



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](mailto:office@sthilda.org)
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237.

## Five ways to fight back against fake news

Disinformation is pervasive. Everyone can respond in small ways that make a difference, says *Peter Crumpler*



IT IS easy to decide that we are each powerless in the face of the onslaught of post-truth, fake news, and disinformation. What can I do against the pervasive and often negative impact of social media, the algorithms of big tech serving me up information that confirms my inbuilt biases, or the politicians who

bend facts with slogans that lose sight of the truth?

Each of us has influence within our own circle of friends, family, colleagues, and worshippers at our church and other places of worship. James Ball, author of *Post Truth: How bullshit conquered the world* (Biteback Publishing, 2017), has advice for pushing back against fake news and disinformation. His insights have contributed to this article.

**FIRST, burst your bubble.** I attended a meeting at which a politician with whom I strongly disagreed was speaking. It was being hosted by an organisation that I support. By the end, I still did not support the politician, but I had a greater respect for him and his opinions. Ball writes: “Knowing what people we disagree with actually say and think — rather than the straw men and caricatures we create in our heads — helps us bridge gaps and makes it harder to demonize people whose politics are different from our own.”

In social media, this means following people or organisations with which you disagree, and being ready to engage with what they are saying. It may not change your point of view, but you will understand better the views that they are expressing.

**Second, do not share without thinking.** It is easy simply to share on social media or tell a friend something that you have just read online or in print. But take a few minutes to think over what you have just read or heard. Ask yourself: is this from a reliable news source? Can I check this information on another media platform? Slowing down our responses makes it much less likely that we will share fake news or spread disinformation. If in doubt, then do not spread the story — even if you would like it to be true, because of your world-view.

**Third, do not succumb to conspiratorial thinking.** Christians are not immune to taking an interest in conspiracy theories.

Theories about how the coronavirus pandemic came about were rampant on social media from early 2020. While scientists worked to understand the virus, and to find vaccines and treatments, conspiracy theorists were finding blame and reasons for its spread around the

world. As seekers after truth, Christians should be looking for evidence and robust investigations rather than fabricated ideas that intrigue us.

Fourth, *support independent journalism*. News organisations are under pressure from free material offered on the internet from unreliable sources. If independent journalism is to survive, readers are likely to have to pay an increasing price to support media outlets. The cover price of a newspaper, or an online subscription, can help to ensure that professional journalism survives.

Journalists are under increased pressure from governments around the world. In a lecture given last year in St Bride's, Fleet Street, in central London (known as "the journalists' church"), Dr Courtney Radsch, director of advocacy of the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists, said that individual believers could champion quality journalism by being willing to pay for their news, by refusing to decry reporting with which they disagreed as fake news, and by valuing the part that journalists played in bringing new information to light.

Fifth, *take a stand against disinformation*. The US academic Dr Lee McIntyre writes: "The issue for me is not to learn how to adjust to living in a world in which facts do not matter, but instead to stand up for the notion of truth and learn how to fight back."

In an era of post-truth, Christians are called to challenge every attempt to obfuscate a fact and challenge falsehoods before they are accepted as true. How you take action will depend on your circumstances, and where you see the truth being undermined. It could be in your place of work or education, in the media that you consume, or in the social-media posts that your friends are circulating. Small actions taken in workplaces or friendship groups can have a ripple effect in drawing people back to the truth.

POST-TRUTH, fake news, and disinformation together pose a serious threat to societies around the world. Citizens can feel powerless in the face of their demoralising and demotivating effects. But Christians can play their part in bringing truth and integrity back into the centre of public life.

This might call for concerted action over many years. It will need co-operation from local churches with national structures, and the voice of the Church in Parliament, Whitehall, and in the media.

We will need to work with partners and people of good will across the political spectrum. But, given the negative impact of post-truth on our society, we need to be acting now.

*The Revd Peter Crumpler is the SSM Officer for St Albans archdeaconry, and a former Director of Communications at Church House, Westminster.*

*This is an edited extract from his new Grove Books booklet, Responding to Post-truth (E197). It is available from [the Church Times Bookshop](http://the Church Times Bookshop) for £3.95. [grovebooks.co.uk](http://grovebooks.co.uk)*

## Westminster Abbey set to lose £12m due to coronavirus



Coronavirus has dealt a "shattering blow" to Westminster Abbey's finances, the church's dean has said.

