



# the NEW Messenger

AUTUMN 2020



## Third Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

Because of the Lord's great  
love we are not consumed ~  
for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning;  
Great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

# We are returning to Church

## from Sunday 18 October

SPACE WILL BE LIMITED DUE TO  
FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

PLEASE CHECK-IN BY USING THE  
**NHS COVID-19 APP** ON YOUR PHONE  
OR BY SPEAKING TO THE STEWARD  
AND PLEASE REMEMBER...



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



CHURCH & COMMUNITY

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FURTHER DETAILS ON **PAGE 6**

## Welcome to this **Autumn** edition of the **New Messenger**.

As the seasons change, God shares with us His Autumnal masterpiece and promise of life anew; and despite the challenges and difficulties of our time, our churches also continue to be beacons of hope and light to our communities.

*We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow. We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show. Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed. And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch.* John Birch ([www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com))

Editorial Team

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

### Harvest of Blessings

In lockdown my Uncle shared quite a few pictures of his allotment and as I looked at the wonderful varieties of fruit and vegetables that he was growing, I found myself saying, "Thank you God!"

We have also just come back from a week in Eastbourne visiting family, as we walked along the seafront I remember looking out to sea and being amazed at the sight of the sun setting over the Pier and saying, "Thank you God";

This also reminded me of the first time I visited my aunty in Scotland, as we walked around the lovely Lochs and climbed the stunning scenery, I said, "Thank you, God." I remember thinking, "God, what a wonderful creative imagination you have got."

The Book of Genesis is the Book of Beginnings, in the first chapter we read about the creation of the world, and the creation of all that we see. God saw that all he had created was very good, including the most amazing and intricate part of His creation, human life. And so, we are part of a wonderful creation story that reveals the fundamental truth about reality: "that the world is not the result of chaos, but is born of and continually supported by God's love"

So, it is a shame that our society at times has



attacked humanities worth and dignity to the extent that we feel of little value. But it is not up to society to appraise the value of one's life. Our worth and dignity are intrinsic as a person who has been created in the image of God. In the most unique way we are children of God from creation and we are valuable to Him.

Therefore, harvest is a time to reflect on and thank God for all his gifts of food and weather, especially his plants which mature in autumn and nourish us all year. It is a time to give thanks for all the wonderful blessings we have received from God. Pause for a moment and thank God.

Yet when God looks over the earth now, is it

still very good, or even good? Our world is troubled by air and water pollution. Many animals are facing loss of habitat and are endangered or extinct. Natural resources such as oil and water are becoming scarcer. People in many parts of the world are facing hunger due to lack of food, whilst others have plenty!

When God created the world, humans were given a privileged job: to have dominion over other living things. However, does this mean we have the right to do whatever we want to God's creation? The simple answer is no, we are to be caretakers of this world we live in. God was careful how he made this earth and we must not be careless about how we take care of it.

As Christians, we should understand the biblical basis for caring for our planet and its people. We should be leading the way in taking practical steps to heal our planet and protect its people. The most important commandment is to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Our Love for God, therefore, must be reflected in fulfilling the role he gave us to do, to care for his creation.

There are so many ways to get involved and they are not all overwhelming,

### **Our lifestyle choices impacts upon others:**

Think about the power you use at home and take practical steps to reduce this; Change to low-energy light bulbs, switch the TV off stand-by, consider another form of energy.

Choose a more sustainable way to get around - walk or cycle when you can instead of driving.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Every product we buy has an environmental footprint and could end up in landfill. So, think carefully about what you buy and what you throw away.

### **Having Knowledge is a good thing:**

Keep yourself informed – the more you know the better. It leaves you better equipped to have those conversations with your friends and family and those you want to influence.

Hold our politicians to account.

*We need to take our responsibility seriously; Don't leave this to the next generation, make these practical steps now as it will make a radical difference to our environment and it will give the next generation something to give God thanks for.*

*Robin*

## *A message from Helen our Youth Pastor*

September always feels like a new year for me, because of it being the start of a new school year, but this September has been odd (as has most of the year), as there hasn't been the usual flurry of starting up all our youth groups, in person.

We have been continuing to meet with our groups online, which continues to be a real blessing.

Please continue to pray for our young people at this time. They have gone back to a new school/college/university year and it is a new level of normal. Pray for all of those who are struggling at the moment.

Thank you for your continued love, prayers and support. God Bless



*Helen*

# Poppy Appeal 2020



Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be 'point of sale donations'. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the

nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

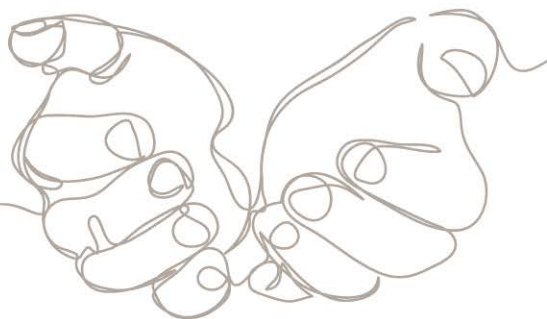
A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead", but that "the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised *"not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present."*

And yet the need is still huge: *"Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them."*

Parish Pump

## The Methodist Church launches Year of Prayer



The Methodist Church has launched a Year of Prayer online to help bring more people to faith. The short weekly online service takes place each **Tuesday lunchtime, at 12.45pm via Zoom, and is also live-streamed via Facebook**. It will be led by people from across the Church.

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, explains:

"This Year of Prayer is a special time, a called-out time, for the whole Church. The world can feel like it's falling apart – not only due to COVID, but also due to systemic injustice, racism, to climate change, to political

instability. And if we as the Church are going to respond in any meaningful way, we need more than ever to pray, we need to call upon God for healing and renewal and wisdom."

The Year of Prayer is considered an important step in the new strategy adopted by the Methodist Conference to be an inclusive, evangelistic, growing, justice-seeking Church. It wants to focus resources on helping people explore faith, in starting hundreds of new churches, and in serving communities experiencing marginalization.

**Register for future prayer meetings** via [www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/)

# Sunday Worship

10.30am

18 OCT **REV ROBIN SELMES**  
HOLY COMMUNION

25 OCT **REV ROBIN SELMES**

01 NOV **KAREN WILLING**

08 NOV **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
LINK TO CIRCUIT LIVE STREAM  
SERVICE LED BY THIRD AVENUE

Because of the Lord's great  
love we are not consumed ~  
for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning;  
Great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23



**Third  
Avenue**

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FOR THOSE WHO WON'T BE  
ABLE TO COME BACK TO  
CHURCH JUST YET, LINKS TO  
THE **LIVE STREAMED CIRCUIT  
SERVICES AND WORSHIP  
RESOURCES** WILL STILL BE  
SENT OUT EACH WEEK VIA  
OUR MAILING LIST

# Returning to Church

Dear All,

I pray that you and your families are safe and healthy during these challenging times.

Following church Council's announcement last month, I am happy to inform you that everything has been put in place to enable us to re-open Third Avenue for worship this Sunday, 18th October. We know that while this will come as welcome news to each of you, there are likely a number of questions you may have and so we have attempted to address some of them in the guidelines set out below.

Here are the details for worship services at Third Avenue: we kindly ask that everyone will follow these guidelines developed to keep you safe:

- As we want your experience of church to be safer than a trip to any other public place and so the church will be cleaned and sanitised prior to and after each service.
- Entrance doors to the church and foyer doors will remain open for ventilation prior to the service.
- We ask that you practise social distancing whilst entering, during and leaving the church. Sadly, no handshakes or hugs.
- Contact details will be recorded for 'Test and Trace.' A QR code will be available to those who have downloaded the NHS App.
- Hands would need to be sanitised on entering and masks/face coverings would need to be worn in accordance with government guidelines.
- There will be a one-way system in place and seating will be set up to follow strict social-distancing rules.
- There will be limited seating in the church, as we will only be using every other pew. We anticipate numbers to begin with will be low, about 15% of our normal congregation. If numbers increase over time we may need to operate a booking system.

- We encourage everyone to respect each other's space. Families & bubbles, of course, may sit together. Under the rule of 6 no more than 6 people may sit together.
- We will not be passing the offertory baskets around, but will instead have them located near the doors of the foyer for envelope collection or cash donations.
- Services will be either led by Robin, a local preacher or occasionally we will show the Circuit live service.
- Services will last between 30-45 mins. Under the current restrictions we are unable to sing but we will be able to celebrate communion. The first Sunday back will include Holy Communion.
- The Sunday Squads will not return until further restrictions are lifted.
- No refreshments will be provided before or after the service.
- We ask that if you fellowship with others that you please do so outside, maintain social distancing and keep to the rule of 6.

