness. In Normandy, the pagans became loyal supporters of the Catholic Church. In the east the former raiders founded the first Russian state and converted to Orthodox Christianity. Martyn and Hannah Whittock suggest that the Vikings had as much impact as converts

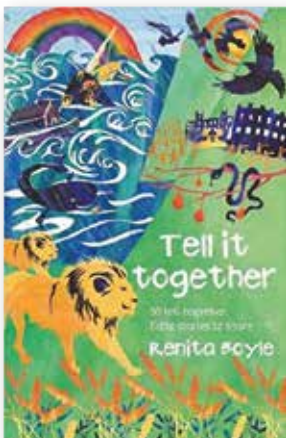
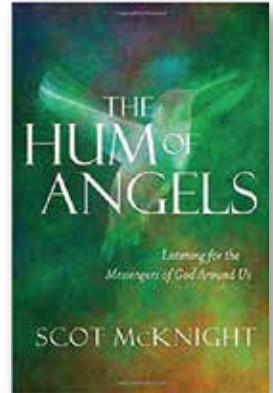
as they did as deadly marauders. So how and why did this radical transformation happen, and what is their legacy today?

The Hum of Angels - Listening for the Messengers of God Around Us | Scot McKnight | Monarch | £9.99

The Bible tells us that angels are sent from God, and thus at work in this world. From the Garden of Eden to the book of Revelation, Scripture includes references to them.

This book explores what the Bible says about these majestic beings.

They express God's love, confirm His presence, and even lead humans in redemptive worship. The book urges us not just to believe in angels, but to learn how to recognise these messengers of God. It urges us to discover how God might be using them to affect our lives.



Tell It Together - 50 tell-together Bible stories to share Renita Boyle | BRF | £8.99

Storytelling is a vital skill for everyone in ministry of any kind. Everything we are and everything we do revolves around the big story of God's love for us and how we respond to it. Tell It Together combines stories that have been written to read well aloud with tools for groups to share them effectively. The stories can be used on their own, to enhance a theme or Bible passage, or alongside other activities as the basis for clubs or creative worship gatherings and festivals.

Contents range from 'How things went wrong - the story of the fall' to 'The basket baby - Moses is born' to 'A few good friends - the man on the mat' and 'Come early to the tomb - Jesus is risen'.

MAMMA MIA!

— HERE WE GO AGAIN —



MOVIE MOMENTS

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

In the now and beyond

Ten years after the release of the original, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* wonderfully takes us back to the same beautiful island and glorious sunshine. But perhaps it is the difference between the two films that is particularly powerful. The first was primarily themed around discovering one's individual identity and freedom, whereas the sequel explores the enduring nature of relationships.

This is symbolised physically in the hotel which Sophie has renovated to fulfil the vision of her mother, Donna, who has recently died. We see in flash-back the young Donna singing 'I Have a Dream' as she wanders through the original ruins, intercut with shots of Sophie's completed rooms.



It is symbolised relationally by the arrival of Sophie's estranged grandmother, who has not forgotten her family, and who herself discovers a long-lost love at the hotel.

But it is a scene in the beautiful hill-top church which most powerfully takes this theme to a whole new level – physically, relationally, and spiritually. Even Mark Kermode, the hardened film-critic says of it '*I wasn't just crying, I was convulsing with tears.*' Here, the film reworks the lyrics of ABBA's little-known 'My Love, My Life' to change it from a song about ending relationships to one about their enduring nature: '*I can see it all so clearly, all I love so dearly... I know I don't possess you, with all my heart God bless you ... As one are we, in the now and beyond*'.



In our culture, recently dominated by a focus on individuality and freedom, perhaps reflecting on this film, and its changes to the song's lyrics, might cause us to think again about the enduring nature of relationships. And, perhaps we may then heed some of the other reworked words: '*I see a road ahead, I never thought I would dare to tread*'.



**ETHOS
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.

'He gave us eyes to see them' Church of the Multiplication at Tabgha

God *in*
the Arts

For 2018, the Rev Michael Burgess is exploring symbols of the Christian faith as found in works of art.

All the saints have their special symbols. When we see a saint in a window or painting carrying loaves of bread, we know it is St Philip. It was Philip who wondered how the multitude gathered around Jesus could be fed in John 6. Our Lord met their hunger with just five loaves and two fish.



Bread has always been a staple food in the Holy Land, and in July the media reported that the oldest bread had been found in the remains of a Jordanian fire 14,000 years ago. Today all kinds of bread are sold in our bakeries and supermarkets. Each country has its own way of producing bread, but at heart it is the same procedure combining the four ancient elements of life: earth, air, water and fire - earth producing the grain for flour, air to transform the dough, water added to the mix, and fire to bake the bread.

Bishop Geoffrey Rowell tells the story of sharing a picnic with some Lebanese Christians. Fragments of the bread were scattered on the ground, and he idly cracked them with his feet. The reaction was immediate. 'Don't do that' one said. 'It is bread. It is life.' John tells us in chapter 6

how bread is a sign of life for the people, and a sign that points to Jesus whose life is generously shared with others.

A church was built on the site of that miracle at Tabgha by the north-west shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is called the Church of the Multiplication. On the floor in front of the altar is a 5th century mosaic depicting the loaves and fish – beautiful and immediate in its simplicity.

