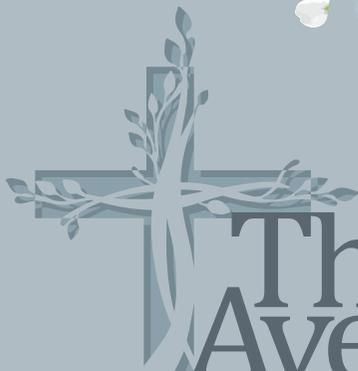




# the NEW Messenger

OCTOBER &  
NOVEMBER 2018

We will remember them



Third  
Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

# Sunday Preaching plan for Gillingham & Hartlip

## OCTOBER 2018

THIRD AVENUE | MORNING | 10.30AM

HARTLIP | EVENING | 6.30PM

07 OCT REV ROBIN SELMES

ELENA MARKOVA

14 OCT DEREK GALLAGHER

MANDY HARRIS  
RETREAT SUNDAY FROM 3.30PM

21 OCT REV ROBIN SELMES  
HOLY COMMUNION

REV ROBIN SELMES  
HOLY COMMUNION

28 OCT SONGS OF PRAISE  
REV ROBIN SELMES

BRIAN DAVIES

## NOVEMBER 2018

04 NOV YOUTH SERVICE

ANTHONY BROWN

11 NOV REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY  
CENTENARY

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY  
ECUMENICAL

18 NOV REV ROBIN SELMES  
HOLY COMMUNION

RETIREMENT SERVICE FOR  
REV KEN GEORGE  
CIRCUIT SERVICE

25 NOV REV ROBIN SELMES

JUDITH GERMAN

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



**100 years ago** this November the guns fell silent, although, tragically, they were to start up again a mere 21 years later; two World Wars costing millions of lives. I hope and pray that we will continue to stop and remember their sacrifice for the next 100 years, and for the 100 years after that, but also that we celebrate peace and the goodness that God has placed in our hearts.

In our remembrance, we should look forward to the next hundred years with hope and an eagerness to make the world a peaceful place for all. In this country we are privileged to live freely and are able to choose to show compassion towards others.

Our world is blessed with millions of people, young and old, all trying to make a difference. Through acts of kindness, looking after others, volunteering, making charitable donations, reusing and recycling the world's resources and leading healthy lifestyles in body and mind.

All our small acts: a kind word or smile; reducing, re-using and recycling our waste; supporting charities and volunteering can make a big difference. Please read on to see how Third Avenue Church & Community are making a difference in your neighbourhood and beyond, and please feel encouraged to join in.

**Helen and the editorial team**

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

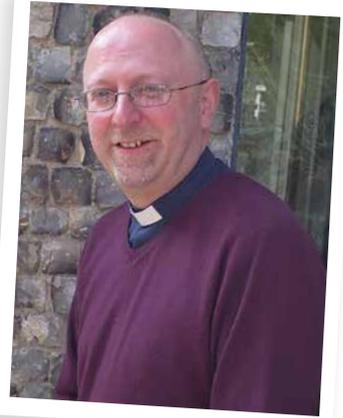
**Deadline to receive articles for the DEC | JAN edition will be 20 Nov 2018.**

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

## November is traditionally the month when we look back and remember.

The beginning of the month is marked with services of Thanksgiving and Remembrance, as churches look back to loved ones who are no longer with us. From a personal perspective I am well aware that grief affects us for many years after the loss of a loved one and often lasts a lifetime and so these services enable those who have experienced the loss of someone they love, to give thanks and remember their loved ones before God. It marks also a time to reflect and remember those "great clouds of witnesses" who have gone before us in faith. Those who have surrounded us with encouragement, cheered us on, nurtured our faith and whom patiently, prayerfully laid the foundations to the church we have today.

Our next act of remembrance is on Remembrance Sunday. On this day we remember the millions of people who gave their lives in both World Wars so that we might enjoy peace today. In fact, it will be even more poignant, as this year will be the 100th anniversary of the end of conflict of the First World. To mark this, various events will take place across Medway to Remember and Reflect on those who gave their lives to this Country in this war. Stories will be told and memories will be shared and so I hope they will not be overshadowed by the political turmoil that we are facing. Equally we also need to remember that there have been other conflicts since then – the Falkland War and the two gulf Wars in which our troops have fought. We need to say thank you and support them in our prayers as still many today bear scars of these wars.



As this month is a particular time of remembrance we should not forget that such remembrance is at the heart of the Christian story, as Jesus eats supper with his friends for the final time, he takes bread and wine and instructs them to receive the same, bread and wine, to remember him, for this is his body and blood. 'Do this in remembrance of me' in the context of our lives speaks equally into the confusion and muddle, the uncertainties and fears of our own world and our own lives. Every time we celebrate Holy Communion we remember this command to be fed and empowered to go out and show the love of Christ in action- in our street, among our neighbours, with our colleagues, with our friends and families. This is about taking whatever is broken and then through Christ putting it back together again differently, to heal, to refresh and thereby to be changed. This takes time but begins when we remember.

Finally, as we start this month with a sense of sadness we end with a feeling of hope, as we enter the season of Advent. A time of anticipation, where we look forward rather than backwards, where we are reminded once again that the promise God made about salvation has come. This promise is the true hope beyond any other hope we have.

May God bless you in this season of remembrance and hope

*Robin*

# Hartlip

Methodist Church  
& Retreat Centre | ME9 7TG

## Retreat Sunday

*Crowned  
with love &  
compassion*



*Led by Mandy Harris*

**3.30PM**

**5PM**

**6.30PM**

Sunday 14th  
October 2018

AFTERNOON RETREAT

AFTERNOON TEA

RETREAT SERVICE

# A message from Our Youth Pastor...

We are a month into a new academic year and settling back in. We have started back up with all our groups; Youth group, Bible study, Sunday morning groups and the youth café (formally drop-in).

As I write this article, our young people are currently planning for the Harvest weekend, which is quickly approaching. It has been a real joy and blessing over the last 4 years to see the young people grow in confidence and gifting, as they have lead these services. We now have younger youth who are becoming involved in planning and leading the youth services and it is a joy to get to know their gifts and encourage them as they share their worship with the church. Our older lot (who are much more experienced in the youth services) are continuing to partake in the services and in some cases, leading and encouraging the younger ones. For the first time, we have a youth service in November that is just being led by just the God Squad, and I for one can't wait to see what they will be sharing with us.

Wednesday night youth group is now back will activities planned for the next term including bowling and Christmas cooking. Last night we had a quiz night, which included a surprise baby photo round. We had gathered baby photos of the young people (unknown to them). The leaders joined in as well, and it was fun guessing who all the super cute babies were.

Bible Study is also back – we continued to meet over the summer and had times of just relaxing and also looking at representations of Christ in films. We watched Narnia: The lion, the witch and the wardrobe and then discussed how C.S. Lewis based the story on Christ. Starting this month we shall be looking at the book of an American Pastor called John Gray, that many of us saw speak at Hillsong at the



beginning of the summer.