Our concern in reopening the church is to keep the church family healthy while adhering to guidelines. We would therefore ask that you please exercise wisdom. If you or anyone in your household is experiencing the following symptoms: dry cough, fever, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, please do not attend.

To those unable to attend or who are shielding or needing to be careful we will each week continue to provide a link to the live Circuit service and worship resources.

Finally, even in the last few days there is still lots to be done and so please keep praying for everyone involved in the reopening of our church this Sunday.

Every blessing

**Robin**

# At home with the Gallaghers

Back in early March, did any of us fully understand the implications of a Global Pandemic? Did we really expect to be wearing face masks and socially distancing at the beginning of September? Could we have possibly conceived how much our daily lives would be affected and how Spring, Summer and Autumn would merge into one another in a continuous and somewhat confusing way? As I write this article, I ask myself these questions and wonder where all that time has gone and what on earth I did in it!

I looked around the house this week and realised that one of the things I haven't been doing is cleaning! I could have instigated a really efficient Spring Cleaning regime and encouraged Derek to get involved. However, Spring has well and truly sprung in that respect!

To my shame, since I last wrote, I moved a large vase in the corner of the dining room during an unusual frenzy of dusting activity and discovered behind it, a sprig of artificial mistletoe! I hope that it has only been there since December 2019, but I can't honestly be sure!



I think that the house has suffered a lot through continual use, especially during lockdown.

I read somewhere that house dust is composed of 80% human skin! What an appalling thought! There are only two of us here but we seem to be shedding an unacceptable amount of the stuff. Is it an Age thing? I have recently examined Derek's legs and have deduced that he is the main culprit - he has been wearing shorts for the last six months and this has served to exacerbate the problem. I googled 'excessive skin shedding' and was offered all sorts of remedies. Most of these I rejected but ordered him a miracle cure. It's an intense moisturising cream for mature skin. I have to say he's less than enthusiastic about applying it!

It's just occurred to me that I'm writing about Derek's legs again! Last time I told you about his unfortunate accidents. This time, his legs seem to have become a particularly tasty delicacy for mosquitoes and horseflies, resulting in muscle pain, swelling and infections, and so far, two courses of antibiotics. Not a pretty sight but this hasn't curbed his enthusiasm for walking in the countryside for pleasure.

Now, my personal aversion to physical exertion is legendary in our family and I think I have written to you about this subject before. However, recently I have had to succumb to Derek's entreaties to join him on his regular





walks. He worries about my level of fitness and deep down I know that I have become lazy, unfit and maybe just a few pounds heavier. So I can be seen occasionally, roaming the lanes near Queendown Warren, trying to keep up with Derek as he forges ahead using his walking poles. You can't possibly mistake me for a seasoned walker - I'm always hot, sticky and red faced and apparently make a loud groaning noise whilst complaining constantly as I attempt to climb uphill.

In fact, I had a very embarrassing moment at the bottom of one hill recently, when a van driver lowered his window and shouted at Derek, highlighting my obvious difficulties.

*“Oi mate, you'd better give her a piggy back ~ she's never going to get up that hill!”*

Imagine that! Mortifying!

It is for this reason that I prefer walking where there are very few people around to witness my distress.

Last week I agreed to go walking with Derek in the woods that surround the field where our caravan is sited, in Herne. I strode out purposefully, whilst calling out “I'm only doing this to shut you up!” There were no hills on this route and so I hardly complained at all. Encouraged by this improvement, Derek insisted that we should walk across the corn fields the following day. He checked the weather app on his phone and decided that we had a “window of opportunity” before the rain



was due to arrive. We set off and suddenly, the heavens opened! I was completely soaked through and grumpy by the time I arrived back at the van. My faith in weather apps is now gone and so is my new found enthusiasm for walking. Derek is disappointed with my attitude and says that it's so much nicer when we can “do things together”. I feel I have to remind him that we already “do things together” when we eat our meals and watch television in the evening. He says this isn't the same thing at all and hopes that one day soon, I will fully appreciate the benefits that walking brings and begin to enjoy it. The jury's out on that one!

I have to concede that the countryside has looked amazing over the last six months and we are very lucky indeed that we don't have to travel very far from home to appreciate it. We have also been walking along the Leas at Minster on Sea which has prompted feelings of nostalgia as we've reminisced about our childhood on the Isle of Sheppey. This was where Derek and I met, some sixty years ago and it's always had a special place in our hearts. There's something very therapeutic for us about the sea and that's one walk I do very willingly. This might have something to do with the fact that there are two or three places along the route where I can buy an ice cream!



On another subject entirely, over the last few months I have well and truly been won over by the wonders of online shopping! It is amazing what one can buy without leaving the house! It's also amazing how easily I have been persuaded to purchase stuff I didn't know I needed. Having mastered the intricacies of online Grocery shopping, this has been a natural development. What has been a real boon is the fact that I've just discovered that Derek has a One Touch Pay Pal account! I just have to tap the icon and whatever I order is immediately paid for! How good is that!

I have to admit that I have had mixed success so far in respect of my purchases. In fact, I would venture to say that, overall, it's been a rather disappointing experience.

But I'll let you judge for yourselves.....

In late Spring, I thought it might be nice to have some new summer clothes and quickly found a website that offered me just what I wanted. Ordering was easy and I eagerly awaited their arrival. And then - nothing happened! No word from the company and no new clothes.

As Spring and Summer drifted into Autumn, I had almost forgotten about them and so was pleasantly surprised when they arrived last week! The immediate euphoria of expectation gave way to grave disappointment as I soon

realised that the tops bore little resemblance to the ones that the models were wearing on the website, the fabric quality was very poor and the elastic waistband of the trousers would only stretch over one leg! There was no way it would fit over my hips! I will not bore you with the details of the Returns Procedure, but suffice to say their idea of 'simple' and mine are miles apart. I had neglected to retain the original packaging in pristine condition which complicated things somewhat and the whole ghastly process had to be completed within a certain time scale, which I found very stressful indeed. Never again!

I've also been guilty of not reading the specifications carefully enough before ordering goods.

In June, we sent what I thought would be a beautiful posy of country flowers to Derek's sister



for her birthday. We waited eagerly for her reaction to the gift. The package arrived safely and she sent us a message of thanks, adding that it had taken her a while to find a vase 'small enough for the flowers'! She sent us a photograph of the arrangement and I was horrified to find that she'd had to use a mug - the smallest receptacle she could find! They were, in fact, rather dull miniature flowers that had looked so much bigger and better in the picture on the website!

Then there was the Oval Roaster fiasco! I do already have a Roaster but it's far too deep for my small oven. I found one that looked perfect and immediately bought it online, foolishly omitting to take note of its dimensions. When it arrived, it was perfect. Perfect if you might need to roast a quail or perhaps a large chop!

And what's more, the super efficient non-stick coating means that it is almost impossible to remove from a hot oven without the lid slipping off first. Not a great design feature!



After this little spate of disappointing purchases, Derek felt moved to advise me to check my facts more carefully when ordering online. Sensible advice, of course, and I reminded him of this when he ordered some new dry food for our cat, Susan. A very large box was delivered that seemed to surprise him. He had ordered twelve pouches of food, assuming that one pouch would be one meal. In fact, Susan now has enough food to last her well into her old age if her teeth hold out that long!



You've probably got the message now, so I won't tell you about the luxurious, ornate, black velvet bedtime eye masks I bought for Derek or the packets of minuscule notelets that I had expected to be normal size or the huge bags of bird food that don't seem to have much bird appeal, etc, etc!!



So I have learnt some valuable lessons from my recent online experiences and I share these with you now:

1. Don't believe anything you read or see in advertisements.
2. Ask yourself, "Do I really need this?"
3. If you think you do, prepare for huge disappointments all round.

Writing about Susan, our cat, has prompted me to tell you how much she seems to have appreciated our company since lockdown. She has settled very comfortably into our daily routine and now likes to sit with us when we are in the garden, having morning coffee. She comes out from wherever she's been hiding and sits on the bench which she clearly thinks

has been placed there for her own personal use. You probably won't believe this, but when we drink, she goes over to her water bowl and has a drink too! She has definitely become far more sociable and contented during this Pandemic. I wonder how many other pets have enjoyed the company and stimulation they've received recently? How will they react as their owners return to work or leave the house more frequently? I guess time will tell.

