

# **Saint Peter's Church, Woodmansterne**

## **September Monthly Newsletter**



*Welcome to this month's newsletter! If you have an activity or something uplifting to share please do get in touch: [office@saintpeterschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@saintpeterschurch.org.uk) We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.*

Service sheets and accompanying You Tube messages are being produced and distributed every week. You can catch up with the weekly messages at St Peter's Church, Woodmansterne You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI9hrwcOXgd7g8lg9WVqg7A>

We have two Sunday services 9.00am via Zoom video conferencing and 11.00am in church. So please do get in touch with us for details.

If you want to receive more information about any of the above or would like to have a chat with someone please do get in touch with us: [rector@saintpeterschurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@saintpeterschurch.org.uk) or ring 01737 423892.

**Praise and Prayer** - now fortnightly on a Wednesday evening. The October Praise and Prayers will be Wednesday 7th and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Zoom details to follow nearer the time. If you have trouble accessing Zoom or want to join by phone contact Rachel: [cfm@saintpeterschurch.org.uk](mailto:cfm@saintpeterschurch.org.uk)

### **Woodmansterne Charities**

A local charity, which can help people who are struggling to pay fuel bills. To qualify, you must live in the Parish of Woodmansterne. If you would like to be considered for assistance then please contact us: [office@saintpeterschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@saintpeterschurch.org.uk) or 07816293554.

### **Foodbank at St Matthew's Redhill**

St Matthews are accepting donations of money for the foodbank. Please make cheques payable to St Matthew's PCC, marked 'Foodbank' on the back. Send to Foodbank at St Matthew's, c/o The Parish Office, 71 Station Road, Redhill RH1 1DL. More details are available at: <https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/how-can-i-help>

### **Harvest donations**

For this year's Harvest we are collecting tinned/ non perishables for St Matthew's Foodbank. If you would like to contribute, items can be dropped off at church on Sundays mornings at the church service or between 1pm and 5pm on Wednesdays from now until Sunday 4th October. Most needed are: Tinned Spaghetti (e.g. Spaghetti Hoops), Tinned Sweetcorn, Tinned Carrots, Noodles (including Pot Noodles) Instant Mash, Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Custard, Coffee (Instant, smaller jars preferred) Hot Chocolate, Toothpaste, Washing Up Liquid, Laundry Tablets (preferably not liquid or powder), Nappies (sizes 5, 6 and 7).

**Shoebox Appeal:** Unless anything changes there will be a shoebox appeal as usual and this is your advanced notice! We have 50 shoeboxes so please speak to Rachel if you'd like one to fill. There are leaflets with details of what to include at the back of church or you can find out more here: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/>. Feel free to fill a whole box, part of a box, give a few items or donations towards transportation costs. If you'd like to take part but can't get to church at the moment contact Rachel: [cfm@saintpeterschurch.org.uk](mailto:cfm@saintpeterschurch.org.uk) or 07816293554. Please give all donations to Rachel by **Sunday 1st November**.

## A word from John Itumu

You may have heard the story about a Sunday School class which was presenting their end of the year program for the congregation - telling about the life of Jesus. When it came to the part about Jesus' miracles, one little child said, "Yes, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!" (John 11) The teacher urged the child to say more. He continued, "Well, Jesus told them to open the tomb, and then He said, 'Lazarus, come out!' And it's a good thing he didn't just say 'Come out!' because there would have been a stampede of dead guys." I love this story for its sheer innocence and believe in the miraculous power of Jesus. Just a slight syntax error would have elicited a different response from the dead. It is no wonder Jesus implores his disciples to emulate the heart of a child if they desire to enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3). And so should we. Why?

We live in a questioning age where rationalism rules. It is very difficult – if not impossible to easily convince anyone of anything that cannot be logically explained. The need to show cause and effect in an occurrence or phenomenon has never been greater. On other hand scientific rationalism which has infused western culture for about 300 years would rather put the miracle stories of Jesus down to the ignorance and superstition of these ancient people who lived more than 20 centuries ago. That way it is easier to help make sense of these bizarre happenings.

Doubts have been expressed on the authenticity of miracles, alternative explanations sought and the evidence for miracles dismissed as unconvincing. Following this corollary, for instance, Jesus did not walk on water but on a half-submerged plank (Matthew 4:22fd); the loaves and fish were so many because people followed Jesus' example of sharing as they produced their own (Mark 6:30fd). Do you believe in miracles?

