

# **WELCOME** OF THE **NEW MESSENGER**

Welcome indeed to 'Summer' and the latest edition of the New Messenger. Thank you to Mark for your skill in crafting together the magazine so beautifully (love the wild flower cover). Thank you also to everyone who has contributed an article. It's so good to read about the many aspects of our church and community and to learn about the work of our different church groups and to hear from the wonderful volunteers who make it all happen.

Robin reminds us, in his article on page 2, that God is with us throughout the chaos of the world and throughout the ups and downs of our lives. Similarly the 'God in the Arts' review on page 10 reflects this also, as it shows Christ at the Sea of Galilee, standing tall as a sign of safety and hope to the disciples floundering in the stormy sea. If you turn to page 11 you will find information about our prayer ministry and throughout July our Summer Sermon season is entitled 'The power of prayer'.

Continuing through the magazine you will see beautiful rays of hope that are happening throughout our church and community within our different groups and community events. We look back to celebrate things we have done and look forward to summer events. such as our first Summer Fair in a long time.

There is something for everyone: Holiday Club for our young people; Tea at Two for those a little older: Chrysalis for those who would like to share gentle exercise and fellowship: gardening for those who love nature and the outdoors; drama events for those who like to watch or tread the boards; poetry that might inspire you to pick up a pen. There are also puzzles to exercise the mind and jokes to make us smile.

So, as we often say at this point, grab a cuppa, put your feet up in the sunshine and catch up on the news of your wonderful friends in this church and community.

**Helen Garland** 

You can contact us anytime by email: messenger@gillinghammethodists.uk by post: New Messenger | Third Avenue Church & Community | Gillingham | ME7 2LU or come and chat to any of the team. Deadline to receive articles for the AUTUMN edition (SEPT, OCT & NOV) will be 14 August 2023.



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





How welcome are these sunny days of summer after the mixed bag of weather we have had over these last months! It's a real joy to be able to start thinking about having an occasional BBQ outside in the garden and to savour these long light evenings walking along the Riverside. Another reminder of summer, besides Wimbledon, Ascot and the Ashes series, are the summer fairs and church anniversary events that are being planned. Often at these times you get asked something along the lines of, "Can you have a word with God so that it doesn't rain?" To which my response is inevitably something like, "well, God's in a tough spot here, because while you're praying for it to not rain, the water companies and gardeners might be praying that it will rain!"

But isn't that often the way? Things are getting better for some, but others might be facing new struggles. But throughout it all, the good and the bad, one thing we can take comfort in, is that God journeys with us through it all. That's not to say that we should just stop moaning and get on with things, but that as we do go about our lives we can know that we're not alone.

But, I think God knew there would be times when we would be so enveloped in fear and uncertainty that we would lose sight of His presence. He knew there would be circumstances so difficult we would often question whether He really loves us and is with us in our suffering.

Yet, it does not matter how chaotic the world may get or even appear to be now, it does not matter what our eyes see nor what we may go through in life, what we may have to suffer or how long we may endure what we are enduring, we have assurances that God is with us!

In Isaiah 43:2, God says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

So whatever the path we travel on a daily basis, be it in the depth of life's valleys, in the mountain top experiences, on life's stormy seas, in victory or defeat, in good or bad times, in sadness or gladness, in sickness or in good health, in hope or in despair, in the darkness of the midnight hour or in the light of day, we are no alone in our circumstances no matter how difficult they are. God is with you. He promises to meet you in your pain and to help you, saying, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" Isaiah 41:10.

And so there is no reason to fear; you are not alone. God has been there "for every tear and every sorrow" Psalm 56:8, and He will strengthen your heart and help you back to your feet, no matter where He finds you today, you are never alone. This is Gods promise from Heaven to earth to all who trust and believe by faith in Him.





# Childen & Youth work

It's really exciting with Youth and children as we start looking forward to summer and all the things we will be doing then. We are busy planning our **holiday club** which will be on the 24th of July to the 27th of July. We will be looking at Paul's journeys and also journeying around the world. All primary school children are welcome but will need to book as spaces are limited, see the poster for more details.

In **Sunday Squad**, we are very pleased now to have three groups. God Squad for senior school young people, Spirit Squad for junior school and Jesus Squad for the younger ones. We have started using new materials from Urban Saints called Energise. It's all based on the computer. It is taking me a while to get used to it but it all looks good. We had a great day at Hartlip with a lot of our Sunday Squad leaders sharing time learning more about one another and looking forward to what we are going to be doing at Sunday Squad.

We have had fun at our fun afternoon at Easter, with a lot of the community coming in and look forward seeing them at the summer fair.

**Youth club** has been good. We had a really great evening at Easter, Looking at the last supper with Robin and some really good fish and chips

Thank you for everybody who is part of the youth and children's team for all the work they do, and thank you for all your prayers and support.

## So this is why I became a Sunday Squad helper

I have always had a passion for youth and childrens work but not really had much of an opportunity at other churches until I joined Third Avenue, late 2015.

I waited a while to feel comfortable in the church then I began volunteering at the Sunday school. When I wasn't working I helped out with the youth drop in for a while and on top of that I was asked to assist with some Kingsquads with the Family trust.

I have never lost that passion to not only help and encourage the youth but to guide and teach them about the life of Jesus and that God loves them and will always love them. I find that one of the best things in life is making sure the young people are happy and have a good time learning about Christian beliefs

Regards

**Rob Simon** 







**Parish Pump** 

This is the first in a short series on how some refugees have found life in the UK.

These stories come from conversations in the Diocese of Canterbury, and simply represent the experiences of the refugees who have chosen to contribute.

In celebration of Refugee Week, 19-25 June.

## How are the refugees who have come to the UK getting along?

Refugee Week, a UK-wide annual festival which celebrates the contributions and resilience of refugees, provides a programme of arts, cultural, educational and media events, though which refugees can find their voice in the UK

This year the refugees have chosen to share their experiences on the theme of **what compassion looks like in action.** 

#### Hanna from Ukraine tells her story:

We are all very traumatised, even if it doesn't show. Every day we read news about our country, talk with relatives there. We are also trying to work, study English, manage our home, raise children, and understand the UK culture. People in Ukraine are constantly in danger. Those who have left feel guilty. It tires and exhausts.