And the passage of time is something that never stops. As I get older, it certainly seems to be going faster, but I know that's just a perception. Here we are in September and I am finishing this article enjoying the Autumn sunshine, under the willow tree on the field in front of our caravan. I heard today that we might have an unusually hot spell in October this year. That would certainly help to shorten the Winter in this very strange year.

It only remains for me to send you our love, hoping that you are all keeping well and looking forward to a time when we can meet up again safely. God Bless.

**Heather & Derek Gallagher**

# Book reviews... *from Parish Pump*

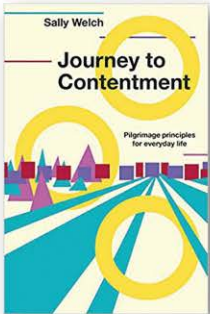
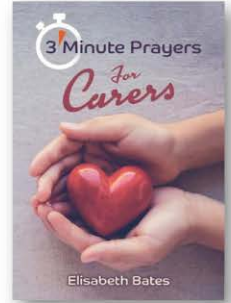


## **Tumbling Sky ~ Psalm Devotions for Weary Souls** **Matt Searles | 10Publishing | £3.99**

Gentle and wise, this devotional is balm for bruised souls. It will comfort and enable you to see the love of God afresh. Honest and wholly Christ-centred, these Psalm devotions shine the light of God's truth and grace into some of the darkest corners of our emotions. They help us to see the joy we can have even in the midst of pain, giving rich comfort, refreshment and hope to the suffering believer.

## **3 Minute Prayers for Carers** **Elizabeth Bates | Kevin Mayhew | £5.99**

These prayers offer an honest and thought-provoking insight into the ups and downs of caring for a spouse or family member on a daily basis. They cover a range of topics, including hospital visits, sleepless nights, identity crises, counting your blessings and snatching a few moments of peace whilst getting tyres changed. If you are a carer, you will find something that resonates with you amongst this collection. Each prayer has an accompanying Bible verse, reminding you that whatever the day holds, however much of a struggle life might currently seem, God is always there, walking your path with you, through the pain and tears, offering hope and strength.

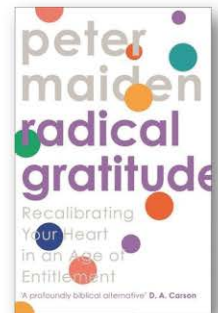


## **Journey to Contentment: Pilgrimage Principles for Everyday life** **Sally Welch | BRP | £8.99**

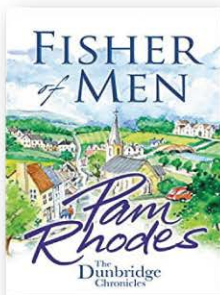
Using the metaphor of pilgrimage, Sally Welch explores how we can understand this biblical principle and make it our own. This book is divided into sections of a journey, beginning with the preparations necessary before setting out, exploring the obstacles which might be put in our path and sharing ways in which the journey can be made easier and more productive. At the end of each reflection there is a suggestion for an activity or prayer to enable the reader to apply the learning to their own life.

## **Radical Gratitude – recalibrating your heart in an age of entitlement** **Peter Maiden | 10ofthose | £7.99**

As Christians we should be the most grateful people alive. After all, doesn't the Bible encourage thankfulness and condemn grumbling? Peter Maiden traces the theme of thanksgiving in Scripture, and shows how we can genuinely live counter-cultural lives even in an age of rampant entitlement. He explains how gratitude is the key to joyful, consistent Christian living, discipleship and mission involvement. He considers how we can develop the habit of thanksgiving, the benefits of gratitude, and how we can be grateful, even in hard times. As he was writing this book, the author learned that he was suffering from incurable cancer. Far from derailing his message, this unwelcome news energised his efforts as he poured out his vision on the page with his now-limited resources. This is authenticity at its best. This book will be the author's last.



**The Dunbridge Chronicles (4 book series)**  
**Pam Rhodes | Amazon | from £5.03 - £7.59**



**A Man with Fish in Mind**  
*Margaret Garland*

*“It’s been the best of times;  
it’s been the worst of times.  
It was the age of wisdom;  
it was the age of foolishness.  
It was the epoch of belief;  
it was the epoch of incredulity”*

A well-known quote from  
William Shakespeare’s  
“A tale of two cities.”

Whatever we think about the  
lockdown because of Covid 19,  
we have all been affected one way  
or another. We have however, had  
time to do different things, to make  
new discoveries, about ourselves  
and other people.

Through technology, many have  
been able to communicate in a  
way which has surprised them  
and some of us have read a book,  
or two. We have renewed our love  
of books, and found a world  
beyond our present circumstances.

Pam Rhodes, a writer and  
television presenter, caught my  
attention, and I found pleasant  
reading in several of her titles.

The first was, *“With Hymns and  
Hearts and Voices.”* The title  
intrigued me, having an interest  
in Hymnody, as a member of the  
Hymn Society. It is a story of a  
village preparing for a broadcast of  
‘Songs of Praise.’ There are those  
in the village who welcome this  
(intrusion) to their quiet way of life,  
and those who don’t. A good read.

I then read four books in a series,  
“The Dunbridge Chronicles.”

Also written by Pam Rhodes.  
These are novels, expressing all  
the experiences of life, from birth  
to death. The first is entitled  
“Fisher of Men.”

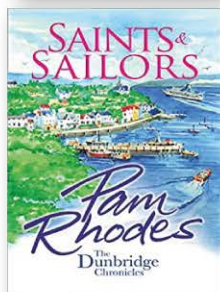
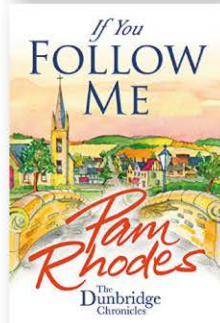
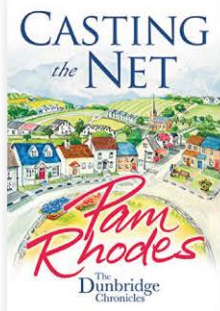
This is the story of a young  
clergyman called Neil Fisher.  
Feeling himself called to ministry,  
Neil becomes a curate in a parish  
church. His three years in this  
position are guided along by the  
vicar Margaret, as he works  
towards the priesthood. He meets  
many personalities both inside  
and outside the church community.  
There are the older seasoned  
Christians and also the young  
ladies, who see him as husband  
material. He learns how to be a  
good listener and gradually  
overcomes his inexperience  
and natural shyness.

It is a charming story, and Pam  
writes with knowledge of church  
procedures and festivals  
throughout the year. How each  
character relates to the other,  
the faith experience they come  
to know, and how they enrich the  
life of the church, is revealing,  
and holds the story together.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting  
the people of the parish.

Pam Rhodes was recently  
announced as one of this year’s  
recipients of the ‘Thomas Cranmer  
Award’ which comes in the worship  
category of the ‘Lambeth Awards’  
presented by the Archbishop of  
Canterbury.

This is for her outstanding  
contribution to the Church and  
wider society, in hosting  
“Songs of Praise” on the BBC  
for over 30 years.



He gave us eyes to see them:  
Tobias, the angel  
and the dog  
*Andrea del Verrochio*

God *in*  
the Arts

*The Rev Michael Burgess considers animals and birds as seen in art and scripture.*

'He never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.'

Jerome K Jerome was writing there about the special bond between human beings and dogs who offer us those vital gifts of loyalty, companionship and help. We can think of guide dogs, sniffer dogs, and dogs serving with the forces in war torn countries. And dogs who have a special part to play in care homes, prisons, with undergraduates taking exams, and autistic children. Dogs are a reassuring, dependable presence in so many ways.

A few years ago Dion Leonard was running an ultra-marathon across the Gobi desert. A stray dog befriended him and together they ran the course. It was an amazing adventure that eventually brought them both back to this land, and they can now be seen exercising in the streets and parks of Edinburgh.

In the book of Tobit in the apocrypha, a dog accompanies his son, Tobias, on another incredible journey. Tobias leaves home with his dog to collect a debt, and Raphael, the angel of healing, is also a companion. It is the theme of this month's painting from the workshop of Andrea del Verrochio which is now in the National Gallery. The studio flourished in the 15th century in Florence, and it is possible that Leonardo da Vinci



painted the little dog.

We know that it was not an easy journey and we see the stones along the way. Tobias holds a fish from the river Tigris which will heal his father's blindness. His arm is entwined with the angel's arm, and there at their feet is the faithful dog.

While 'dog' is often a word of contempt in the Bible, here in the apocrypha we meet a dog who provides friendship and security on the journey of life.