We enter our own churches and see bread offered on the altar at every eucharist, and rejoice that Jesus is our host as He was by the Sea of Galilee. He comes to us with the same invitations: 'Take and eat. See and believe.' He offers us the bread of life. But more than that: He offers us the bread of eternal life.

Drama Group News...

As I write this article we have just finished two performances of the comedy 'Allo Allo' and it certainly was a comedy - the audience loved it. For this play we somehow had two different representatives from the National Association (NODA) come to review our performance & they certainly enjoyed their visit to Gillingham. Thanks to your support we are able to give another £750 to the church.

We now have a few weeks rest before starting

rehearsals for the Pantomime which will take place in February next year - more details in the October magazine. In the meantime some of us will be working in the hall on general stage maintenance & upkeep.

If any of our newer church attendees would be interested in joining our theatrical group, we meet on Tuesdays at 7.45 for 8 pm - do come along for a chat & find out more about us.

Keith Jackson | www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk



Back on
Friday 7th
September

Every
Friday
Open to all

Oasis

A safe place to explore & share,
to exercise & relax, to talk & be heard

Talking Point
11.30am to 12.30pm

An open time to explore and discuss issues that affect our lives today with an emphasis on how the church and faith may help.



Chrysalis
1pm to 1.30pm

A time for gentle exercise and relaxation, particularly for those who suffer with arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic or general aches and pains.

Listening Ear
from 1.30pm

A time for fellowship and chat over a cup of tea and a piece of cake. A chance to talk and be listened to.



**Third
Avenue**
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

*You are welcome to join
all the activities or just some,
the choice is yours*

Start with what you have, and don't worry about what you don't have



When Jesus fed the 5,000, He did not produce the food from thin air. Instead, He asked the disciples how many loaves of bread they already had (Mark 6:38).

When they produced the five loaves and two fish, it seemed laughable. Everyone knew that wasn't enough. No-one thought that what they had was, in the hands of God, more than sufficient.

Moses had the same problem. He was told to go to Pharaoh and ask him to release the Israelites out of Egypt. He asked a very natural question, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me?" God asked him, "What is that in your hand?" It was his staff which, to his utter amazement, became a snake in front of him. That staff in the hand of Moses became the staff of God. It parted the Red Sea, it made the waters close over again, when it was used to strike a rock out came water and when in time Aaron took it, it sprouted, budded, blossomed and produced almonds. In the hands of God, more than sufficient.

A desperate widow appealed to Elisha the prophet. Her two children were about to be taken as slaves to make good a debt. 'What do you have?' asked Elisha. 'Nothing, but a flask of oil,' she replied. 'Go and borrow jars and containers from all your neighbours, as many as you can,' he ordered, 'then fill them from

your flask.' She went inside her house with her two sons and filled every jar. 'Then the oil stopped flowing' (2 Kings 4:6). 'Sell the oil, pay off your creditor, and live on the remainder,' said Elisha. In the hands of God, a flask of oil was more than sufficient.

What do you have now? A couple of spare hours a week? Some clothes that you no longer need? A willingness to visit someone who is lonely? An opportunity to help a neighbour or colleague? A talent for DIY? For sewing? For sharing your faith? What actually do you have? In the Bible, people who used what they had in the service of God found that, however seemingly insignificant, it was more than sufficient with God's blessing on it.

What is the key that opens the divine grace? Obedience. It was obedience in using what they already had that engendered the miracle. May it be so for you also.

Note from Editor | Oasis is looking for volunteers on a Friday afternoon. From making the tea to chatting and listening. Or you may know of someone who needs some company that you could bring along. Perhaps that spare couple of hours could be spent here?

Our **Chapel Anniversary weekend** was an outstanding highlight. On Saturday June 9th, we held a Gift Day and we all shared in a Fish and Chip Supper which ended in a rousing singalong! The following evening, our good friend and former minister, Rev. Melvyn Cooke returned to lead the Anniversary service, during which Brian Davies was presented with a certificate to mark his sixty years as a Local Preacher. Of course, Joan had been at his side throughout that time and we were able to thank them both for their combined years of loyal service. This wonderful achievement was recognised by so many people from all across the Circuit who came along to celebrate with them. The service was preceded by one of our famous Hartlip Teas- and, as always, there was a delicious array of savoury and sweet dishes to enjoy.

Afterwards, as we gathered for the service, we had to place extra rows of chairs in the Retreat Centre because the Chapel was full to overflowing! The singing practically took your breath away - it was a truly uplifting occasion. Brian chose all the hymns and also played the organ, so we all benefited from his exceptional musical talent.

The Praise Choir from Third Avenue sang a lively arrangement of "Trust and Obey" during the service and a beautiful Choral Blessing at the end. Brian was also presented with gifts from the congregation at Hartlip and Third Avenue in recognition of his dedicated service as a Local Preacher and Pastoral Leader.



Summer ^{at} Hartlip

“ We've had a busy summer,
packed full of happy occasions
with many memories to treasure ”

Heather Gallagher

From one Anniversary to another!



On August 3rd, Penny and Mike Foreman celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Hartlip. They were married at Broadway Methodist Church in Sheerness on the same day in 1968. I had the privilege of playing the organ for their wedding and Derek was their usher! As lifelong friends, we were both delighted to be able to share in their Anniversary celebrations in 2018.