Someone pointed out to me that in 1971 (not sure why 1971) the thought and ideas of email and texting would have been considered a miracle. Perspective also influences how we embrace the miraculous. A baby born after many years of fertility treatment may to a non Christian couple be considered the result of advanced scientific achievement. However to believers who have been waiting and praying for a child this will be perceived as a miracle just like it happened to Hannah (1 Samuel 1:10fd) or Sarah (Genesis 18).

Being a follower of Jesus Christ is embracing the worldview in which the story of God's love for human kind is played out and which as clearly presented in the bible includes the miraculous. The bible is full of them, right from the beginning. A secular historian called Josephus (AD 37-100) a contemporary of Jesus of Nazareth recorded an exorcism which he witnessed. He also writes: '... about this time arose Jesus, a wise man, if indeed it be lawful to call him a man. For he was a doer of wonderful deeds...' Another ancient document The Babylonian Talmud reports that Jesus was executed because he practiced sorcery. Actually this seems to reinforce the comment made by the teachers of the law in Mark 3:22 when they say, 'He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons!' Belief in miracles is not peculiar to Christianity because almost all religions and spiritualities have featured miracles in their teachings and practice. The debate seems to always be which of the miracles, pagan or Christian are backed by more credible evidence.

But here is the distinction. The miracles of Jesus point to the wider context of his mission and ministry. He himself puts them in the context of the kingdom of God. When accused of using demonic powers to perform his miracles he responds:

If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you (Luke 11:20). His miracles point people to God. They are not meant to impress or even satisfy idle speculation about the supernatural. That is why he categorically says no when Pharisees ask for a miracle to satisfy their curiosity. (Matthew 12:38ff)

We need to view and understand these miracles against the background of the Old Testament expectations and the prophecies; that the long waited for kingdom had at last come. Jesus is the final fulfillment of all that there was to be. If we deviate from this understanding, then we easily fall into the trap of seeing Jesus' miracles as simply magic actions which pagans and other religions easily claim. The ancient world was full of them. Remember the magicians in Pharaoh's palace in Egypt? Our world is full of them – witchcraft and the occult. Jesus is however unique and different. Jesus is God!

May we live in expectancy of the unusual, 'weird, twists of fate and coincidences,' signs and wonders from a supernatural God, the King of all creation, the author and finisher of our lives. In this issue I commend to you some recent testimonies of eye witness accounts of the miraculous. Then a last word; I invite you to think of being alive to read this article, today, as a miracle.



...I've moved with the times - I've now got  
a solar-powered radio microphone...



## Foodbank at St Matthew's, Redhill

The Foodbank provides food and support to people in need in, and around Redhill. A few years ago St Peter's decided we would like to support a local foodbank and chose St Matthew's. We are in the same deanery and we knew that the foodbank was in need of support. Like many foodbanks St Matthew's has seen an increase in demand during the pandemic. Restrictions have also meant it has been more challenging for some foodbank supporters to drop off food.

Prior to lockdown, St Peter's church family brought non perishable goods to church. A volunteer then dropped the donations at the foodbank on a fortnightly basis through out the year, as well as a special collection at harvest festival. Since March this has not been possible and instead people have been encouraged to continue to support the food bank through monetary donations.

This harvest we will be having a special collection of non perishable goods which will be taken to St Matthew's after our harvest service. Harvest time is when the foodbank receives a lot of the gifts that keep it going during the rest of the year, so we felt it was important to support them at this time. If you would like to contribute, gifts can be left in St Peter's church on a Sunday after the service or when the church is open for prayer on a Wednesday 1pm to 5pm until 4<sup>th</sup> October. A list of most need items can be found on page 2.

If you would like to support the foodbank and its more convenient for you to make a monetary donation, here are the details: to donate by cheque: Cheques should be made payable to St Matthew's PCC, marked 'Foodbank' on the back and sent to Foodbank at St Matthew's, c/o The Parish Office, 71 Station Road, Redhill RH1 1DL. To donate by bank transfer: Account name: St Matthews Parochial Church Council; Sort code: 54 30 36; Account number: 02331470; Reference: either FB or Foodbank and add your surname if want them to be able to identify it as coming from you. For more details see: <https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/>

St Peter's harvest festival 2019:





**Belarus:** President Lukashenko's regime puts pressure on everyone with a different opinion, including Christians. Many Christians go through imprisonment and torture. On 1 September, Lukashenko made a speech where he once again underlined that religious organisations should completely obey the regime and not interfere in politics. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in this nation, for freedom to practise their faith.

