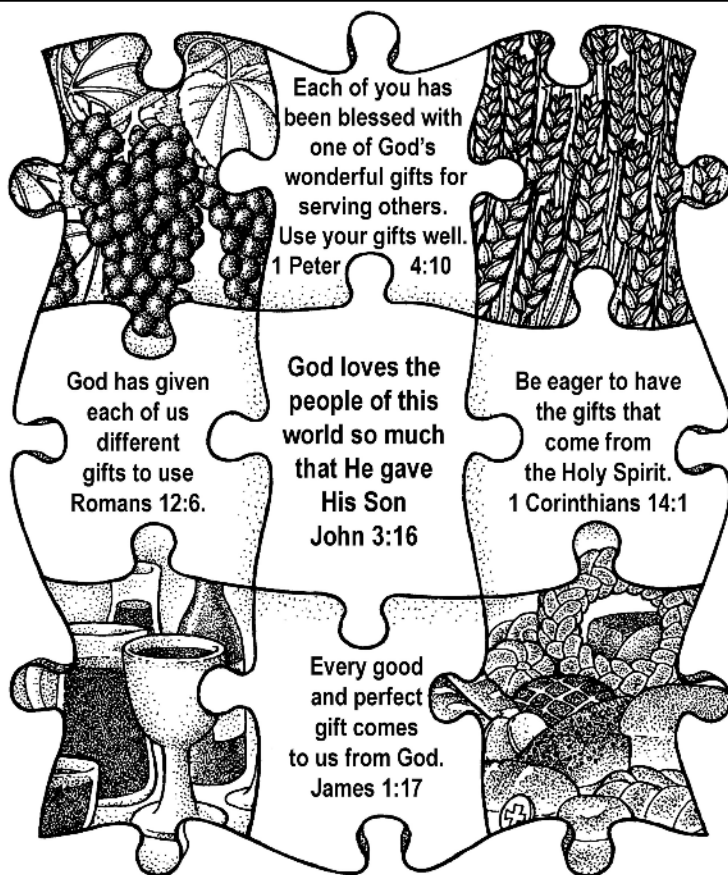


HOPE HERALD

News, views & comment from
St James Church, Hope

September/October 2019



What's
inside

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Family Service

We have started a Family Service on the 3rd Sunday in the month.

This time (Oct 20th) the theme is **The Last Supper** and two of our Little Gems will be admitted to take their first communion

Please join us for a happy and enjoyable service and support our youngsters

ROUND AND ABOUT

Upcoming events in Eccles

Sat 12th October 18:30 Italian supper and quiz night, St Pauls.

Sat 9th Nov Autumn Fair, St Pauls. Full details later,

Sat 16th Nov The TEARFUND BIG QUIZ 19:45, St Andrews

What's on at St John's

2nd Sunday of the month. 08:00. Book of Common Prayer service.

Sunday 20th Oct, Messy Church Harvest Sunday. Including Lunch

Sunday 27th October, 3:00pm. Thanksgiving & remembrance service

St John's Church is now open during the day for personal quiet prayer and reflection.

Here at Hope

Bible study/house group meets **Wednesdays, 7:30pm**, all welcome,
9 Oxford Rd. M6 8LW

Thurs, Fri & Sat 17th, 18th & 19th Oct. Priestley Players Present
"THRILLER OF THE YEAR" Tickets £5.00, £4.50 concessions.

Sunday 20th Oct, Family Service, during which 2 of the younger members of our congregation will be taking their first communion. Do come along and support them.



Letter from The Vicar

Sept/Oct 2019

THE CHALLENGE the world faces with “climate change”, or “climate emergency” as it is increasingly called, is regularly in the news, with protests by school children, groups like “extinction rebellion”, and speeches at the UN by Greta Thunberg, along with those who wish to deny there is a problem and that it is all just a conspiracy, such as the president of the United States. So what are we to make of it all? Is it something we should even be interested in? What if anything does it have to do with the Christian Faith?

There are those in some parts of the Christian faith who say either we shouldn't worry about it as God will save us or if not then we should welcome the end of the world as the sooner it arrives the sooner the rapture and Gods kingdom comes to Earth. This attitude is not one I share. The world in which we live is a gift from God and one we are



charged with caring for. We are our planets stewards, but we have done a very poor job of caring for this incredible gift. We are surrounded daily with the beauty of our world, but perhaps because of this we seem to have failed to appreciate that beauty and the uniqueness that it represents. Our beautiful blue and emerald planet is a very rare jewel in the heavens and if we fail to care for it, if we continue to abuse and damage it so much that it dies we will not only seal our own fate as a species, but also the fate of every other living creature that calls Earth home. It is incredibly sad and selfish that we should

even consider allowing this to happen, or fail to take steps to reverse the damage we have done. This planet is not just our home, but a gift it is our duty to care for.