Many friends and family members met in the Chapel for a simple, yet moving service followed by an afternoon tea in the Retreat Centre. Derek had the honour of leading that service and I played the organ. I don't suppose that there are many people who can say that the same organist played both for their wedding and for their anniversary celebrations fifty years later! What's more, the same four hymns were sung and the same bible passage read during the service. Rosina, one of our members, filled the Chapel with beautiful golden floral arrangements and the effect was truly stunning. Despite the extraordinarily hot weather, Glenis and Andy, our resident gardeners, made sure that the gardens either side of the Chapel were a mass of colour and provided the perfect backdrop for photographs. It was a very happy occasion and people were able to sit outside in the shade to enjoy their tea and the beautiful surroundings.

A fond farewell

Pru's last preaching appointment in our Circuit was at Hartlip on August 5th and we said a fond farewell to her by hosting a special afternoon Tea before the service. It was a bittersweet occasion but nonetheless very enjoyable. Despite the very hot weather, people were able to find shade in the gardens under parasols to enjoy the food and the fellowship. Pru chose to end her final service with a somewhat unseasonable, rousing rendition of "While Shepherds Watched" to the tune of "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'At"! After this, she was presented with gifts from our members, in recognition of her many gifts to us.





I have lived in Gillingham my whole life.

I have walked the same roads for many years. Prior to learning to drive, it was my mode of transport to get anywhere. I thought nothing of walking 45 minutes to get somewhere - sometimes whilst reading a book, chatting on the phone or most frequently whilst I watched the world go by.

Whilst employed by Youth for Christ our mission statement 'taking good news relevantly...' took on a new meaning for me. I began to see my walking routes and journeys as a time to engage with God and the ministry I felt called to. I would walk to the war memorial on the Great Lines and pray over Medway. I would walk from our office and drop-in centre on Trafalgar Street to the drop-in on Third Avenue. The thing about walking: it slows you down, it makes you available to people. I walked with young people and we talked - sometimes in depth and deep discussions and other times we had complete inane musings. I walked with other members of my team and in those conversations we invited Jesus in. We walked and prayed for people we met, we listened and watched our town.

The act of walking for me is as much of a spiritual act as a physical one. When I was on my first maternity leave I would

walk up and down Gillingham high street and see young people, we'd stop and pass the time of day, a check-in and I would hope it was another chance for me to communicate to them in some small way that they were loved and so precious to God (even when not saying those words!). Over the years God has placed people in my path as I walk. I once walked past a young Mum's house who I knew by association and found myself in her kitchen listening to her concerns and worries about her housing situation (all whilst keeping to safeguarding procedures I must stress!!).

Nowadays my walking practice is different. I'm almost always pushing a buggy or chasing a toddler. Sometimes I walk just to hit my steps for the day or because I'm really absorbed into a good audio book and I want to hear how it ends. But there are still those days where I choose to walk without sound, distractions or a destination in mind. Those walks are always the best for me, I love this town and I love engaging with God as I walk through it.

The article I have shared below describes this act much more succinctly as I could. Who knows, maybe you will cross my path one of these days and we'll both be blessed as a result.

Kirstie Bottiglieri

Even though I walk through the valley of shadow of death

I live at the top of a hill. From where I live you can see the hustle and bustle of life happening below. It's a short, familiar walk to the station, to the shops or to see friends who live at the bottom of the hill. The tree-lined woodland ridge cascades down through the wild meadow, following a meandering path over a grassy hump and past a playground. It's a lovely walk...going downhill.

On the way back, however, the story changes: the same beautiful hill saps all my energy and I'm focused on every step just to make it to the top. My heart starts pounding and gasping for breath. When I reach the top, feeling like a bit of a mess, all I can think about is getting home. The meaningful moment has passed; being here, now, is the last place I want to be.

Unlike me, Jesus travelled everywhere on foot. He moved around for all kinds of reasons and probably with different thoughts and attitudes. He walked and crowds followed (like in Mark 10:1); he walked to be alone (Mark 1:35); he walked to be amongst people (like when he called Zaccheus down from the tree in Luke 19). In John 11 he walked to where his friend was sick, and brought him back from the dead. He walked to places in order to heal people, but people also got healed on the journey, like in Matthew 9. Jesus walked with people and changed their whole perspective on life – think of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, think of Saul (even if Jesus wasn't doing so much walking in that one). He even walked on water (Matthew 14), turning walking itself into a supernatural experience – and one he shared with Peter. He walked with purpose, but he also walked for the sake of the journey itself.

Think about the walking that you do each day, or the way you most often move around.

What might it be like to walk with Jesus?

Even though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

Reading this verse, it's easy to focus on the situation, "the valley", rather than the simple act of faith required – walking. And trusting that Jesus is there with us.

This mostly unthought-of physical act can represent for us a kind of spiritual defiance. In our own struggles, or as we pray for others struggling - with doubt, depression, self-belief, even sickness – simple walking can take on the nature of a prayer. Each step sows a mustard seed of faith. It models a posture of persistence.

The greatest prayers are sometimes the unspoken but physical act of being present.

Peace-makers and blessing-bringers pray without words but with "feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15). There is something about physical activity that awakens deeper realities. Hope comes while walking in the cool of the day. Unanswered prayers find a home. Unknown prayers find a voice. As you put one foot in front of the other deep calls to deep.

LUKE 24:13-15

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.

Walking can just be a functional activity, but it can also be more than that: we are made mind, body and spirit, and each walks hand in hand with the other. We don't just take part of ourselves for a walk. It's all there, it's just a matter of intention. The act of walking can be a spiritual practice – and maybe one you could try this week?