We re-launched Drop-in as a youth café this September. We have had a handful of young people come along. Please continue to pray for this, as we continue to reach out to the young people and advertise this. We are seeking God's guidance and plan with this group.

I am now working with the Chinese Church young people on a weekly basis and leading their youth Sunday school sessions. This month we have been exploring the Bible and prayer. Looking at why and how we pray, and we have explored what the Bible is and its importance and how it can help us in our lives.

Please continue to pray for all our young people and all the different areas of our youth ministry here.

Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless, **Helen x**





*What a glorious Harvest Weekend we had at the end of September - A sumptuous Harvest display and amazing Harvest Festival, led by our young people. Here are the words our talented youngsters wrote and delivered during the Sunday service:*

### **Sharing Food | Food Waste**

Harvest is an important event to celebrate because harvest marks the year of new produce of vegetables, fruits, nuts, wheat and allsorts.

Harvest is also a time to thank the farmers and factory workers for the food that we find in stores and, most importantly, our Lord our provider.

One of the negative things that comes out of harvest is the amount of food waste. This is been a huge problem and our world for many, many years. Every day, thousands of tonnes of food is wasted by throwing in the bin. Can anyone hazard an approximate guess how

much food is wasted in the UK in a year?  
 Answer: In 2015, 7.7 billion tonnes of food was wasted, which comes to about £13 billion, in the bin!

Wasting food has always been a huge problem but there are ways we can help stop the increase of food waste.

Here are three ways that could help tackle the food waste issue:

- 1 You could make a shopping list and **stick** to it!
- 2 You could check what food you have first and what you need to buy
- 3 You could reduce waste by freezing things in the freezer - Remember it's not just for ice cream!

Happy harvest. Thank you, **Beverly**

## Sharing of Wisdom

*Jon started with a quiz:*

- 1 Who was prime minister in WW2  
a) Winston Churchill
- 2 How many states in the USA are there?  
a) 50
- 3 What year did England win the world cup?  
a) 1966

What we are seeing here is that by answering this quiz together, we are sharing knowledge.

Let's think about this further by watching this short video clip of a Chinese proverb:

*"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."*

In simple terms this proverb means that it is better in the long run to teach a person a craft, to share knowledge and wisdom, which allows them to provide for themselves for a lifetime. But let's not down play the need for sharing food because both sharing wisdom and food have equal importance

Let me explain by using an example from a charity, for example: A hurricane has destroyed a family's home and community. At this moment knowledge and wisdom is not the solution to address their immediate needs. Instead it is important that we begin by sharing food and equipment to help them build strength and rebuild their home.

Next we need to provide farming equipment. This is when sharing of wisdom cuts in. We need to Teach them how to use the equipment and new techniques in farming.

Soon they grow enough food for themselves and the village. Soon they grow enough food to sell and make money. We then need to show them how to get a fair price... and to run a business

And so through sharing of food we meet their immediate needs and then sharing of

knowledge we make a difference, a lifetime difference.

**Jon**

*Jon then went on the ask the congregation for different ideas of how we can all share knowledge... and he displayed great skill receiving and developing the answers.*

## Sharing Love

Harvest can be the worse time of year for some people. It's when conditions worsen as we change to winter, it is when we are trapped inside and realise how lonely we truly are, or it is when we are stuck outside on the outskirts of society in the cold. This is why the celebration of harvest is truly important as it's the time where we replenish our souls along with our grain stores. It is the time where we must share love as much as we share the food we eat. And for the people who I know love food too much to share, it's the time we share like we share the air we breath or the water we drink. Because our love may be limited but with the power of God it's abundant, like His love for us.

Now look at what Beverly told us earlier, we waste so much food and people go hungry, when with redistribution and effort we could feed the planet. Love is much the same, we don't waste it, most of the time, but we don't distribute enough either. If it comes from an abundance source then surely there is enough for everyone. Similarly, it could be said for Jon's message of knowledge: in these times of political differences, international struggle and poverty, the sharing of knowledge and educating the planet for the better, becomes an after thought. It's ironic really, as sharing would solve all these problems.

Remember we reap what we sow, so let that be love. Remember we love because God first loved us. Let us share that message.

**Rebecca**

*A huge thank you to our young people for a fantastic Harvest Service.*



Thank you to all those who attended our Harvest Supper & Quiz, with The Family Trust. We had great fun, delicious food and raised a fabulous total of **£525** for our charities.

*Many thanks in particular, to our young people, who helped prepare and serve the meal ~ David, Jon, Rebecca, Issy, & Ellie. You were all real stars x*

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



# Remembering the end of World War One

This year Remembrance Sunday (11th November) marks the centenary of the end of World War One. Of the 65 million men who were mobilized, 8.5 million were killed and a further 21 million wounded. Wilfred Owen wrote of those 'who die as cattle.'

How should we celebrate this anniversary? In remembering the Armistice, our response should be to desire Micah's vision of universal peace in our world: *'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* Micah 4:3.

However, why keep asking God for peace, when we continue to see such violence and unrest in our world? The Bible makes it clear that peace is not just the absence of war or being untroubled.

It means being in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, with other people and with wider society.

Of course, Micah's words are looking to end of time when God will make all things new in His universal kingdom. However, these promises also can speak to us now. The ministry of Jesus demonstrated the kingdom or reign of God breaking into the everyday, as He healed the sick and brought reconciliation and hope. When we pray for peace, we're rejecting the 'old order of things', of violence and war and asking God to make His kingdom real today. We're citizens of the new kingdom, reshaping the old.

The end of the centenary of World War 1 is a time to consider peace. Although the war did not bring a lasting peace to the world, for the Christian there's a deeper lesson: peace begins with the healing of hearts, the restoring of relationships and with a deep, costly commitment to justice.