Life has changed for everyone; the whole world feels the worsening economic situation due to the war, yet you in the UK continue to support us. It's incredible.

My heart is torn in half. I am afraid for everyone who stayed in Ukraine. I am angry with Russia for everything she is doing. My anger will pass.

What remains unchanged is a feeling of deepest gratitude to the British for opening their hearts and families to us. Your kindness and mercy help us not to despair. We understand that without you, we would not exist long ago. Perhaps this is how God created people.

## Canterbury resident Richard Llewellin writes of his experience:

I had volunteered to be a 'mentor' to a young man from Chad, so two years ago I met Adam from Chad, to help him learn English. Since then we have tried to meet weekly for about an hour simply to have a conversation about whatever seems appropriate at the time.

I am not able to tell you anything about how, why, and when Adam became a refugee and arrived in England. In the training I received I was told never to ask, but only to wait until the refugee wants to tell his or her story. I am still waiting.

I know Adam wants to stay here, and train as a plumber. I also discovered that he is a devout Muslim, saying his prayers five times a day and going to the mosque on Friday. I told him that I am a committed Christian and therefore we have something very important in common, in that we have put our trust in the same God — the only God. With a puzzled expression he asks me, "Then what about Jesus?" I reply that for Muslims Jesus is a Prophet, and for Christians something more than a Prophet, but that we both worship the same God.

I don't think that he was entirely convinced but, for all our differences, we have remained good friends.

# Sahed, 18 last month, has been living in a small English town for a year, after she and her family fled Jordan.

I came here with my parents and my two brothers and little sister, and I arrived knowing only 'Hi' and 'How are you' in English. So I set myself the goal of learning the language online, going to college and volunteering at the local library.

Now I am virtually fluent, which means that I am the only one to act as interpreter for my family. It's vital, as my 20-year-old brother has a severe mental health illness, which means frequent hospital admissions.

Some of our neighbours, alarmed at the noise my brother was making during an episode, called the police. They were actually very kind and just wanted to make sure everyone was alright; in fact all our neighbours are kind and welcoming - except one who is always very rude.

I want to get my GCSEs, and then go to University - maybe York or Manchester. I want to study business management.



Please pray for these refugees, and others, and for those who, in Christ's name, are providing sanctuary.

For more on Refugee Week, go to: refugeeweek.org.uk

# **PRAY FOR REFUGEES**

The number of people forcibly displaced is at a record high of **79.5 million**, according to the U.N. refugee agency. Children under 18 make up 40% of that number. Some are refugees; others are displaced within their countries' borders. The refugee crises originating from Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar paint the poignant picture of people fleeing conflicts and extreme poverty.

Good Shepherd, no refugee is a stranger to You, and no one is ever far from Your loving care. We pray for You to watch over refugee children and families as they travel to refugee camps or relocate within their country. Shelter their souls and their bodies. Heal the hearts of refugees who have endured unimaginable tragedy and trauma.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit | Psalm 34:18

Worldvision.org



# We need YOU!

We have a number of events coming up and the church still needs your help...!

First of all, we would love to hear from anyone who might like to join our team in serving refreshments on a Sunday morning. If you are interested please can you speak to Allison or Katy Clarke. The more people we get on the rota the less times you need to do it!

And on **Saturday 1 July**, as part of our **Anniversary weekend** we are holding a Summer Fair (see poster opposite). We will need people to help set up tables, chairs and gazebos; people to make and serve refreshments; to make cakes; to run the BBQ; people to provide Tombola prizes

and to help clear up afterwards.

All offers of help will be greatly received, but if you're thinking 'I don't have the strength or energy for that at my time of life', then please just come along to the event and have a cup of tea with us and enjoy the fellowship. More importantly you could chat with people from our community who may never have stepped inside this building, or even a church but may have wondered what goes on in there, and you can answer their questions and tell them why you come...and how you serve God. **Many hands make light work.** 

Please see Mark Frost for more info.



# Book Reviews from Parish Pump

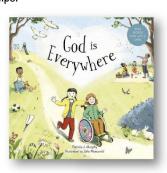


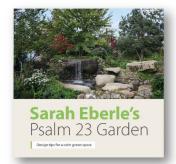
## The Best of Friends – Choose Wisely, Care Well | Phil Knox IVP | $\pounds 10.99$

Friendship is one of the best things ever created. It is unparalleled as a building block of society, a universal theme in great literature and film, and has a huge impact on our mental health, wellbeing, and happiness. But many of us are lonely or feel suffocated by the pressures of life and quantity of relationships we have to maintain. Now, more than ever, we need better, deeper friendships. We need the best of friends. Full of practical advice, humour and wisdom, Phil Knox shows us how to choose our friends wisely and maintain lasting and meaningful relationships.

#### God is Everywhere | Patricia J Murphy | Lion BookS | £7.99

This heart-warming picture book introduces young children to the reassuring messages found in Bible verses. Each of three Bible verses are woven into a lyrical narrative, with key repetitive phrases, and then applied to young children's daily lives. Beautiful story-telling illustrations showing activities of young children's everyday lives at home, at school, and out and about.



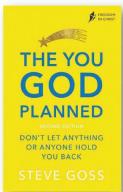


## Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden: Design tips for a calm green space | Various authors | Bible Society | £6.50

In September 2021, Bible Society entered a garden based on Psalm 23 into the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The garden was designed by Sarah Eberle, who had previously won 17 gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. If that wasn't enough, the Psalm 23 Garden won another gold medal as well as awards for Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction Award! Therefore, the garden contains vibrant greenery and a peaceful water feature. This book contains full-colour photographs of features of the garden, and tips and advice on creating your own beautiful garden.