What then should we do to care for and save this wonderful gift we've been given? The issues involved in protecting our planet and trying to reverse the damage done can seem so huge that we feel helpless to do anything, “surely this is up to governments and big corporations to sort out? What can I possibly do?” we can think. Admittedly much of the big changes that are needed have to happen on a large scale and we alone cannot make them happen, but we can all contribute in one way or another. We can write to our MPs, sign petitions and join protest marches to let our political leaders know how important this is to us and how the need for action is very urgent.

We can reduce our carbon footprint, by not

flying, by only driving when absolutely necessary rather than lazily taking the car to the corner shop when we could walk or take public transport. You might want to look at the items you buy, where do they come from, have they been flown here? Can we buy locally produced food for instance? We can look at trying to reduce the amount of plastic we use, not an easy task by any means as it is in practically everything as packaging etc, but it

can be done and it helps to protect the wildlife of our planet.

It certainly is not easy to make the changes needed to help save our planet, but nothing worthwhile is ever easy, and even small contributions from each of us can help and have a big impact overall for our planet. We must not be complacent that it has not affected us yet, because it is our Christian duty to be good stewards for our world and the impact of climate change is already

being felt by the poorest and most vulnerable in our world.



God Bless

Gareth

In praise of grandparents!

6th OCTOBER is 'Grandparents Day'. Grandparents in the UK number about 17 million, or more than one in four of the adult population. Grandparents average out at 68 years of age, have four grandchildren who live 10 miles away, and who spend five hours per visit.

Grandparents have multiple roles as their grandchildren grow up: playmates, teachers, confidants, spiritual guides, mentors, role models and nurturers, as well as pray-ers. They also can keep children's milestones, family history and family events

alive. Grandchildren will often discuss their personal concerns with a trusted grandparent.

Grandparents are also important for the UK economy! Nine million of them looked after their grandchildren in 2017. On average they did so for eight hours a week, and 96% received no payment.

Research has found that if grandparents go to church regularly, 60% of their grandchildren are likely to go to church also. Grandparental example is followed!

As about 10% of UK grandparents are church-

goers, would a church 'Grandparents' Group,' to help grandparents meet, discuss issues and pray for their grandchildren be useful? Moses' injunction to the Israelites "not to forget the things your eyes have seen ... make them known to your children and children's children" (Deuteronomy 4:9) is a constant challenge, but Psalm 92:14 is a wonderful promise!

Grandparents' Day in the UK is the first Sunday in October. Should we put that day in our church diary for a special celebration of our grandparents?

From the Churchwardens

SEPT 17th was the day earmarked to produce the wardens' notes for the Hope Herald. Inspiration was distinctly lacking! Yes, all the routine information was to hand. But we like to add a little more than just numbers and statistics. Then a knock on the door and stood there was Roger from The Priestly Players. You had better get down to Church, all the lead flashings on the South roof have been loosened and a small pile of lead left on the floor. Not what we had in mind when we were looking for inspiration but at least we have an opening storyline and something different to tell you about.

The next few hours were taken up filling in the online police report, contacting the contractor for repair quotes and calling the Ecclesiastical insurance company, which resulted in a further visit to church to safely stow the pieces of abandoned lead and take photographs of the roof damage. Isn't it always the way, you think there is a mountain of issues to overcome, then three days later, the jobs done. Police got back

to us with a crime number, we received the quotation for the work, the insurance company accepted the quote and the repairs completed, all in three days.

On Friday the thirteenth of September, we held one of our occasional beetle and bingo nights. If you've never attended one of these evenings, you don't know what you're missing. A small number of us gather in the back room of the hall and chill, with occasional shouts of frustration when someone struggles to shake the right number on the dice to complete their beetle, and believe you me, there are some very imaginative beetles on show at the end of the evening.

The vicarage is still a passive source of frustration. The new water meter has been installed but United Utilities need an address for them to send their bills to. In fact when we think about it; once the vicarage is sold, the church and hall will have no delivery address, nowhere for church mail to be delivered. If we decide to install a letterbox in the vestry door, that will require the dreaded faculty

application and from past experiences, we could be waiting up to eighteen months for that. One solution is to install a wall mounted post box, attached to either the hall cladding or the wheelchair access pillar. So now all we have to do is; install the new letterbox and inform royal mail of the change.

Our Autumn Fayre took place on Saturday 28th Sept..

Sadly that coincided with some of the wildest and wettest weather we have experienced for a long time. However, the show went on with the stalls and activities in the Community Hall.

In the end the outcome was that the event produced over £510 for Church funds.

