



St Hilda's
Ashford

Weekly Newsletter



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We are looking for more contributions from the St Hilda's community, if you would like to contribute, please either call, email or send an article to the Parish Office.

If you would like help or to speak to a member of the ministry team please contact:

- Parish Office Tel - 01784 253525
 Email - office@sthilda.org
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237.

www.sthilda.org

St Hilda's re-opening for public worship



The doors of St Hilda's are re-opening for public worship on Sunday 5th July. There will be 2 services per week on Sundays and Wednesdays. The church has implemented a number of changes in terms of layout and procedures to ensure everyone who attends stays safe and healthy during these changing times.

To attend one of the services, we request you book a ticket through Eventbrite (link on the website) or call the Parish Office, this is to ensure we can allocate seating as required whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines. We will be maintaining a register to enable track and trace if ever required.

Services will continue to be live streamed for the foreseeable future.

Further details can be found in last week's Newsletter (No.9) or if you are in any doubt or have a question please call the Parish Office.

Friendships beyond boundaries

Relationships: As we realise how much we need each other, what could change after lockdown, asks *Kate Wharton*



AS I write this, it is 93 days since I last touched another human being: more than 12 weeks without any human contact — and no idea how many more days will pass before it will once again be possible. The effects of Covid-19 have been enormous and wide-ranging. Every single part of our lives has been affected. And, whatever our personal circumstances and living arrangements, our relationships have been affected, too.

Time felt like it stood still on that day in March when the lockdown was announced. Wherever you were living at the time, you had to stay there. Who you were with — or without — things were “set” at that moment. Your household was your household. Your relationships were your relationships. The normal ways in which we might meet new people, or get to know people better, were suddenly taken away.

I SPEND quite a lot of my time writing, thinking, and speaking about singleness. Whenever I do, I talk about community, and how the Church needs to get better at real community. So many people are lonely, so many are struggling. I would love to think that church could be the place to which people would turn first in their time of need — where they could always be sure of

being made welcome, offered practical support, and able to make real friends; where someone would ask “How are you?” and really listen — and really care — about the answer.

All this was true before we had ever heard of Covid-19. How much more so now. A new language has evolved to describe how we are currently able to relate to one another: self-isolation, social distancing. We are certainly more physically isolated from the people around us than ever before. But we need to be more socially connected than ever before.

There has been more care, generosity, and empathy in evidence during this time, as well as more impatience, irritation, and judgement. We are all struggling — a bit anxious, fraught, stressed. People may have been quicker to jump to conclusions about others' motives, and to weigh in with opinions; but, at the same time, there has been so much kindness around, too. I'd love that to be something that we carry with us, post-Covid.

I hope that we might all give each other the benefit of the doubt a bit more, and be a bit slower to judge, and quicker to empathise. Everyone has gone through tough times over the past few months, for different reasons. It is easy to think that we understand what life is like for someone else (the “I know exactly how you feel” phenomenon). Can we be slower to speak and quicker to listen — put ourselves in someone else's shoes?

IN AN ideal world, church provides us with a great opportunity to make all kinds of different relationships — if only we make the most of it. Often, my non-churchgoing friends have been amazed to discover that, as a woman in my early forties, I have good friends who are in their twenties, fifties, and seventies.

It would be great if more close friendships could develop between people whose lives look quite different: if younger and older, male and female, single and married, people of different cultures and backgrounds, and those with children and without could learn what genuine friendship looks like with people who are not the same. Likewise, if all our friends currently are those who share our faith, or who express their faith in a similar way, can we befriend some people whose faith or spirituality looks completely different from ours?

Loneliness is one of the biggest issues facing our society today. We might perhaps imagine that it is mostly an issue for elderly people, and, of course, they are affected; but studies regularly show that many young people struggle, too. I love the stories (pre-lockdown, of course) of residential homes for the elderly which have nurseries within them, and of care homes where students also live. Encouraging cross-generational friendships is great for everyone concerned, and a healthy thing for our society.