**Myanmar:** where they are facing a serious rise in cases of coronavirus. Pray for justice for the over one million Rohingya refugees who have been living for three years in what has become the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh with no hope of return to Myanmar, where they are denied citizenship and other rights.

**India:** Pray for the approx. 25 million people affected by floods in India, where relief efforts are severely hampered by COVID-19 restrictions. Pray for God to make ways for relief to reach those who need it and for wisdom and protection for those working in this area.

**Chile:** prayers for Chile, which is experiencing protests in the run-up to a national vote in October as to whether to have a new constitution. Protests both against and in favour of the government threaten to paralyse the country while the COVID-19 pandemic remains a serious threat and continues to cause economic hardship.

**Peru:** has been named as one of the worst-affected countries in terms of deaths per capita. 35 per cent of Peru's population has already had the virus. Pray for the tide to turn, for infection rates to go down, and for stamina for exhausted health workers.

**Paraguay and northern Argentina:** Please pray for all the peoples of the Chaco in both Paraguay and northern Argentina. Pray for CMS people in the Chaco, those who serve with our partners in the area who have caught the virus and for the indigenous communities now being affected. Pray particularly too for rain, as the Paraguayan Chaco is experiencing drought and water levels are reportedly running very low.

**Sudan and South Sudan:** In addition to increasing COVID-19 cases, both countries are suffering severe flooding. Pray for all those bereaved, homeless or bereft of livelihood because of Covid 19 and flooding.

**South Africa:** Caroline and Dick Seed have both been busy reworking the teaching certificate programme so that it can be delivered online via Moodle, adapting it to ensure it achieves its outcomes through reading rather than listening and practice. Two of the institutions Caroline and Dick planned to work with this year have asked for online delivery, so they hope to be able to arrange dates with them soon. Please pray for the successful completion of the writing.

**Uganda:** Uganda's very strict initial lockdown was effective in keeping cases of COVID-19 very low indeed, but rules have been relaxed more recently in order to permit more economic activity. The virus is now being transmitted in the community. Please pray that the rise in cases across the whole country in recent weeks will be contained.

**EASY**

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**MEDIUM**

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**A SUMMER PLACE      1960**

I was sixteen and for the first time I had actually looked forward to our family holiday; this year 'others' were coming too and when there were 'others' I knew 'she' would behave herself and everything would be OK.

The house called Old Cellars, where we were to stay for the next two weeks was situated at the end of a long, leafy track which climbed steadily to the cliff top from the village of Newton Ferrers. The silver thread of the river Yealm lay far below to the right; an occasional yacht meandered slowly towards the sea.

Cellars was a romantic old house with hidden stairways and interesting nooks and crannies. We girls immediately bagged the bedroom at the top of the house, I suppose it was the attic. It was as far away from the rest of the house as we could get. There we could play music, talk, giggle and fantasize as teenagers do. We threw our bags and ourselves onto the beds; and then as the girls argued over which record to play, I felt myself starting to relax. Oblivious of their chatter, I moved towards the enormous bay window. The advertisement for the house could not have been more accurate: Outstanding views across the bay to Plymouth. I held my breath as I drank in the magnificent panorama, then stood for a long time watching the evening sun turn from orange to crimson as it began to sink slowly below the horizon. A few distant lights flickered on the far shore and the gentle movement of the sea calmed me as the changing colours shimmered and twinkled. I was at peace with myself and my world, if only for a fortnight. Smiling, I listened to the strains of a piece of music playing softly, it was called 'A Summer Place.'

Whenever I hear this music by Percy Faith, I feel a sense of wonderment and contentment and I thank God for that glorious moment.

Margaret Chorlton



## **THIS MONTHS RECIPE - RICH FRUIT CAKE**

Way back in late 2003 the then 'Spotlight' editor Yvonne Burnett asked about having a recipe section. 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 my Rich Fruit Cake appeared in print and now in 2020 with 'lockdown' and everyone baking I thought it appropriate that the rich fruit cake recipe appeared again in October so we can all get ready for Christmas.

10oz plain flour

6 oz butter

6 oz caster sugar

6 tablespoon whisky (or orange juice)

3 eggs

4 teaspoon mixed spice

1½lbs mixed dried fruit

Place the 1½lb of dried fruit, which can include candied cherries, peel and nuts (but must not be more than 1½lb into a bowl. Pour the 6 tablespoons of whisky or orange juice over the fruit, mix well, cover and leave for at least 24 hours. Give a stir now and again.