**Paul Hardingham, Parish Pump**

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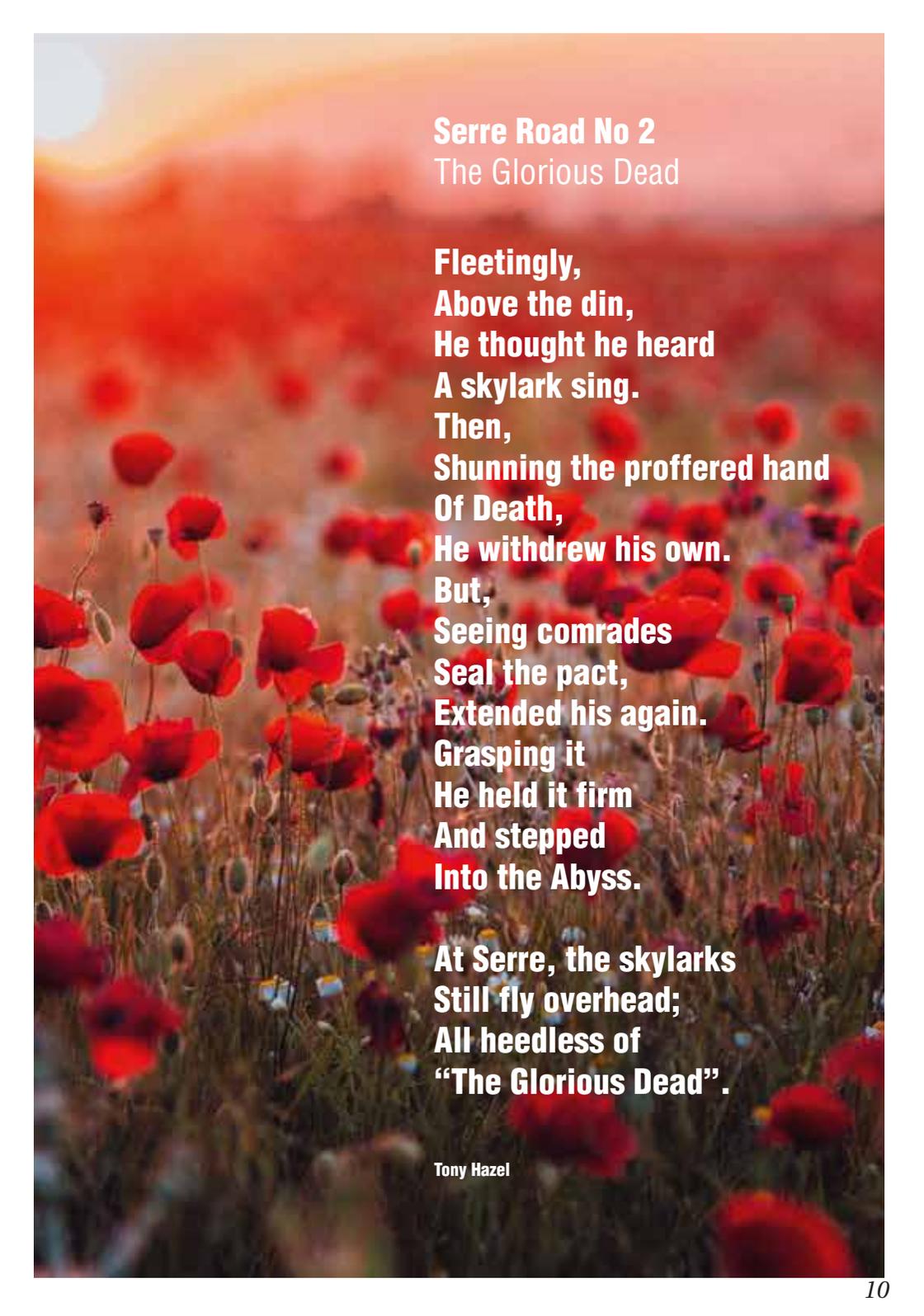
*1918 was the final year of the Great War. This year, Canon David Winter is looking back on highlights of those critical 12 months, when the very shape of modern world history was being hammered out on the battlefields.* **Parish Pump**

## Diary of a Momentous Year: November 1918 ~ When the Boys Came Home

By Autumn 1918 it was obvious that the war was coming to an end, Germany was clearly beaten, but no one had actually won. The front line was more or less as it had been for years, but after Amiens the Germans knew that this was a conflict they could never win. High level discussions took place, while in Britain the public mood was surprisingly optimistic. 'There's a silver lining', the songs said. 'Keep the home fires burning till the boys come home'. When an 'Armistice' was announced, there was euphoria. No more killing, the guns silenced. Peace at last!

'Armistice' was a new word for most people – not a peace treaty or settlement (that would follow a conference in Paris the following January), but simply a laying down of arms, but for many that was enough for now. 'No more killing', they declared. Most of the boys did come home, but tens of thousands didn't. We have tended to judge the first World War by the numbers involved – and they are appalling, but each casualty was also someone's personal loss, as I learnt in my first parish.





**Serre Road No 2**  
The Glorious Dead

**Fleetingly,  
Above the din,  
He thought he heard  
A skylark sing.  
Then,  
Shunning the proffered hand  
Of Death,  
He withdrew his own.  
But,  
Seeing comrades  
Seal the pact,  
Extended his again.  
Grasping it  
He held it firm  
And stepped  
Into the Abyss.**

**At Serre, the skylarks  
Still fly overhead;  
All heedless of  
“The Glorious Dead”.**

Tony Hazel

# Pioneer Ministry without the ‘Collar’

**Bart Woodhouse**



Almost twenty years ago I walked through the “Joyful News” entrance to Cliff College. With a little nervousness and apprehension, I dragged my suitcase to my rather austere room, and sitting on the bed after waving my parents goodbye, realised this was the beginning of a new adventure with Jesus that would forever change my life.

During those three amazing years at Cliff College three significant decisions were made which have proved to be the best choices I have ever made. Firstly, that I was being called into ministry. Secondly, it was not ordained ministry. And, finally and most wonderfully, I should marry a beautiful and gifted fellow student, who thankfully said yes! It was not an easy decision to step back from the obvious route of travel towards ordination. Most people around me at the time expected me to get ordained, and there was a little frustration and disappointment when I didn’t follow through with this. The Holy Spirit navigated me through this period, time and again I would hear His voice calling me into ministry but something that didn’t seem to match the role of an ordained minister, it was something else, on the edge, on the streets, outside the normal structures, yet still belonging to them. My next steps beyond Cliff were far from obvious, and on the encouragement of one of my tutors Pete Philips, I put a PhD proposal into Sheffield

University, almost literally on the back of an envelope, to which they responded with an invitation and fee bursary! God had wonderfully opened a way forward and with an opportunity I had never expected. This has been the pattern of God’s leading ever since, opening doors and closing others, with each step requiring a good helping of trust and faith on my part. There have been tremendous ups and some rather crushing downs over the last twenty years, but God has faithfully led me to the place I now find myself, as we set out to plant a church for the second time. As I lead this new venture I am always impressed by how God brought me to be engaged as a church leader, on the edge



of the church’s structures, focused on mission and evangelism, yet with a freedom that comes from my rather unique role as a “lay” Pioneer Minister. What the Holy Spirit whispered to me all those years ago has become my reality as we launch a new congregation in the Ebbsfleet Garden City in north Kent.