How do you feel about walking?

How often do you walk places? Do you play music or podcasts to pass the time, or do you take in the view? Walking can feel like a slow way to travel, but maybe that's a positive thing (maybe not always!). What would it be like to imagine Jesus walking with you? What could you talk about?

Go for a walk

For your quiet time, reflection or for no reason at all, go for a walk. Try to squeeze in a walk a day this week if you can - you could take walks you already do and put some prayerful intention behind them. Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you and to speak to you. Ask for help in seeing the neighbourhood as God sees it. Pray through whatever's on your mind, or just listen.

Tim Hewitt | youthscape.co.uk/openme/practice/



Calling all Tradesmen & women

I am sure you will all appreciate that Third Avenue requires a large degree of maintenance throughout the year.

At the last meeting of the Finance & Property Group it was suggested that a list should be prepared of any members of the congregation who may be able to assist with the general maintenance jobs, as and when they arise. We may well just be seeking advice on the best way to tackle any jobs, as well as asking for volunteers to help.

We do currently have a list of contractors that we call on where more specialised work is necessary, for example the recent repairs to the roof of the community hall and the office. If anyone knows of a contractor for all trades that they feel would be beneficial for Third Avenue then please let me know.

Additionally, if anyone is able to recommend suppliers, preferably local, of general items such as cleaning, janitorial, stationary items etc that would be appreciated.

My contact details are as follows:
procurement@gillinghammethodists.uk
07565 105520

or please feel free to speak to me at any time.

Jim Hancock | Procurement Steward

Vestry Prayers

There is a lot to be said for tradition! Across most churches and just a few minutes before the service the Worship leaders and preacher gather together for prayer, often this is led by the steward in the vestry or in a quiet prayer space.

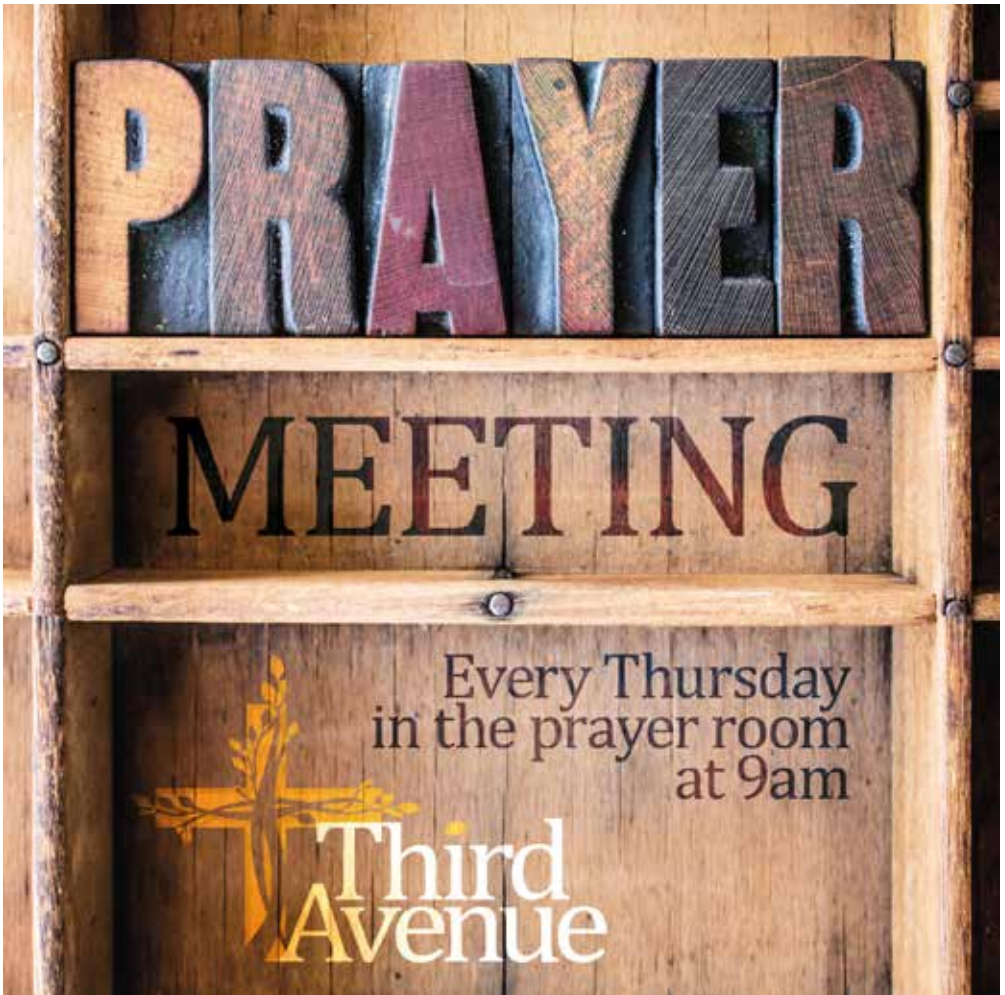
It has to be said that praying at the beginning of worship is a great way of reminding ourselves that *“God is with us, that He is at the centre of everything we do, and that the*

reason we are alive is to love and worship Him”.

I have personally valued the times when someone has asked God to give me guidance and wisdom to lead the service.