Sieve the flour and rub in the butter, add the sugar and spices and mix with the beaten eggs. This can be done in a good processor for quickness. Stir in the dried fruit which will have absorbed all of the liquid and mix to a stiff dropping consistency. Turn into a greased and parchment lined 7" cake tin, cover with a circle of greaseproof paper and cook in a cool oven. Gas 2, 325°C, 350°F for 3 hours. Leave to cool in the oven.

When cold, remove from tin and store in an airtight box.

The cake can be eaten straight away but develops a better flavour if left for several weeks. You can 'feed' it with a few spoonfuls of whisky every few weeks. If you want it can be marzipanned and iced for the festive season.

Ann Kayser





## **YOUR GARDEN BY A WOODMANSTERNE GARDENER**

British Summer Time ends on 25<sup>th</sup> October, and it has been a very unusual spring and summer. We have had extreme weather, storms, gales and flooding in the north, while the south almost a drought, soaring temperatures and days of blue skies. October is still warm enough to enjoy the autumn colours in our gardens, parks and woods, before the leaves begin to fall, which inevitably leads to the great task of raking, sweeping and collection of leaves.

Store sacks to make leaf mould or put in the garden collection bins. Destroy any leaves, particularly of roses that show signs of black spot, a disease which can carry on from year to year.

The other ongoing task is lawn mowing. Hopefully its growth will have slowed down which reduces the frequency of cutting but as no doubt, the lawn area got really well used this year it is also time to give it an autumn overhaul. That is, rake out all the dead grass (thatch) aerate with a fork and if you have any spare soil (perhaps from tubs) spread it over the bald patches and resow with grass seed. Cover with fleece or wire mesh or the pigeons will thank you.

Once dahlias and cannas have been damaged by frost - although our weather is so unpredictable these days - cut back all the dead growth and dig up the plants. Leave them upside down somewhere in the dry, a greenhouse or shed, for a week or so then store in a frost free but cool dark place. Alternatively the dahlias can be left in the soil, hoping that we have a mild winter, and covered with a mulch of soil.

Replace all your summer bedding plants in borders and containers with autumn and spring bedding plants i.e. water flowering pansies, primulas and spring flowering bulbs. Tulips can be planted as late as November.

If possible with tubs and troughs, place them in sheltered spots close to the house for protection from cold and wet. Remove any saucers placed under pots used during the summer and try to raise containers off the ground with pot feet or bricks to help prevent the compost becoming too wet over the winter.

If you are still able to visit gardens take the opportunity to visit gardens renowned for their autumn displays to give us ideas for our own gardens. A visit many years ago to Chartwell led me to plant an euonymus alatus, it is just a largish green leaved shrub (about 6' x 10") during the spring and summer months but in September and October it takes on the most glorious display of pink leaves which sets off the purple fruits that split to reveal orange seeds. Underplanted with cyclamen hederifolium in pink and white it looks great and reminds me of past visits. Unfortunately the Chartwell bush also had deep blue gentians under the shrub which do not like our chalky soil.

Keep the wildlife happy. October sees the gathering in of the harvest but that time of plenty is to be replaced by months of darkness and cold. Keep the birds well fed by providing nuts and seeds and always clean water for drinking and bathing.

## LAUGHTER LINES

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

### New York

The last time we went to New York, it was incredible. We circled the airport for two hours. What made it so incredible was that we were in a bus. – Anon

I just saw a local burglar kicking his own front door in. I asked him what he was doing. He replied, "Working from home."

Put it this way...

- ~ A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- ~ A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.
- ~ My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.
- ~ I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
- ~ Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.
- ~ Sea captains don't like crew cuts.
- ~ A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumour.

## CALENDAR QUOTES

The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.  
We can never bath in the same river twice. The river flows on.  
Knowledge and timber should not be much used till they are seasoned.  
Imagination is the air of the mind.

## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

### EASY

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

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

### **Edith Cavell, nurse**

Edith Cavell was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she was appointed matron of a training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was there when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium. Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies. Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. The night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of Abide with Me, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

*She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."*

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915. After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.


### **Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer**

The prison reformer and philanthropist Elizabeth Fry died 175 years ago, on 12th October 1845. She is widely admired and was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.


