



the NEW Messenger

MAY & JUNE 2021

*The church needs a perennial
Pentecost. She needs fire in
Her heart, words on her lips,
prophecy in her outlook.*

POPE PAUL VI



Third Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

WE ARE NOW OPEN AGAIN FOR WORSHIP

PENTECOST SUNDAY WITH HOLY COMMUNION

23 May 2021 | 10.30am
Led by Rev Robin Selmes



COVID RESTRICTIONS
WILL STILL BE IN PLACE
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

VOLUNTARY HOME COVID
TESTS ARE AVAILABLE **FREE**
FROM MOST PHARMACIES


**Third
Avenue**
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit

**NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT LIVE STREAM SERVICE LED BY
REV ROBERT ZACHAR, AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE - ONLINE OR ON
YOUR SMART TV - NKMC 23RD MAY 2021 | 10.30AM**

Welcome to this May & June edition of the **New Messenger**.

Despite the challenges and difficulties of our time, with God's help our churches will continue to be beacons of hope and light to our communities.

A message from our Minister Rev Robin Selmes...

Pentecost Sunday the day commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples in Jerusalem. If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the three major Jewish feasts, along with the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Weeks which occurred fifty days after Passover. The first fruits of the harvest would be offered to the Lord and left in the Temple Sanctuary. It was a joyous festival attracting thousands of pilgrims to Jerusalem.

Turn the clock back by ten days, and you would recall that Jesus had left his disciples, telling them not to leave Jerusalem, till they received the promised gift from God the Father. So, they waited in Jerusalem as Jesus had said, praying all the time. Whilst they were there they chose Matthias, who had been with them since Jesus' baptism, to fill the gap in the 'twelve' left by Judas.

Then suddenly it happened. The account in Acts uses vivid picture language - the sound of wind; lights like flames; a torrent of words. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered and the apostles began speaking in other languages. Then Peter stood up and preached the first sermon of the Apostolic Church: a sermon which set the agenda for the testimony and witness of the first stage of the mission. He challenged his audience to recognise that this was the baptism of the Spirit foretold by the prophet Joel. He then went on to proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. The One who was to bring the promised kingdom to Israel, who had been crucified by those He came to save but had been raised from the dead.

The response of the listening crowd was simple and direct. 'What are we to do?' Peter's reply

was equally direct. Peter urged them to turn their lives around and be baptised in the name of Jesus and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. About 3,000 people were converted and baptized that day and the new church began and went into action.



Peter's first sermon should still speak to us now just as loudly as it did to the first hearers. It asks the Church, it asks us, the important question, as to whether we give the proclamation of the Risen Christ and the call to repent, a true place within the life and mission of the church. Those Apostles believed that people needed repentance and forgiveness, within a spiritually and physically sustaining fellowship. Is that the picture of the Christian Church today?

Consider evangelism. Personally, I think we have become a little shy, reserved, very hesitant about evangelism. For some, evangelism captures that image of a person standing with a megaphone in a busy shopping centre declaring God's truths; The thought of standing up on a small platform is quite frightening. Yet it does not need to be that way, instead I would like to encourage us to follow the model of the early church.

After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the compulsion to witness was strong in Peter, John, and the other apostles. The apostles began their preaching and defence from what they themselves had seen and heard. They cared about people - old and young; rich and poor; male and female; Jew and Gentile - and wanted these people to know the joy of the Resurrection and the power of the new life in Christ. And so communication of the Gospel

starts from personal experience. Sharing our story and journey can be one of the most powerful things we can do, especially if it is shared with someone who is going through the same experiences. We are living proof of what God has done for us, through Christ. All true evangelism has to start from this point. So, I encourage you to look for opportunities to speak about your personal faith, they will arise if you are willing to be available for God to use you.

But communication of the Gospel has to be more than mere talk. There is a phrase that goes something like this “actions speak louder than words”. Faith expressed only in speech is no faith at all, as someone once said “The hungry need feeding, not preaching. The oppressed need justice, not debate”. What I am trying to say is that we need to live out the gospel as this gives credence to our words. We need to look for ways to serve while bearing good witness for Christ.

A message from Helen our Youth Pastor

The youth work at Third Avenue, is carrying on, with most of our groups carrying on, online. We are in the process of exploring how things will look as we slowly start to open up – continued prayers please as we work this through.

We are continuing with our online videos – so please check out our youtube page.

Prayers please for our young people – many of whom are currently taking exams and assessments, although this is not happening

As a wise theologian once said “we can talk as much as we like, we can quote verses of scripture, but unless corresponding actions are also taken, our words are, according to Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, just noisy gongs and clanging cymbals”.

On Pentecost the power of the Holy Spirit so filled those first Christians in Jerusalem that the Church was truly on fire. With enthusiasm they became not just a talk shop but a work shop and through word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed. And so today, Pentecost reminds us that Evangelism encompasses not only our words but our actions. The question is, are we, and the Church prepared to show that same eagerness? Are we ready to be led by the Holy Spirit, to be messengers for Christ in word and deed?

Robin

as planned, please pray that they will know God’s love, peace and strength, through this stressful time.

Thank you for your prayers and support during this time.

God Bless.

Helen



YOUTH *on the* GREEN

**A PLACE TO CHAT, HAVE REFRESHMENTS
AND ENGAGE IN SOCIAL DISTANCING GAMES
ON THE CHURCH GREEN, OPPOSITE THE SCHOOL**

**MONDAY 7TH JUNE FROM 3-4.30PM AND THEN
EVERY MONDAY UNTIL THE END OF TERM.
(WEATHER DEPENDING)**

CONTACT HELEN YOUNG (YOUTH PASTOR) YOUTH@GILLINGHAMMETHODISTS.UK



100 YEARS OF THE BRITISH LEGION

One hundred years ago, on **15th May 1921**, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander

in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.



Parish Pump

ALL WE CAN SIGNS UP TO CRACK THE CRISES

All We Can, the official Methodist relief and development charity, has recently signed up to Crack the Crises – a movement of over 70 organisations who are calling on the UK to take action on climate change, Covid-19, inequality and injustice.

As the UK hosts two major summits in 2021 – the G7 in June, and COP26 in November – the UK government has an opportunity to act as a forward-thinking global player. All We Can, along with other Crack the Crises member organisations, are asking the government to:

- Deal with the Covid-19 crisis, by tackling the virus and preventing future threats;
- Crack the poverty and injustice crisis, by redoubling efforts in this area – ensuring everyone, everywhere, is free, protected, and has access to healthy food, clean water, a safe home and decent education;

• Take urgent action to go further and faster on tackling the climate crisis, prioritising the needs of those worst impacted – often the world's most vulnerable and marginalised communities who are the least responsible for climate change.

You can get involved by adding a #WaveOfHope to your windows, which will then be displayed at the G7 and COP26 – to show that as a nation we stand committed to taking action in these three key areas.

All We Can will also be sharing stories from its work of those most impacted by the climate crisis, and ways for churches and individuals to get involved in the run up to COP26.

Visit allwecan.org.uk for more information.

Aimée Nott | Communications and PR Manager for All We Can

In praise of the afternoon nap



A short nap in the afternoon improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile.

People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep.

Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again.

If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep. If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle. The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

Parish Pump

Give a compliment



We all like to receive a compliment from time to time. As Robert Orben, former script writer for President Gerald R. Ford once said,

A compliment is verbal sunshine

Another American, Leo Buscaglia once observed: "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn someone's life around."

At a funeral service, nice things are usually said of the deceased. While these comments

are comforting for the relatives, did the same folks ever bother to say these kind things to the person themselves, when they were alive, to show them how much they were appreciated?

