

# St Hilda's News



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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

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www.sthilda.org

## Households can 'bubble' for Christmas services

Archbishop urges people to go to church, saying it is 'one of the safest places to be'

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has urged people to go to church and pray this Christmas, saying that church is "one of the safest places to be". He was speaking on Tuesday after the Government announced that small groups from up to three households would be able to worship together at Christmas if they form an exclusive "bubble".



The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, said that the Government had reached an agreement with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to allow a relaxation of the coronavirus rules for five days over Christmas, from 23 to 27 December. "All the governments agreed that we should balance the need to protect public health, while also allowing people to be with their loved ones."

Archbishop Welby later told BBC's *Newsnight* that families would have to consider both the safety of relatives vulnerable to the virus, and the benefit of "a sense of belonging" that "tackles the really dangerous epidemic of isolation, of poor mental health which is also very, very serious".

Ultimately, he said, "If you really love people, you will see them in a way that is safe, and it is possible."

Each household can form a Christmas bubble with two other households, meeting indoors, outdoors, or in places of worship (but not in pubs, restaurants, or entertainment venues). This should be the total amount of close mingling over the five days, officials say.

The new relaxation sets churches a welcome but difficult task, as they will have to manage services over the five days with the prospect of larger groups of congregants than before, while continuing to ensure that social distancing between groups and individuals is enforced.

Archbishop Welby said: "I will certainly be in church. That's one of the safest places to be at the moment, and that will be permitted from the end of lockdown, though there will be very few people there. And we will wait a bit closer to Christmas to make a final decision, but at the moment the plan is that a few of us gather, that we are not too close to each other, we care for each other, we look after each other."

The news came one day after the publication of the Government's Covid-19 Winter Plan, which confirmed that churches can reopen for public worship when the lockdown ends on 2 December.

Speaking in the House of Commons on Monday afternoon, the Prime Minister announced a harsher tier system to replace the lockdown. More areas are to be placed in the higher tiers, with more exacting restrictions.

The Covid-19 Winter Plan allows places of worship to open for congregations in all tiers. In Tier 1, the rules say: "Open, but cannot interact with more than six people." For Tiers 2 and 3, the rules are identical: "Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble."

One significant difference relates to weddings. Under the Winter Plan, weddings are permitted again in all tiers. This time, the 15-person limit at a wedding relates to guests. Previously it has included the couple and the officiant. The permitted number at funerals remains at 30 in all tiers. Wedding receptions and wakes are permitted in Tiers 1 and 2, with the same limit on numbers. They are banned in Tier 3.

The Winter Plan states: "The Government . . . recognises the significant sacrifices that people of all faiths have made this year; restrictions have been in place over a number of religious celebrations and observances, and it is thanks to these sacrifices that it has been possible to control the virus. Communal worship will be possible for all faiths in all three tiers, and faith leaders continue to play a key role, consulting on how to make religious practice as safe as possible."

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, who chairs the C of E's Recovery Group, said on Monday: "We are encouraged by the confirmation that places of worship will soon be able to reopen for public worship in all tiers and in all parts of the country.

"Churches and cathedrals can now approach Advent and Christmas with more certainty; a time when we know many people will look forward to attending services celebrating the birth of Jesus. We await more detailed guidance and will update our own advice once this is published."

The Government has warned that these relaxations are not risk-free. "Even where it is within the rules, meeting with friends and family over Christmas will be a personal judgement for individuals to take, mindful of the risks to themselves and others, particularly those who are vulnerable." The public is advised to remain cautious, "and that wherever possible people should avoid travelling and minimise social contact".

By way of mitigation, rapid testing — currently being trialled in Liverpool — is to be introduced more widely; and shops and gyms in all areas will be permitted to open, although pubs and restaurants will be allowed to operate only a takeaway service in Tier 3 regions. Theatres can open with limited capacity in Tiers 1 and 2, but must close in Tier 3. The efficiency of the new tests held out hope for closer contact, Mr Johnson said.

The Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, told ITV on Tuesday that the new rules were "encouraging" but more encouraging was that a vaccine was on its way. "The danger is that we have to patient for a few months more until that's rolled out and we still have to continue to be very careful and observing as best we can the restrictions that we have learnt to live with.