The abbey is set to lose £12 million in revenue this year and possibly next year and could make some of its staff redundant as a result of the lockdown.

It closed on March 20, causing a loss of entrance fees which make up more than 90% of its income, according to Dr David Hoyle, the Dean of Westminster Abbey.

Dr Hoyle told the BBC: "I've been hearing pretty routinely from volunteers, from members of staff, just about a savage sense of loss, there's been a church here for over a thousand years and we're not used to being shut.

"So that's been dislocating and then, of course, a few weeks into this we began to measure out just what was going to happen to us financially and that's been a pretty shattering blow."

He said it usually costs more than £27 million to run the abbey each year.

Music has been suspended since March and initial plans for singing to return in August are "unlikely".

The abbey will also stop regular Sunday services at St Margaret's, a nearby church in Parliament Square, and its professional choir will be disbanded.

Dr Hoyle added: "I arrived here in November, a bit daunted and full of excitement, you fall in love with this place, frankly, pretty well instantly.

"I'd spent four months getting to know my colleagues but now I'm having to say to people it's not just your livelihood we might be taking away, because we may have to make you redundant, but actually you live and breathe the abbey.

"You don't just come to work, you love this place and you love talking about it, that's dreadful."

Westminster Abbey is now open for services and visits but numbers are limited due to social distancing measures.

It is classed as a Royal Peculiar and is owned directly by the monarch, meaning it cannot receive funding from the Church Commissioners.

The abbey has hosted the coronations of English and British monarchs since William the Conqueror in 1066.

The wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge was held in the abbey in April 2011.

It was also the venue for the funeral service for William's mother Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997.

A Buckingham Palace spokesperson declined to comment when asked if the Queen would provide emergency funds to the abbey.

Lord we pray that you will be with those who run Westminster Abbey during this incredibly difficult time.

God, we pray that you lift their spirit and give them peace and that passes all understanding. Please provide financially for the abbey and for all churches who are struggling with money due to the coronavirus lockdown.

Amen.

## Chris Davenport

I am pleased to be able to say that Chris is back home, after her very successful aorta valve replacement operation. Chris just needs time and rest now to get her strength back and fully recover. Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts and best wishes. They are much appreciated.

Mike.

## Confessions of a telly addict

For many years, or probably decades now I think about it, I have often thought how wonderful it would be if everything would just stop for a few months, so I could catch up with all the things that never quite seem to come to the top of the "to do" list: Sorting out stacks of ancient paperwork; going through the contents of the boxes of stuff that accumulate over the years - both my own and those brought from other places (mostly the homes of deceased relations which you always promise yourself you'll sort out when you get them home and then don't); getting to grips with various good works in the garden. And so on.

And then, quite out of the blue, it happens. Disease strikes. And life is put on hold. So one starts off with the best of intentions, convinced that after the twelve weeks we were promised when lockdown kicked in, all will be restored to perfect order, ready to pick up where we left off, but organised and clutter-free at last.

Sadly it's not quite worked out like that. I have done quite a bit in the garden, but as is the nature of gardens, much of it now needs doing again. And I have done some sorting out and filled the recycling bin several times over with stacks of shredded documents, old magazines, twenty year old holiday brochures, handfuls of ancient utility bills and the like. But I haven't

got nearly as far as I hoped and expected and, at present rate of progress, even if lockdown lasted another twelve months, I don't think I'd get to the end. Disappointing.

In marked contrast to those things I should have spent more time on, are two things I have spent far, far too much time on over the past weeks.

Firstly, sleeping. I have become a master at it, able to sleep well in to the morning and nod off at the slightest excuse at almost any time. When sleeping becomes an Olympic event, I reckon I'm a serious contender for the national team.

Secondly, I have become a serious telly addict. I've always watched quite a bit. I find it a good way to relax and clear one's mind after meetings, rehearsals, socialising or whatever activity has occupied the evening. So I'm no stranger to an hour or two's indulgence before bedtime. But in the absence of all those evening activities, I've found myself sitting in front of the proverbial haunted fish tank for many more hours and as I live on my own, there's nobody to argue with about what to watch.

So what have I been watching? Some stuff that's current, some that was recorded many months ago, awaiting just such an opportunity. Let's start with detective dramas, which have been an almost nightly feast. "Endeavour" and "Lewis" are amongst the very best. Both spin-offs, of course, from the original "Inspector Morse" series, episodes of which have also appeared in recent weeks.