Our great thanks go to everyone involved in the planning and running of the event.

We're already talking about next year.

All for now

*Trevor
& Fred.*

Update on Jackie Branreth

As we mentioned last month, Jackie Branreth our OLM who retired, has moved to Kendal. Doreen and I and my sister-in-law spent some time at my daughter's cottage in Kendal a few days ago. So, as previously arranged, we all met Jackie at a local coffee shop. She is looking

well and settling down to the more rural life-style.

When we told her we were going to have a new Lady Chapel aisle altar cloth made with the money she gave us, she was quite touched! From what she said, I think she has visited every church in the town yet still not

found one that suits her perfectly. She spends a lot of time back here on family business. All in all I think I can say, she is very happy in her retirement.

She sends us all her love.

Trevor

Flyers overhead

THERE ARE up to 10,000 different kinds of birds in the world, and with about 530 different kinds in Israel alone, no wonder birds get a frequent mention in the Bible.



Noah released a dove from the ark to look for dry ground. A stork, an ostrich and an eagle are mentioned in Job. Quails were food for the Israelites in the desert. Elijah was fed by ravens. Proverbs refers to sparrows chirping on rooftops. Peter denied Jesus before the cock crowed.

A dove descending is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

it. The flight of the eagle reminds us of freedom and the renewal of strength. The psalmist uses wings as a symbol for the protection of God in times of trouble. Isaiah likens a bird hovering over its nest, to protect its young, to describe God's protection of Jerusalem. Jesus yearned to gather the people of Jerusalem to Him as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.



Jesus also compared us with sparrows: "*For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one*

sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent...so do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!" (Matt 10:29-30)

For Jesus encourages us to know that each one of us is significant to God. He knows us personally, and, in His sight, we are precious and of great value. Let's raise our eyes heavenward and when we see all the birds flying overhead this autumn, let's give thanks to God. Like them, we can be confident, for we are always in His loving care.



LATE EXTRA: Who do we think we are?

I HAD a short conversation recently with one of our wonderful, hard-working district nurses. She visits two or three people I know well and, without breaking any confidences, she updated me on their state of health and well-being. Knowing something of my present circumstances, she asked me in a friendly way how things were. I told her that I was getting good support from my children and that my son, who works in TV, was able to vary his working hours to our advantage. She wanted to know what he was doing at the moment and said that she had always fancied being in one of those TV shows that get a lot of attention from the public. ‘What sort of show?’, I asked. ‘Love Island?’, she said, somewhat hopefully (she is a nice middle-aged lady) and feigning outrage at my derisory laughter, she said, ‘What’s wrong with that? Why not?’ I told her that I had only watched the programme once, just to see what all the fuss was about, and had decided that it was no different from watching ‘The secret life of the zoo’,

where keepers involved in some conservation project are watching creatures recently introduced to each other to see if they will mate or merely eat each other. I said that given her steely efficiency, she would be better off doing something like ‘I’m a celebrity: get me out of



here’! ‘Oh no’, she said, ‘I could never eat all that disgusting stuff they get given. In fact I don’t believe that they eat it either. I think the cameras film them putting it up to their lips or even into their mouths for a few seconds, but move away while they spit it out or bring it back.’ ‘Okay then’, I said, ‘so what about ‘Strictly’?’ ‘Oh yes’, she said, ‘I’d do that, but I’d have to join it half way through when all the riff-raff had been voted off’!

I think there are celebrity-prone people even in the Church; people who

anxiously work at keeping themselves in the spotlight and benefit from it by preference. Good luck to them! For myself I would always aim to be effective in what I do, whether or not that meets with anybody’s approval. The celebrity life may seem very attractive to those who are downtrodden or who feel depressed because their lives are unglamorous or monotonously dull; but once you commit yourself to turning yourself into a business, there is no escape from the demands of it. You can no longer afford to have any privacy. Making people love you, want you, need you to the extent of spending money on any commodity to which your name or your image is attached is very hard work. Celebrities who are not talked about, criticised even, and who do not appear regularly on TV and in the newspapers soon begin to lose popularity and may have a serious crisis of confidence or health to deal with.

The constitutional crises our politicians have brought upon us in recent weeks have left us feeling that we are drifting along

with no control over the vessel that is supposed to be keeping us afloat and no clear idea of where our destination ought to be. Loss of confidence is not helped when you don't know who you are, where you've come from or what resources you may have to help you along your way. Some people are so bemused by the idea of letting go that they run the risk of cutting themselves off.