Moving this time of prayer to the front of the church, a space which is visible to all, I hope will help all of us to quieten our hearts and minds to worship so that we are all better prepared to hear his word, glimpse his presence and offer our responses with body, mind and soul.

Rev Robin Selmes



SUMMER

FOR EVERYONE | ANY AGE!

Fun Crafts, Food & Games

EVERY **TUESDAY** IN **AUGUST**
12-3PM IN THE COMMUNITY HALL

CHILDREN UNDER 10
MUST BRING AN ADULT
DONATION OF £1 OR MORE!



**Third
Avenue**
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

For more information call 01634 575139
or email church@gillinghammethodists.uk



Back on
Tuesday 4th
September



Girlguiding News



Girlguiding has undergone the biggest ever overhaul in the charity's history, revamping its iconic badges and activities to create a programme for #EveryGirl

Over 50,000 girls were involved in shaping the new look activities and badges through testing and consultation

Girls can choose to work towards interest badges such as Entrepreneur, Inventing, Navigator, Animation, Craftivism, Self-care and Human rights and other activities include First aid, Survival skills, DIY and 3D Craft and Design

New research shows half of girls age 7-18 say they often worry about trying new things either because they fear others might judge them or because they don't want to fail

Girlguiding has announced the details of more than 800 new badges and activities designed to equip over 400,000 girls and young women with the skills and experiences they will need to thrive, succeed, make change and be happy in the modern world.

The revamp and modernisation of the programme of activities and badges is the biggest ever overhaul in the charity's history and covers all that girls and young women do in Girlguiding from the ages of five to 18. Girls and young women have led this transformation over the last 18 months with more than 50,000 involved in testing new activities and badges and having their say on everything from colours and content to shapes and names. Their input has helped to create a unique and extensive choice of activities which reflects the diversity of girls and modern life in the 21st century. The programme aims to support every girl to reach her potential by giving her the opportunity to discover and explore a wide variety of new interests while building her skills and confidence, all in the trusted care of the 100-year-old organisation.

HARVEST SUPPER & QUIZ

Saturday 29 September
6pm | Community Hall
£10 Adults | £5 Children
Teams of Eight

Tickets from debra@familytrust.org.uk
or youth@gillinghammethodists.uk

Harvest Ploughmans &
Refreshments provided



All profits
split between
Family Trust
3rd Ave Youth
Bowl
Cancer UK



Third
Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

100 THIRD AVENUE | GILLINGHAM | ME7 2LU



The
Family
Trust



Our local preachers value your prayers as they preach in different Churches around the Circuit...

12 AUG	DEREK GALLAGHER TRISH ROBB	GRAVESEND STROOD
26 AUG	MANDY HARRIS	STROOD
02 SEPT	MANDY HARRIS BRIAN DAVIES TRISH ROB JUDITH GERMAN	TONBRIDGE ROAD STROOD STOKE ST LUKE'S
16 SEPT	SARA CROUCH BRIAN DAVIES	BURHAM HOPE STREET
23 SEPT	TRISH ROBB	NEWINGTON

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16



Lola News...



I have had many walks out recently, one being down to Kiddiwinks to meet some of the children. The experience was friendly and we all met together in the blue room. All the children welcomed me with kind hands, giving me belly rubs and cuddles. I stayed for story time, which was about Huskies pulling sledges in Alaska. This not being my cup of tea (although I did have a bowl of water). I'd rather lay in the sun topping up my coat, which has gone a couple of shades lighter due to the sunshine we have been having. Not a raindrop in sight, so I need Trudy to keep my bowl topped up. Perhaps a chance of getting water from the birdbath, oops!! I don't think Trudy knows I've drunk that before, so just put my paw in it, I guess!

All take care

Woofwoof.... love Lola x



What is 'health'?

Canon David Winter considers what it is to be healthy.

This summer we've been celebrating the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service. I can recall, years ago, my GP pointing out that it was the National Health Service, not the National Illness Service. This was when our local practice changed its name from 'Medical Centre' to 'Health Centre'. It seems a pedantic point, but in fact it touches on a huge issue. What is 'health'?

In the Gospels the healing miracles of Jesus are sometimes called 'cures' and sometimes 'making well or whole'. These are attempts by the translators to convey a difference in the nature of what had happened. People who had 'conditions' (blind, lame, infirm) were 'cured'. Those with serious illness were often said to be 'made whole'. When Jesus was faced with ten people with leprosy, nine were described as 'cured' and one – the Samaritan who came back in gratitude, was 'made whole' (Luke 17:19). So was the woman with a long-term haemorrhage, who touched the hem of the Lord's garment: 'your faith has made you whole (well)' (Luke 8:45).

This suggests that 'health' is more than being free of sickness. Indeed, it seems to imply that health relates to our whole life experience – to be truly healthy, we are 'well' mentally, physically and spiritually. I think I would go further: I have ministered to people who were desperately ill but in the deepest sense of the word radiantly 'healthy'. That may sound odd, but just as 'peace' is not simply the absence of war, so 'health' is not just the absence of illness. I suspect many of those working in the NHS know the truth of that.

Bishop's Bill calls on MPs to add mothers to marriage certificates

The House of Lords has passed a bill from the Bishop of St Albans to end the historic inequality of excluding mothers' names from marriage certificates.

The Registration of Marriage Bill, which would also introduce electronic marriage registers, now moves to the House of Commons to be considered by MPs.