Dostoevsky wrote 'Love the animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy.' We know that to be true as we think of the part dogs play in our lives, and as we rejoice in the special gifts they bring us on the journeys we make.

# WE WILL REMEMBER 80 YEARS ON

This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as 'one of the decisive battles of the war... never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.' It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war.

However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are almost as devastating as world war.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that



took place. The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the Channel. In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.' (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.

Currently we can't see clearly what the future holds for us; it may be very different from what we might expect. However, we can pray for God's will to be done and that we will play our part, just as each of those airmen did so many years ago.

**Parish Pump**

BATTLE OF  
BRITAIN



“ They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them. ”

# Hartlip 200

Methodist Church  
& Retreat Centre



A BEACON OF LIGHT SINCE 1820

Although our doors may have been closed for worship and the Retreat Centre may have been closed for the time being, next steps will be looked at very soon..

However we have all been keeping in touch with each other in a variety of ways and finding ways to worship both on a Sunday and during the week. We have received Worship material from Robin each week. We are praying for each other at 6.30 every Sunday as well as using the material, mentally looking round the church and praying for each person in turn. We pray the Lords Prayer at Midday. Some of us have contributed to the worship ideas from time to time.

Most of us have also joined in the Circuit online services as well as services from places like Wesley's Chapel and Minster Abbey in Thanet.

One member of our congregation, Mary, has raised money for church funds by making face masks. The money raised currently stands at **£1955**, which



certainly offsets money usually raised by the Spring Tea and Strawberry Tea.

Should you wish for special occasion mask, say for a wedding, any of the Hartlip folk can pass on details. When she is not busy making masks or other projects Mary makes truly exquisite quilts!

Regular phone calls have been made to make sure folk are getting any support they need as well as sharing news, whether personal, about family, our concerns and our successes, as we might normally do at church.

Some of us have joined in Zoom groups for prayer and bible study.

I personally have been involved in Zoom "coffee mornings" with a couple of the other churches in the Circuit, as well as meetings and training sessions on Zoom. I have been involved in two prayer groups on Zoom that have started as a response to COVID. District Synod will be taking place soon on Zoom.







The building has been regularly checked and some maintenance work done including our smart newly painted notice board, which was being spruced up for the Anniversary celebrations, which of course are now on hold for a year.

It is hoped that what should have happened this year for the Anniversary will all take place next year. The main preachers have all agreed to come but we still have no idea what restrictions may be in place nine months from now.

In the last few days Robin, Brian and Derek have been to Hartlip suitably masked, socially distanced and equipped with measuring tools to do a risk assessment in preparation for a possible return to live worship. Their findings will be going first to our Church Life group and then to the congregation before any decision is made.

As I write Covid levels are rising nationally and some schools in Sittingbourne have had to exclude certain bubbles, so there are many factors which could alter any decision we make. A complex situation indeed.

We truly hope to be open as soon as we can but everyone's safety is paramount.

**Margaret Bowerman**



## Your face mask and your dog

Face masks have been a big adjustment for all of us, but dogs especially may be struggling, warns the animal charity, **Dogs Trust**. Dogs use our facial expressions to tell how we are feeling, so if they suddenly encounter people whose faces are covered, they could become confused, stressed, and even feel threatened. Their confusion may lead to a loss of obedience and cooperation with you.

Here is how to get your dog used to you wearing a face mask:

- Hold your hand over your face for a moment, speak reassuringly to your dog, and then reward him.
- Introduce your dog to your face mask, let him sniff it and let him see you put it up to your face, and then down again. Reward him.
- Put it on for a moment. Reassure and reward him.
- Put it on and move about the room, while reassuring him. Reward him.
- Gradually build up the length of time that you wear the face mask around him. Keep reassuring him. Reward him.

Expect that he may not be so quick to understand and obey you when you are wearing the mask – be patient. Don't take him into public places where many people are wearing masks, unless you absolutely have to do so. It could be very stressful for him.

# 14th Gillingham



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

## Girlguiding

During the summer Girlguiding UK launched a competition for Girlguiding members to design a badge to say a huge thank you to all key workers and volunteers during Covid-19. The winning entry was made into a brand new Girlguiding badge with 50% of the profits made being donated to the NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Urgent Appeal. Pippa, a 12 year old Guide from Merseyside won the competition and you can see her entry and the new badge below. I think it sums everything up perfectly and will be a lasting memory on all our camp blankets.

A few Girlguiding Units throughout the country are making tentative steps back to face-to-face meetings but our Gillingham East Girlguiding District has decided to continue with virtual Zoom meetings until at least the end of this year. Throughout our District, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Ranger meetings have been well attended and the girls have been progressing well through the Girlguiding programme. They have been gaining interest in badges, new skills and experiences, keeping in touch with Guiding friends and most of all having fun. Our District even held a virtual sleepover with lots of fun activities, craft and sharing time.

Our own Brownies' Zoom meetings began again in September after the summer holidays and the girls all 'pinged' excitedly into the meeting keen to see each other. We have had meetings with up to 20 girls on Zoom which is an incredible turnout. So far this term we have had a 'bring your pet to Brownies' evening (I was quite glad this one was online and not in the hall!), we've watched presentations for their performance badge and last week the girls built their own virtual museum. For this they were asked to bring an item they thought worthy of



being in our special virtual museum and were encouraged to explain why their item was special and how they would like it displayed. Items ranged from fossils, a unicorn night-light, a collection of 50 pence pieces, cuddly toys, Lego and several items that had belonged to Great Grandmothers and other family members. I felt very privileged to listen to the girls as they shared their special stories. I would definitely want to visit this museum and, who knows, we may manage to make this museum real 'for one night' only at some point in the future.

The girls cannot wait until they can meet again face-to-face in the hall again and I too am looking forward to hearing the buzz of their excited voices echoing around the hall and, most of all, to be able to sing our Guiding songs noisily together.

**Snowy Owl | Helen Garland**

# #BeKind

A few months back this hash tag was almost everywhere. People were also posting on social media all sorts of phrases about being kind. The dictionary describes kindness as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. Kindness is not a new thing, kindness is as old as time. Kindness is something we can all show to each other, and ourselves. So why was kindness suddenly beginning to “trend”?

We were at the beginning of the pandemic which was affecting all of our lives. We were in this together and people were beginning to look away from themselves and towards others around them. Not that we're a nation of selfish, unkind people, but more that when the nation is in crisis, people tend to feel that they are not isolated individuals, but part of a bigger society. It did seem a little odd that all of a sudden kindness was a big deal. But, on the other hand, it was so lovely to see and hear all the good deeds that were going on. There were stories of people raising money for the NHS. Neighbours looking out for each other, even talking over the garden fence for the first time in years. People volunteering to do shopping for those who were having to self isolate. Strangers simply smiling and saying good morning to each other. People being kind in so many ways.

It was so uplifting to see all the consideration being handed out. All the love and warmth being shared between people. Being kind regardless of reward, or rather the reward being the happiness and hope brought to others. Not wanting something in return, apart from maybe a “Thank you”, especially as no hugging was allowed!

It has been so refreshing to know that a simple act of kindness can make a huge amount of difference to those on the receiving end.

Looking at the Bible (after all, we are Christians!), kindness is something Jesus has taught us that is important at all times, not just in times of national

crisis. In the Bible kindness is listed as one of the fruit of the spirit. Being kind is something that for a Christian should be the normal, not a trending moment of community spirit. It should be an everyday practice stirred within us by the Holy Spirit!

Kindness is acting for the good of other people, regardless of what they do or what we might get in return. Kindness is a natural response to someone who needs help of any sort, at any time or place, however big or small. What a joy to know that showing a simple act of kindness can make a huge difference to the person receiving it.

Kindness gives others a sense of worth, a sense of being loved and cared for. Kindness brings people together, helping people to not feel alone and rejected. Being kind to another human being not only helps them at the moment, but will keep on helping them, knowing that others have noticed them. From a smile, to offering to take someone to a doctor's appointment, or listening intently while they pour out their troubles. Buying a homeless person a coffee. Donating to charities or setting up a monthly payment to the Foodbank. Saying please and thank you, smiling and saying hello to people. Phoning our friends and relations just to see how they're doing. There are so many acts of kindness that mean so much to so many people.

So let's not just be “on trend”, let's be kind to all people at all times. As John Wesley put it –

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as you ever can”

## **Ephesians 4 verse 32**

*“Be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one  
another, as God in Christ  
forgave you.”*

**Anne Boulwood**





Come,  
ye  
thankful  
people,  
come,  
raise the  
song of  
harvest  
home



Autumn is such a glorious time of the year and perfect for walks in the countryside, where God's creation is on vibrant display. Many thanks to Sally Murphy and Helen & Paul Garland for sharing these great pictures to help us all enjoy and celebrate God's goodness.