Then there's the excellent "Inspector Montalbano" and its own spin-off, "The Young Montalbano", all in Italian with subtitles and set in Sicily, where the architecture and scenery star as much as the stories. So taken by Montalbano am I that pre-lockdown, there was serious talk with friends of arranging an autumn holiday to Sicily to visit key series locations and check out the scenery for ourselves. Maybe next year. I believe that all thirty-something episodes of

"Montalbano" are presently available on BBC iplayer. Highly recommended, though those of a sensitive disposition should be aware that, in some episodes, there's a bit of strong language and occasionally, seriously gritty subject matter. Another gem is Foyle's War, principally set, for any of you who haven't encountered it, in and around Hastings during World War Two. The last few weeks have seen another series of feature-length dramas "The Inspector Alleyn Mysteries", based on the books of Ngaio Marsh, and made in the 90's, appear on our screens. Set in the late forties, I'd never heard of it before, but it's very good watching.

What else?

End of Part 1 (Tune in next week for Part 2)

Steve Smith July 2020

## **The Purpose of Life by © Carolyn Clark 2020**

Does every life have a purpose;  
An objective,  
A function,  
A wish?

Memorable, history making;  
Like my mother's,  
Intensive,  
In depth.

Constructed in perpetuity;  
Concrete fabrics,  
For hist'ry,  
Always.

Compare;  
Our lives' mix,  
Her place secure,  
My life does not duplicate.

Matchless, disparate  
these two lives,  
Like chalk and cheese,  
oil and water don't mix.

The humdrum of the everyday, a home that's cleaned and tidied,  
A family secure and actions routine and familiar.  
The ordinariness of a million, trillion souls.  
What will be the memory left behind?  
A breeze that blows,  
Through every gap and crevice with the fragrance of summer  
Stimulating the edge of consciousness  
Yet never quite within grasp.

The life lived leaves an imprint, a hollow,  
Where something substantial once walked.  
Yet with each generation that passes  
the edges more indistinct grow,  
Till fainter and fainter the trail becomes;  
prints of life are obscured by fresh snow.

## 'Big Conversation' launched on clergy care and wellbeing

Churches and clergy across the country are being invited to take part in discussion about a new partnership aimed at improving the care and wellbeing of ministers, in a 'Big Conversation' launched today.

New resources to help debate and consideration of the *Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing* are being provided after the Covenant was given overwhelming backing by the General Synod earlier this year.



The Covenant commits all parts of the Church, as well as individual clergy, to sharing responsibility for the welfare of ministers and their households. Over the next two years, the General Synod has asked the whole church to reflect on the questions posed in the Big Conversation.

A set of three documents published today gives details of the principles of the Covenant, shared commitments for the Church and questions for consideration by congregations, clergy, dioceses and the wider church.

The General Synod has already backed recommendations from the Working Group that drew up the Covenant.

These include promoting awareness of stress and the dangers of burnout as part of training for ordained ministry and new resources for licensing and induction services, highlighting the care and wellbeing of clergy. The Group also recommended the promotion of access to pastoral supervision for clergy through coaching, consultancy or mentoring.

Members further recommended that Parish Profiles – the description of a parish and its mission - and role descriptions for clergy undergo regular reviews to ensure they are realistic and that ministers have a clear idea of the role they are being asked to undertake.

Revd Canon Simon Butler, who headed the Working Group, said: "We hope by publishing these documents for reflection and action on the Covenant that we can help encourage debate across the church on our shared responsibility for the well-being of ministers and their households.

"The care and wellbeing of the clergy is crucial to the health of the Church at worship, in mission, and in pastoral care. Recent experience of the Covid-19 pandemic has served to underline the need for those who care to be properly supported and given the opportunity to attend to their own wellbeing while in the midst of both crisis and everyday ministry.

“Our vision is that the work of supporting clergy in their ministry will become an integral part of the life of the Church and part of the DNA of every aspect of our mission and ministry.”

The discussion documents have been released as the National Ministry Team of the Church of England plans to publish further resources later this year to help inform the conversations about the Covenant. The material will be drawn from the 10-year Living Ministry research programme led by the Ministry Team.

### **Notes to editors**

The Covenant was declared an Act of Synod in February by the General Synod, paving the way for it to be declared an Act of Synod in each of the Church of England's 42 dioceses.