At my church, we have set up a phone support-network in which everybody who is elderly or vulnerable is phoned, weekly, by someone from the congregation. Our children made Easter cards and posted them to our older people. Some of them wrote back, and regular correspondence has developed. Often, they didn't know each other before, because they attended different services, but now they can't wait to meet. When I have phoned an elderly

person who lives alone, to see if there is anything they need, they have often told me that their neighbours are checking on them, doing their shopping, and helping them out.

Church communities must be part of the answer if we are really to see loneliness eradicated. It is too easy to come and go each week and never really connect with the people around, or not to see someone for a week or two and barely notice. They disappear altogether, and we never get in touch. There is a responsibility on us all to make more effort to get to know the people around us in church, beyond the platitudes "How are you?" "Fine, thank you," which we often settle for.

I BELIEVE that we often fail to recognise what an extraordinary gift friendship is, and how deep and beautiful true friendships can be. We can end up almost being too busy for friends. But to know another person, and to be known by them, outside of the context of romantic love, is a joy and a privilege. Godly friendships encourage and challenge and comfort and stretch us in our walk with God. My close friends have kept me going during this time: they are the people I call first when I'm down or struggling, or when I have something to celebrate.

Inevitably, we are more likely to be friends with people who are like us, and whose situations are more like our own. Families are more likely to befriend other families, because the children can play together, and the parents have things in common to talk about. Single people are more likely to be friends with other single people. We all miss out, however, if we are friends only with people whose lives are like ours. Most of my close friendships are with couples and families. It takes a bit more effort to initiate and maintain friendships which cross circumstances, but everyone benefits when we do so.

NONE of us knows what church will look like in the future. Many are longing for a return to "normal", but we have no idea when, or if, that will be possible. Our church has a reasonably large congregation; so it is likely that we won't be able to worship together in the same place again for quite some time.

Might we see more smaller churches emerge, in homes rather than church buildings? Might we see more "family"-type gatherings develop, in which people of all ages — single, married, with and without children form extended households in which they eat and worship together?

We are considering possibilities for the medium term, such as small groups of ten to 20 gathering in different homes to watch our online services and then to eat together. That looks more like the New Testament model of church than what most of us are used to.

Priorities:

- To see loneliness eradicated as we become better at real community.
- To see more "mixed" friendships, across backgrounds and ages and circumstances.
- Kindness and empathy to blossom as we emerge from lockdown.

Canon Kate Wharton is the Vicar of St Bartholomew's, Roby, in Liverpool diocese, and Assistant National Leader of New Wine. She regularly speaks, writes, and blogs about singleness and other topics.

Link found between demand for PPE and increase in modern slavery

By Rebecca Paveley



SURGES in demand for PPE and other products such as hand-sanitiser as a result of the coronavirus pandemic are likely to have led to an increase in modern slavery, researchers have said.

A paper published in the *Journal of Risk Research*, "Survival at the expense of the weakest: Manging modern slavery risks in supply chains during Covid-19" explores how the shock caused by Covid-19

led businesses to look beyond their usual supply chains and use new suppliers, who had not been checked for links to modern slavery and human trafficking.

This was the case not only with medical equipment, but also with household essentials such as lavatory paper, after a rise in hoarding in the early stages of the pandemic led to shortages in many countries.

The paper by academics from the universities of Sussex, Nottingham, and Kassel, in Germany, said that using new supply routes to meet rapidly changing demands had increased the risks of exploitation and slavery.

The urgent need for PPE, it says, meant that governments prioritised getting equipment rather than carrying out due diligence for modern slavery.

"The need for an urgent extension of their supplier base left buyers without the opportunity for comprehensive modern slavery risk-assessments," the paper said.

"In their haste to respond to economic and supply chain emergencies, governments have also relaxed restrictions designed to limit the risk of modern slavery. Examples include the UK Government, who are allowing labour providers to temporarily provide workforce without the usual gangmasters licence, and the US government, who lifted an import ban on a Malaysian manufacturer of medical gloves accused of using forced labour."

Among the industries cited in the research as being those in which the risk of modern slavery is most likely to have increased are the clothing industry and agriculture.

The agricultural sector is vulnerable, owing to movement restrictions that led to a shortage in the workforce coming from overseas, and because the lacklustre response of UK residents to an appeal to join the workforce of pickers "opened up the prospect for more slave labour, as companies become increasingly desperate not to see their produce rot in the fields".