Throughout this journey I have been captivated by a conviction that the Holy Spirit put into my heart on the night I recommitted my life to

Christ in 1996, that nothing less than revival was ever going to satisfy, and now that same conviction burns brighter than it ever has. Revival is a difficult word to use these days, particularly in polite church conversation about mission, not least because it took a beating during the heady days of the charismatic renewal and was further sullied by various scandals and manipulative emotionalism during the 1980s and 1990s. But, when I hear the word “revival”, and most importantly whenever I use it, there is something in my heart that literally shudders with expectation and excitement. For me it describes a move of the Spirit that is not defined by a “church brand” or a particular church leader’s personality, but one that so transforms the landscape of our nation that our society is richer, our collective hearts bigger, our economy fairer, and our love of Jesus evermore confident and sacrificial. My understanding of revival has been most nourished when I read of

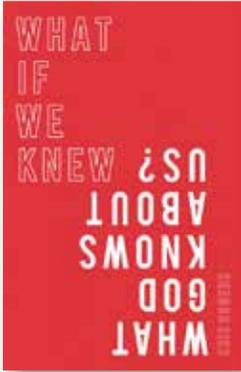
next initiative but was the miraculous work of God into which we have been invited to participate, so like John Wesley or Samuel Chadwick, we too see communities, cities, and even nations changed. I know how this sounds and there is not the space here to explore all the ramifications of these “dreamy” sentiments, but here I stand knowing there is something afoot that demands my attention and foolhardy commitment. The Holy Spirit will move and it won’t fit the structures of our churches or follow the patterns of our best thinkers, it will look old yet be powerfully relevant, it won’t be politically correct but will bring real justice, and love will be outrageously revealed as a Holy transforming force and not a culturally compliant “fiction of compromise”. As I move to a new house and begin to form a new church here in Ebbsfleet I recognise more than ever that pioneering in the Spirit, and pursuing revival, has little to do with accepted strategies, and much more to do with the



John Wesley and George Whitfield’s exploits, and the faith and heart of those early Methodists, and most notably the pioneers who formed Cliff College, often against the odds, but to the glory of God. It is this kind of revival that I feel called to run after, one where the Holy Spirit changes the spiritual climate, that in partnership with Him the church brings in a harvest of people, one that we cannot take credit for, one that was not the result of our

scandalous level of love I am prepared to open myself up to in my friendship with Jesus. A place where my reputation with others has no value, where I am prepared to take seriously the miraculous nature of working with Him, where my powerlessness and surrender build His throne, and where my logic is suspended by a heart knowledge of an eternal kind. Pioneers in the Spirit are being stirred up all over the nation, **is He stirring your heart too?**

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



## **What if We Knew What God Knows About Us | Cris Rogers Monarch | £7.99**

This is a book about who God is and who we are in light of that. What we think about ourselves will govern what we do. If we think we are powerless we will behave that way. If we believe we are weak we will be weak. If we believe we have no gifts we will not use our gifting. When we believe the wrong things about ourselves it stops us becoming the people we were created to be. The Bible tells us that in Jesus we are “a new creation” and yet sometimes we still wear the grave clothes of the old creation. But what if we knew what God knows about us? What if we knew the upside down, right way up, kingdom vision for our identity found in Jesus? What if we didn't just know it in our heads,

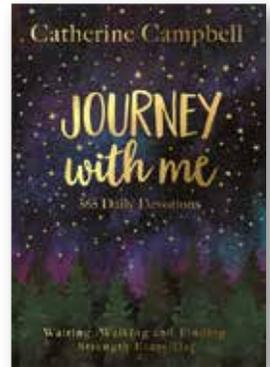
but our hearts were transformed by it and our hands lived it? When we know what God knows about us we will do the things He knows we can do. Our potential is limitless...

Cris Rogers is a Church of England pioneer minister, church planter, artist, and Star Wars fan.

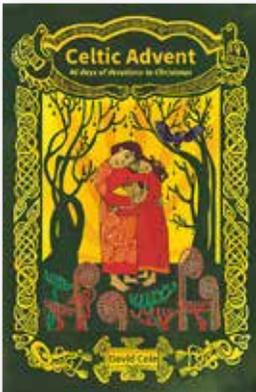
## **Journey with Me - 365 Daily Devotions | Catherine Campbell IVP | £9.74**

Catherine Campbell invites you to journey with her through the year as she shares 365 Bible meditations that have touched her heart and changed her life. Using an eclectic mix of readings, character cameos and anecdotes, Catherine takes us across new terrain every day.

As with life, some paths will be smooth and scenic, while others are steep and stony. The journey may be unpredictable, but the map is trustworthy and the Guide always present. ‘As surely as winter blossoms into spring, and autumn eventually carpets summer lawns, God’s Word will excite, challenge, heal and guide us in the year ahead,’ says Catherine.



Catherine Campbell lives with her husband, a pastor, in Northern Ireland. Previously, she worked as a nurse. Many of her books focus on issues surrounding life’s tough stuff and what the Bible has to say about it.



## **Celtic Advent - 40 days of devotions to Christmas | David Cole BRF | £8.99**

This beautiful book is clear. It is holy. It begins with the concept of Advent and ends with the celebration of Christmas. In between it spends three 10 day periods exploring Christ's first coming, His present coming into our lives and his future coming. If you pay attention to each day's reflections you will become part of a life-changing Advent adventure and Christmas will become part of you.

Previously a full-time church minister, David Cole is an international spiritual teacher and retreat leader, an award-winning author and the Deputy Guardian for the Community of Aidan and Hilda.



**MOVIE  
MOMENTS**

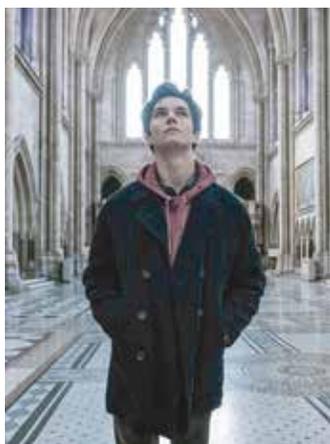
**Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.**

## Which best interest?

*The Children Act* takes its name from the 1989 law governing family courts, the first provision of which states 'the child's welfare shall be the court's paramount consideration'. Each day Judge Fiona Maye (Emma Thompson) must apply that basic legal principle to complex practical situations. Should she separate a child from a parent who might be emotionally damaging? Should she separate a conjoined twin from its other half who might be physically destructive? Each day she must try to act with dispassionate diligence as she makes decisions about other people's lives and relationships.



Now she is required to rule on the case of 17-year-old Adam Henry (Fionn Whitehead) who, together with his Jehovah's Witness parents, is declining a life-saving blood transfusion. What decision is in the best interest of this child, who would rather die than deny his faith? And what impact will this have on his life?



Judge Fiona takes the unusual step of visiting his bedside, and becomes emotionally involved. So, this powerful, multi-layered, film draws us in to consider the nature of life, love, faith and relationships. Fiona says that she presides over a 'court of law not of morals', but can these actually be separated? Is it possible for anyone in this world to know what is in someone's best interests? Indeed, can we ourselves even know what is in our own best interests?

As Fiona sits by Adam's bedside she sings for him a poem by W. B. Yeats, which evokes the sadness of a man looking back on a lost love, and ends with profound and thought-provoking lyrics relevant to all of us as we consider decisions that we must make in our own lives: 'She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs; but I was young and foolish, and now am full of tears.'