It seems to me utterly sad that few children these days could tell you the names of the twelve disciples, and I include children who attend church. Had they a gadget to turn up the list for them, would they also have any motive for finding out who these people really were and what we feel they achieved? It is equally sad that people today know next to nothing about the ecclesiastical

history of the district in which we live, not even of those illustrious people who in Saxon times kept the flame of Christian faith burning brightly in this country and half-way across Europe too.

Time was when the Church of England's rich calendar of saints was regularly explored, celebrated and enjoyed. I am writing this as we approach Michaelmas. In many churches on Sunday September 29th there will be no mention of angels whatsoever. When did you last have a Sunday celebration of one of our leading saints in your church? Do you even recognize the saint after whom your church is named? If there is the faintest chance of any of us getting to heaven, we are going to be like fish out of water. I would be much happier to think that I might be sitting on a heav-

enly bench spending time with someone whose devotion to Jesus puts mine to shame.

In cities like Manchester and Salford we have learned that we don't always have to pull old buildings down. It is perfectly possible to update them and to maintain their usefulness without taking drastic action. To see an old building spruced up and harnessed for the service of the future is very encouraging and uplifting. I get the point that the different world in which we are living needs the attention of a very different church, but it does not need to abandon its past as whole-heartedly as some people hope to and desire. For the record All Saints Day is on November 1st.

DGB

Housework: who's job is it?

WHO does most of the housework in your family? Probably the woman, if you are like most families. That is the finding of a recent analysis of who does household chores, carried out by University College London (UCL).

The study found that even among couples

where the woman is more qualified and has a more demanding job, she is still likely to do around half the housework. However, where the man is better qualified and has a better-paid job, he is likely to leave the majority of housework to his partner.

Therefore, it seems that despite the steady erosion of gender discrimination at work, traditional opinions tend to carry on at home. The study, published in *Work, Employment and Society*, found that fewer than seven per cent of couples share the housework equally.

Theresa of Lisieux making the most of life



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

Theresa grew up in a strict, devout Roman Catholic middle-class family in France, one of four sisters. Her father was a watchmaker. Like her sisters, she entered a Carmelite convent at 15, and stayed there. She was never able

to go anywhere, do anything extraordinary, or hold any responsibility. She died at the age of 24 of tuberculosis. Yet this quiet young Carmelite nun became so nationally popular that she was declared patroness of France 50 years after her death. Not bad for someone who didn't get out much!

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

The result was a life so spiritually radiant that her convent asked her to write a short spiritual autobiography of her pilgrimage. Theresa obliged with 'L'Histoire d'une Ame',

which soon became so popular that it was translated into most European languages and several Asiatic ones. Theresa also prayed for people who were ill, and there are many reports of miraculous healings that took place in answer.

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

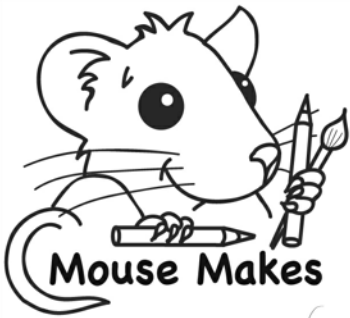
Crossword answers



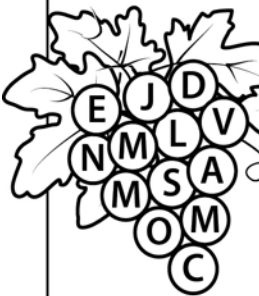
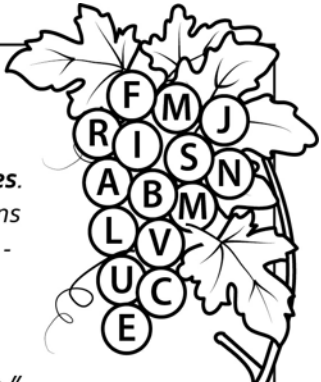
ACROSS: 1 embus, 4 jackdaw, 8 pitcher, 9 frame, 10 lees, 11 liffelb, 13 censor, 14 unable, 17 back door, 19 fit, 22 liege, 23 ovation, 24 desists, 25 minor.
DOWN: 1 expel, 2 bitter, 3 Soho, 4 jerkin, 5 caffeine, 6 drake, 7 wrestle, 12 goodness, 13 cobbled, 15 bullion, 16 joyous, 18 chess, 20 tenor, 21 calm.