### The You God Planned – Don't Let Anything or Anyone Hold You Back Steve Goss | SPCK | £7.99 (Second Edition)

Once we have become Christians, how do we become the people God is calling us to be? How do we know what God is calling us to be anyway? Are the goals we have for our lives in line with His goals? How on earth do we stop other people getting in the way of our growth to fruitfulness? And how do we avoid getting in their way? The You God Planned answers these questions and shows how we can play our part in the Church, the Bride of Christ, as she prepares herself for His return.



# Christ at the Sea of Galilee Jacopo Tintoretto (1518-1594)





Rev Michael Burgess write

#### 'He gave us eyes to see them'

In 1833 Mendelssohn composed two overtures inspired by the sea. 'Fingal's Cave' portrays the gentle roll of the waves and the call of the wind on the waters around Staffa. 'Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage' paints a sea journey when the fog lifts, the sky clears, the safety of land beckons and the boat arrives in the harbour.

This month's painting shows us a very different picture of the sea. It is 'Christ at the Sea of Galilee' by Tintoretto. He was an Italian painter of the Renaissance period who worked in Venice until his death in 1594. All his paintings are marked by intensity and drama, whether it is the Last Supper, the Conversion of St Paul, or this canvas. Tintoretto worked so quickly and so single-mindedly that he was nicknamed 'Il Furioso.' And it is the fury of the sea that is captured here. Not the lazy waters of Venice or the calm seas of Mendelssohn's music. Now the sea and the sky above are in torment and revolt, and the world is dominated by the violence of this storm.

The Sea of Galilee is like that. One moment, the sky is clear and windless, the next, a gust can whip up the waters into anger. In Scripture the sea is always an element to fear. For the psalmist the sea contains creeping things innumerable and even monsters.

For John in the book of Revelation, the sea ceases to exist when the new heaven and the new earth appear. The threat of that element is pervasive in this painting. The sail of the boat bends with the raging of the wind, and the vessel is tossed up and down — so near the shore, and yet so far. Above, the clouds frown.

But enfolding the scene are two signs of hope and life. To one side we see a tall tree in leaf and growing. At the other side is the tall figure of Jesus: a sign of safety and hope to the disciples, floundering in the boat. His feet are just vague outlines in

the water, but His hand is firm as He beckons to His followers. Peter, brave and headstrong as ever, begins to climb out of the boat with no immediate sense of danger. The month of June ends with his feast day when we celebrate a saint who was so much like us. Wanting to follow Jesus, but finding himself weak; eager to serve, but unable to back words up with deeds. And yet, through all that, God's grace triumphed in Peter's life. We know that he will be saved here as he steps onto the wild water to reach Jesus.

This raging element is a parable of life with its storms and challenges for Peter and for all of us. Just as the sea threatens to swallow the boat and the disciples in it, so we know how the world threatens to swallow us up. Each of us, in our discipleship, faces concerns and challenges, anxieties about the present, even despair about the future. Tintoretto is saying to us from this canvas, reach out and take hold of the sure hand of our Lord. That will be an anchor for you when the sea of life is calm and when the storm rages. 'Will your anchor hold?' asks the hymn, and we can reply 'We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll; Fastened to the rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.'

Parish Pump  $\,10\,$ 



One key part of Third Avenue and any church is having a **dedicated prayer ministry**: a team of people who feel a special calling to pray. The purpose of the team is to uphold the congregation and its ministries and also the community in prayer and to empower and inspire the congregation in their prayer lives.

Each edition of the magazine we are going to introduce you to a different member of our new prayer team and this time it's the turn of **Amos Doughan:** 

I am a member of the Third Avenue Church and Community Prayer Ministry.

For me prayer is everything in my life and I cannot imagine life without prayer. Apart from setting specific time of my day to pray, such as the start of my day and before I sleep, I like to sing and in my singing I pray to God Almighty. When I am not singing and am quiet on my own, I pray to God through reflection.

I joined the Prayer Ministry in the church less than a year ago as a response to the church's request to members to join various ministries in the church they feel they have the calling for.

We all need prayers and it is incredibly refreshing when you know there is someone you can share

your concerns with who can support you in prayer. I am so happy that I listened to the calling to support those who need the church's support in prayer.

We pray with faith and with faith miracles surely happen. There are so many testimonies that I can share with you as a result of prayer. My whole life is a miracle as a result of prayer. So come and let's pray.

# Please remember in your prayers...

Freda Jeffery, Sarah Johnson and Derek Gallagher.

We pray for those who are unable to get to church: Evelyn Grainger-Smith, Hilder Tetteh, Sheila O'Donoghue, Marie Moss, Daphne Tremain, Audrey Peatfield, Anne Cooper.

Please pray for our Summer Fair and Holiday club and Hartlip's Strawberry Tea.

We pray for all who meet and work on our premises.

We pray for those today who are experiencing financial needs.
For those who don't have enough food to feed themselves or their families.
For those who don't have a home, or who have recently just lost their home.

Amen

**WEDNESDAYS 28 JUNE,** 

**26 JULY & 23 AUGUST.** 



Our midweek worship service gives you an opportunity to meet up, connect and worship God in between our Sunday Morning Services.

Meeting on the fourth
Wednesday in the
month at 11am for about
half an hour, with the act
of Holy Communion,
then stay on to enjoy a
chat over a cup of tea.

# **SUMMER** SERMON SERIES

# Power of the Power

**SUN 9 JULY** 

**SUN 16 JULY** 

SUN 23 JULY SUN 30 JULY **IS PRAYER LIKE A TELEPHONE?**ALL AGE WORSHIP

PRAYING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES HOLY COMMUNION

THE POWER OF PRAYING TOGETHER
THE PRAYER ANSWERING GOD





# **International Day of Prayer** for the Emergency Services



Each year, the Christian Police Association hosts an International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services. This year it will be on Thursday 22 June.

There are various ways to get involved.

Watch the CPA YouTube channel **International Day of Prayer**: youtube.com/@ChristianPolice AssociationUK/playlists

Use the **Pray 4 Your Police** (P4YP) material on our Publications page: cpauk.net/downloads/

Engage in the **CPA's Social Media**, using the hashtag #WaveofPrayer

The Christian Police Association asks:

Please join us in praying for our Emergency Service colleagues around the world, as they face a variety of challenges.