**ETHOS  
MEDIA.org**

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



# 'He gave us eyes to see them' Duccio's Wedding at Cana

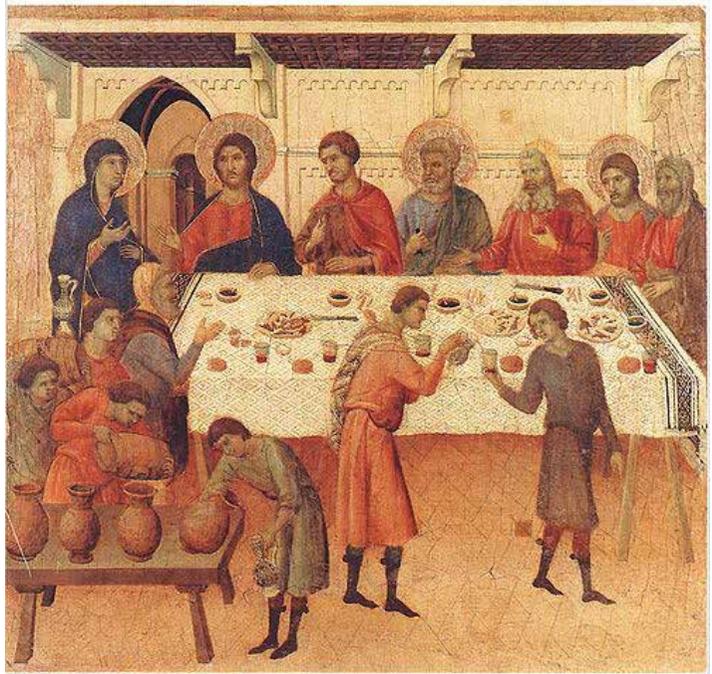
## God *in* the Arts

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

'The conscious water saw its God and blushed' – in those words, the poet Richard Crashaw describes the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana.

This sign at the beginning of our Lord's ministry points ahead to that other meal when a cup of wine will be poured out for many. The cup is a rich image of life in scripture: from the cup found in Benjamin's sack in Genesis to the cup of blessing in Paul's letters. The cup may be filled with bitter wine to reflect life's sorrow, while the cup of Psalm 23 overflows with goodness. It is as rich an image as the bunch of grapes we often see in a church window or carved on a screen – a sign of the goodness of Creation that brings us the gift of wine.

The wedding at Cana speaks to us of the generosity and gift of our Lord who transforms the feast. Duccio di Buoninsegna portrayed it in the panel he provided for the Maesta, the glorious altarpiece for Siena Cathedral in 1311. We see the table lavishly spread, while Jesus, sat by the side of His mother, blesses the water pots. The servants are busy pouring what is now wine into the



jugs and cups. It is the new wine of the kingdom.

Everywhere that Jesus went, the old was made new. For the widow of Nain he changed tears into joy, for Zacchaeus selfishness into love, for the thief on the cross despair into hope, for Mary Magdalene the end of the road into a new journey. What our Lord did at Cana, He went on doing in His ministry, changing not just water, but transforming human lives. And we share in that transforming love at every eucharist as we drink of the cup of blessing. These are some words of the poet Elizabeth Jennings:

'Those grapes, ready for picking, are the sign  
Of harvest and of Sacrament.'



*Exciting news!*

Our new website  
is now live!

Check it out for all the  
info on Third Avenue  
Church & Community,  
and let us know  
what you think!



[www.gillinghammethodists.uk](http://www.gillinghammethodists.uk)

# Hartlip

## Methodist Church & Retreat Centre

In August **Deacon Pru** took her final service before moving to Manchester and as usual tea and cake were available (or coffee for the non tea drinkers among us). It was a sad moment for many of us, not only the Methodists among us, because Pru had worked with the village, particularly with the Anglican Church and the school.

Pru has already been to see the Gills play at Rochdale. Unfortunately the result was 3-0 to Rochdale.

In September we started the Methodist year with a prayer day . A small number of people attended but everyone participated in the prayer and discussions were at a deep level.

Beautiful weather in the afternoon persuaded us into the garden for our final session of the day .

Our **Harvest Festival Service** took place on the 16th September when our numbers were increased by our friends from Gillingham. The sale the following night was an enjoyable affair. Derek promised not to tell us long anecdotes but his usual jokes produced both laughter and groans!

In October we celebrate the use of the Retreat Centre and pray for all the groups that have used it during the year. Mandy Harris will be leading us through the afternoon and in the service in the evening .

**Retreat Sunday is 14th October.**

Afternoon session is at 3.30pm, Tea at 5pm and our Retreat Service at 6.30pm

**Margaret Bowerman**

Every  
Friday  
*Open to all*

# Oasis

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

**Talking Point**  
*11.30am to 12.30pm*

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



**Chrysalis**  
*1pm to 1.30pm*

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

**Listening Ear**  
*from 1.30pm*

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



**Third  
Avenue**  
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

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



Remember : the clocks 'fall back' one hour in the early hours of Sunday 28 October



**PETER'S  
PLACE**

For those of you who don't know Peter's Place was set up in the memory of Peter Younghusband, who was a young man who passed away at the age 21 after a long and courageous 5 year battle with cancer in 2010. Peter's story can be read in full on our website. Doctor Who and Sunderland Football Club were his passions in life and the inspiration of our logo.

We aim to unite young people between 16 and 30 with life-limiting illnesses and their families. We are providing tailored individual support by means of wishes, counselling and grants of up to £500. We have given wishes, including Zoo Keeper for a day for a young lady, driving lessons to a couple of young men, and also helped by giving grants to a couple of young people to help their families with paying for transport costs or hotel accommodation while

their loved ones are in hospital so they can be close by. We have also offered support to a young lady and her family by befriending them, being there for them when they needed to talk. Unfortunately due to their illnesses a couple of our clients have passed away, but we hope the families feel we have helped them in some small way.

We have just held 2 garden parties which have both raised about £200. We have Walk for the charity coming up at Shorne Country Park on the 9th September, and a hotdog and table top sale in October, a Burns Quiz Night in January and we will be holding a May Ball on 18th May 2019 all of which details can be found on our website **[www.petersplace.org.uk](http://www.petersplace.org.uk)**

If you have experience in fundraising, marketing or would just like to get involved and help our wonderful charity, we would be immensely grateful for your support. Your help is needed with events, bucket collections and leaflet distribution. Call or email us for more information, any help is always greatly appreciated.

**Rosemary Younghusband | Founder**

**Hartlip Chapel** was a hive of industry on Saturday, September 15th as people gathered together to decorate the Church ready for the next day's Harvest Celebrations.

The Chapel, in its unique rural location, is the perfect place to display the flowers, fruit and vegetables generously donated by its members. We are also always really grateful to our friends from the village for the gifts of produce, freshly picked from their gardens and allotments.