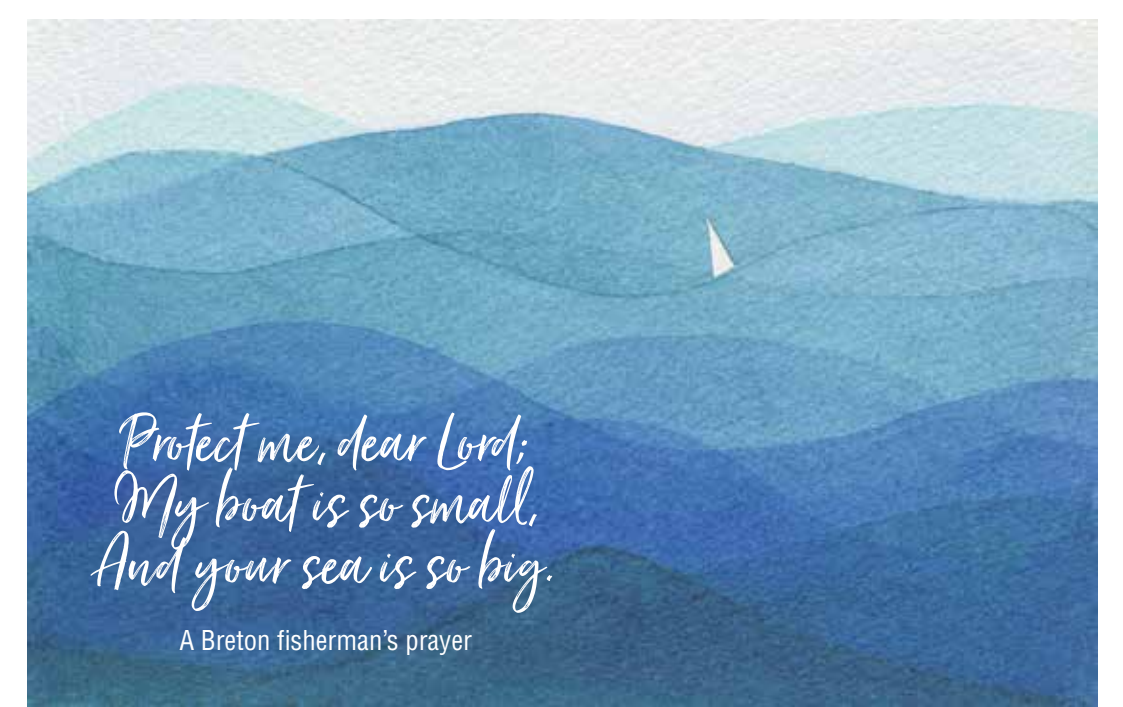
It is the first time a Bishop's Private Member's Bill has proceeded to the House of Commons in more than 20 years.

Speaking after the Lords passed the Bill, the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith, said:

"As someone who has performed hundreds of marriages, it has always seemed shocking to me that mothers are systematically overlooked. This injustice dates to 1837 when children were viewed as a father's property and little consideration was given to women. In this centenary year of women's suffrage it is time to make this long overdue change.

I am pleased to have had the backing not only of Peers and many in the Church, but a huge number of others, including tens of thousands who have signed public petitions, campaigners for women's equality, and even genealogists.

MPs from all parties support the aims of this Bill. I hope and expect the Government to treat it as a legislative priority when it comes to the Commons this autumn, and urge MPs to give it their approval."

A Breton fisherman's prayer. The background is a stylized illustration of rolling hills in shades of blue and green, with a small white sailboat on a blue sea in the distance. The text is written in a white, cursive font.

Protect me, dear Lord;
My boat is so small,
And your sea is so big.

A Breton fisherman's prayer

A Holiday with Jesus

August is the month when schools are off and many of us go on holiday. The trouble is that holidays soon come to an end! Yet Jesus offers us a rest which has no end:

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Matthew 11: 28-29

Are you tired or burdened? Jesus invites you to take a holiday with Him!

The Invitation: Our holiday destination is Jesus himself: *'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened.'* We can come just as we are, with all the burdens, weaknesses and sinfulness that we carry.

Jesus doesn't offer a '10 steps programme' to deal with our issues; He simply offers himself!

The Promise: Jesus promises us the gift of refreshing, sustaining and everlasting rest. When we go on holiday, we usually look forward to doing very little and yet this is not the kind of rest Jesus offers. His rest involves taking up His yoke and learning from Him! A yoke was the wooden collar that ran across the shoulders of a pair of oxen and enabled them to work the fields. Jesus says to us:

'My yokes fit well. They do not rub your neck and shoulders. Come to me and get yoked to me. Make an act of loyal obedience and trust in me. And you will find a deep peace and satisfaction that you could never find anywhere else. I have come for you. Come to me!'

What's so amazing about this holiday is that you don't have to go anywhere; you can find rest by simply staying at home!

the **BIG** ? Questions

Our new monthly
DISCUSSION GROUP

A place of open discussion and exploration
on the questions of **Life and Faith**
The first Tuesday of every month starting
TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER | 7.30PM

*How does evolution fit with your
Christian understanding of Creation?*

TUES 4 SEPT

All knowing God and the power of prayer!

TUES 2 OCT

Is there such a thing as a 'Just War'?

TUES 6 NOV

*Advent season: Why don't we
just call it 'Christmas'?*

TUES 4 DEC


**Third
Avenue**
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

All are welcome

Fun and Games...