*Our friend David Brock, one of the organists at Hartlip, continues his series of articles on 'Hymns', with ...*

# For the Fruits of all Creation

These words were written for Francis Jackson's tune East Acklam by Fred Pratt Green, and first appeared in the Methodist Recorder in August 1970, soon coming into widespread use as a much-needed hymn on the subject of harvest.

Pratt Green trained for the Methodist Ministry from 1925 to 1928 and wrote his first hymn as a probationer minister in 1928 for a ceremony at Hunmanby Hall, a Methodist boarding school for girls in Yorkshire, where he was chaplain as well as serving in the Filey circuit. At Hunmanby he met Marjorie, who taught French, and they married in 1931.

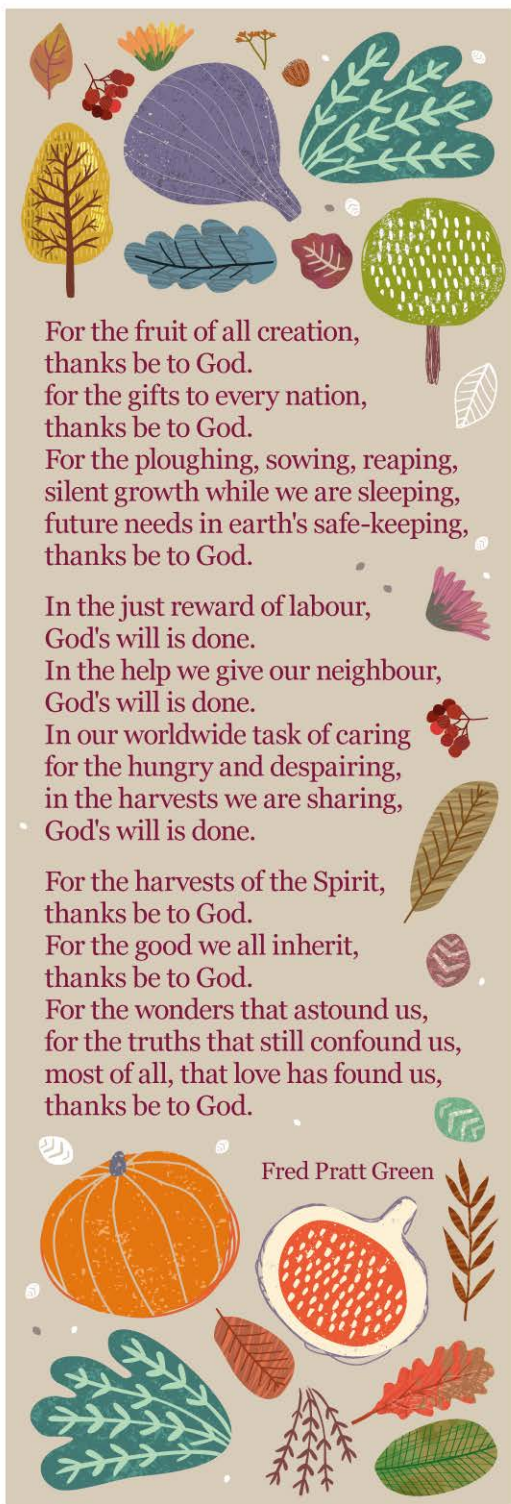
He wrote only two more hymns before they retired to Norwich in 1969, but then he took up hymn-writing in earnest, reaching a final total of 302. Some consider him the Charles

Wesley of the twentieth century, though he vigorously rejected this saying, 'We are all dwarfs alongside Wesley and Watts.' Fred and Marjorie moved to a home for the aged in late 1990. He died in 2000 at the age of 97.

East Acklam was composed in 1957 while Francis Jackson was organist at York Minster, but the tune did not come into extensive use until these words were written for it. He has also composed a chorale prelude for organ based on the tune. East Acklam, the composer's home, is a village in North Yorkshire about 7 miles south of Malton.

Francis Jackson had his hundredth birthday on 2nd October 2017. That day I attended Evensong at Rochester Cathedral and the anthem, sung by the girls' choir, was this hymn to East Acklam.

The singing was beautiful.



For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.

for the gifts to every nation,  
thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

# Churches report rising foodbank demand as a result of pandemic

Nearly 100,000 households sought food aid from the Trussell Trust's network of food banks for the first time earlier this year, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Demand is surging further this autumn, as a result of the economic fallout from the virus.

The research comes after foodbanks run or supported by Church of England churches reported rocketing demand during lockdown with some opening foodbanks for the first time while some opened new foodbanks after lockdown.

Just two examples:

Hackney Church in East London was distributing parcels with enough food for 1,000 meals a week at start of lockdown. This figure rose to 8,000 and 9,000 meals a week in June, after the church opened a second food bank. It has since served 120,000 meals.

In Co. Durham, the Shildon Alive Foodbank, founded by St John's Church, has seen demand surge by 500 percent during lockdown.

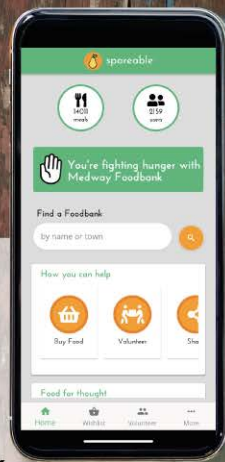
**Parish Pump**

## This Autumn the Foodbank still needs you...



### download spareable

where you can purchase food or gift vouchers on the app, that will be delivered direct to the Foodbank.



## or you can give a donation to the Medway Foodbank via

[www.goldengiving.com/wall-medway-foodbank](http://www.goldengiving.com/wall-medway-foodbank)

**goldengiving**



# Dorothy Marshall

Dorothy May Marshall was known by many names throughout her life; Dimps, Mum, Grandma and most recently Great Grandma.

Many of Dimps' favourite things were 'F' words: Family, Faith, Friendship, Food and Feistiness and her love of these things was demonstrated throughout her life.

Dimps was born in North West London in May 1949 and grew up with her beloved Mum (known to her grandchildren as Nanny Stick as she always had her white stick with her) and two older sisters, Irene and Erica; having lost her Dad when she was only four months old. She also had an older half sister Peg, whose sons she was also close to.

She had a bumpy start in life after catching whooping cough at just five months old, which damaged her lungs. Dimps was a small, sickly child, and Nanny Stick was told she would probably not reach adulthood. As a consequence, she was spoiled by her family, and oh boy did she make the most of it.

Nanny Stick always put her children's needs before her own and, by example, taught them to love and cherish each other, and to love and trust

in God. Dimps continued to defy the odds and following a 9 month stay in a convalescent home on the Isle of Wight (to be away from all new sources of infection) she began to thrive.

As a family they never had much in material terms, but it didn't seem to matter and never prevented the fun and mischief the three sisters had growing up together. Something their Grammar School headmistress would pay testament in one of Dimps' school reports, stating 'Dorothy has a fine talent for play acting, it is a pity she does not confine this to her Drama Classes!' Dimps often retold the story of arguing (or debating as she preferred to called it) with one of her teachers who awarded her 99½ in her exam, as she never gave 100 marks 'or you would have no incentive to improve'. As the teacher, when challenged, could not find any fault with her answers, Dimps argued that she had in fact got 100% of the available marks!

As Nanny Stick was blind the three sisters would read each other's school reports to their Mum (after enough bribes had been paid to leave out some of the more 'interesting' comments). We're not sure she ever knew the full contents of the



reports, although it is more than likely she asked one of her friends to read her the full versions when her daughters were not around.

When the time came for Dimps to leave the school the Headmistress confessed to her that, although she couldn't show it at the time, she quite enjoyed her antics and would often invite the Deputy Head in to hear exactly what Dimps had been up to this time.

Dimps continued to thrive after leaving school and having always wanted a large family, married, moved to Kent and had her lovely children: Simeon, Ruth and Rebekah (who are here with us today) and Hannah, who sadly died during birth. She was ecstatic when she became 'Grandma' to her seven much treasured grandchildren; Rachel, Conor, Emily, Jacob, Katie, Madeline and James. Just two months ago she was absolutely over the moon to have her first great grandchild, Aurora Jane, whom she adored. It never mattered whether the relationship was a biological one or not, or what age you were when you came into the family. All were immediately and warmly accepted as being part of her family and loved equally. The fact she wanted as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren as possible was something about which none of us were left in any doubt.