It was a morning filled with much fun and fellowship. We were delighted to welcome visitors through our doors-passers by who were out for a stroll and interested to see what was happening inside. A couple were discovered quietly sitting in our beautiful gardens, enjoying the autumn sunshine. Another couple enjoyed their visit so much that they returned on Sunday for the Harvest Festival service, lead by Rev. Tony Graff and again on Monday for the Service and Sale of Produce that followed!



# Harvest at Hartlip

“All Good Gifts  
Around Us”

Heather Gallagher





A Sale of Produce by auction is our way of addressing this issue and this year, thanks to the generosity of many people, we raised £400. This sum will be divided and sent to two charities- Toilet Twinning and Caring Hands In The Community.

When I was a little girl, I remember the thrill of hearing "Come, ye thankful people come" sung by a full church for the first time. The music, mixed with the distinctive aromas of flowers, fruit and vegetables, filled me with wonder and a sense of God's goodness. When we sing that hymn each year, it rekindles that emotion for me and for many others, I know.

Everyone commented on the wonderful floral displays and particularly appreciated the vibrant colours and varieties of the dahlias. We are so lucky to benefit from the skills and creativity of our members.

The results were, as always, a joy to behold and well worth sharing in this publication. Traditional Harvest Festivals, like ours, are becoming less and less commonplace. Poverty is widespread and Food Banks are a necessity. Perhaps to some, ostentatious displays of fruit and vegetables are somewhat dated and possibly insensitive.



# Fundraising Quiz Night for 14th Gillingham Brownies

Friday 2nd November  
At Holy Trinity Church  
Hall Twydall Lane



7 for 7.30pm start

Teams of 6-8

£5 per person



Bring your own  
drink and nibbles

Email - [laura4416@msn.com](mailto:laura4416@msn.com) for a table



## Brownies



# 14th Gillingham

## District Farewell to Linda and Trudy

Before the start of this Autumn term, Gillingham East District Girlguiding leaders gathered in the Blue room for an afternoon tea party to celebrate Linda and Trudy's retirement from Rainbows. They were given special gifts of thanks from the District and in addition Linda was presented with her 50 years Guiding Service award. Thankfully we will still see them both as they have offered to pop in as helpers when and have also promised to come away with us on Brownie Pack Holiday in April next year. Thank you Linda and Trudy for your commitment and dedication to Guiding and for being such great role models to countless girls over all your years in Guiding. You will be greatly missed but we are already looking forward to your visits.

## New Programme

In July this year, Girlguiding launched a new programme to be introduced over the next year. There are exciting, new and updated activities and badges but we need to buy new books for the girls and new resource material for the leaders. To help us with these costs the Brownie leaders will be holding a **Fundraising Quiz on Friday, 2nd November 2018 at 7pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Twydall Lane. Cost is £5 per person with teams of 6-8 people.** Email [Helen\\_pandh.garland@btinternet.com](mailto:Helen_pandh.garland@btinternet.com) to book a table or just come along on the night. Please bring your own drink and nibbles.

## Blythswood Christmas shoebox appeal

Last year our Christmas shoeboxes were sent to Romania with Operation Christmas child, our thanks to everyone who supported us. This year we will be joining the UK charity Blythswood shoebox appeal. You can find more information about this appeal at [shooboxappeal.org](http://shooboxappeal.org)

Helen Garland | Snowy Owl





*Found on the wall  
in the Salvation  
Army Hall in  
Basingstoke*  
**Helen & Paul**

# illuminate

## light party

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 6 - 7.30pm  
(doors @ 5.45)  
Age 5-12

Wear your brightest clothes!

Games Food Puppets Craft Songs

To register [karen@familytrust.org.uk](mailto:karen@familytrust.org.uk) or 01622 577960

Third Avenue Church, Gillingham ME7 2LU

# Drama Group News...

We are now back in business, having had a few weeks break over the summer months, except for those members who have been helping with general stage/storage maintenance.

Our Junior section are putting on the panto 'Aladdin' on Saturday 24th November at 7.30 pm. Mel & Sally are directing this show & would be pleased to have as much support as possible. Tickets will soon be available from Sally or any member of the group.

Meanwhile the Senior section have started auditions for our February production of the family panto 'Robin Hood' by Vicky Orman - always exciting times ! The production team is in place & this promises to be great entertainment for young & old alike. More details next month.



At our recent AGM, chaired by our new President Rev. Robin, we agreed to make a further donation of £1300 to the church, in addition to the £2000 we have already given this year.

Thank for your continued support which makes it all worth while.

**Keith Jackson | [www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk)**

A colorful logo for 'CRAFT CLUB'. The word 'CRAFT' is written in large, bold, multi-colored letters (C: yellow, R: red, A: green, F: green, T: yellow). Below it, 'CLUB' is written in similar multi-colored letters (C: yellow, L: red, U: green, B: red). To the left of the letters is a ball of yellow yarn with two orange knitting needles. To the right is a pink flower with a blue center and a dashed outline. Above the 'A' in 'CRAFT' is a blue mask with large green eyes, a red star on its cheek, and a red flame-like shape on its forehead. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background with teal vertical bars on either side.

**Third Avenue**  
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Every Tuesday in  
the Blue Room 1-3pm  
All are Welcome

Riding Lights Theatre Company presents

*"Superbly written and a joy to watch."*

*"...told with passion, energy  
and humour."*

# GOSPEL STREET

**...it's GOOD NEWS**

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER: 7.30PM**

**THIRD AVENUE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

100 Third Avenue, Gillingham, ME7 2LU

£10 / £8

01904 613000 / 01634 575139 or [ridinglights.org/gospel](http://ridinglights.org/gospel)

RIDING  
L I G H T S  
T H E A T R E  
C O M P A N Y

# GOSPEL STREET

...it's **GOOD NEWS**

## People are out on the street.

Another generation is looking for answers – a rich young executive, an angry gang leader, religious fanatics streaming live, baristas, professors, YouTubers, activists, a surprising refugee and the pizza delivery bloke who bought some seriously expensive jewellery.

Despite their differences and social divisions, everyone wants to meet one extraordinary person: Jesus has arrived on their street. There's always trouble on the street and he's looking to do something about it...

**GOSPELSTREET** is a powerful mix of theatre, comedy and spoken word – a breath-taking ride through all the important issues of life, death... and miraculous street food. Good news with wisdom, laughter, energy and insight.