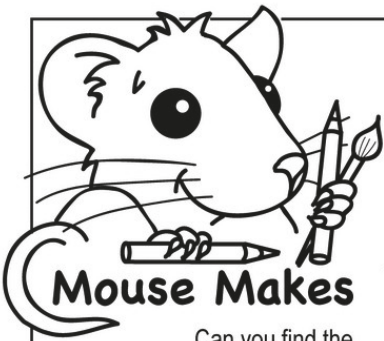
Word Search

John the Baptist

On the 29th August, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

John	Bugs	Muddy	Cut
Baptist	Camel	Jordan	History
Rough	Heat	Arrested	Great
Obscurity	Sun	Dungeon	Unique
Desert	Challenge	Head	prepare





Mouse Makes

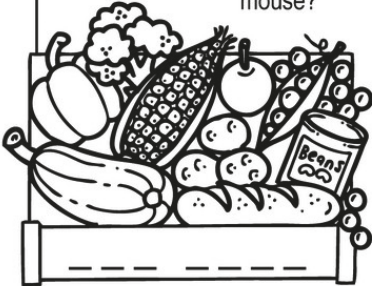
Can you find the mouse?

A HARVEST PUZZLE

Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSCT 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.



IPOPVS



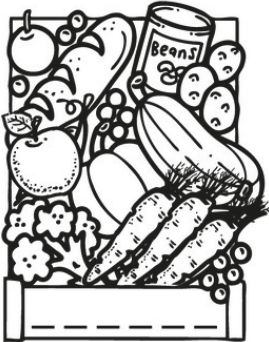
UIF MPSE



XJUI



ZPVS



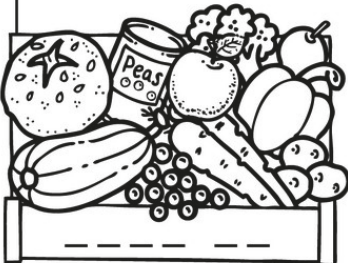
XFBMUI



BOE UIF



GJSTU



QBSU PG



ZPVS



IBSWFTU

Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

Sudoku

Easy...

Intermediate...

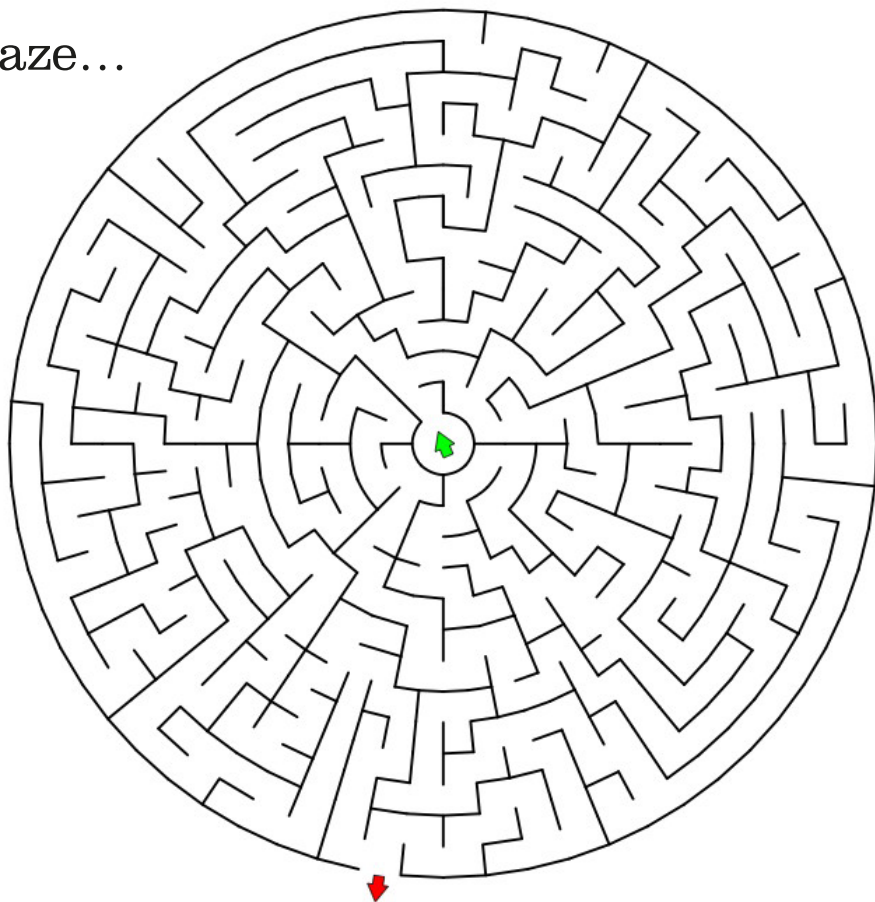
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		5						
6	7			1	8	4	5	
7	9	8			1			
3	8	2		5	6	9	4	
		1		9	5		7	
5	9	6	7		2		1	
					4			
	1		9		7			