**Parish Pump** 



# **CRAFTY!**

Every TUESDAY in the FOYER | 12-30-3pm
Bring your own LUNCH

**EVERYONE Welcome** 



# Lord, for the Years

We continue our occasional series looking at the stories beind some of our favourite hymns. We present here only some of the lyrics of this well-loved hymn... the full lyrics may be found in your hymn book or on the internet!

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's Finlandia, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire.

And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for the Queen herself. She did indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

The 'extra' verse, added for the Queen, can now become our prayer and hope for King Charles.

Lord, for the years
your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years,
we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us, speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze, teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us: Lord of the word, receive your people's praise...

By Timothy Dudley Smith

Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living, Christ and his kingdom one united aim, Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving, Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.

**Parish Pump** 

# Lofa News

Hello Everyone and hope you are all well?

Coronation day has come and gone, our new King Charles III is crowned and we wish him good health and happiness in his reign. We marked the day with tea and cakes. I had my mug of tea but no cake. Trying to keep my weight down as it's not good for my legs.

Sleeping much more nowadays, it always seems like food time with having these extended naps in-between.

Have spent more time with Mason recently as I like to keep an eye on him. Sadly I don't hear him talking like I used too, nor the door bell or much else either. But I love it when he comes round to play.

Mason brought round a monkey called Marti, from his school St Margaret's, to look after him for the weekend. Thought I was up against a bit of competition at first, with another animal about the place, but he still gave me plenty of attention and belly rubs.

I didn't hear the cupboard door but I can certainly smell my dinner being served.

So I'm off. Take care.



love Trudy & Lofa x



You may be asking; who \$\infty\$ are we? When do we meet? What do we do and can anyone come along?

We are a group of people with some health and mobility issues who meet together for mutual support, chat and gentle chair exercise. While our group is mainly made up of folk from Gillingham, we have a few people from outside of the local area who travel to participate and share in this time of being together.

We meet on a Friday afternoon in the foyer of the church and all are welcome to come join us for some or part of the time. There are no criteria, although a sense of humour is beneficial because we love a bit of fun and laughter.



Some of the group arrive at about noon, bringing a packed lunch, so time can be spent having a bit of a catch up on how our week has been. Others join at 1pm when we begin about thirty minutes of gentle chair exercises. Everyone does the exercise to their own level - each person knowing what their body can cope with and so if it is too much then you stop. Exercises completed we then have about twenty minutes of meditation - something that

everyone in the group really appreciates and finds helpful, although like the exercises there is no compulsion for anyone to participate.

Finally we finish with a cup of tea or coffee and have another time of catching up and conversation, it is usually at this point that the laughter happens.

While we all consider the exercises and the meditation to be important, we discovered during Covid and the lockdown period that each of us value and appreciate the social side of our meetings just as much, as we all really missed each other during the time we couldn't meet.

We would love for you to come along but we understand that it can be a bit daunting joining a group for the very first time, especially if you aren't sure if you will know anyone. But we have thought about that too...

Our last session before our summer break is on 28th July and instead of our usual exercise we will be having a **bring-your-own picnic** to share

on the green (weather permitting, but indoors if not). Rev Robin usually tries to join us for this, so he would be a familiar face and there are others that I am sure you will recognise too. Please do come along on the 28th July even if it is just to say 'hi'. I know for sure, a warm welcome, a smile and a cheery cuppa will be offered.

If this sounds like something you would like but you can't get along this side of summer we will be

starting back again on 8th September in the church foyer when an equally warm welcome will be extended. Hope to see you there.

Finally our group want to extend their huge thanks to the Church who accommodate us and to Tony C, Julie, Tony H, Helen and Ruth who share in the opening up and providing the refreshments. Thank you to all of you.

Trisha

#### **District news**

All units celebrated the **King's Coronation** by renewing their promise, creating crowns, decorating and making cakes, finding out about what happens in the coronation service and deciding what rules we would have if we were Queen.

We launched a **District Facebook page**, so we can share unit news. You are all welcome to join to keep up to date:

facebook.com/people/Gillingham -East-Girlguiding/ 100091826341375/

We are also busy planning our **Annual District Fun Day** which will take place
in June, our stall for the **Church Summer Fair** in July and a summer community
friendship campaign.



Our Rainbows celebrated the King's Coronation and gained the Coronation badge. We have also completed the Innovate Skill Builder and are working towards our Explore Skill Builder. Four Rainbows have moved up to Brownies and we have welcomed new members.

We also celebrated Isla and Sienna completing their Gold Awards. Isla also completed all 12 interest badges and received a Well Done award from the District Commissioner.

These are really big achievements and we are very proud of the hard work they have put in to complete their badges.



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Coronation

2023





## **PGL Holiday**

During the Easter break, 5 leaders and 24 excited Brownies left Gillingham in a torrential downpour but without dampened spirits we travelled together by coach to East Sussex for an outdoor activity holiday at Windmill Hill PGL. The rain stopped as we arrived and we were so happy when the sun came out for the remainder of our holiday. Our days were crammed full of fun and

challenging activities; archery, zip wire, canoeing, aeroball, climbing, giant swing and orienteering. In the evenings we enjoyed a disco, board games and a camp fire with toasted marshmallows. The girls had such a great time; each facing

and overcoming challenges but most importantly they had great fun, sharing time with their Brownie friends.



Congratulations to Yvie on gaining the top award in Brownies. The Gold Award is achieved by gaining all six Brownie Theme awards (Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Take Action, Have Adventures and Skills For My Future) and a final Gold challenge. Yvie was presented with her Gold award on her very last Brownie meeting before moving up to Guides. For her final Gold award challenge Yvie did a great job becoming a 'leader for the night' by planning and running games for her Brownie friends.

Well done Yvie.





We've recently had **six new Guides** move up to us from Brownies. We made cakes for the Kings coronation and have upcycled pillow cases so the guides can sew their badges on them.