A Clergy Care and Wellbeing Facilitation Group has been set up to encourage the sharing of good practice on clergy care and wellbeing.

## **Church supports young people's mental health at schools and places of worship during lockdown**

Children and young peoples' mental health has been supported by a ground-breaking, large-scale project from the Diocese of Manchester.



The first of its kind, the mental health support scheme has been running for two years across the diocese which takes in both the urban centres of Manchester and the rural regions outside of the city.

Amy Sixsmith, who joined the Diocese in February 2018 as a Mental Wellbeing Youth Worker has been providing mental health support, training and resources throughout the Covid-19 lockdown.



Previously the two-day courses were offered in person to teachers, clergy, youth leaders, and occasional face-to-face work with pupils across the 190 Church of England schools in the diocese. Currently, half day online training courses have been offered.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown resources for coping with bereavement and loss were developed by the diocese.

Susie Mapledoram, the Diocesan Youth Officer, said: "Children and young people are aware of the news and the impact of coronavirus and need space and time to process it like all of us.

"We need to make space to listen to children and young people and understand the pandemic's impact on them."

Now, Amy and Susie are developing resource packs to support schools and clergy as lockdown begins to ease.

While no one knows what the impact of lockdown on children and young people's mental health, Amy is preparing.

"Mental health is massively on teachers' and parents' radar, particularly during this stage of the pandemic and we're seeing it a lot in the media," she said. "Schools are making this their absolute priority."

"As much as schools know education and catching up is important, many actually need to work on staff and pupils' well-being as their priority."

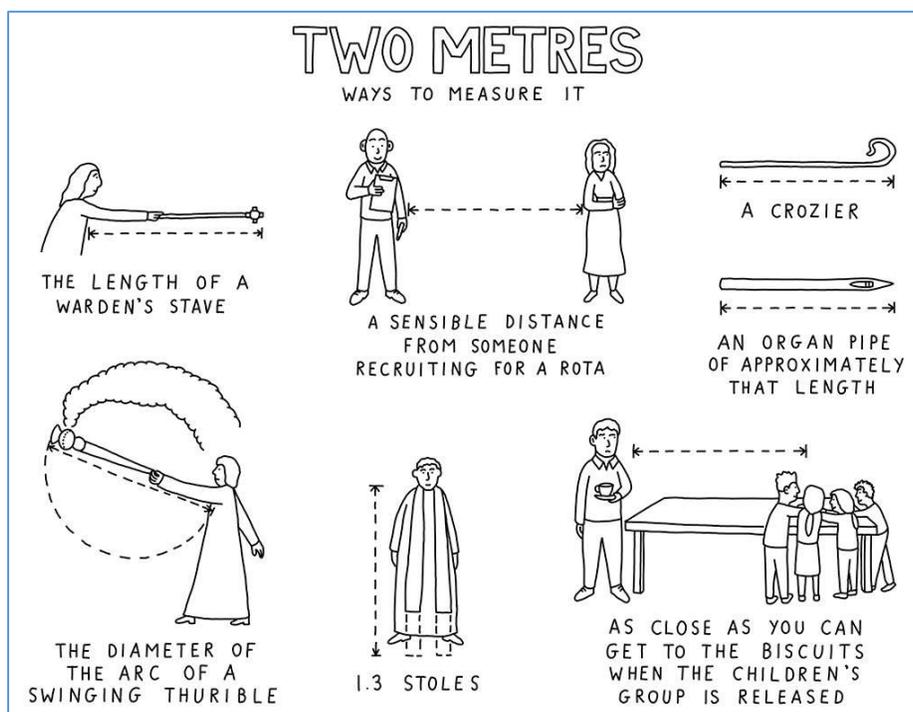


Following Department for Education guidance around mental health support for next term, the Diocese of Manchester is hoping to issue its own resource pack to coincide with the September return of schools.

Susie added that for Church schools mental health awareness is key: "Faith is weaved into our well-being."

"Faith has been really affected by Covid. Some have been strengthened and some have really taken a knock."

"Well-being focus for the first term is so important."



## 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 2 August 2020 at 11.15am**. See below on how to join. Any queries 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](http://www.zoom.us)
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **968 2933 3054**
- Enter password - **143716**

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

- Dial – 0203 051 2874
- Enter Meeting Id – **968 2933 3054** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
- Password – **143716**

## More Tea with The Vicar – Weekday Tea and Chat

The second of the weekly Tea and chat sessions where you are able to ‘meet up’ over a cuppa. In this weekly session, we have introduced a topic for discussion – this week’s topic is **‘a song or piece of music that brings back a special memory’**.