Sadly, not everyone seems able to compliment others. Perhaps they never received compliments when they were young, or perhaps they feel that to compliment someone else is to somehow put themselves down. For whatever reason, such people miss out on a whole lot of pleasure in life.

Whenever we see something that is worthy of a compliment, why not give it, and bring 'a little verbal sunshine' into someone else's life!

Lent Climate Group



A climate change article I read recently stated that some scientists knew of the issue back in the 70's but decided not to make it public until 10 years later because of the financial impact it would have on some of major energy companies. It turns out that for 10 years they pumped out mis-information to cast doubt until the real facts came to the surface in the 80's.

Yet for decades I think we have refused to publicly acknowledge climate change. Often people have tuned out of the warnings because they have become so confusing. I have too much on my plate, the earth is a big place, how can one person make a difference?

But now 50 years later and we are facing a real crisis. We cannot ignore the prospect that the environment is being seriously harmed by our industrial and consumer way of life. As Christians it would be morally irresponsible if we failed to acknowledge the issue and the need for urgent action. It therefore felt only right that this year during Lent we should bring this important issue to the forefront of people's minds. And so purpose of our Lent bible study was to reflect theologically on the scientific information we have to hand and to explore what the bible has to say about environmental concerns. But to be also aware that God expects us to act as good stewards of His creation. My overall hope was that by studying and reading the Bible in the context of climate change it would help to provide a deeper understanding and a call to "practise love and

justice to our human and non-human neighbours"

The lent study consisted of a series of weekly teaching video's put together by several local preachers and the Third Avenue worship group. This was then followed by a bible based study where we invited people to join us via zoom on a Monday evening to explore the biblical answers to some of the important environmental issues that our planet is facing. To enrich the study we drew on a variety of different sources but we mainly focused on two booklets "Tenants of the King" and "God's World". On average we had about 20 people across the circuit join us each week, I have to say we would have never achieved these numbers if the study was face to face and so there is a plus side for doing this online.

The big question is what have we learnt?

- Psalm 24 tells us, "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." We are called by God to treasure and care for the earth. When we care for creation, we are showing that we value something that belongs to God.
- We are only now coming to recognise that many of the ways our industrial/consumer society is harming the earth and its people.
- The passage from Genesis tells us that we are to take care of both the living and the non-living creation. We are to work at ruling and ordering creation as good stewards without abusing it for our own selfish ends.

And by caring for the earth properly, we enable it to be fruitful and to play its intended role in giving glory to God.

- In the new testament Jesus instructed us to "love our neighbour as ourselves." Harm to the earth brings harm to people, and we are responsible for each other's well being. God requires that we deal justly with one another. Environmental harm falls most heavily on the poor, and will fall even more heavily on those yet to be born. Therefore, we have a responsibility to Act and to not to ignore the issue. This won't happen unless we all resolve to act together, in our personal lives, in our local communities, and in the global community.

- We need to help our congregations to grow in knowledge and to encourage them to campaign

at a local and national level for policies that strengthen and take steps towards tackling the environmental crisis that we are facing. We are also called to pray for those in power that they may fulfil the tasks God has given to them.

On a personal level, these resources have helped me to further understand the problem and the impact of climate change on this planet and what I can do to help. I have to say coming together as a group has been a blessing and my hope is that it will provoke us into transformative action – into a different way of living. And that it will help us to "recover our human calling under God as bearers of God's image in responsible care for God's creation".

Robin Selmes | Written for the Circuit newsletter **Grapevine** available from the NKMC Website nkmethodists.org.uk

Eco Church

In different ways, the **Methodist Church in Britain** has partnered, or promotes, a number of organisations that encourage Christians to engage with ecological issues and to relate issues around climate and creation to faith. One key initiative, supported by the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team, is the Eco-Church award scheme, coordinated by A Rocha UK.

Eco Church is an A Rocha UK award scheme for churches in England and Wales "who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth". For those in Scotland, there is a sister organisation, Eco Congregation Scotland

Awards (bronze, silver and gold) are given to local churches dependent on a range of criteria: how you -

Express your care for God's world in your worship and teaching.

Look after your buildings and land.

Engage with your local community and in global campaign.

Reflect eco-sensitive values in the personal lifestyles of your congregation.

By the end of 2017, around 100 Methodist churches had registered an interest in Eco Church and 15 had applied for an award.

Third Avenue has signed up to be part of this initiative and has already been awarded a Bronze. However, there is still lots more to do, and if you are interested in helping or have suggestions to help us reach Gold status, then please speak to Paul Abel or Mark Frost.

methodist.org.uk
ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Gillingham Eco Hub is a space for sharing local, eco friendly information.

This could include: Learning about and spotting urban wildlife; Growing food and plant sharing; Recommending eco friendly brands and local businesses; Discussing car pooling, sourcing community discounts; Remake and Reusing.

And any other topics that help, support and encourage positive eco friendly steps forward.

We welcome you even if it's just small steps that your're taking, or consider yourself an eco warrior- all that matters is that we all support and encourage each other along the way.

Check out their FB page:
Gillingham Eco-Hub Kent

"We have a date for the new soil being delivered for these sad looking planters in Gillingham High Street! Thursday 27th May!!! If you fancy joining us on Thursday or Friday to help distribute the soil or plant some lovely flowers please do! Bring some seeds, plants or a spade"



May 20th was World Bee Day!



Here are some of the bees you can look out for on your next walk. Which ones have you spotted so far this spring?

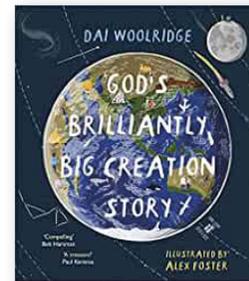
WWF_UK

Even our weeds have been saved!

We are supporting #NoMowMay

by saying **no to the mower** this May to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us! www.planlife.org.uk

Book reviews... *from Parish Pump*



God's Brilliantly Big Creation Story
Dai Woolridge | Bible Society | £6.99

Here's a good way to introduce young children (aged three to six) to the Genesis creation account. Written with rhythm and rhyme, the book covers the awe-inspiring journey through the days of Creation, and it is full of fun and beautiful imagery, from the vastness of the solar system to the immediacy of small animals.

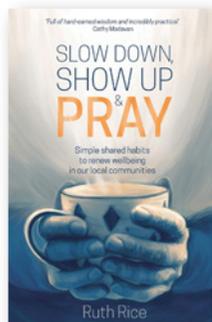
The book would be good for reading aloud to preschool-aged children, and for use with children starting to learn to read. It will help parents looking for a fun, fresh way to introduce children to the Christian faith.

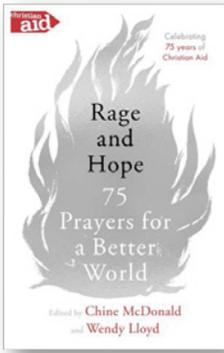
Slow Down, Show Up and Pray | Ruth Rice | Authentic | £9.99

Looking after our mental health has never been so important. Many of us want to find simple ways to help our wellbeing that we can fit into our everyday life.

After suffering her own mental health crisis, Ruth Rice set up the Renew Wellbeing charity, which helps churches to open safe spaces to help communities attend to their mental and emotional health.

Packed full of personal stories, resources and practical guidance, this book will enable you to maintain your own wellbeing. Be present. Be prayerful. Be in partnership.





Rage & Hope - 75 prayers for a better world | Chine McDonald & Wendy Lloyd | spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope | £8.49

Christian leaders, activists, writers and theologians world-wide have written prayers for a new book to celebrate Christian Aid's 75th anniversary.

Rage & Hope includes prayers on climate injustice, Black Lives Matter, violence against women, discrimination against Dalits in India, the coronavirus pandemic, from extreme poverty in Burundi, and inequality in Myanmar.