Haley | District Commissioner and Helen | Snowy Owl

# Hartlip Methodist Church

# & Retreat Centre

As we have passed through Easter since the last issue, we have been blessed with special services. Our **Good Friday** service involved most of the congregation in doing a reading following fourteen stations of the cross, followed by brief meditations on each, interspersed with hymns. A quiet and reflective service.

This was a beautiful contrast to our **Easter** communion service led by Rev Robin Selmes and Derek Gallagher. This is always a two person task as Robin has more than one communion service to preside at on Easter Day.

Now that Easter is over we move from chocolate to cakes and our Spring Tea, held on Saturday 20th May. The sun was shining and we were blessed with lots of visitors from across the circuit and village. As usual there was a glorious spread for all to enjoy, as well as bric-a-brac, plants, tombola and raffle. Many thanks to all those who provided food helped serve tea, and manned the stalls. We raised £800 for church funds.

Our **Anniversary Weekend** takes place on June 10th and 11th. It is now 203 years since worship first took place on this site. On the evening of 10th June we will have a fish and chip supper for members and on 11th June we will welcome back a name familiar to most of you, Revd Sam Funnell, Assistant Chair for the South East Methodist District, to lead us in worship at our **Anniversary Gift Day Service** at 6.30pm, after an anniversary

And not forgetting our **Strawberry Tea** on Saturday 8th July at 2.30pm. Bring along your family and friends for an enjoyable afternoon.

tea at 4.30pm. All are very welcome. **Margaret Bowerman** 





# Dorôthy Hamblin

Dorothy was born on 23rd May 1927 in Gillingham where she spent the first few years of her life. She had two brothers Ron and Stanley.

In Dorothy's younger years, she moved up to Scotland where her mum sadly died of TB. Dorothy did catch this, but being the fighter that she was fought of this horrid disease.

When she turned 16 in 1943 she moved back to Medway, and started a job at boots. Dorothy then moved onto midwifery which she loved, and spent many years working there. She adored the babies

Dorothy then met Henry, who she married in 1954, they had an amazing marriage and proudly gave birth to Miriam in 1962. They had many holidays and enjoyed bringing Miriam up, who was sadly taken from her at the tender age of 26.

Dorothy and Henry helped bring her grandson James up and later in life she looked after Henry who struggled with his mobility, whilst working part time in Sense charity shop and attending church when she could.



When Henry passed away in 2012 Dorothy had major heart surgery and with the help of friends and family recovered fully, which allowed her to continue to look after her family and friends.

Unfortunately, Dorothy was diagnosed with dementia,

which started to affect her ability to take care of herself on her own. Heather, Dorothy's neighbour looked after her as one of her own for two years, before the family took the decision to move her to Elvy Court Care Home, to receive the additional care that she needed.

Claire at Elvy court did an amazing job of settling Dorothy in, and Evelyn who was Dorothy's nurse took amazing care of her. The home itself was fantastic and she enjoyed the daily activities which she participated in.

The family would like to thank Heather and Elvy Court for their amazing care, time, and attention they gave to Dorothy, they really did appreciate it.

Family meant a lot to Dorothy and so it was fitting that when Dorothy did sadly pass away peacefully, Roger, Jade and James got to spend her final hours with her.

**Unfinished poem by Pam Hollington** found in her book of notes about her life. Pam was a member of Hartlip Methodist Church, who passed away in February. The editors asked Heather Gallagher, also a member at Hartlip and a poet in her own right, if she would be able to finish the poem, so the last three verses, written by Heather, complete Pam's poem about Hartlip...

Have you been to Hartlip And seen the chapel there Where everyone tries really hard To show how much they care

Have you been inside our church Full of warmth and love Pouring forth not just from us But from the one above

Twas built in 1820 With flint it has been made Imagine what excitement When that first stone was laid We all are very much aware of those who went before There is a special feeling When one walks through the door

Throughout the years
it has been changed
A schoolroom added on
The outside loos are now inside
The old ones they are gone

In recent years we've opened up A Centre for Retreats The schoolroom was refurbished and We bought some comfy seats

Since then, we've welcomed many folk Who've sought its rest and calm. Within its walls they say they've found Pure peace and sacred balm.

There might be changes yet to come,
The future is unclear.
But one thing's sure- you'll always find
A loving welcome here.



Well, what an amazing afternoon we had, celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. Big thanks to the Paul & Helen Garland and Mark & Ruth Frost who came along so we could have an amazing sing along, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. And a big thank you to all our great bakers and helpers as it takes a while to set up the foyer space and then return it back to how we found it.

With this in mind we would really appreciate some more helpers especially those who are happy to pick up and take home some of our lovely folk. As well as anyone who would like to bake us a cake or just come along to help in anyway.

We meet on the **second Wednesday of each month** at **2pm** and our next tea is on the **14th June** and then

**12th July.** No meeting in August and then we return back on the **13th September**. Please come along and join us for a welcoming cuppa and a cake or too.

Thank you to all my helpers
I very much appreciate each
and every one of you and could

not run this group without you all.

**God Bless** 

Mandy Selmes x



Recently, I've been watching the latest series of BBC Television's 'Masterchef' and marvelling at the inventiveness and culinary creativity of the contestants. It amazes me that amateur cooks are prepared to put themselves through such an ordeal, even though it is clearly a wonderful achievement to be crowned 'Masterchef Champion.' I can say with absolute certainty that this title will never be awarded to me.

Let me explain why. My mother never failed to remind me that, as a child, I had 'a healthy appetite. That has never changed. In fact, eating food is one of my greatest pleasures but preparing it is definitely not! These days, I find that cooking for more than two people has become very stressful indeed. I emerge from the kitchen looking and feeling exhausted, dishevelled, hot and extremely sweaty.

In contrast, I have friends who absolutely love preparing meals for other people to enjoy. They tackle complicated recipes with obvious delight and never look flustered or overwhelmed by the challenge.

But that is what cooking is for me, a real challenge.