If you haven’t yet joined one of these sessions – give it a try, you can connect either on-line or via the telephone, we would like to see or hear as many of you as possible and encourage you to join us. 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.

This week the Tea and Chat will be held on **Tuesday 4 August @ 10.30am**

The codes are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id – **957 0454 5021**
- Password - **880739**

**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.

## Deuteronomy 15:11

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land"

## Easy Fundraising

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

Use [easyfundraising.org](https://www.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>

## Electoral Roll

If you consider St Hilda's to be your regular place of worship, why not complete an application for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll. Forms are available from the Parish Office.

## Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at [crossroads\\_ashford@hotmail.com](mailto:crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com) if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The July/August edition is now available on our website.

## This weeks services

### Sunday Eucharist – 2 August @ 9.30am

This service can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter for those of you who are unable to attend in person

### Wednesday Eucharist – 5 August – there is no service as Fr Joseph is on annual leave

To attend either service please book a ticket on Eventbrite (link on the website), or call the Parish Office.

Please see our website ([www.sthilda.org](http://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	Jim Hennessey	Delphine Scrivener	Shirley Warrender
Pamela Claridge	Libby Mills	Riley Shaw	Chick Wilson
Robb Clarke	Raymond Nation	Anne Shenton	Peter Wilson
Rebecca Cohen	Michael O'Hagan	Elsie Stone	Jo Wood
Ann Considine	June Prentice	Roy Stone	Nic
Chris Davenport	John Radford	Sandra Swain	Martyn
Michael Dixon	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Rev. Peter Taylor	

**The Recently Departed**

**Those being Baptised**

R J Lauder

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus:

I give you my hands to do your work

I give you my feet to go your way

I give you my eyes to see as you do

I give you my tongue to speak your words

I give you my mind that you may think in me

I give you my spirit that you may pray in me

Above all:

I give you my heart that you may love in me,  
Your Father and all mankind.

I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,  
So that it is you, Lord Jesus,  
who live and work and pray in me.

Amen

## Puzzle Page

### Feathered Friends Wordsearch

(puzzle created by Terry Rickson)

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

- BARN OWL
- CHAFFINCH
- GOLDFINCH
- KINGFISHER
- RAVEN
- ROBIN
- ROOK
- SNIPE
- SWALLOW
- SWIFT
- THRUSH
- WREN

### Seven Little Words

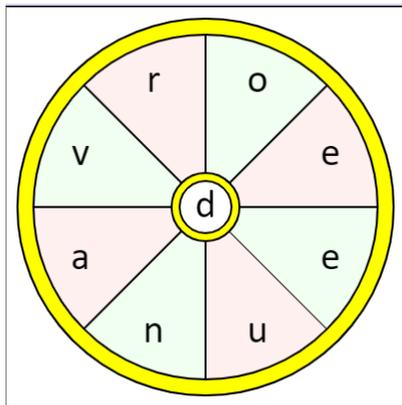
Find the seven words to match the clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can only be used once, all letter combinations are required to complete the puzzle.

#### CLUES

- Produce goods by machinery (11)
- Dawdler (9)
- Hard to understand (8)
- Scared (7)
- Without attracting attention (10)
- Had a little taste of (7)
- Irish-born actor Brosnan (6)

SAM	WCO	MANU	LING	TURE
SLO	RV	ACH	RF	OBSE
BAFF	PL	UL	FAC	PIE
ED	RCE	ED	UN	FEA

### Word Wheel



How many words can you find using the centre letter?  
There is one 9 letter word, one of Steve's favourite drama's on page 6.

**Riddle**  
I travel around the world whilst staying in the corner,  
What am I?

### Answers from last week

**Wordsnake**  
BEANS, ARABICA, MILK, CAKE, LATTE, DECAFFEINATED, CAPPUCCINO, PERCOLATOR, BLACK, CAFETIERE, COOKIE, SHOT, HOT, ICED, STEAM, MACCHIATO, ROAST, BREW, STIMULANT

**Riddle**  
I'm 40, and my son is 10

**Word Wheel**  
9 letter word – Diversity

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