Christian Aid's work began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Since

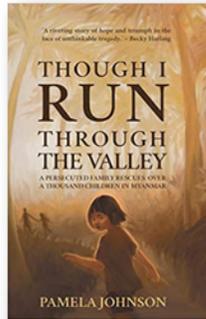
then, it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support, while speaking out against injustice.

Christian Aid helped the Biafra war, advised Martin Luther King during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, campaigned to make poverty history in the 2000s, and is now fighting climate injustice in countries around the world.

Though I Run Through the Valley | Pamela Johnson | Authentic | £9.99

Amid decades of war and political strife in Myanmar one family has fought back with their weapon of choice – the Bible. Three generations of Emmerline's family have been living out their love for God by rescuing children who have been orphaned, abandoned or made destitute by their country's upheaval.

Daring to trust God, the family has made many sacrifices to provide a home for orphans so that the children of Myanmar can hope for a better future. Read this, and you will better understand what it was like being a Christian in a predominantly Buddhist Myanmar at a time of ethnic cleansing and military dictatorship.

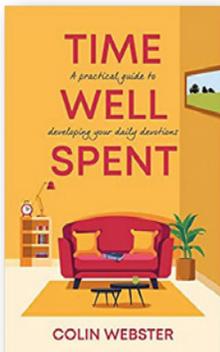


Royalties will go to Vision Beyond Borders and the Daw Gyi Daw Nge Orphanage..

Time Well Spent – a practical guide to developing your daily devotions | Colin Webster | 10Publishing | £2.99

When it comes to growing our devotional life, we may not know where to begin. Perhaps we feel so busy that we can't possibly add yet another thing to our 'to-do list'. Or maybe Bible study time feels more like a strain on the brain rather than fuel for the soul, and we wonder if it's worth keeping going.

This book tackles these concerns head-on. It explains what a daily devotional time should involve, provides tips as to how to set aside the common distractions of life, and explains why time with God really is time well spent.



May Morning on Magdalen Tower

Holman Hunt

God in the Arts

Rev Michael Burgess writes...

I wish you a joyful May

When Van Gogh painted 'The Raising of Lazarus', he turned to Rembrandt for inspiration. But in place of the figure of Jesus, he painted a warm, glowing sun, radiant in the sky, and shining out to bring renewal of life to Lazarus and his sisters.

From time immemorial people have placed the sun at the centre of life and worship. As Christianity grew and spread, it took over ceremonies and practices associated with that belief, but then moved the focus from the sun above to the Son, Jesus, on the earth below.

We can see that in the traditions and worship of Christmas and Easter. In May we celebrate the goodness and fruitfulness of nature brought by the sun with Maypole dancing, the crowning of the May Queen, and games and sports, just as the Romans went dancing in the fields at this time, rejoicing in the gifts of Flora, the goddess of nature. In May the druids would greet the sun in the sky as they gathered on a high place.

That custom persisted for several centuries, particularly at Magdalen College in Oxford. In 1840 Dr John Bloxam revived the ceremony. Holman Hunt, one of that group of artists known as the Pre-Raphaelites, visited Oxford in 1851 and so enjoyed the Christmas festivities that he decided to honour the college life in one of his paintings. That decision took many years to reach the canvas: his painting of 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' is one of his last complete works in 1890.

We can easily identify the choristers gathered to greet the rising sun in music and song. Amid the clouds and blue sky above, the birds are flying and the floor where the choir stand is bedecked



with flowers. It is a glorious celebration of the fruitfulness of May and the summer: God's creation bringing so many gifts. The president of the college is the man with the dark beard at the right of the painting, and Dr Bloxam is beside him.

But there is an unusual character there also, at the side of the painting – a Parsee, an ancient worshipper of the sun from Persia, perhaps representing not just those who look to the light of the sun, but are also searching for the light of truth. The young chorister in the middle looking out at us holds a lily, the symbol of Mary, the mother of God's Son.

All creation is gathered to greet the dawn and the rising sun of May – the birds above and people below, young and old, Christian and non-Christian - all united to proclaim the goodness and renewal promised by the sun.

Holman Hunt said that he wanted to represent 'the spirit of a beautiful, primitive and in a large sense eternal service.' Here is a vivid reminder that the faith we profess opens our eyes to God's goodness and glory symbolised in the rising sun, and that He welcomes everyone to share in those gifts.



Estuary 2021 is the second edition of the large-scale arts festival that celebrates the lives, landscapes and histories of the spectacular Thames Estuary.

The festival takes place on the river itself, and along the 107 miles of south Essex and north Kent coastline. Contemporary artworks, discussion and events explore and respond to powerful themes resonant to the estuary.

Artworks are set in the landscape, online and within COVID-safe venues.

They explore the estuary through the lens of contemporary concerns, including:

- Climate justice
- Protest and rebellion
- Imperial legacy

The rich, often overlooked stories of its diverse communities

They aim to bring new audiences to a deeper understanding of the estuary.

Estuary 2021 is led by a partnership between estuary-based arts organisations, Metal (south Essex) and Cement Fields (north Kent).

The festival runs from Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June 2021.

Festival events

medway.gov.uk/events/event/486/estuary_festival

Medway Estuary Haiflu | Tuesday 27 April to Sunday 13 June

Ebb & Flow Festival by Sun Pier House & Intra Arts
Friday 21 May to Sunday 23 May

Thames Estuary Trail by Tom King & Maria Amidu
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 23 May

An Unknown Earth by Jas Dhillon, Elsa James, James Marriott, Lu Williams
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 23 May

No Ordinary Protest by Mikhail Karikis
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

Our Time by Marcus Coates
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

In the Mouth of the River: Water, Empire & Rebellion by Dzifa Benson
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

Draw Hope by Bob and Roberta Smith
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

Grain by Phil Coy | Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

The Strand 125 | Saturday 22nd May to Sunday 27 June

A Hoo Catalog | Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

Landscape and Wildlife Photography Workshop, Hoo Marshes
Saturday 22 May to Thursday 3 June

HOME | Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

Riverside Soundings Sound Walk
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

A Fleeting Field Station near Cliffe | Sunday 23 May

Decoy | Monday 24 May to Friday 28 May 2021

Arts in Transit by Lata Upadhyaya
Saturday 29 May to Sunday 30 May

Hidden Heroines:
The untold stories of the women of the Dockyard
Saturday 29 May to Sunday 31 October

Lower Halstow Landscape Photography Workshop
Tuesday 1 June

Tales of Lands and Seas | Monday 7 June to Sunday 13 June

Exchanged Tides | Saturday 12 June to Sunday 13 June

The Water Replies by Carole Bird & Selina Nwulu
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

Escaping with Magwitch by
Carol Donaldson & Stephen Turner
Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June

Hartlip 200

Methodist Church & Retreat Centre

LIVE STREAM ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

SUNDAY 13TH JUNE 2021 | 4.30PM

BROADCAST LIVE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
HARTLIP METHODIST CHURCH FROM 4.15PM
ONLINE OR VIA YOUR SMART TV



A BEACON OF LIGHT SINCE 1820

Hartlip reaches Two Centuries of Worship

*Come join
the celebration!*

Excitement is mounting at Hartlip! Worship is being prepared as members of our congregation contribute and our friends at Third Avenue, who are part of the Worship Group, have been rehearsing hard and recording online to help us with the music (the recording process being quite a technological feat!). As we approach our June anniversary the church will not quite be ready to open for worship as we had hoped to and our Anniversary services in particular, are usually a larger than usual congregation which would be impossible to accommodate safely. So this year we are going online, via our new YouTube Channel | Hartlip Methodist Church, on **Sunday 13th June** at 4.30pm, (live from 4.15pm). Please note the time.

Our visiting preacher, the **Rev Michaela Youngson**, former President of Methodist Conference will be recording her message to be included in the celebration.