I often wonder if this is because my mum never wanted me to help her in the kitchen. She preferred working on her own and probably thought I might get in the way. To be fair to her, it was a very tiny space and I don't ever remember pestering her to learn to cook.

At secondary school, however, we were given lessons in Cooking. I remember that the very first dish we made was 'Cornflour Mould.' This was another way of describing blancmange. I ask you! What a waste of time! The second lesson was a little more exciting and I proudly carried home six rock buns which certainly lived up to their name. My mum caused much hilarity at the tea table that evening as she launched into a rendition of 'Rock of Ages.'

When I got married, I think it must have been obvious that I was pretty clueless in the cooking

department because I was given the 'Good Housekeeping's **New Basic** Cookery' book as a wedding gift. As you can see, I still have it today and it has certainly been very well used over the years.



Many times I have been grateful for the straightforward way it has helped me to prepare the very simplest of dishes. Quite frankly, I don't think I would have managed without it.

All this brings me back to 'Masterchef' and the realisation that I am not, by any stretch of the imagination, a contender for that title. I do not have the inclination or the skills required to achieve it. Instead, I am fairly proficient at basic cookery and content to stay that way.

However, that hasn't stopped me from becoming just a little irritated recently when I have perused restaurant menus to find all sorts of weird and wonderful dishes on offer. For example, the other day. I was surprised to discover that Brussels sprouts can be stuffed! Who has time to stuff a Brussels sprout? Surely life is too short?

I found myself wondering whether a humble sprout would appreciate being stuffed. So I wrote a poem from the sprout's perspective. A dog's not just for Christmas and nor's this Brussels sprout. I fear I am misunderstood. so feel I must speak out!

I'm grossly underrated folk shun me and deride. I'm blamed for causing flatulence but let's put that aside.

I know my outer leaves aren't great, so just peel those away. Then you will see the best of me, despite what others say.

A perfect bud will be revealed, in layers green and bright. Each dainty leaf is flavour-packed if people treat me right.

But recently, I've heard strange tales of vegetable abuse. Some sprouts are filled with stuffing and for that there's no excuse!

They blanch us and they shred us, they scrub us with a brush.

They toss our leaves in salads or

they boil us into mush.

But cooking sprouts is easy and simple to a fault. Just simmer us in water. then add a pinch of salt.

So when my shelf life's over, please grant my final wishto be your vegetable of choice and all round favourite dish!



**Heather Gallagher** 





**Thank you!** To those who were able to come and help cut the grass, trim hedges and give the church gardens a good tidy up! We didn't have quite the turn out we would have liked but the Selmes family, Worship Group, Sally and Josh Frost, all 'dug deep' and got the job done. And with Helen and Derek at the tea urn we were 'well watered and fed'!

**No Mow May** has been a great success in allowing the grasses and wild flowers to grow, giving the insects much needed sustenance as they came out of hibernation.

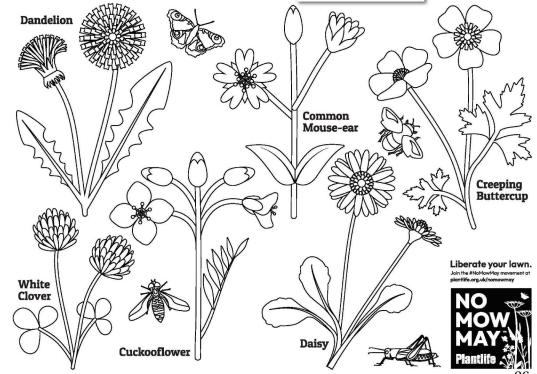
The **Wild Flower Memorial Garden,** running along the fence and top of the lawn, is just starting to come into bloom and will continue to grow throughout the summer. Myself and Paul, so far counted 27 different varieties of grasses and wild flowers, which is amazing as this is only it's second season! Next time you're at church, check out whether you can find any of the flowers shown below, or even a butterfly like the Holy Blue we spotted at the weekend.

Last year we planted three native trees - an apple, greengage and rowan. During the garden tidy Mark W and Paul planted a hazel, native to the UK and given to us by GirlGuiding as part of the **Queen's Green Canopy** tree planting campaign for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY
THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

**Mark Frost** 



# THEGREAT **BIG GREEN** WEEK

**Event Name** Screening of the Film

**Plastic Warriors** 

**Location** Third Avenue **Church & Community** Gillingham ME7 2LU

Date & Time Tuesday 13 June | 7pm

£2 entrance fee | Tea & Coffee from 6.30pm

Plastic Warriors (Dartmouth Films) investigates the damaging effects plastic pollution is having on our health, lifestyle and wildlife - and presents some surprising and inspiring solutions. The film, follows the work of eminent scientists, front line campaigners, and innovative designers working on ways to fix the greatest pollution crisis of our time.

The contributors to the film come from universities, local campaigning groups and organisations including Greanpeace, Scottish National Heritage and The National Trust.

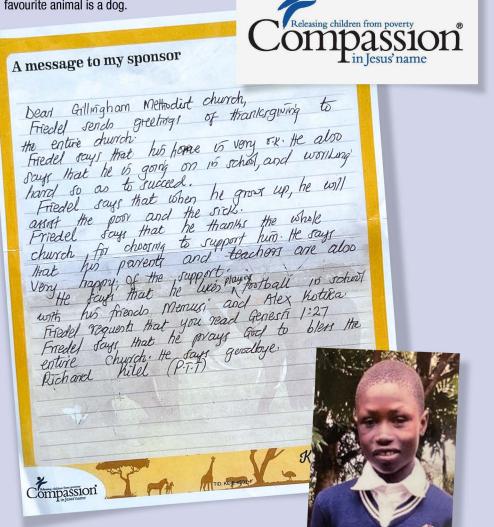
As a church, we have been sponsoring **Friedel** for the last 6 years.

Sponsorship for Friedel is £28 a month and Compassion work in partnership with local churches to link sponsors with a child. The money given helps to provide care for the child, through every stage of their childhood.