An estimated 40 million people live in modern slavery; G20 countries alone are estimated to import \$284 billion of products made by slave labour.

The researchers called for further monitoring to see whether the global pandemic had resulted in the neglect of social and environmental concerns in the rush for financial survival, or whether it might operate as a wake-up call for more value-based practices.















One of the authors of the report, Stefan Gold, Professor of Sustainability Management at the University of Kassel, wrote: "Despite this gloomy diagnosis on working conditions and workers' rights, this crisis could also represent a window of opportunity to rethink current supply chain designs and trade relationships.

"Studies conducted after the 2008 financial crisis have shown that strategically formulated social and environmental practices that base on long-term relationships and commitments can significantly increase organisational resilience and better prepare for exceptional states.

"Firms with proactive, value-oriented, and long-term supply-chain management prior to Covid-19 may now prove their superiority compared to arm-length, transactional, and oftentimes myopically economically incentivised approaches."

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED</p>  <p>FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED,</p>  <p>FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS</p>  <p>FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY- THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY</p>  <p>MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN</p>	

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI CartoonChurch.com

What has religion got to do with inflight entertainment?



It's not an obvious connection, is it? But it is just one of the things that is important in my line of business. I work for a company that provides inflight entertainment to many of the world's largest airlines – and several of the smaller ones too.

We liaise with film distributors, TV companies and music labels to license content to entertain passengers while they are flying (at least, once long haul flights restart properly).

While nowadays, most airlines have individual screens for each passenger, and everyone can make their own choice as to what to watch, many airlines warn passengers about any scenes they may find offensive or uncomfortable to watch – it's a bit like the 9pm watershed on television.

We have a team whose specific job it is to watch and listen to all the titles that are going to be licensed by airlines, so no one is taken by surprise when they are watching something. Of course some scenes that could be sensitive are easy to spot, such as violence, nudity, drug taking and bad language. Planes in distress are naturally avoided too, but there is another area that we have to take into consideration – scenes of a cultural or religious nature that could be problematic to some passengers.

Because so many airlines directly represent the values of their country and its culture, it's our task to point out potentially awkward scenes so that the airline can decide if they want to use the programme, or show it with warnings, or not select it at all, even if they also transport passengers for whom the scene would not be as sensitive.

Linking the most sacred symbols and icons of a particular faith with unrelated commercial messages is not acceptable. So our team has to have a wide knowledge of different religions and cultures, and our account managers need to be skilled in presenting those scenes to airlines without causing offence.

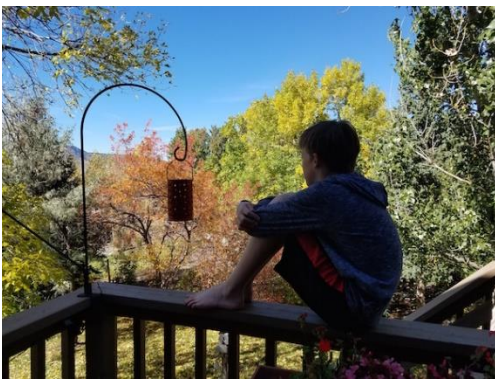
Any programme that persistently mocks any religion, even for comedy purposes, will normally be avoided (an example of this would be Monty Python's Life of Brian), but in my nearly 30 years in inflight entertainment, we have also had to flag:

- Images of an English country church in Murder at the Vicarage
- Breaking of a glass at a Jewish wedding
- Buddhist monks in the background of a comedy movie set in Thailand
- Cookery programmes featuring shellfish, pork or beef
- Films such as Babe or a Private Function which feature a pig

- Scenes showing the soles of feet
- Anyone not of a specific religion wearing clothes strongly associated with it – for instance the wearing of a yarmulke, dog collar or hijab

Underlying all of these is one fundamental question – what part do tolerance and respect of a religion play? **Sue Pinfold**

The Sound Of Silence.



It's an ill wind.....and all that. Many lessons will have been learned during this unprecedented crisis that we are experiencing, not least the wisdom of nurturing and appreciating what we have. Counting our blessings, in other words.