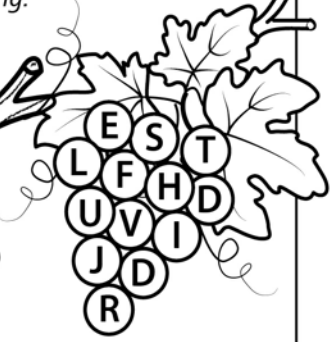
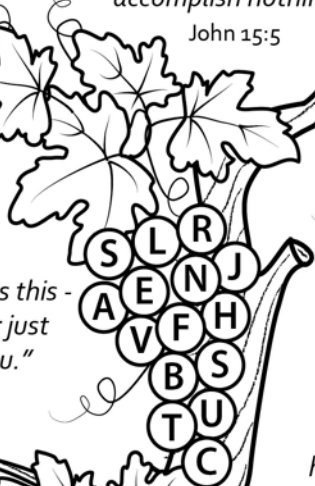
Junior Pages



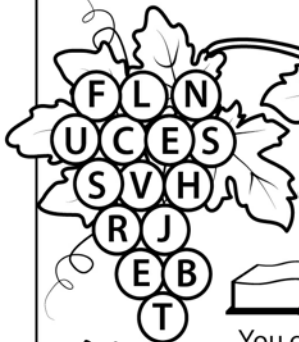
THE TRUE VINE
Jesus said:
*"I am the **vine**;
 you are the **branches**.
 The one who remains
 in me -and I in him -
 bears much **fruit**,
 because apart
 from me you can
 accomplish nothing."*
 John 15:5



*"My **commandment** is this -
 to love one another just
 as I have loved you."*
 John 15:12

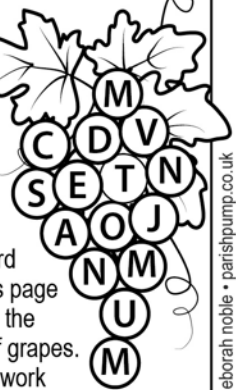


*"No one has greater
love than this -
 that one lays down
 his life for his friends."*
 John 15:13



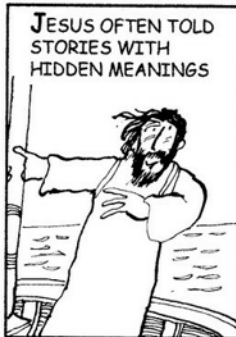
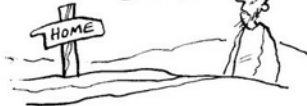
You can read
 Jesus' teaching on
The True Vine in:
 John 15:1-17

Each of the word
 in **bold** on this page
 is hidden in the
 bunches of grapes.
 Can you work
 out which bunch
 each word is in?



How many other
 words can you make from:
THE TRUE VINE

The tale of the Prodigal Son



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD TWO SONS.



ONE WAS HARD WORKING
AND CARED FOR HIS FATHER



BUT THE OTHER SON JUST
DEMANDED MONEY FROM
HIS DAD



THEN HE LEFT HOME TO WASTE
HIS WEALTH.



HE HAD MANY FRIENDS...



...UNTIL HIS MONEY RAN OUT



SOON, THE ONLY WAY HE COULD
SURVIVE WAS BY FEEDING PIGS.

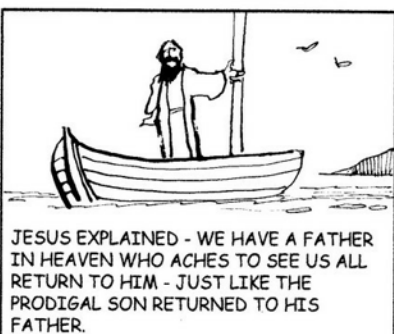


I KNOW, I'LL GO BACK TO
MY DAD AND SAY SORRY -
BUT HE'LL BE SO CROSS.



BUT HIS FATHER WAS
FAR FROM ANGRY - HE
WAS THRILLED TO SEE
HIS SON RETURN HOME!

MY SON IS ALIVE!!



JESUS EXPLAINED - WE HAVE A FATHER
IN HEAVEN WHO ACHES TO SEE US ALL
RETURN TO HIM - JUST LIKE THE
PRODIGAL SON RETURNED TO HIS
FATHER.

Happy New Year from Bob Hedley **

NO I HAVEN'T suddenly lost track of time. I just wanted to share with you two interesting festivals which occur in September in our former country of residence, Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Christian calendar still follows the Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C., rather than the Gregorian calendar which replaced it in England in 1752. This has resulted in Ethiopian year dating being eight years behind ours. The Ethiopian Tourist Board likes to use this in their catchphrase, "visit Ethiopia and become eight years younger". So, Ethiopia has just entered 2012 .