**TOURING: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2018**

**ridinglights.org/gospel 01904 613000**

Riding Lights Theatre Company  
Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL  
Registered Charity No.1070142 [www.ridinglights.org](http://www.ridinglights.org)

RIDING  
LIGHTS  
THEATRE  
COMPANY



# Christmas tree Festival

Saturday 1 December  
10.30am~2pm



Come & see over  
*20 Real Christmas Trees*  
decorated by the different  
Community Groups connected  
with the life of Third Avenue  
*Free admission* with  
refreshments & various stalls

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

<b>14 OCT</b>	<b>COLIN WALDOCK</b>	<b>STROOD</b>
<b>21 OCT</b>	<b>TRISH ROBB</b>	<b>BURHAM</b>
<b>28 OCT</b>	<b>MANDY HARRIS KAREN WILLING DEREK GALLAGHER</b>	<b>LARKFIELD UNION STREET HOPE STREET</b>
<b>04 NOV</b>	<b>MANDY HARRIS JUDITH GERMAN</b>	<b>BEARSTED HOPE STREET</b>
<b>11 NOV</b>	<b>COLIN WALDOCK</b>	<b>GRAVESEND</b>
<b>18 NOV</b>	<b>MANDY HARRIS TRISH ROBB</b>	<b>ECCLES LARKFIELD</b>
<b>25 NOV</b>	<b>BRIAN DAVIS</b>	<b>NEWINGTON</b>

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:  
*“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”* So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

*Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16*



## Lola News...

Hope all from Third Avenue Church and our Community are well and have had a good summer? I have had many hours playing in the garden with Mason, Trudy's Grandson. We both enjoy running up and down the garden. Mason is my playmate and I look out for him all the time and can't wait for him to come round. He was two years old recently and he shared some of his birthday cake with me...well Mason dropped most of it, so I was straight in there. No waste when I'm around! The evenings are starting to draw in now, so got to make the most of the shorter days ahead.

All take care

*Woof ....woof.... love Lola x*





A long row of black and white keys  
You'd think you could master with ease!  
But blood, sweat, and tears  
And practice for years  
Are needed before one can please!

Yes, singers must be in no doubt  
Musicians don't simply come out  
To support all we singers  
With those skilful fingers –  
If they did, you know you'd soon shout!

I'm afraid that there's only one way  
That these people can skilfully play  
In order to wow us  
They practice for hours  
They practice by night and by day!

Next Sunday, when they have played well  
Their music entranced, like a spell  
Set aside what you've planned  
And go – shake their hand!  
They won't know you're glad 'less you tell!

## The Pianists & Musicians

## Psalm 139 – God knows you better than you know yourself

Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space in 1961, reportedly said 'I looked and looked but I didn't see God.' Psalm 139 sees things from a very different perspective, in which God can be found everywhere in the universe.

God is all Knowing: 'You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.' (v1). God knows my thoughts, habits, moods, words and choices, including the things done in secret. He knows me better than I know myself, and yet still loves me, despite my faults and failings! 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.' (6).

God is all present: 'Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?' (v7). In whatever circumstances we face, God is present with us, especially in the dark and

difficult times. If we know the path to God, we can find it in the dark!

God is all powerful: 'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.' (v13,14). Both the vastness of the universe and the wonder of the growing embryo in the womb speak of the power of the creator God. We can trust Him because He knows our beginning and end and everything in-between: 'all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.' (16).

How do we respond to what this psalm says? Are we prepared to constantly expose our inner life to God and consistently yield our whole life to Him? 'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.' (v23/4).



On 1st September Mark, Ruth, Helen and Paul travelled up to the Methodist Centre in Manchester to attend Pru's Welcome Service.

We were given a very warm welcome ourselves over lunch and it was great to see that Pru had settled into her new life 'up north'! After a vibrant service of thanks and praise, we were sad to say

goodbye to Pru but assured that we were leaving her in good hands.

*From left to right: Rev Ian Rutherford, Minister; Rev Dr Andrew Lunn, Chair of District; Erimna Bell MBE, Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and Rev Dr Caroline Wickens, Superintendent Manchester Circuit.*

## Prayer for changing seasons

Faithful Father,

As the leaves change colour and fall we are reminded of life's changing seasons. We become aware that time passes more quickly than we expect or plan for. Help us to make the most of each day You give us - and to be thankful. Thank you that through all the changing seasons You are unchanging. Your love goes on reaching out. Thank you for sending Jesus who died to make it possible for us to know You and come to You when our days on earth are completed. Help us to trust Him, to receive Him and to live in the power of His Spirit, now and forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

# the **BIG** ? Questions

Our new monthly  
DISCUSSION GROUP

A place of open discussion & exploration  
on the questions of **Life and Faith**  
the first Tuesday of every month

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

TUES 6 NOV

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

TUES 4 DEC

*All are welcome*



# Fun and Games...

## Word Search

For Britain, the First World War began on 4th August 1914 and ended on 11th November 1918. At the start, the British Government asked for 100,000 volunteers to join the Army. 750,000 applied in the very first month. An estimated 250,000 British boys lied about their age in order to join up. The youngest caught was just 12 - he was sent home. Average life expectancy in the trenches was just six weeks. In all, 65 million men from 30 countries fought in the First World War. More than nine million fighting men were killed during the conflict, a third of them through disease. At least 750,000 of these were British. The Victoria Cross, the highest military award, was awarded 628 times in the First World War.

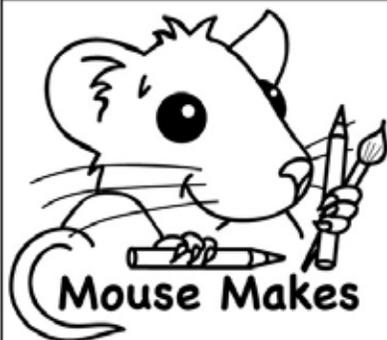
First  
World  
War  
August  
November  
Killed

Volunteers  
Join  
Army  
Lied  
Order  
Conflict

Youngest  
Average  
Life  
Expectancy  
Trenches  
Disease

Six  
Weeks  
Million  
Countries  
Fighting  
Victoria  
Cross

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



**Remember the words Jesus said:**  
*"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*  
Colossians 3:25

**Remember**  
all the  
commandments  
of the Lord  
and obey them

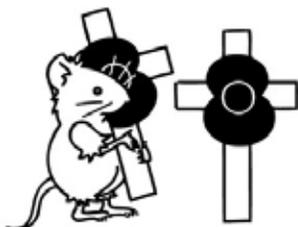
Colossians 3:25

Jesus took bread,  
gave thanks,  
broke it and said,  
"This is my body  
which I am giving  
for you, do this to  
**remember me.**"

Luke 22:19



Jesus said:  
"No one can have  
greater love than  
to give his life for  
his friends."



John 15:13

**Remember to keep**  
the Sabbath day Holy

Exodus 20:8



**Remember what you are taught,**  
and listen carefully to words  
of knowledge.



Proverbs 23:12



Cut out, colour and keep  
these cards to help  
you to remember  
God's words to us.