But this does mean that truly *all are welcome* as we will be able to accommodate everyone online! In person parties may have to wait but we very much hope you can come and share in our joys.

You can watch on line via YouTube and our channel Hartlip Methodist Church. Subscribe to the channel for notifications and reminders. You can also watch on your Smart TV via the YouTube app and by entering the channel name.

You will also find a link on the NKMC website: nkmethodists.org.uk/news/worship-from-home On that page there should be PDF links for the

order of service and instructions for joining by phone. (If the tech savvy could pass on to the less savvy this would be helpful). If you cannot join us live the service will be available to view later.

From open air worship in 1820, when the Bible Christians first preached in Hartlip, to the Easter love feast service in the chapel and the formal opening on June 17th 1821, the **Cardiphonia Chapel** came into being. You can read Heather Gallagher's article on the history of the chapel, from page 19.

From September, we intend to work towards getting back towards normal arrangements for worship if the COVID situation continues to improve.

200 Years at Hartlip

A chapel in a village
Surrounded by a beautiful garden
Tended by you Lord and the hands of the faithful.
Two hundred years of history.

Hymns sung, sermons preached, prayers said,
Acts done that touched the lives of others
Inside and outside the church
Across two centuries.

Worshipping Sunday by Sunday,
Never have times closed our building
As current times have forced us to do
As at present we still must do.

But the church is not the building.
It is the people within its community
A community finding new ways to keep in touch
To support each other in live and prayer.

Current situations are guiding us to find
New ways to worship,
Fresh expressions of church and service
New ways to love and care.

As twenty years ago ideas refreshed
The work of the Retreat Centre began
The start of new life for our community
New work to do.

Lord we thank you for two hundred years
Of work and service, love and care.
We pray that you will continue to walk alongside us
Your Holy Spirit guiding us on our future path.

We thank you for the new ideas the current situation grows
Nurturing progress, emphasising priorities.
We pray for all those who worship and use our building
For those who come to take time with God.

We thank you for all those who may not be in our building
Sunday by Sunday, week in, week out,
But whose lives are enriched by the presence of our church
And by a history that touches them.

Grant us continuing spiritual growth in our faith
Linking with the village, with the parish church,
With the school and local families
Remembering baptisms, weddings, funerals.

Parties are delayed for now Lord
But let us celebrate in our hearts
The work of Hartlip Methodist Church
Now and for the next two hundred years and beyond.

Holy Spirit Come Down. Amen



Hartlip
200
Methodist Church
& Retreat Centre

Margaret Bowerman

14th Gillingham Virtual Sleepover



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding

Our Brownies and leaders shared a virtual "Animal Boogie" sleepover during the Easter holidays.

We started our sleepover by taking part in a Girlguiding activity called "All Creatures Great and Small". We learnt about endangered animals and how environmental issues are effecting the ecology of the earth. We then made pizzas together and had a break from Zoom to eat our pizzas and to make our virtual campfires and dens.



For our next session we had a virtual Zoom visit by Colwyn Bay Zoo. The 'zoo lady' brought with her a snake and 2 geckos and we had great fun taking part in experiments to learn about static electricity, rainbows and infrared.

For our final session that evening we had a virtual campfire and were joined by Guiding friends from our District. We made s'mores and joined in a sing along to some of our unit's favourite campfire songs. If you would like to take a look at the campfire video we made you can view it on You Tube using the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H8sbYX1hw0. We ended the evening with the lovely audio bedtime story 'Giraffes can't dance'.

The following morning we all met on Zoom bright and early to eat our breakfast together and discovered how far our food had travelled using a Girlguiding activity called "Local Munch".

Our breakfast together was made extra special when we listened to a shout out from Zoe Ball on Radio 2 that Brown Owl had arranged.

For our next session we took part in a fabulous energetic and fun dance workshop led by lovely, lively Jenny. The girls loved the session and Jenny even added some of the Brownies own moves into the dance routine. Exhausted after our dance session we stopped for elevenses. We met up again later that morning to make yummy chocolaty microwave mug cakes and ended our time together by making ballerinas from lolly sticks.

We received fantastic feedback from the girls and their families. They all had a great time and loved spending time with their Brownie friends albeit on Zoom.



200 years of Methodism in Hartlip

This month, the members and friends of Hartlip Methodist Church celebrate 200 years of worship in the Chapel, originally called **Cardiphonia**. The foundation stone was laid on 20th October, 1820 but the Chapel was not officially opened until June, the following year.

Cardiphonia means *Utterance of the heart* and undoubtedly originates from the writings of Rev John Newton, an Anglican priest and Abolitionist, widely known as the writer of the hymn Amazing Grace. The name was chosen by **William Drawbridge**, a resident of Hartlip and a local Justice of the Peace, who had the Chapel built entirely at his own expense. And thereby hangs a tale!

This story of remarkable patronage, generosity and ecumenism begins in Gillingham, where William was born and bred. He had been given the title of High Constable in 1800 and held a position of some authority in H M Dockyard, Chatham, only moving to Hartlip with his wife and four children on retirement. He was therefore used to holding public office and was a prominent figure in the community. He was also a member of the Church of England and would seem to be the most unlikely person to establish the cause of Methodism in the village. But this did not deter William, who was a man of independent means and had a determined and open mind.

Around this time in Cornwall, a new religious denomination - founded on Methodist

traditions - was gaining a reputation for simple, evangelistic and fervent preaching. Its members were known as the **Bible Christians**. Their work eventually reached Plymouth Dock, where a strong society was formed. Soon after, it is reported that there was a request to send some of their preachers to Brompton *“to help the baptised heathen”* who lived there! In a similar way to Plymouth, there is little doubt that some of the “heathen” would have been workers from Chatham Dockyard.

The denomination made extensive use of women preachers who worked side by side with men in all their society activities. This ground breaking spirit of equality was not generally practised or even understood at the time. One of these preachers was Sister Ann Cory, who, by all accounts, had become an inspirational open-air speaker. She eventually came to preach at Hartlip in the summer of 1820 and undoubtedly made a huge impression on the villagers, with her strong voice, clear conviction and confident manner. The crowds that gathered in the cherry orchard to hear Ann speak came to the attention of William Drawbridge. No doubt fearing a public disturbance, or even worse, a riot, he decided to stand at the back of the crowd to watch and listen. What he witnessed that day was the reason that the work of the Bible Christians was established in Hartlip.

Far from rioting, the crowd was intently listening to what Ann had to say and William was obviously moved and impressed. He soon formed the opinion that Bible Christian preaching would be a good influence in the village. As the number of followers increased, it became necessary to build a chapel. Ann Cory had also expressed her opinion that a



William O'Bryan,
founder of the Bible
Christian Movement



An early etching of the chapel and a photograph taken in the early 1900's, before the Sunday school room was added.



chapel would ensure that God's work in the village could be fully established.

William decided to provide a piece of his own land for the Chapel. Undaunted by the opposing views of most of the village residents, he remained determined to see the project through. It is reported that William said they could *“Call him a Methodist if they pleased”!* It was entirely because of his vision and firm resolve that the Chapel was eventually built.

And so it was that Cardiphonia became the first Chapel of the Bible Christians in Kent and was officially opened on 17th June, 1821. William O'Bryan, the founder of the Bible Christian movement, preached to a packed congregation. So great were the crowds that flocked there, that many people were forced to stand outside as there was no room for them inside the building!

The influences and ideas of William Drawbridge could be clearly seen in the interior of the Chapel. The most significant of these were the nine framed plaques, painted high on each wall, with inscriptions mainly promoting the principals of the Christian faith. One of these, entitled *Our Departed Friends*, reflected William's ecumenical views, stating

“... may we continually live in perfect love and charity with our fellowmen. Although differing in creed and opinions

for sentiment should be as free as the air we breathe”.