"It is good news, because worship is at the heart of who we are and as we approach this Christmas season, we know that many people will want to join in our services; for many that will be online but there will be things happening in church."

This week, Oxford University announced on Monday that initial trials of its two-dose vaccine had proved it to be more than 70 per cent effective; up to 90 per cent in some cases. Three other vaccines from Germany, the United States, and Russia have already shown positive results, prompting cathedrals to offer their spaces for distribution.

Oxford has partnered with AstraZeneca to distribute the vaccine "on a not-for-profit basis for the duration of the pandemic across the world, and in perpetuity to low- and middle-income countries".

The Bishop of Oxford, Dr Steven Croft, said on Wednesday: "So many people and skills have come together to create the Oxford vaccine: a world-class research university with massively talented people working together; the skill to manage every stage of the process, including international clinical trials; superb leadership which saw the need and responded with urgency; and a humanitarian concern for the whole world which looked for ways to release the vaccine at cost to those who stand most in need.

"News of the Oxford vaccine brings great comfort and hope for the UK and our interconnected world. At a time when the UK commitment to aid spending is under threat, the vaccine works for developing countries and is priced at or below cost. It is indeed a vaccine for the world. It is also an expression of love. And, without that, nothing else matters".

## Welby urges MPs to reject 'shameful' cut in UK aid budget

THE decision to cut UK aid spending is "shameful and wrong", the Archbishop of Canterbury has said. He urged MPs to vote against it when the proposal comes before Parliament.

The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, announced during his Spending Review in the House of Commons on Wednesday that the UK would temporarily reduce the amount that it spends on overseas aid from 0.7 per cent of the country's gross national income (GNI) to 0.5 per cent.

Mr Sunak said: "During a domestic fiscal emergency, when we need to prioritise our limited resources on



Refugees from the fighting in Tigray at the al-Fashqa refugee camp, eastern Kassala state, Sudan, last week

jobs and public services, sticking rigidly to spending 0.7 per cent of our national income on overseas aid is difficult to justify to the British people, especially when we're seeing the highest peace-time levels of borrowing on record.

"I have listened with great respect to those who have argued passionately to retain this target, but, at a time of unprecedented crisis, the Government must make tough choices. I want to reassure the House that we will continue to protect the world's poorest, spending

the equivalent of 0.5 per cent of our national income on overseas aid in 2021, allocating £10 billion at this spending review."

He went on to say that the Government intended to return to 0.7 per cent "when the fiscal situation allows". He referred to OECD data which, he said, showed that the UK would "remain the second-highest aid donor in the G7, higher than France, Italy, Japan, Canada, and the United States. And 0.5 per cent is also considerably more than the 29 countries on the OECD's development assistance committee, who average just 0.38 per cent."

Mr Sunak said that defence spending would rise to more than £24 billion, which the Treasury said would be "the biggest sustained increase in 30 years".

Shortly after the Spending Review, Archbishop Welby posted on Twitter: "The cut in the aid budget — made worse by no set date for restoration — is shameful and wrong. It's contrary to numerous Government promises and its manifesto. I join others in urging MPs to reject it for the good of the poorest, and the UK's own reputation and interest."

The Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, posted on Twitter: "Today's announcement to cut the aid budget is the wrong decision at the wrong time. Not only does it break promises we have made, it undermines that fundamental interconnectedness we have as a global community. We may make a financial saving. But we are all poorer as a result."

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, said after the announcement that even a temporary cut was "a major moral failure".

The Bishop of Oxford, Dr Steven Croft, said: "This action undermines reassurances given previously by Ministers on the floor of the House of Lords to honour the 0.7 per cent of GDP commitment. There is no assurance of when 0.7 per cent will be restored.

The Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, posted on Twitter that she had been given assurances "by the relevant Minister in the [House of Lords] . . . that this would not happen". "Of course our economy has suffered. Other nations have suffered even more. Please, of your mercy write to your MP with your concern."

Christian Aid's director of public affairs and campaigns, Patrick Watt, said after the Chancellor's announcement: "Cutting the aid budget during a global pandemic is like closing fire stations during a heatwave. These are tough times and the Government has tough decisions to make, but balancing the books on the backs of the poor isn't the way to do it.