Friedel is 13 on 27 August and lives with his family in Oldonyo Orok, Kenya. He enjoys football and at school his favourite subject is languages. His favourite foods are milk, eggs and ugali. His favourite colour is blue and favourite animal is a dog.

The main language spoken in Friedel's area is Kipsigis and it has a population of 10,000. The regional diet for the area is maize and beans.

It would be great if as a church we could write him letters from different people if you are interesting in approximately once or twice a year writing him a letter, please speak to Karen Willing.



# The Bible in 50 Words

God made Adam bit Noah arked Abraham splît Joseph ruled **Jacob fooled Bush talked** Moses balked Pharaoh plagued People walked Sea divided Tablets guided Promise landed Saul freaked David peaked **Prophets warned** Jesus born God walked Love talked Anger crucified Hope died Love rose Spirit flamed Word spread God remained.

**Anon | Parish Pump** 



When you last read our news we were unable to tell you what we were doing for our Summer Show but heigh ho, some bright spark in the Group came up with the idea of one act plays.

So on Friday 7th & Saturday 8th July at 7.30pm we are pleased to present Comedy Capers, a trio of one act plays. We have Mavis trying to run a rehearsal at her local drama club in Alright on the Night?, then the elderly Lavinia and her two pals are enjoying their regular cribbage afternoon till they are rudely interrupted in Gentlemen Callers and finally Christopher is getting ready for a recording of his first radio play in Rambles on Radio.

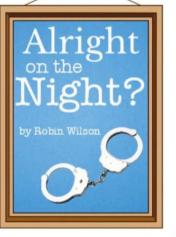
It sounds a cracking evening so do come and support the drama group. Tickets £8 Adult and £5 Child are available from Keith Jackson (01634 852712) or Sally Murphy (01634 855343) or any member of the group. Booking forms will be available in the Church Foyer.

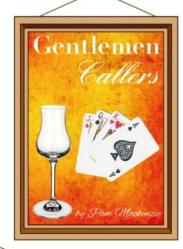
Keith Jackson | stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

# St Paul's Drama Group presents

# **Comedy Capers**

3 one act plays





Friday 7th and Saturday 8th July at 7:30pm

FOR BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01634 852712

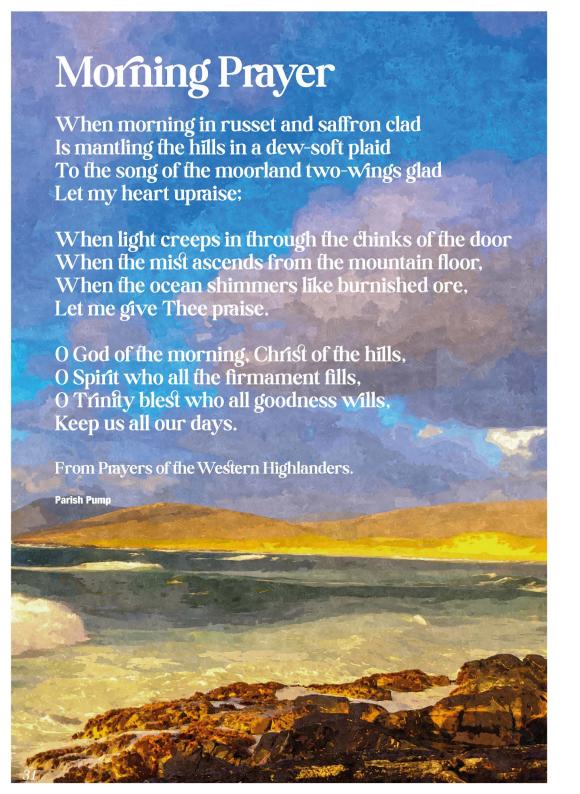


TICKETS

ADULTS £8 CHILD £5



Community Hall, 100 Third Avenue, Gillingham ME72LU www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk





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.

#### Labels

As part of the admission procedure in the hospital where I work, I ask the patients if they are allergic to anything. If they are, I print it on an allergy band placed on the patient's wrists.

Once when I asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies, she said she couldn't eat bananas. Imagine my surprise when several hours later a very irate son came out to the nurses' station demanding, "Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?"

#### **New perils**

A child was trying to memorise the Lord's Prayer: "...and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from email..."

#### River

A minister had been preaching on the dangers of alcohol. He concluded by thundering: "And that is why, if I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it in the river. If I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it in the river. And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take that as well, and pour it in the river." Satisfied that he had made his point, he sat down.

The music leader then stood up, and with a sheepish grin announced: "Our closing hymn is on page 238: 'Shall We Gather at the River'."

### So far, so good

So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been

greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm going to need Your help. Amen

#### **How prayer reaches God**

An anxious mother confided in her minister: "My 10-year-old daughter says her prayers every night, but I am not sure they are reaching heaven."

Touched by her worry, the minister spent some time explaining to her about God's omnipresence. But still, the mother looked worried. So finally he asked the mother why she thought her daughter's prayers would NOT be heard by God.

She explained: "Because when my daughter finishes, instead of saying 'amen', she says 'click, send'."

#### Water

A mother was watching her four-year-old son playing in a small plastic pool half-filled with water. He walked back and forth with an expression of great concentration on his face, while making big splashes. Suddenly, with a look of disgust, the little boy stepped out of the pool and began to scoop the water out with a bucket. "What's wrong, dear?" called the mother.

"On Sunday the minister said Jesus walked on water, but this water doesn't work," he replied.