These plaques have been carefully preserved over the years and can still be seen and admired in the Chapel today.

William and the entire Drawbridge family were naturally present at the opening service. From that day on, they became regular attendees at the Chapel, where they had their own entrance and pew, whilst still remaining members of the Anglican congregation in Hartlip. William was a wise man and chose not to overtly expound his views on Christian Unity. He did this more subtly, by personal example, thus averting the indignation and wrath of the more affluent members of the community who opposed the work of the Bible Christians.

Thus, the members of Cardiphonia began their work of Christian witness in Hartlip and that work continues to the present day.



The two daughters
of William Drawbridge.

William Drawbridge died on 3rd December 1842 and was buried in the family vault in Gillingham Parish Church. His two sons became Church of England clerics but his wife and two daughters remained in the village and

continued their support of the Chapel. Mrs Drawbridge died soon after, in Hartlip, in 1845. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, the two Misses Drawbridge died and left the land and the Chapel to the Bible Christian Church in their wills. This meant that for the very first time, the Hartlip society of Bible Christians owned its own place of worship.

In 1907, the Bible Christian Church joined with the United Methodist Free Church and the Methodist New Connexion to form the United Methodist Church. Then, in 1932, the United Methodist Church amalgamated with the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist Churches to form the present Methodist Church of Great Britain, to which Hartlip belongs today.

Over the years, there have been many changes and improvements to the building we now know as Hartlip Methodist Church. There is evidence to suggest that, initially, seats were placed east and west longways and not as they are now. The pulpit was positioned in the centre of the north wall with a stove to its left.



In 1907, the Schoolroom at the back of the Chapel was built and the movable backed forms, in use at the time, were removed. In their place, fixed pews were constructed and the layout of the Church became more or less what we see today. Central heating was installed to replace the old combustion stoves, with a specially built room for the coal boiler. It has been suggested that a front porch was added at the same time. It wasn't until 1938 that electric lighting was also installed,

replacing the existing paraffin oil lamps. In 1963, some of the pews were removed from the front of the church and a permanent wooden communion rail was constructed there. Four years later, the boiler house and central heating system were replaced by overhead electric heaters.

Throughout its history, the members of Hartlip Chapel have not been complacent. In the preface of A History of Hartlip Methodist Chapel - written by R A Baldwin to mark the 150th Anniversary - Rev David Lapworth, the Minister at the time, wrote:

“The picture presented over the years is of a small but lively, loyal, deeply committed congregation seeking to promote a living faith in the hearts of men and women. This is exactly the tradition carried on by the present congregation. We do not know what the future holds for the



Chapel and its members. I am sure, however, that the above mentioned qualities will be a determining factor as we seek to deal with the contemporary situation of changing social patterns, the growth of ecumenical activity, and the inevitable serious wear and tear on a 150 year old building”



In the years leading up to 2000, Lapworth's words were to ring true. The Chapel was sadly underused and the congregation dwindling. There was talk of closure. However, a few far-sighted members together with their Minister, Rev Keith Lemar, had the idea and vision of creating a day Retreat Centre out of the former Schoolroom. In faith, the congregation raised the funds necessary for the project and they were supported by additional funding from Central Methodist sources and the Friends of Kent Churches. The original Schoolroom was transformed into a simple but attractive Retreat space with a basic modern kitchen area and indoor toilet facilities, which replaced the outside toilet block. Two pleasant gardens were laid, each side of the Chapel. The cement rendering was also stripped away, exposing the original, stunning Kentish flint walls.

The members then set out their vision and mission, which was to offer **Hartlip Retreat Centre and Chapel** as a gift to the community.

Adamant that it should not be run as a business, they wanted it to be open to everyone, religious or secular. Welcome and hospitality would be at the very heart of the offering - as these values would be essential to the wellbeing of those wishing to escape the stresses and strains of daily life.

Since that time, hundreds of people have experienced the peace and tranquillity of the Retreat Centre. It was clear from the start that people recognised it as a place of deep spiritual significance. On his first visit, a Catholic Deacon stopped at the entrance to remark

We are standing on Holy Ground

This comment validated the efforts of the congregation and spurred them on to develop their vision further. Thus, the future of Hartlip Chapel was secured. The membership numbers slowly began to rise and have almost trebled over the last 20 years.

Rosina Ward, a lifelong resident of Hartlip

and a loyal member of the Chapel can trace her family right back to when it was first built. Her great grandfather, Edward Black, became a preacher and preached regularly in the Chapel and around the Circuit. Her mother, Rose Marshall, who also remained a member throughout her life, used to take Rosina and her siblings to the Chapel every Sunday. Rosina's childhood memories are of well attended morning and evening services and she vividly remembers how her grandfather could turn his handkerchief into a rabbit for her to play with during the sermons! She says that the weekly afternoon Sunday School sessions were always great fun. She recalls, with fondness, being told Bible stories and singing songs complete with vigorous actions! It is clear that for Rosina, the Chapel provides a strong link with her family's history and has always been a very important part of her life. It has certainly been a source of great comfort and support to her over the years.

These sentiments have undoubtedly been echoed by many others across the generations. Hartlip Chapel has stood the test of time and as far as we know, has always been able to open its doors for weekly worship. Since the beginning of the Pandemic in 2020, this has not been possible and at the time of writing, our congregation is still not meeting in the Chapel. Far from despairing, we have developed a rich and meaningful fellowship through weekly newsletters, worship resources, telephone conversations and regular services via Zoom. We have been truly blessed and now eagerly await our full congregation's return in person to the Chapel.

A very special Live Stream Anniversary Service, marking the 200 years of Methodist worship in Hartlip is now being arranged and will be broadcast live on our YouTube Channel, **Hartlip Methodist Church**, on Sunday 13th June from 4.15pm. The service will be recorded for posterity and promises to be a unique occasion - truly an Utterance of the Heart to which you are all invited!



*Hartlip House, Thatch Cottage and the shop in the Street, Hartlip.
Mr. Edward Black the shop keeper and Methodist preacher
is the bearded gentleman in the centre.*



Heather Gallagher

Lucy Peatfield

1926-2021



Mum, was a Maid of Kent, born on 9th July 1926 in Gillingham, Kent; only child to Norah and Walter John Corry, whom she didn't meet until she was 2 years old as he was in the Royal Navy!

Her early childhood was not spoken about too much except for the times she spent with relatives and friends in lodgings as she moved around with her mother following the ports that her father was posted to. She spoke about 'The Cabin' in Hempstead which she enjoyed visiting with her father, speaking about the vegetables and fruit growing in the orchard there. She often spoke about her dog 'Teddy' who she was very fond of and a dear companion for her being an only child.

After a holiday in Kirkby Stephen in 1939 her father asked their relatives if Mum could live with them during the war which was imminent. Being further North, he deemed it to be safer for her. She attended Kirkby Stephen Grammar school which gave rise to some very funny stories of wearing gloves and hats, or rather not wearing them and being 'sent home to get dressed'. Most of her cousins were boys and she fondly recalled tomboy activities as she just did the same as they did - climbed trees, tickled trout and went rambling all over the moors.

She was sent back down to Kent to look after her mother who was poorly and spent the rest of the war back in Kent. She started at Manchester University, but finished her teacher training at Stockwell College, London.

Her teaching appointments were varied as for most teachers, from a two-classroom school to single entry. She married in Kendall, Westmorland (now Cumbria) in 1956 and had her two children before moving back to Kent in 1965.

Her priorities were family, teaching and church.

In 1969 she re-married, John Peatfield, and we were adopted a year later and Mum gained a step-daughter, Ann. There were many activities done and holidays taken in a variety of places both at home and abroad. Some with a caravan gained notorious story telling such a driving with a hay bale on the roof; being guided by long-distance lorry drivers through the middle of a street market after a wrong turn; singing in a toilet without a lock and the water container leaking to mention but a few!