The Ethiopian calendar, which is believed to be derived from an ancient Egyptian calendar, has other differences to ours. There are still 365 days in a year, and 366 days in each leap year, but in Ethiopia, the year is divided into thirteen months; twelve with thirty days each, and the last month having five days (or six in each leap year). The Ethiopian Tour-

ist Board advertises, "thirteen months of sunshine" (they seem not to have noticed the two Rainy Seasons each year!). Ethiopian New Year almost coincides with the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah (on 29th September this year). This is not surprising considering the close affiliation between Ethiopia and Israel before the coming of Christianity. As 2011 was a leap year, the actual day this year was celebrated on September 12th, instead of September 11th, as in non-leap years. The day itself is dedicated to St John the Baptist (as he is considered to be the link between the Old and New (Testaments) .It is the end of the Rainy Season, when crops are starting to ripen for harvesting, animals are plump from good pasture. The fields are coloured by yellow daisies (*Bidens* sp.), which grow wild, and flower only at the end of the rains. So the Ethiopian New Year is a time for celebration.

Two weeks after the New Year, on 27th Sep-

tember, Christians celebrate the Feast of the Discovery of the True Cross (or simply "Mesqel" (it means "cross") in common Ethiopian parlance). It is believed that the Empress Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, and a tireless seeker after relics (to most Protestants, quite a strange idea), discovered the Cross of Jesus in Jerusalem in 327. In the 14th century, part of the Cross was sent to Ethiopia during the time of the Emperor Dawit, and it is still housed in the Church of Gishon-Mariam in Northern Ethiopia. Mesqel is a thanksgiving ceremony for the Cross.

Ethiopian Christians have a passionate attachment to the symbol of the cross. They decorate their clothes with crosses, and even have cross tattoos. Every priest carries a



small hand cross, which is used to bless believers wherever they are met. Each

monastery has its own design of decorated cross. The cross is venerated as a symbol of God's Love for mankind; of love to reconcile enemies; of the means to renaissance of the soul; as the key to the Kingdom of God; and as the altar on which Christ was sacrificed. Christians believe that through His Crucifixion, Jesus Christ has saved us.

The harvest is ripe and the fields are clothed

with golden flowers. Bonfires are built. These are traditionally mountain shaped (recalling the settling of the Ark of Noah, and the Crucifixion on Mount Calvary). It is also believed that Helena burnt a bonfire, and followed the direction of the smoke to find the Cross. The Mesqel bonfires are lit with much singing of hymns, prayers, and dancing, and then Christians use the ashes to make the

sign of the Cross on their foreheads. While the bonfire is being lit, onlookers will light candles, to symbolise the spread of God's light flowing through the world. This celebration is followed by a lot of feasting.

What a wonderful time of the year, and it is a good time to thank God for all the gifts He has given us, especially His Sacrifice on the Cross.

Happy New Year !

*** Bob and Sonja Hedley worked for over forty years in Africa, including for sixteen years in Ethiopia. They have recently returned to the U.K. and attend St James'

Nietzsche – the man for whom 'God is dead'



THE GERMAN philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche was born 175 years ago, on 15th October 1844, near Leipzig, where his father was a Lutheran minister. His father died five years later, but young Friedrich had a brilliant school and university career.

He is perhaps known best for his paradoxical

statement that “God is dead”, and his suggestion that traditional Christian belief and its attendant ideas of morality were “unbelievable”. One of his arguments was that the “brimstone, hellfire, and damnation diatribe” in Christian letters and sermons was incompatible with a religion of love and forgiveness.

His writing was not so much logical as aphoristic – even poetic. He said: “I approach deep problems like cold baths: quickly into them and quickly out again.”

His novel *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* was used by Richard Strauss to create a tone poem of the same name, the fanfare of which was employed to stunning effect in the 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Nietzsche's health was poor, and he moved frequently in later years. He had intense headaches, nausea and trouble with his eyesight, suggesting that he may have suffered from a slow-growing tumour on the brain. He developed dementia and became totally silent, dying eventually of a stroke in 1900.

Mythical Beasts

The Roc

The ROC is one of the largest, most formidable birds in myth. ROCs were so big that their wings could reportedly block out the Sun and so massive that they could pick up fishing boats or elephants in their talons

Various explorers claim to have spotted these giant creatures on their travels, especially near the eastern shores of Africa.

Rumour has it that Marco Polo (the famous Italian traveller born around 800 years ago) referred to the ROC in his writings:

It was for all the world like an Eagle, but of indeed enormous size.; So big in fact that its wings covered an extent of 30 paces, and its quills were 12 paces long and thick in proportion. And it is so strong that it will seize



an elephant in its talons and carry him high into the air and drop him down so that he is smashed to pieces: having killed him, the bird swoops down on him and eats him at leisure.

There are many popular theories debunking the mystery of the ROC, however.