**Parish Pump** 

# Word Search

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name - Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The 'gates of hell' would never prevail against Jesus' Church, and He gave Peter the power of 'binding and loosing', and also the 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.

|           | 32/             |            |        | neys    |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|--------|---------|
| Simon     | Andrew          | Daughter   | Crowed | Kingdom |
| Peter     | Jesus           | Garden     | Feed   | Gates   |
| Fisherman | Rock            | Gethsemane | My     | Hell    |
| Bethsaida | Transfiguration | Betrayed   | Lambs  | Binding |
| Galilee   | Raising         | Cock       | Sheep  | Loosing |

| RSSNONHDTOMDRSD |
|-----------------|
| LTBGODEEUDFGNEI |
| EANMAYTNEELECAH |
|                 |
| NOITARUGIFSNART |
| DSMRMLDHBFHALEH |
| RHTIOEAEIREMEKK |
| DEWORCEANDREWEN |
| BETRKEKLDAMSDYN |
| KPBETHSAIDAHELL |
| RLYTPMRSNLNTGSL |
| GSIHEEIUGCAESNC |
| ILTGGNISOOLGNFB |
| TTDUGATESCNNMOS |
| YLIAIHWJGKRWREH |
| NMODGNIKASRIFMD |

# Sudoko | Easy

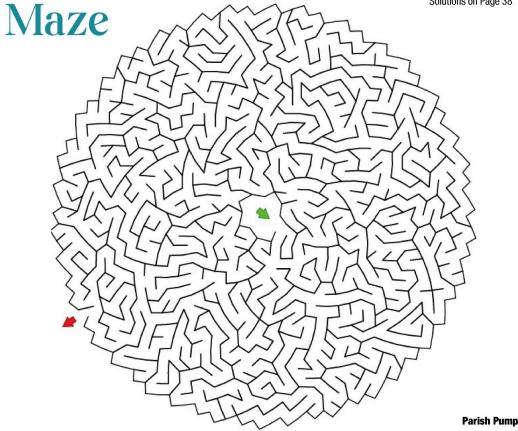
# Intermediate

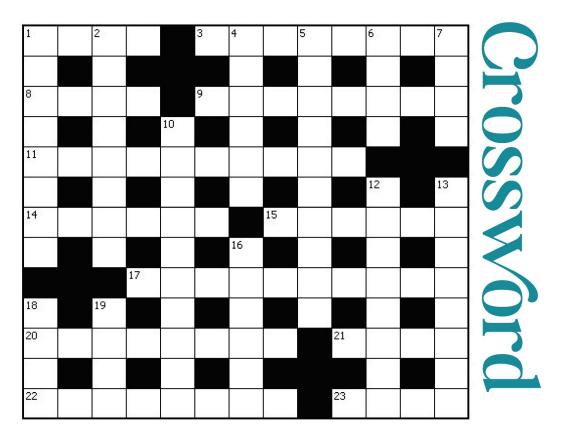
| 2 |   |   |   | 6 |   | 8 | 4 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 4 | 1 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 8 |   |   |   | 5 |   |
|   |   | 5 | 9 |   |   | 6 | 8 |   |
|   | 7 |   | 3 | 2 | 4 |   | 1 |   |
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|   | 3 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |
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|   | 7 |   |   | 1 | 2 |   |   |   |
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|   |   | 7 | 9 | 4 |   | 2 | 3 |   |
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Solutions on Page 38





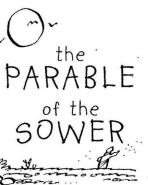
#### **Across**

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across

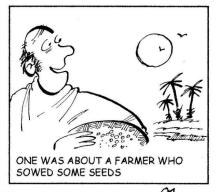
'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

#### Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; -- him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)







MOST FARMERS DIDN'T BURY THEIR SEEDS IN THE GOUND. INSTEAD THEY THREW THEM IN THE AIR!





THE FARMER HOPED THEY WOULD TAKE ROOT JUST WHERE THEY LANDED





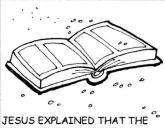


OTHER SEEDS TOOK ROOT, BUT WERE QUICKLY STRANGLED BY WEEDS



TOOK ROOT AND GREW AND GREW!

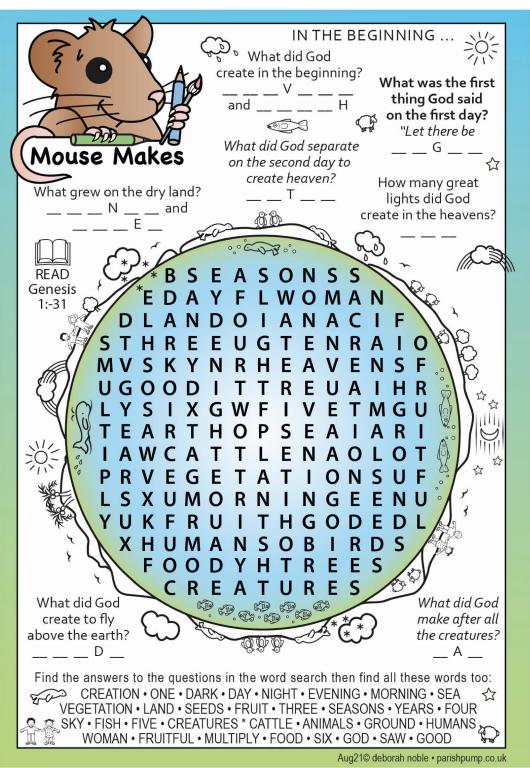




JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE SEED ARE 'WORD OF GOD' AND WE SHOULD LET THAT WORD 'GROW' IN OUR HEARTS, JUST LIKE SEEDS IN GOOD SOIL.

Answers on Page 38 35

**Parish Pump** 



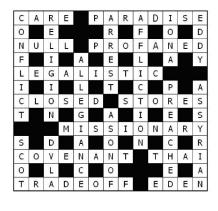
# Sudoko | Easy

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

## **Intermediate**

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

## **Crossword**



## Word Search

RSSNONHDTOMDRSD LTBGODEEUDFGNEI EANMAYTNEELECAH NOITARUGIFSNART DSMRMLDHBFHALEH RHTOEAÈIRÈMEKK DEWORCEANDREWEN RLYTPMRSNLNTGSL ILTGGNISOODGNFB TTDUGATESCNNMOS YLIAIHWJGKRWREH NMODGNIKASRIFMD



Scan the QR code if you wish to make a secure online donation towards the cost of producing the magazine or to continue the work of the church

Please note that Dona uses our legal name: Gillingham Methodist Church.

### **REV ROBIN SELMES**

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