When she met David she married someone who truly believed in family as much as she did and was blessed with a wonderfully happy marriage. They have taught their children the most important life lessons: to think of others, not to take yourself too seriously and most importantly, that love and family are everything.

Whilst Dimps always said London would be her true home, she happily settled into her new life in Kent and made a large number of much cherished friends through Gillingham Baptist Church and Gillingham Methodist Church. These friends and her unshakeable faith sustained her through the tough times. We know, if it weren't for the current restrictions due to Covid-19, many more of her friends would be here today to celebrate her life.

Her family home, whilst not always rich materially, was full of love and laughter. Although if you

turned up during a family game of trivial pursuit, you could be forgiven for thinking otherwise. Her fiercely competitive streak, which she also passed on to her children, would often lead to her becoming very vocal, telling you repeatedly 'of course you know that' if she knew the answer and you didn't. This competitive streak was vividly present when watching cricket and particularly rugby, although if England happened to be losing you were more than likely to hear other 'F words' which would be inappropriate to repeat here today.

The house was often full of friends, neighbours and children from the road, who became part of the extended family and often joined her on camping holidays, and later on in life on her precious canal boat holidays. If you happened to visit near mealtime you were unlikely to leave without being fed, and never knowingly underfed, and all of her children have inherited her over-catering gene.

Dimps was an accomplished cook, like her Mum before her, and would love to host dinner parties and make exquisite dishes, cakes and pastries. Everyday dinners were a different matter though; while she used to insist overcooked sausages were purposely cooked that way to be 'salmonella free', the rest of the family would disagree. Her family would also gasp in astonishment if the gravy or custard was without lumps. If any frozen fruit puddings were fully defrosted and did not require the use of a hammer and chisel to cut it, this would be met with a universal chorus of 'Mum, there's something wrong with this fruit; it's soft!', followed by much laughter.

In later life Dimps suffered again from ill health but was sustained by her loving husband, her family and her deep faith and love for our Lord Jesus. She was also proud of her Jewish ancestry, as both her parents' families were German Jews, who had relocated to England and Wales in the early 1900s to escape persecution. She and Erica loved to research their Jewish roots and Dimps was lucky enough to both visit Israel and to be able to pay her respects for her lost extended family at Auschwitz. You were unable to be in her company for long before she would bring the

conversations around to Judaism.

Despite her health problems, Dimps was never happier than when surrounded by her beloved husband and family. The Monday family dinners, where she tried (and mostly failed) to prevent her two oldest children from sitting next to each other, as they are too naughty (wonder where they got that from?), and many of her requests were answered with a resounding 'No Mum, we have plans of our own', were some of her favourite times.

She also particularly treasured the special birthday family meals at Confucius Chinese restaurant in Chatham, where her ever growing party are known as 'The Laughter Family'. She loved the food, the time spent together, the jokes and the laughter, despite her grandson Jacob repeatedly arranging food items into rude shapes every time they went, actively encouraged by her two oldest! Dimps would love to talk about the last time they went, how long until the next time and how many visits there would be each year.

She instilled a love of stories into all of her family and particularly loved to tell her children and grandchildren stories of her mischief and pranks; from her and her sisters playing pranks on teachers and local policemen to hanging out with her motorbiker friends. Hearing them enabled her grandchildren to live her life with her and to know the members of her family they never got to meet. Whilst we have heard all of her stories countless times, we would love to be able to hear her tell them to us again. Instead, we will continue to tell stories about her to one another - this is how she lives on through us, and Aurora, together with any future great grandchildren, will come to know her through them.

Through all her ups and downs she never lost her sense of fun and mischief. Until the very end she liked to dye her hair bright purple or bright red, wear bright clothes, leather jackets and Dr Marten boots and make sure she absolutely did not act her age.

This well known poem called **Warning**, by Jenny Joseph reminds us of her and her cheeky smile, which got her out of all manner of trouble. We're sure that we could add a few more of her own antics to it!

*When I am an old woman  
I shall wear purple.*

*With a red hat which doesn't go,  
and doesn't suit me.*

*And I shall spend my pension on  
brandy and summer gloves.*

*And satin sandals, and say we've  
no money for butter.*

*I shall sit down on the pavement  
when I'm tired.*

*And gobble up samples in shops  
and press alarm bells.*

*And run my stick along the  
public railings.*

*And make up for the sobriety  
of my youth!*

*I shall go out in my slippers in the rain.*

*And pick flowers in other  
people's gardens.*

*But maybe I ought to practise  
a little now?*

*So people who know me are not too  
shocked and surprised.*

*When suddenly I am old,  
and start to wear purple.*

Whilst Dimps didn't get to be as old and as mischievous as we had all hoped, we are so grateful we had her for as long as we did. We are also thankful that she is no longer in pain, and is now with her Mum and Dad, her sister Irene and her Lord Jesus in heaven.

**Written by her daughter Ruth**

# Abide with Me

One of the most famous hymns in the world came out of Brixham, near Torbay, Devon, in 1847.

In those days it was a poor, obscure fishing village, and the vicar was the **Rev Henry Francis Lyte**. It was a discouraging place to be a pastor, but Henry felt that God wanted him there, and so he stayed, though it was lonely work, and he suffered constant ill health.

By the time he was 54, Henry had contracted tuberculosis and asthma, and he and his family knew he was dying. It would have been so easy for him to look back on his life and feel a complete failure. What had he ever much accomplished? And yet – and yet – Henry knew that in life it is not worldly success that matters, but how much we respond to Jesus Christ, and how much we follow Him.

In September of 1847 Henry was preparing to travel to the south of France, as was the custom for people with tuberculosis at that time. One day before he left, he read the story

in the gospel of Luke about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were met by Jesus on the day of His resurrection, and they invited Him to stay with them because it was getting late. “Abide with us”, they said “for it is towards evening.”

“Abide with us - for it is toward evening.” These words struck a chord with Henry, who knew that it was getting ‘towards evening’ in his life. So, he sat down and wrote this hymn as a prayer to God – (the following are just some of the verses).

Shortly after Henry wrote that hymn, he preached his last sermon. He was so ill he practically crawled into the pulpit to do so. A few weeks later, in Nice, France, he died, and so of course he never knew that his hymn would go on to become greatly loved the world over.

## Parish Pump

*The Praise Choir are recording a ‘remote’ version of Abide with Me, for the Remembrance Sunday service led by Third Avenue and live streamed to the Circuit on 8th November.*

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.



**National Poetry Day** is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages all to enjoy, discover and share poetry. National Poetry Day generates an explosion of activity nationwide, thousands of amazing events across the UK – on doorsteps and at kitchen tables, in gardens and streets, in schools, libraries and public spaces both online and offline – all celebrating poetry’s power to bring people together.

Each year the **Worship Group**, who meet to practise on a Thursday evening, usually stop to recite a poem or two in celebration of the day. And this year was no exception, albeit slightly different to normal...as since Lockdown, we have been meeting via Zoom!

So we thought we would share here, some of the poems we recited to each other:

### The Forget-Me-Not

When to the flowers so beautiful  
 The father gave a name,  
 Back came a little blue-eyed one  
 (All timidly it came);  
 And standing at its Father's feet,  
 And gazing in His face,  
 It said in low and trembling tones,  
 "Dear Lord, the name  
 Thou gavest me,  
 Alas! I have forgot."  
 Kindly the Father looked Him down,  
 And said, "Forget Me Not."

Emily Bruce Roelofson



### The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me  
 and I wake in the night at the least sound  
 in fear of what my life and my children's  
 lives may be,  
 I go and lie down where the wood drake  
 rests in his beauty on the water,  
 and the great heron feeds.  
 I come into the peace of wild things  
 who do not tax their lives with  
 forethought of grief.  
 I come into the presence of still water.  
 And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
 waiting with their light.  
 For a time I rest in the grace of the world,  
 and am free.

By Wendell Berry | From Celtic Daily Prayer Book

## The Jumblies

They went to sea in a Sieve, they did,  
 In a Sieve they went to sea:  
 In spite of all their friends could say,  
 On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,  
 In a Sieve they went to sea!

And when the Sieve turned round and round,  
 And every one cried, 'You'll all be drowned!'

They called aloud, 'Our Sieve ain't big,  
 But we don't care a button! we don't care a fig!  
 In a Sieve we'll go to sea!'

Far and few, far and few,  
 Are the lands where the Jumblies live;  
 Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,  
 And they went to sea in a Sieve...