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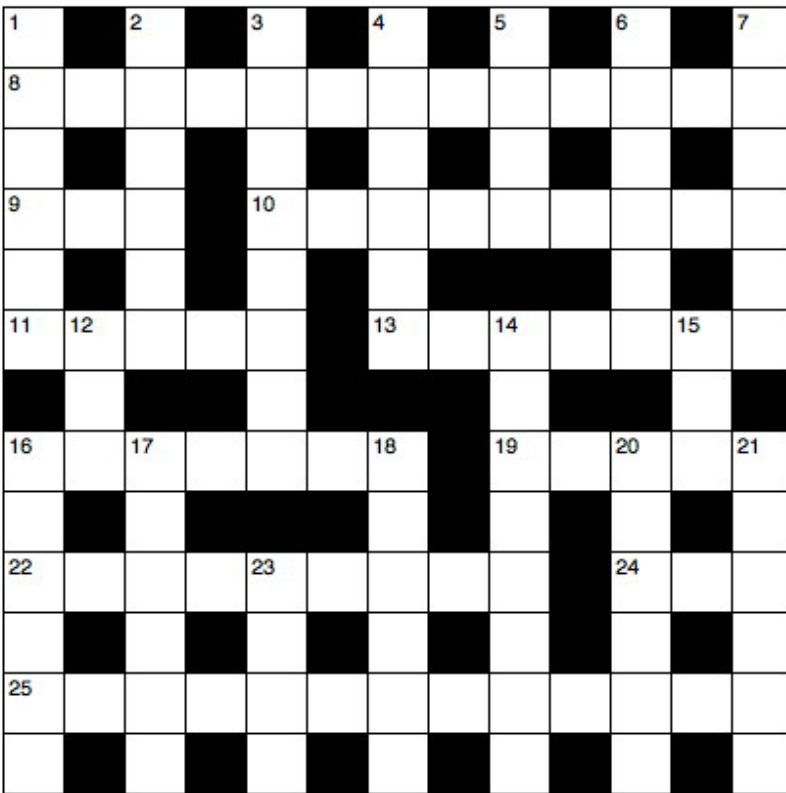
				1				2
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	6						7	
5	4			1				
	9			7			2	
					6	7		4
6				9				

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Maze...



Crossword



Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
 10 Single (1 Corinthians 7:27) (9)
 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)
 13 Treachery (2 Kings 11:14) (7)
 16 Of India (anag.) (2,3,2)
 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the —' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)
 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man'

- (Luke 5:8) (6)
 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings 12:11) (8)
 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
 12 Run (anag.) (3)
 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips' (Psalm 12:4) (3)
 16 Earnings (1 Corinthians 16:2) (6)
 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)
 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state (Daniel 11:4)(6)
 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
 23 This month (abbrev.) (4)

Smile Lines



...firstly, thank you whoever it was who put two buttons in the collection plate last week - they turned out to be early Victorian, and I've just sold them on 'ebay' for £800 each!

Hear our prayer?

A five-year-old said grace at family dinner one night. 'Dear God, thank you for these pancakes...' When he concluded, his parents asked him why he thanked God for pancakes when they were eating chicken. 'I wanted to see if He was paying attention tonight.'

Alternative prayer

Charlie had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. 'Fine', said the pleased mother. 'If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you.'

'Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave,' said Charlie. 'I asked Him to help you put up with me.'

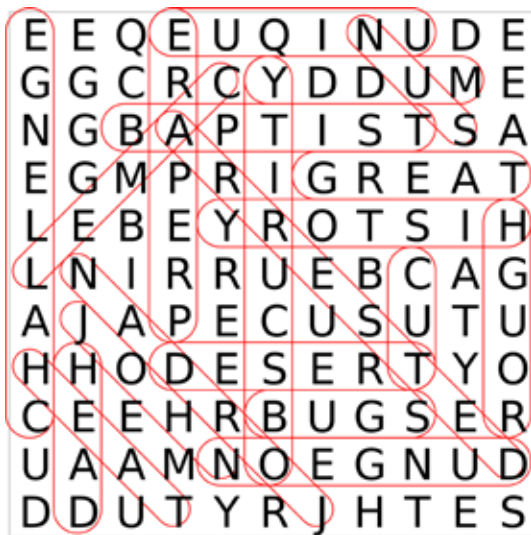
Old leaf?

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

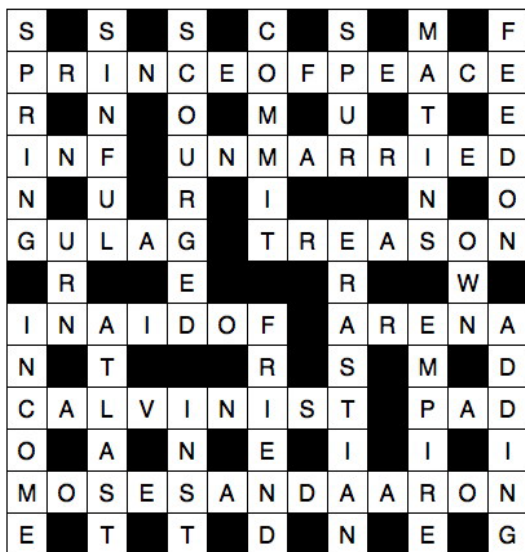
'Mum, look what I found!' the boy called out with astonishment in his voice. He turned the leaf over and over. 'I think it's Adam's underwear.'

Puzzle solutions...

Word Search...



Crossword...




Sudoku Easy...

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

Intermediate...

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



There is no charge for this magazine, but if you are able, a contribution of at least **60p** would help towards the cost of production and enable us to distribute to the wider community

Many thanks

Rev Robin Selmes

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