Church and the related activities were taken as a given for us as both she and Dad were heavily involved with not only the services but charity work and both circuit and district representation. There was always something at the weekend with visitors or visits to make. Being near to London there were theatres, museums and galleries on offer and we frequented them often during the 1970's.

They moved to a bungalow which offered them a quiet space to retire and gardening a plenty. After dad died in 1989 Mum threw herself into other activities and made the best of a situation

not of her choosing. The grandchildren were important to her and she saw them regularly making trips North and West to see them, as we did for her to see them too. Mum enjoyed local activities with Gardening and Historical groups, including visits and holidays. Some of her teaching colleagues became lifelong friends who still wrote to her until recently.

After several road accidents driving was given up and she flew up here to see us a couple of times before deciding to move in with us.

She found the scenery peaceful and green all year round, which came as a surprise to her after all the time in Kent with deciduous trees! She always commented on how little traffic there was after being close to the A2 in Kent. She enjoyed the outings we took her on – the Strathspey Railway, the Cairngorm Mountain funicular, Grantown Museum and associated activities, visits to Lossiemouth, Burghead and Spey Bay, as well as the annual Village Auction,

Community Lunches and Christmas Fayres. It always amused me how much she enjoyed 'Thunder in the Glens' when it came through the village, there she was waving her heart out until her arms ached! One of her favourite things was to go to The Gallery (walk or pushed) where she never failed to eat a cheese scone which she said was the best and compared all others to those from The Gallery.

Our garden and wildlife were a joy to her as she loved watching the birds feeding particularly at the windows through the Winter; scampering red squirrels between the trees; feeding pine martens, wood mice and hedgehogs on the patio.

Mum has given us lots of treasured memories of those things which she enjoyed or gave enjoyment to others. She will be sorely missed and loved forever.

Heather | Lucy's daughter



Prince Charles and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's Instagram accounts re-posted the radiant photo of Her Majesty. Celebrations were subdued this year with no traditional gun salutes while the Queen observed a two-week mourning period following the death of her husband the Duke of Edinburgh at the age of 99. Her official birthday is usually celebrated on the second Saturday of June, and this year will be on 12 June.

The Queen shared this message thanking royal fans for their well wishes, as well as their condolences following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh

Happy 95th Birthday Your Majesty

Buckingham Palace shared a photo of the Queen as she celebrated her 95th birthday without Prince Philip on 21 April. The photo, released on the official Royal Family Instagram account, showed the Queen smiling in a burgundy ensemble at a royal engagement. Instead of sharing their own posts,

“ I have, on the occasion of my 95th birthday today, received many messages of good wishes, which I very much appreciate.

While as a family we are in a period of great sadness, it has been a comfort to us all to see and to hear the tributes paid to my husband, from those within the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world.

My family and I would like to thank you for all the support and kindness shown to us in recent days. We have been deeply touched, and continue to be reminded that Philip had such an extraordinary impact on countless people throughout his life.

- Elizabeth R ”

The Foodbank still needs you...



download spareable

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



or you can give a donation to the Medway Foodbank via

www.goldengiving.com/wall-medway-foodbank



Fulbert of Chartres (c.970–1028), the son of a peasant family in northern France, rose to become Bishop of Chartres, renowned for his brilliant sermons. A powerful man, but his prayers reveal his keen appreciation of just how fleeting worldly success can be....

God's Care

How brief is our span of life compared with the time since You created the universe. How tiny we are compared with the enormity of Your universe. ...yet during every minute and ever second of our lives You are present, within and around us. You give your whole and undivided attention to each and every one of us. Our concerns are Your concerns. And You are infinitely patient with our stupidity. I thank you with all my heart....

Our friend David Brock, continues his series of articles on 'Hymns', with ...

Now Thank We All Our God

During the Thirty Years' War (1620-48) the small town of Eilenburg, in Saxony, suffered severely. The town was sacked three times, and overcrowding caused by the influx of refugees produced the plague, which ravaged the town four times during the war. The only minister to survive the scourge was **Martin Rinkart**, who had to take as many as fifty funerals in a single day.

When the war ended with the signing of the Peace of Westphalia, the Elector of Saxony ordered Thanksgiving Services to be held in every church, and selected a text from which ministers were to preach. This text was from the Apocrypha: Ecclesiasticus 50: 22-23:

*Now bless ye the God of all
Who everywhere doeth great things,
Who exalteth our days from the womb,
and dealeth with us according to His
mercy. May He grant us joyful hearts,
and may peace be in our days for ever.*

As Martin Rinkart pondered over the text the words gradually shaped themselves into a hymn, which was doubtlessly sung at his own Thanksgiving Service. The translation by Catherine Winkworth first appeared in 1858.

Two tunes are provided for this hymn. The traditional tune **Nun Danket** is by Johann Cruger (1598-1662) who was Cantor of the Lutheran Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Berlin, from 1622 to the year of his death.

The modern tune **Gracias** is by Geoffrey Beaumont (1903-70) and comes from his 20th Century Folk Mass of 1957. At the time he was Vicar of St. George's, Camberwell, and Warden of the Trinity College Mission there. I first learned this tune on a Methodist Guild holiday at Swanage in 1963 and

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

MARTIN RINKART
TRANSLATED BY
CATHERINE WINKWORTH

remember it being in a small book with a pink cover. I also remember it being sung at a District Festival at Sittingbourne, but the adjudicator, Ronald Lander, FRCO, organist at Spital Street, Dartford, was not impressed!

David Brock

June is traditionally a favourite month for weddings. As lockdown rules are gradually being relaxed, couples may now be able to plan their special day. This poem is based on the famous reading in 1 Corinthians 13, by Megan Carter

Charity

Charity or love what's in a name?
The King James Bible translates them the same.
Corinthians 13 tells the great theme
Of love everlasting, everyone's dream.

Loved by all brides on their wedding day
The verses they all want the preacher to pray
The wonders of love that overrules all,
That holds on believing whatever befalls.

Love always trusting always prevails
Enduring, protecting, love never fails.
Faith hope and charity, virtues all three
But love is the greatest and ever will be.

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with Paul and Claire, who, having had their wedding cancelled last year are due to get married on Saturday 14th July



And a long awaited congratulations to Lucy and David who had a sunrise wedding at Third Avenue during the last lockdown on 5th December



Lola on a Walk



Going for a walk down the Strand,
as you can see not always on dry land!
Cooling me old paws down in the water,
never used to get them wet,
how things can alter!

It's quiet and the water is calm,
was a good idea Trudy setting that alarm!
Coming down early, less people,
many birds so still,
all around so very peaceful and real!
a flock of seagulls on the beach,
the River Medway right out of reach!
The birds all gather waiting for any food,
watching them from a distance
putting me in a very relaxing mood!



My walk takes me to where
many boats are stored,
others are on the river bobbing gently
where they are moored!
Well I think this walk is done,
going back home another way.
Time to say bye, woof woof,
I'll catch up with you all another day!



Take care
love Trudy & Lola x

PRAYER
 Third Avenue *Gathering* Every Thursday via zoom at 9am
 Meeting ID: 929 0714 9107 | Passcode: 883791



*Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.*

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to memorise the short Psalm. Little Richard was excited about the task – but he just couldn't memorise things very well.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Richard was very nervous. When it was finally his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Chicken run

Idealistic politician: "I dream of a better tomorrow where chickens can cross the road and not have their motives questioned."

The puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

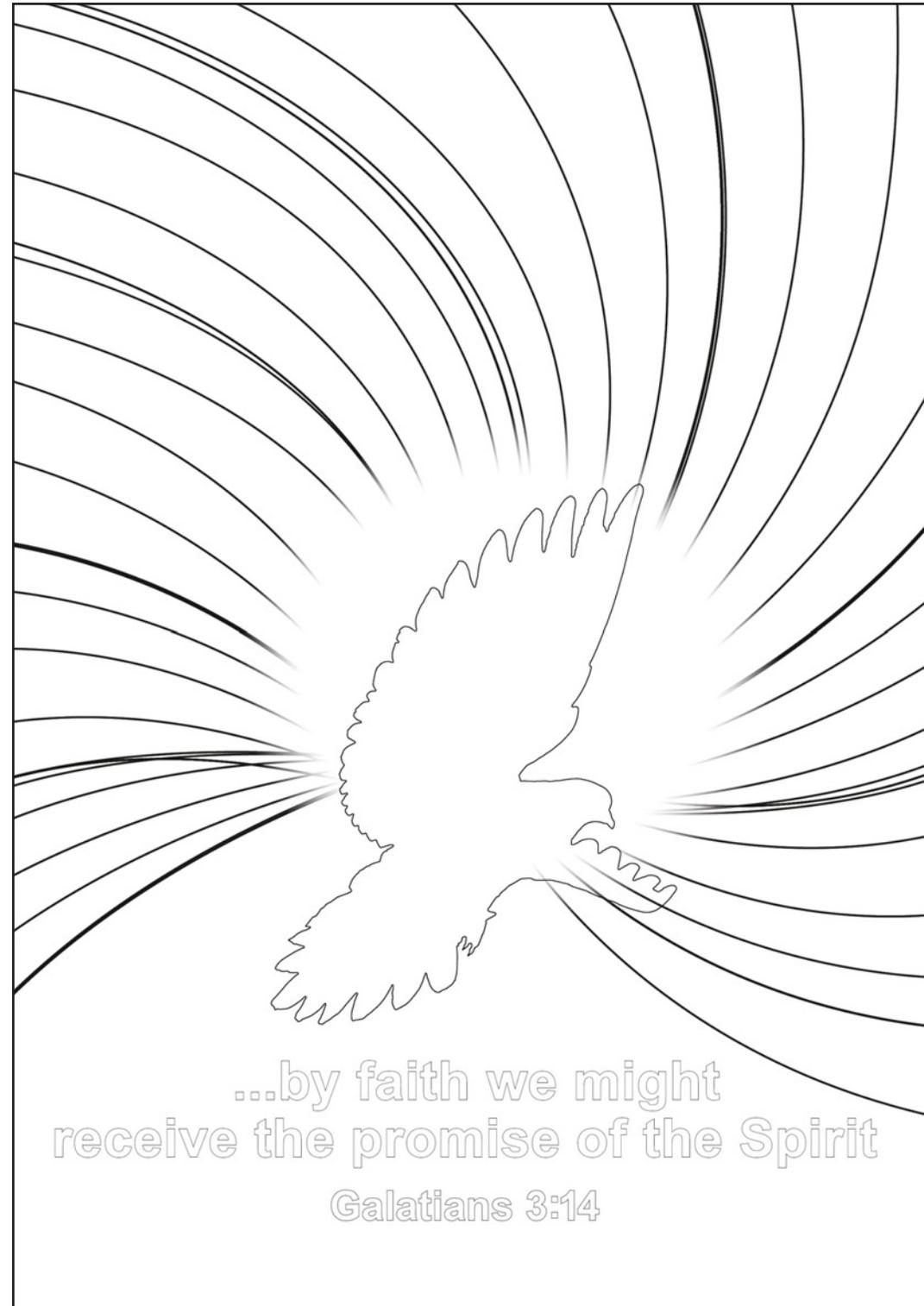
After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

St Alban - the first British martyr

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter, and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22nd June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

Alban	Diocletian	Gods	Died
Martyr	Priest	Condemned	Site
Persecution	Converted	Death	Town
Roman	Soldiers	Execution	Name
Emperor	Sacrifice	Serenity	Doorstep

D R N R R T P I G O D S
 E S A D I E D A T E D E
 N O I T U C E S R E P R
 M L T N O I T U C E X E
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Easy