One idea states that idiotic sailors mistook palm-tree fronds for gigantic feathers. Another

theory suggests that travellers thought ostriches were actually the ROC chicks. Confused by the giant ostrich eggs they saw in nests and by the fact that the birds couldn't fly, they simply assumed that full-grown ostriches were babies



Church of England brings prayers with Alexa

THE CHURCH of England has launched an Alexa skill, enabling users to ask the Church of England for prayers, explanations of the Christian faith and where to find their nearest church for local events and services based on their location.

Daily prayer resources are central to the skill, offering a prayer for the day, as well as morning, evening and night-time prayers and a grace before meals all recorded for Alexa devices.

The skill is also integrated with [A Church Near You](#), our national church finder that gets 13 million page views a year, to find the nearest services and events, and seeks to increase users' knowledge of the Christian faith by answering questions such as: what is the Bible? Who is God? What is a Christian?

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, said: "We're thrilled to be launching the Alexa skill, to enable regular churchgoers and those exploring faith to connect with God in another way at a time that's right for them. A

quarter of UK households now own a smart device.

Adrian Harris, Head of Digital at the Church of England, said: "Platforms such as Alexa give the Church the ability to connect people with God and to weave faith into daily lives, whether for daily prayers or exploring Christianity. We also see this as a fantastic opportunity to encourage people into their local church, which is why the link to A Church Near You is so important, particularly at key moments in the Christian year such as Easter and Christmas.

"We're prioritising Alexa at this stage to reach as many people as quickly as possible, but plan to launch on Google and Apple devices in due course. Thomas Allain Chapman, Publishing Manager at the Church of England, said: "The Alexa skill means prayers that Church House Publishing has previously made available in books, apps and e-books will now be available in audio to a new audience in many homes."

This is phase one of the AI project, built joint-

ly by the Church's Digital and Church House Publishing teams, with future development planned to ensure users can find more answers to faith questions.

Users must activate the Church of England skill by saying "Alexa, open the Church of England". A full list of commands is available on our [dedicated Alexa page](#).

One million people go to a Church of England church and more than four million attend at Christmas. The integration with A Church Near You will mean even more users are able to find a local place to worship at key events.

This skill is one of the first significant faith-based skills available for smart speaker users in the UK.

echo dot



One third of young children have never been to the butcher's or greengrocer's

THAT is the finding of a survey by Nationwide Building Society, who also found that one in four youngsters of primary school age do not even know what a high street is. More than half have never visited a laundromat, and nearly half have never been to a florist or key-cutter.

The survey comes amidst concerns that the future of Britain's high street is bleak. A recent report by Retail Econom-

ics predicts that half of UK retail transactions will be online within a decade, as opposed to a fifth of all transactions at present.

In the past ten years, a number of big chains have disappeared, including Woolworths, BHS, and Toy R Us. Meanwhile Homebase and Marks & Spencer are closing many shops, and profits have dropped at John Lewis.

And little wonder: the survey found that 75 per

cent of children said that their parents mostly shopped at a supermarket, and 40 per cent had parents who shopped mostly online. Meanwhile, MPs are urging towns to develop a unique selling point in order to attract shoppers.



When you are stressed, so is your dog!

THE OLD adage that dogs take after their owners may be more true than we realise. For a new study has found that when dog-owners suffer from ongoing anxiety, so do their dogs.

Scientists measured the concentration of cortisol, a stress hormone, by taking a few centimetres of hair from a number of dogs and their owners. A direct correlation between the level of stress in any dog and its owner was found.

The dog's character was irrelevant, researchers

said. Instead, "we found that the levels of long term cortisol in dog and owner were synchronized. Owners with high cortisol levels have dogs with high cortisol levels." In other words, owners' personalities have a huge effect on their dogs.

The study was carried out at a university in Sweden and published in the journal *Scientific Reform*.



Poster

Found in a French Church
(translated)

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God".

However it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phone(s)

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text whilst driving.

Puzzle Page

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

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Difficulty level: Easy.