More than ever, it has caused me to appreciate the blessing of quietness, (not necessarily silence.....(which apparently is very hard to find, unless you are in the Sahara desert).)

The Bible is full of references to the still small voice, the silent prayer, being still to listen to the voice of God. I am beginning to understand those references. During this Lockdown, many instances during the day occur when the heart raises up an impromptu prayer of thanksgiving, as if all the day to day trivialities are moved aside and there is a clear line of communication for us to speak to Our Heavenly Father and to listen to Him.

This can be quite hard to do....to be completely quiet. It can take quite an effort, especially if you are upset or anxious about something. I remember trying to teach my children this.....I used to say, make yourself stop speaking and breathe in and out slowly twenty times. Easier said than done sometimes!

When I was teaching I used to encourage the parents to try to teach their children to appreciate being quiet now and again....to settle down with a book, or some craft work, or even talking to their toys! (One of the delights of 'Outnumbered' is the little impromptu play Karen makes up with her dolls and furry animals)

Of course being quiet means different things to different people....some practice complete seclusion, like a medieval anchorite, some like to retreat behind the little barrier that their mobile music player provides. For me it is the Crossword, or my book, or just sitting in the shade enjoying the breeze.

It is reassuring that whatever we prefer, that still small voice is always there for us to listen to.

Frances Gilbert

Tea and Chat after Sunday Service

We would like to invite you to join us for a virtual Tea and Chat after the service on **Sunday 5 July 2020 at 11.15am**. See below on how to join. Any questions please call the Parish Office.



The meeting is hosted by Zoom.

There are 2 ways in which you can join the Tea and Chat session

1. Join via a computer or tablet, for a video style experience (like Skype)

- Download the Zoom app – www.zoom.us
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **835 7203 2294**
- Enter password - **449456**

2. Join via telephone – cost of a local call.

- Dial – 0203 051 2874
- Enter Meeting Id – **835 7203 2294** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
- Password – **449456**

More Tea with The Vicar – Weekday Tea and Chat

Following the success of the Sunday after service tea and chat session where 20 or so join and have a chat over a cup of tea (or something stronger!), we have introduced a further opportunity for people to 'meet up' over a cuppa after the Wednesday service.

We encourage all those who haven't yet joined one of the sessions to do so, and if you have any apprehension in doing so, please call the Parish Office and Denise will guide you through the process – it is quite simple once you've done it once. You only need a telephone to join.

Weekday Tea and Chat will be held on Wednesday's @ 10.30am (Please note change of day). The codes for **Wednesday 8 July** are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

3. Meeting id – **895 4426 0539**
4. Password - **782801**

Canaan Ministries have re-opened, and are following the latest government legislation in relation to the current guidelines on social distancing.

Please note, that due to the size of the shop we will only be able to allow a maximum of three customers in at any one time, and would ask that you limit your visit to a maximum of 15 minutes at a time, and of course ask you NOT to visit, if you are showing any of the symptoms of Covid 19. However, we will be open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm (closing during lunchtime 1pm – 2pm), so there will be plenty of time to see and serve everyone. Free local home delivery is also possible.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support, and we hope, your much needed support in the future.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Choose the UK's most trusted home insurance provider and we'll donate

£130
to your church

Take out a new home insurance policy with us before **31 December 2020**, and we'll donate £130* to a church of your choice through our Trust130 promotion. Find out more at www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130 or call our team on 0800 783 0130 and quote **Trust130**.

* Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.

Easy Fundraising

Raise funds for St Hilda's while shopping online at no extra cost to yourself.

Use easyfundraising.org and choose St Hilda's as your cause and a percentage of your purchase will be paid to us. Over 4000+ retailers including John Lewis, Argos, M & S, Amazon and Aviva.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sthildasashford>

Weekly Newsletter

Please email Denise at office@sthilda.org or Fr Joseph at Vicar@sthilda.org if you have anything to be included in the weekly newsletter.

Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The most recent edition is available on our website.

Sunday Eucharist

The 9.30am Sunday Eucharist can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter.

Please see our website (www.sthilda.org) for updates and the weekly service sheet.

Please hold in your prayers and thoughts this week those who are affected by the Corona Virus as well as the family and friends of those below.