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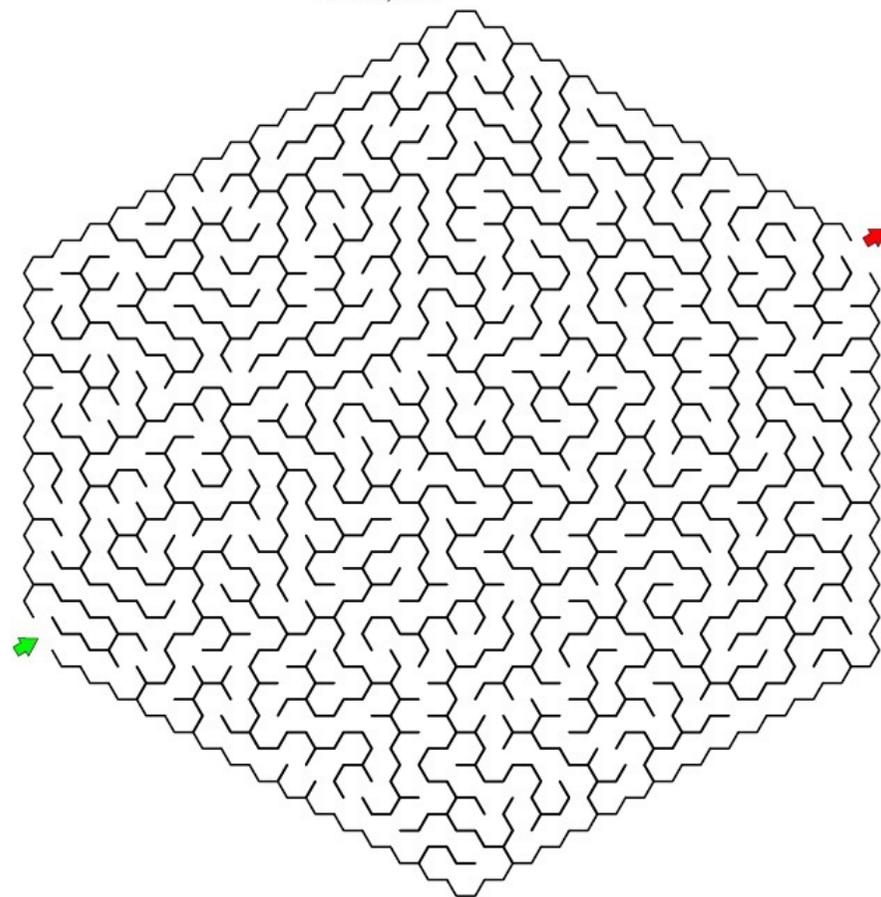
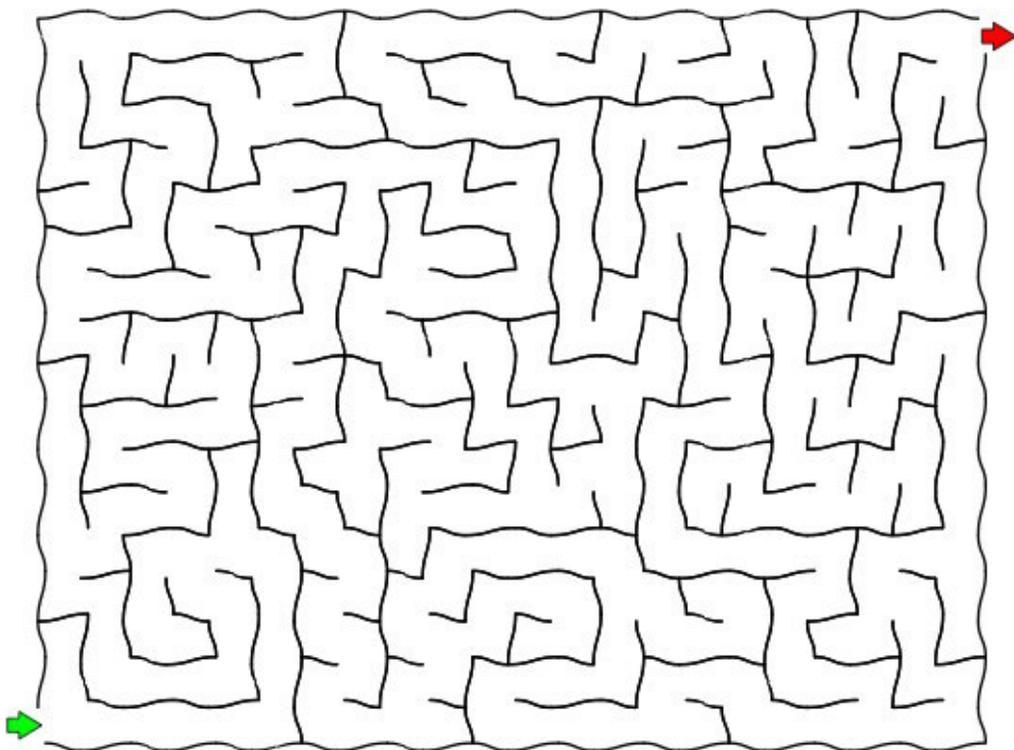
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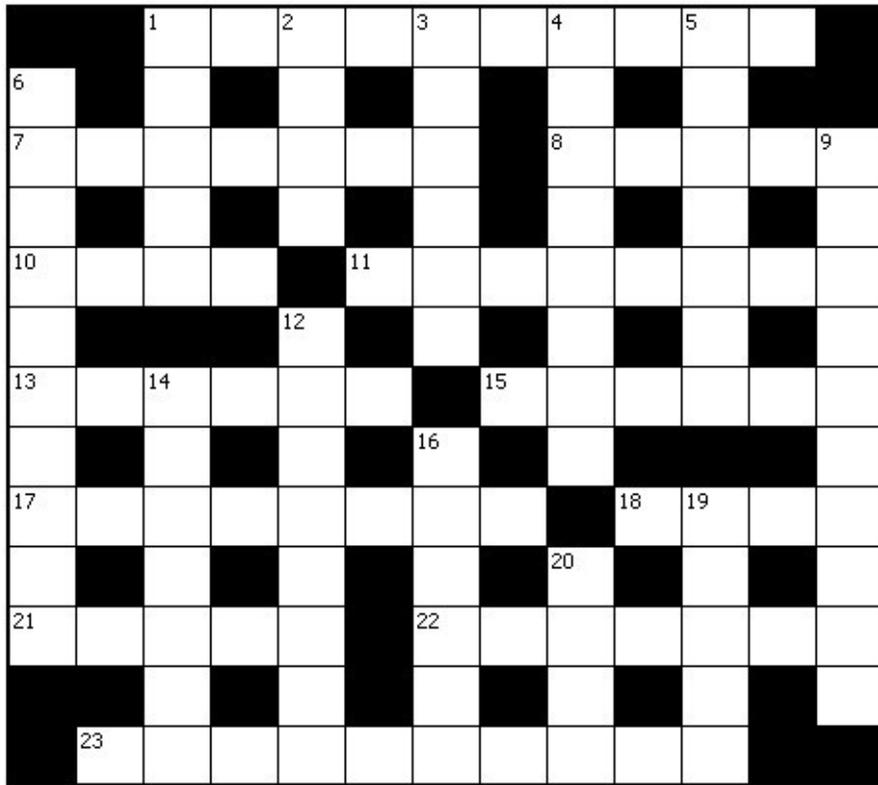
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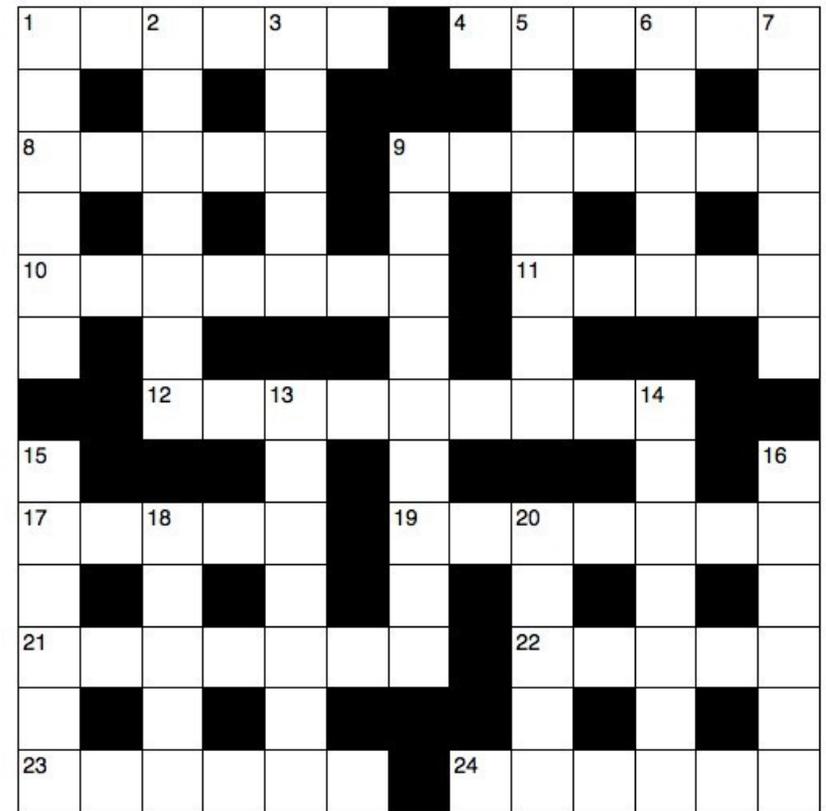
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Crosswords



Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10)
- 7 Coming (John 11:17) (7)
- 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (John 17:10) (5)
- 10 Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4)
- 11 Hold back (Job 9:13) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- 18 So be it (Galatians 6:18) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)
- 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
- 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

Down

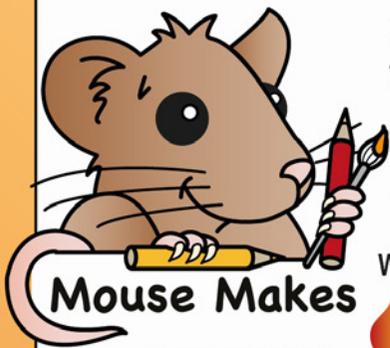
- 1 Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (Exodus 2:12) (8)
- 5 Bravery (Acts 4:13) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
- 9 Transgression (Psalm 36:1) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (Genesis 1:2) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
- 20 Cab (4)

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



Mouse Makes

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit
VSEIL
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
WKNO
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
HCTSEEA
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
KPESSA
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
PHLSE
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
AYPR

On the day of PENTECOST
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?

Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?
What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?

Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the Holy Spirit
produces in us:

KPZ
IVNJMJUZ
TFMG DPOUSPM
GBJUIGVMOFTT
LJOEOFTT
QBUJFODF
QFBDF
MPWF
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?
Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC _ ES

COMF _ RTS

REVEA _ S

IN _ OU

TRAN _ FORMS

HEL _ S

GU _ DES

GENEWS

CONV _ CTS

SANC _ IFIES

Puzzle solutions...

Sudoku Easy...

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

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

Intermediate...

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

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

Crossword...

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

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

Wordsearch...

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

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

Traditional Gaelic Blessing



Rev Robin Selmes

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