She was born into the family of a wealthy Quaker banker, John Gurney, in Norwich in 1770. She rededicated her life to Christ at the age of 18 and devoted herself to helping the downtrodden. This she continued to do after her marriage to merchant Joseph Fry, and having 11 children.

She was a minister of the Society of Friends from 1811 and travelled in England and Europe inspecting prisons and writing reports that were highly influential, transforming gaols from "pits of indecency and brutality" to more orderly places with a new interest in reform. She was admired by both Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale.

Early on she made frequent visits to Newgate Prison in London, suggesting radical improvements that were adopted both there and in other prisons. She read the Bible to inmates and gave Bibles away, combining social work with proclamation of the Gospel in a way that inspired future generations. Her insights also led to the Prison Reform Act of 1823.



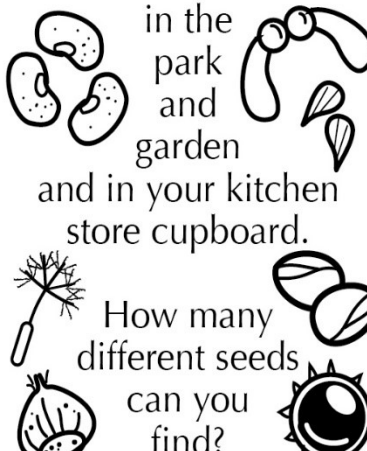
**Mouse Makes**



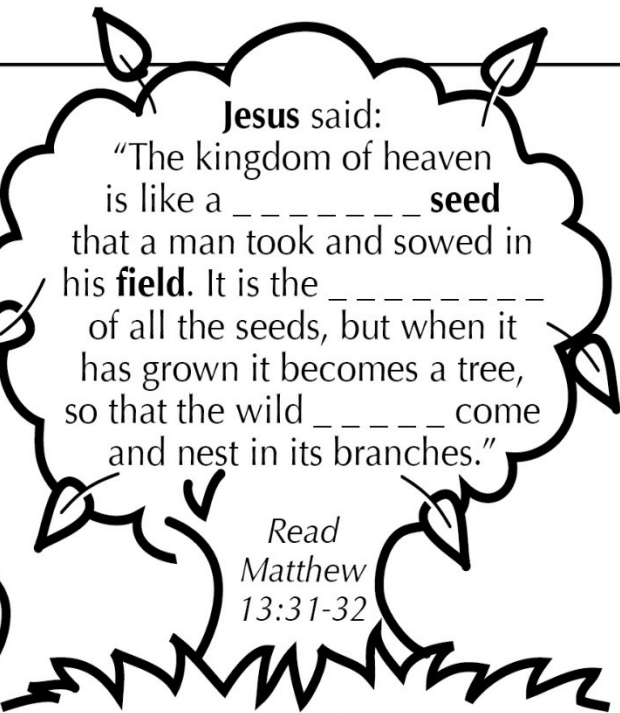
"GOD is the **one** who gives seed to those who **plant**, and He gives **bread** for **food**. And GOD will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."

*2 Corinthians 9:10*

Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.



How many different seeds can you find?

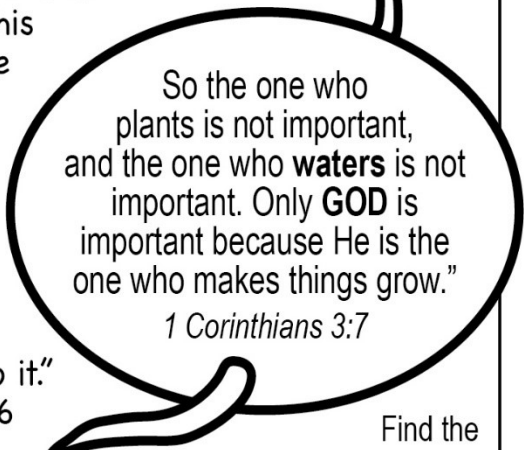


**Jesus said:**  
 "The kingdom of heaven is like a \_\_\_\_\_ **seed** that a man took and sowed in his **field**. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild \_\_\_\_\_ come and nest in its branches."

*Read Matthew 13:31-32*

**Jesus said:**  
 "You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree  
 "Go jump into the lake"  
 and it would do it."

*Luke 17:6*



So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."

*1 Corinthians 3:7*

Find the words in **bold** on this page in the word search

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F	I	A	F	T	P	L	A	N	T	B
O	F	A	I	T	H	A	T	E	E	R
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