Written by Edward Leah, this nonsense poem has six verses in total, and although we couldn't fit them all here, the poem is well worth the read and can be found at [www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/54364/the-jumblies](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/54364/the-jumblies)

## Boats Sail On The Rivers

Boats sail on the rivers,  
 And ships sail on the seas;  
 But clouds that sail across the sky  
 Are prettier far than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,  
 As pretty as you please;  
 But the bow that bridges heaven,  
 And overtops the trees,  
 And builds a road from earth to sky,  
 Is prettier far than these.

Christina Rossetti



## Kindness

To recap what we now know: it did not begin in a laboratory in Wuhan, nor with a pangolin or bat, but it already lay dormant within us, like a seed in need of certain conditions to grow;

its symptoms are many and various, and may include some, or all, of the following: tear drops, sudden laughter, a feeling of warmth, and a peculiar uplifting of the heart;

it leaves its traces everywhere: from boxes left on doorsteps to conversations over fences; it can be transmitted over vast distances, through a phone call, or from a smile across a street,

or a certain softness of tone spoken beside a hospital bed; it affects young and old equally; there is no race or gender immune from it; it has the power to topple bad governments;

if one person were to pass it on to just three others and they, in turn, were to pass it on to three more, in no time at all, the world would be full of it, and where, might we ask ourselves, would we be then.

Brian Bilston



## The view from my train carriage window

A pylon looms up suddenly like a sini-

Two birds puncture the early morning blue as th-

Cows stare into the distance and wonde-

Fields sleep drowsily, waiting for-

Buddleia bubbles up along the tr-

A woman waves at her youn-  
 Some buildings.

Graffiti.

King's Cross Railway Station.

A poem from 'Diary of a Somebody' by Brian Bilston



# Lola News...



Hello everyone do hope all of you are well and staying positive as best you can throughout these very challenging times! Not being able to socialise as we all used to, is not so good .

Trudy and I have missed our visits to care homes etc. but have still been out and about when we can .

My birthday was August 17th and was such fun, as Mason, with a little help from Trudy, made me my own special biscuits! Very nice, fish and vegetable flavour. Mason worked hard with the preparation, cutting and chopping

the ingredients.

I did share them with a few of my doggy friends.

Mason and I had cuddles together as he had a sleepover that night. We have spent some special times together throughout the summer .

Please take care of yourselves and keep safe.

*Woof... woof...  
love lola x*





Remember: the clocks 'fall back' one hour  
in the early hours of Sunday 25 October

# Smile

## Sorry

Our minister, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organiser of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. "Sir," the organiser said, "I trust you'll see to it that the weather won't turn bad on us."

Our minister shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm in sales, not management!"

## Home

I just saw a local burglar kicking his own front door in. I asked him what he was doing.

He replied, "Working from home."

## Put it this way...

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.

Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.

Sea captains don't like crew cuts.

A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumour.

## Rooms

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, Mike has his own room, Jemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

## All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of oncoming winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

All	Festival	Supernatural	Charms	Christ
Hallows	Samhain	Powers	Deeper	Thanks
Halloween	Bonfires	Winter	True	Loved
Druid	Magic	Christians	Eve	Death
Priests	Dark	Prayer	Closer	Gone

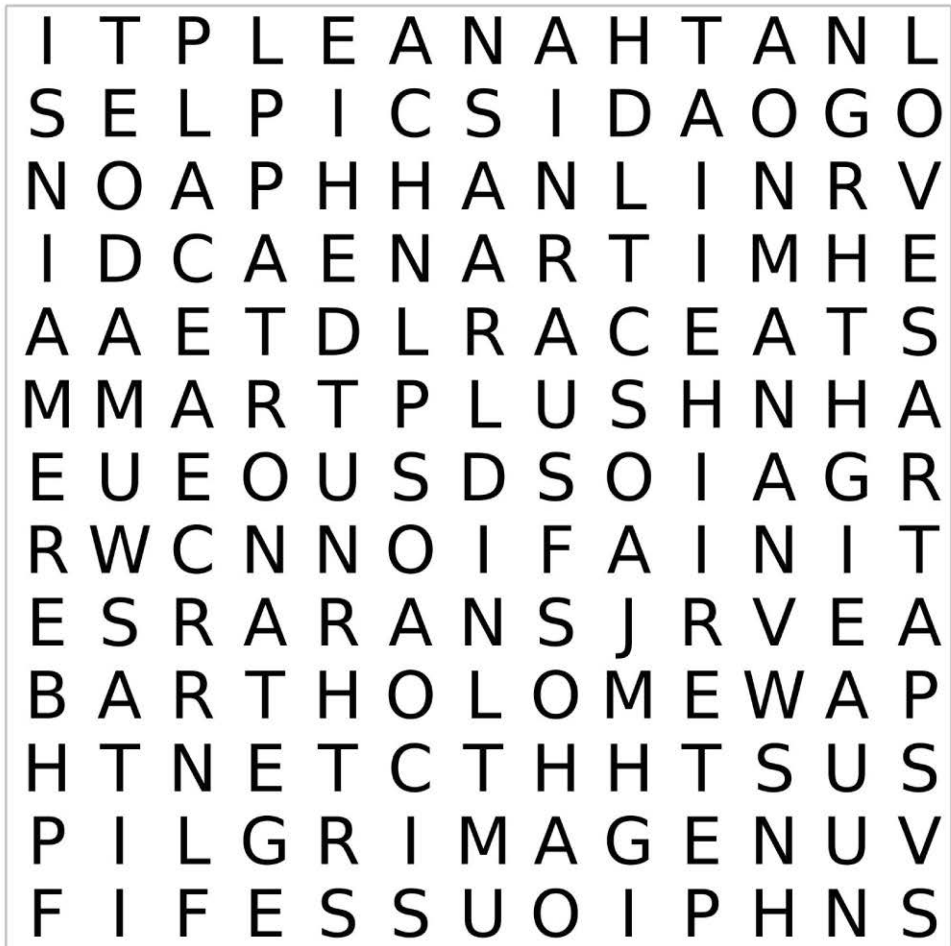




## St Andrew's Day

In November Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael / Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Scotland	Peter	Patras	Fife	Saint
Disciples	Nathanael	Archaia	Pilgrimage	Love
Jesus	Bartholomew	Eighth	Tenth	Introducing
Andrew	Messiah	Remains	Pious	Place
Honoured	Saviour	Translation	Patron	



# Sudoku

Easy...

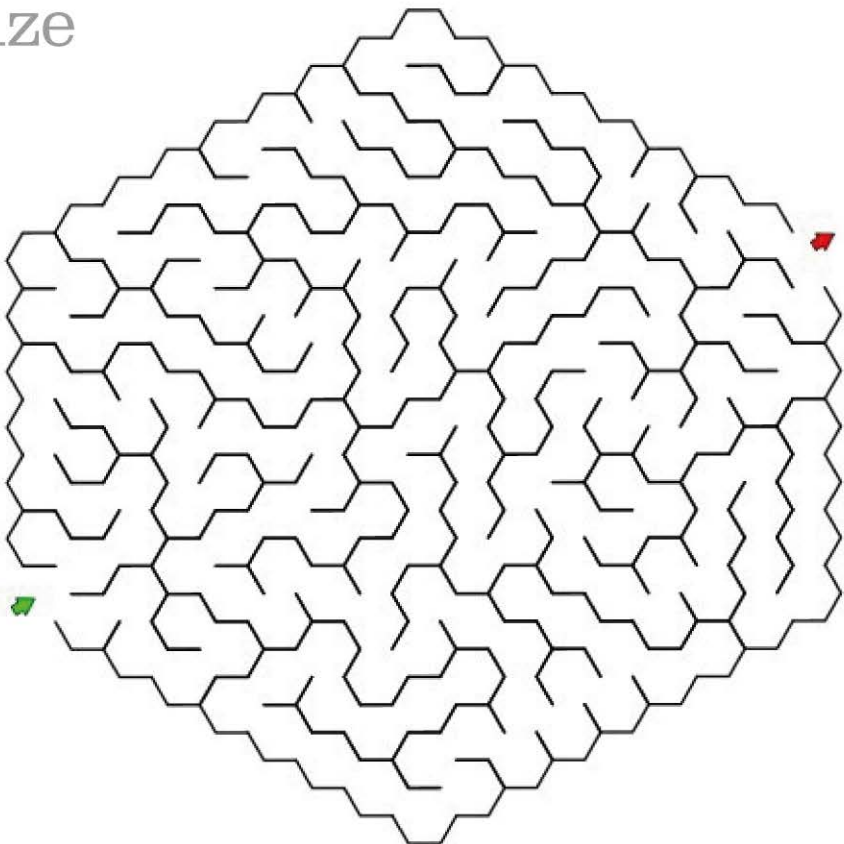
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6			3		4		5	
5	7					1		3
		3			6		1	7
		6	9		7	3		
1	2		5			9		
9		8					2	5
	4		6		3			8
			8	9		4		