# Sudoku

*Easy...*

*Intermediate...*

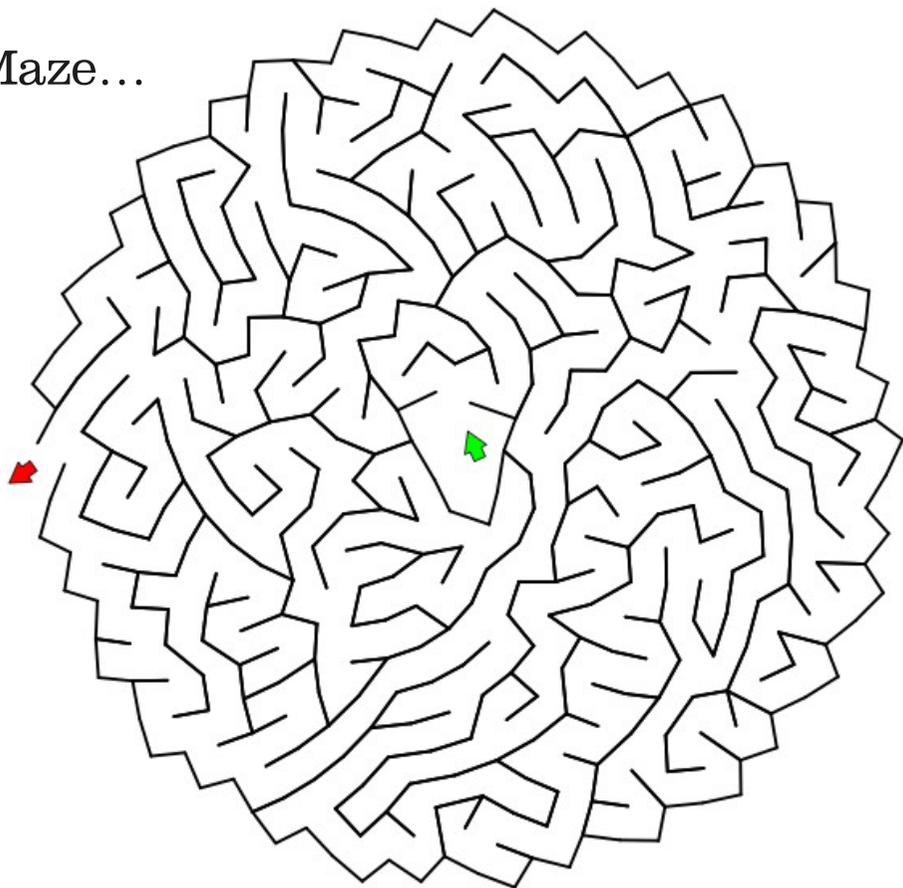
			3	4		8	9	
			9	5	1			2
	7		8			3	1	5
3		2				4	5	
7	6						9	1
		5	1			8		3
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8			1	4	9			
5	4		7		6			

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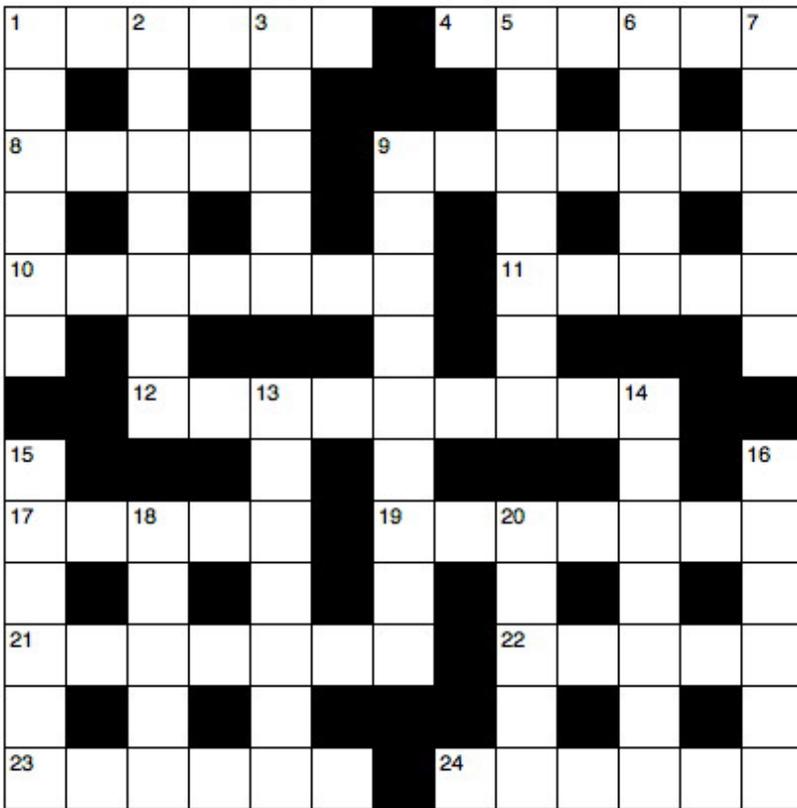
			3		9	8		
5		2						6
						5		
9				3			2	
	7		9		6		1	
	6			7				4
		5						
7							1	3
				3	2	9		

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# Maze...



# Crossword



## Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way' (1 Corinthians 12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den (anag.) (7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of —' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —, so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)

24 Paul's birthplace (Acts 22:3) (6)

## Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (9)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark 9:43) (6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track (Job 41:30) (5)
- 20 Religious doctrine (5)

## Worried son

As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, 'We should pray.'

From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: 'Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's.'

## Alternative prayer

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

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

## Can't scare me

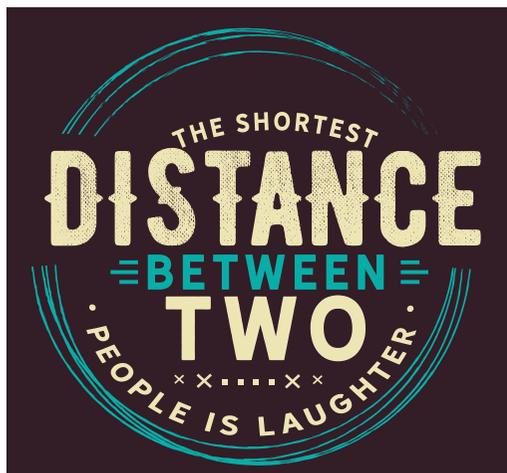
My wife and I were watching the gorillas at the zoo when several of them charged at the enclosure fence, yelling terribly, rolling their eyes around, and clenching their fists. They looked quite terrifying. The crowd scattered except for one frail, elderly man, who did not bat an eye. Later, my wife asked him how he had kept his composure. 'Oh, easy,' he said cheerfully. 'You see, I used to run the youth group at my church.'

## Church membership

I'm not C of E, I'm from the Methylated church.

## As for those signs found outside churches:

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY.



Trespassers will be baptised!!

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too. And we have live music.'

A singing group called 'The Resurrection' was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister fixed the outside sign to read, 'Resurrection is postponed - due to snow.'

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

# Puzzle solutions...

## Word Search...



## Crossword...



## Sudoku Easy...

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

## Intermediate...

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

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

**Many thanks**



Rev Robin Selmes

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*  
Church Office | 100 Third Avenue | Gillingham | Kent | ME7 2LU  
01634 575139 | [church@gillinghammethodists.uk](mailto:church@gillinghammethodists.uk)  
[www.gillinghammethodists.uk](http://www.gillinghammethodists.uk)

  
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