The Sick

James Bedford	Penny Howell	Delphine Scrivener	Rev. Peter Taylor
Pamela Claridge	Libby Mills	Riley Shaw	Chick Wilson
Robb Clarke	Raymond Nation	Anne Shenton	Peter Wilson
Ann Considine	Michael O'Hagan	Elsie Stone	Jo Wood
Michael Dixon	June Prentice	Roy Stone	Nic
Jim Hennessey	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Sandra Swain	Martyn

The Recently Departed

Rev'd Caroline Wareham	Heather Masters	Bernard Biggs	Alex Nare
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Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are the God of peace and love, and we pray that Your perfect peace would fill our hearts and that Your gracious love would surround our family so that we may be united together in love, and one with You.

Bind us together we pray, and may Your joy unite us in sweet fellowship with one another and with You. Give us Your hope in our hearts and bless all who visit this home.

Thank You for providing all that we need according to Your riches in glory, and keep us from holding on too tightly to the material things of this world, knowing that You have prepared a heavenly home for all that are in the family of God.

May Your blessing rest upon us not only today but in the days to come, until You come to take us to be with Yourself, forever. In Jesus' name we pray,

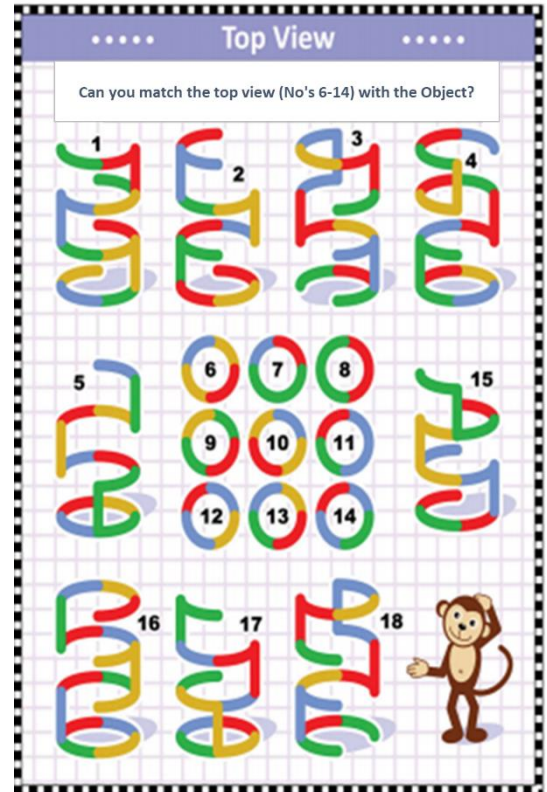
Amen.

Puzzle Page

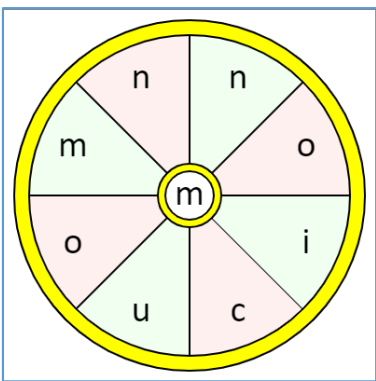
West Country Wordsearch (puzzle created by Terry Rickson)

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

- CORNISH PASTIE
 DARTMOOR
 DEVONSHIRE
 CREAM TEA
 DRAKE
 EXETER
 FLORAL DANCE
 LAND'S END
 PENZANCE
 SALCOMBE
 TOM
 PEARCE



Word Wheel



How many words can you find using the centre letter?
 There is one 9 letter, part of the service.

Riddle
 I am a 5 letter word, remove 4 letters and I'm still pronounced the same.
 What am I?

Answers from last week

Playful Cat – no. 4

Word Wheel
 9 letter word - **Reopening**

Riddle
An Eye

- Seven Little Words**
1. Safe - **Shielded**
 2. Collie with a 1950s TV show - **Lassie**
 3. Without limits - **Absolute**
 4. Misspend - **Squander**
 5. Miami's state - **Florida**
 6. Makes cloth - **Weaves**
 7. Locks away - **Secures**