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

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# Maize

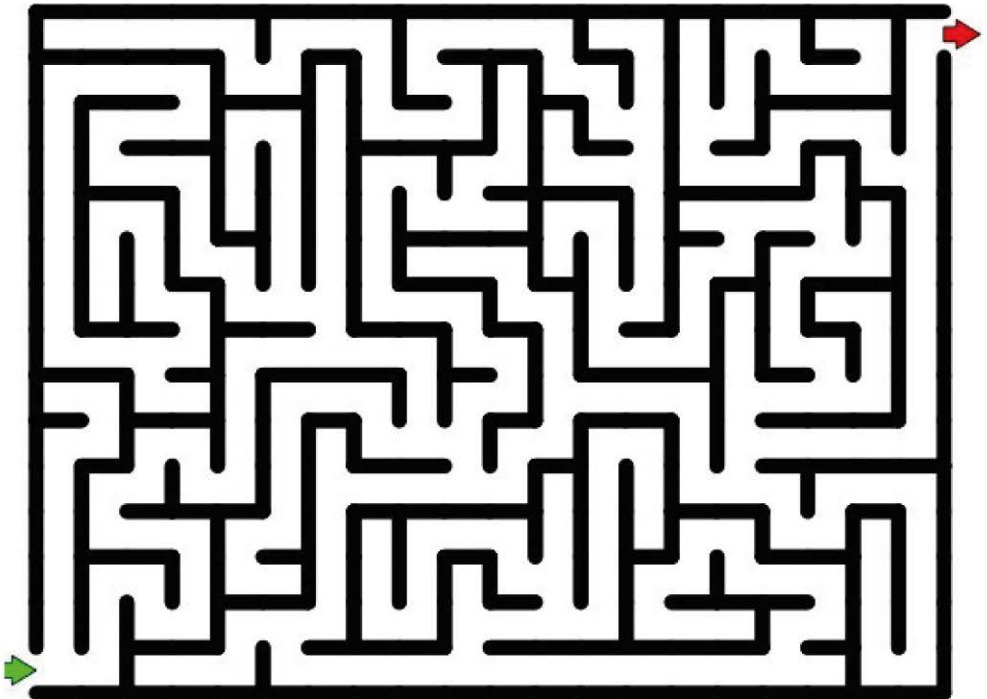


			5					
		8	7	4			5	
4	9					6	1	
		1					8	
			4		5			
7						3		
1	3					8	6	
6				7	8	4		
					6			

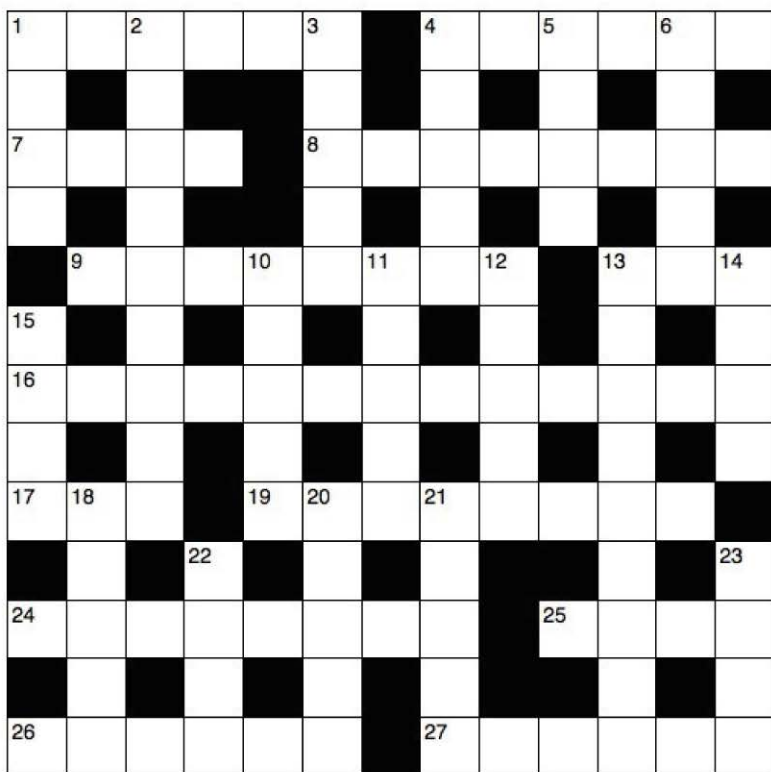
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6						2		4
				3				6
	1				4			
		9					7	8
			2	1		5	6	
	8	4					1	
					2			1
	5					7		
4		8						
								3

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# Crosswords



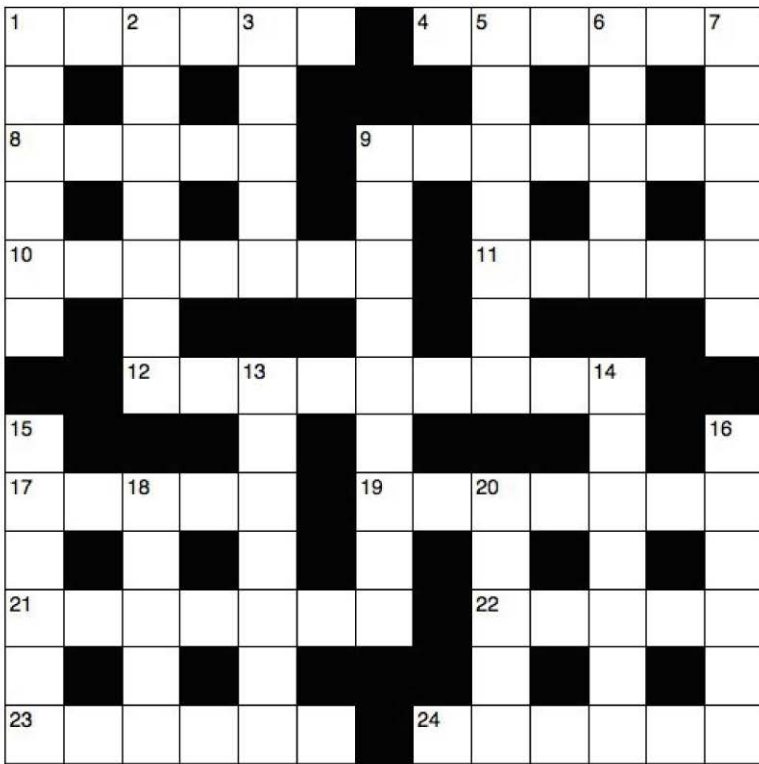
## Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the —' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)

- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a —!' (John 2:16) (6)

## Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born —' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my —, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)



**Across**

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby

- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

**Down**

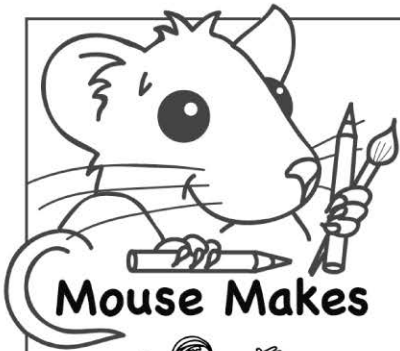
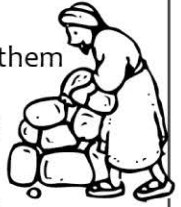
- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)

- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

# REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.



READ *Joshua 4:1-9* and *Exodus 12:1-14*

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



*Is there anything you would like to thank God for?*

W H I T E

R E C A L L

C E L E B R A T E T

O F F E R I N G H R

M V S P I L E O O I

R M I A R O C K B N U D C

M E E C C A D A Y S O M E H

O J M T R I B U T E U P B R

N O O O I S D E B R R H E I

U I R R F E S T I V A L A S

M C A Y I P E N T E C O S T

E E T L C N H A R V E S T M

N R E M E M B R A N C E E A

T H A N K S G I V I N G R S

- REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT  
 ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING  
 HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS  
 FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

### Sudoku Easy...

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

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

### Intermediate...

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

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

### Crossword...

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

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

### Wordsearch...

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

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

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Traditional Gaelic Blessing*



**Rev Robin Selmes**

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