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

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Difficulty level: Medium

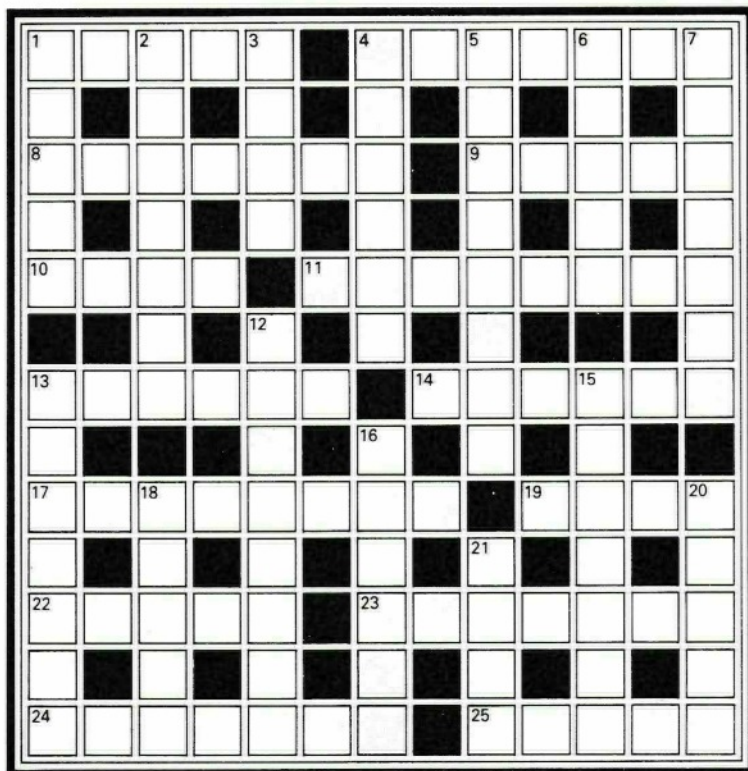
WORDSEARCH

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

OCTOBER brings us Harvest, and Psalm 65 expresses it perfectly: “You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so you have ordained it...

Now find: Corn, Rain, Mud, Wheat, , Abundance, Goodness, Riches, Pumpkins, , Marrows, Water, Thankful, Food, , Crops , Soften, Carts, Overflow, Praise, Care, Blessing, Meadows, flocks.

Crossword No 27



ACROSS

1. Get into a motor vehicle (5)
4. Bird of the crow family (7)
8. Large jug (7)
9. Skeleton (5)
10. The dregs of liquor (4)
11. It keeps one afloat (8)
13. Expurgator (6)
14. Having no power (6)
17. Tradesmen's entrance? Rood! (4,4)
19. Move about lightly (4)
22. Feudal lord – in Belgium! (5)
23. Enthusiastic reception (7)
24. Leaves off (7)
25. Person under age – and one underground, by the sound of it! (5)

DOWN

1. Banish (5)
2. Bird of the heron family (7)
3. District of London (4)
4. Suddenly tuggin' – a jacket! (6)
5. Fine face (anag.) – from stimulant in coffee? (8)
6. Famous old bowler – makes duck! (5)
7. Grapple (7)
12. Virtue – dear me! (8)
13. Mended shoes – like old streets? (7)
15. Precious metal intended for coinage (7)
16. Full of gladness (6)
18. A game on board (5)
20. Singer – and a note is heard! (5)
21. Unruffled (4)

A few clues may be a bit cryptic
Answers on page 8

THE COMMUNITY HALL

Regular activities using the facilities

MONDAY

NHS Fellowship 12.00 - 15.00 (monthly - 2nd Monday)
(Contact: Lynn Frier 01617890231)

TUESDAY

Yoga group 19.30 - 20.30
(Contact: Vicky Greer: 07717717186)

WEDNESDAY

Rainbows & Brownies 17.30 - 19.00 (weekly in term time)
(Contact: Sylvia McGreal 01617980057)

THURSDAY

Archery 13.00 - 15.00 and 19.00 - 21.00
(Contact: Dominic Vaughan 01612116563
or 07934080596)

FRIDAY

Archery 19.30 - 22.00 (Contact as above)

SUNDAY

Little Gems Sunday School 10.00 - 11.00 am (monthly 1st Sunday)
(Contact: Sylvia McGreal 01617980057)

VARIOUS

Priestley Players Amateur Dramatic Society - request info.
(Contact: Roger Partington 01617948266)

BOOKINGS

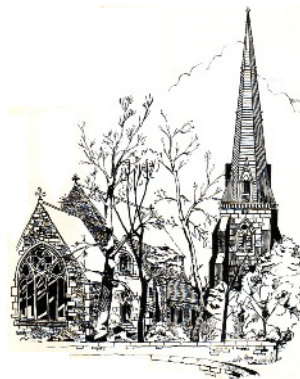
Booking requests, whether for regular or occasional events should be addressed to Mrs Sheila Jones who can be contacted on 01617892863 or 07845492109.



STAFF

Vicar of St. James & St. John

Rev. Gareth Thomas
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213 Lancaster Road
Pendleton
Salford
M6 8WA
Telephone: 0161 789 3476

SERVICES:

Sunday 10.00am Parish Communion

Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc. by arrangement with Rev. Thomas who may be contacted by telephone, or in person at Church on Wednesdays from 10-30am

Hall Bookings: For bookings and enquiries about the Parish Hall ring Mrs. Sheila Jones on 0161 789 2863 or 07845492109

E-mail for all church issues: Stjames.hope@gmail.com

Website: www.saintjameshope.co.uk