"The people of this country have a proud tradition of never turning a blind eye to those in need around the world. As the Government prepares to host world leaders at next year's critical G7 and COP26 climate summits, it now has a moral duty to put inequality and injustice in the world's poorest countries at the heart of its agenda."

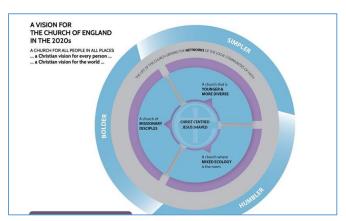
The decision to cut overseas aid comes after a week of intense pressure from NGOs, charities, political figures, and religious leaders, prompted by rumours that first surfaced last week.

At the end of last week, 185 organisations — including Christian Aid, Save the Children, and Friends of the Earth — signed an open letter, which said that any cut in the £15-billion UK aid spend would be "a significant threat" to development, and could "seriously jeopardise" the UK's long-term global anti-Covid-19 efforts.

On Monday, the General Synod inserted a last-minute clause into its coronavirus resolution, calling for the aid budget to be preserved.

## 'Simplicity, humility, and boldness': Archbishop of York outlines ten-year plan for the C of E

Vision and Strategy is not latest widgety managerial targets, Cottrell tells Synod



"IT'S not a great headline, is it: 'Archbishop says Church must follow Christ,'" the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, acknowledged on Tuesday.

He was speaking in an online interview after calling on the Church of England to be simpler, humbler, bolder, and more diverse. The key performance indicator of the emerging Vision and Strategy initiative would be "the number of feet we wash, not the numbers attending

our services, though we hope by faith both will grow", he told the General Synod.

A simple diagram outlined in Vision and Strategy characterised an approach in which there was "no working party, no committee — rather, a large, consultative, and iterative process of thousands of people, and engaging younger and more diverse voices". Bishops and diocesan secretaries had shared the vision that they believed God had laid on them, based on the text, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5.17).

It was about moving from a task-centred to a Christ-centred approach, at a time when the world was faced with the great challenge of Covid-19. The priorities — being missional disciples, being a place where a mixed ecology would grow, and being a younger and more diverse Church — were not intended to be "the latest set of witty managerial targets", but a call to be witnesses and ambassadors.

And, while the new communities of faith established online should not be forgotten, the most vibrant and creative new expressions arose out of "healthy, flourishing parish ministries", he said. "We will see God raise up new forms of church and community life."

Archbishop Cottrell acknowledged the "prevalent whiteness" of the Church of England, and described diversity as "a biblical imperative: the means by which we will best be able to evangelise our nation. . . By making it a priority, we believe we can become a more diverse Church to serve this nation."

All three priorities needed to be held together in unity in all expressions of church life, and any vision and strategy was only as good as what it did in shaping the mission and priority of the local church, he said. "This is the Church of England in all its glorious, every-inch-of-the-map-covered diversity."

The need to be humbler meant that the Church was having to face its failures.

"The IICSA report has held up a shameful mirror to the Church of England. We need to change our culture." Nor was the Church of England "the only Christian show in town".

He continued: "I want the Church of England to be a Church for all people in all places. I don't know how God will bless these ideas, or how you are going to respond to them, but they are simplicity, humility, and boldness. I offer them to you. This is the simple message I think God might be calling us to be. Things change and happen when we are rooted in Christ."

There was deliberately, at this stage, no concrete plan: the Synod would debate this formally in February. "It's not that we don't have to face up to difficult decisions about resource and deployment and balancing the books: these are huge challenges facing us," he said. "This morning was about asking much deeper questions about what it means to be the Church of Jesus Christ; what it means to be the Church of England: who are we, and what are the big strategic questions that we face?"

The Archbishop said that he was not fearful for the survival of the Church. "It is the body of Christ and the people of God. But the way of being Church is going to have to change. The great danger is that we see ourselves as custodians of an institution: if we do, we are bound to fail.

"If we can recall ourselves to the central vocation of being the followers of Jesus Christ, that is the highest doctrine of the Church: to be the men and women who have been so impacted by Christ that we formed these communities of faith. The C of E is a large, complicated community of faith, but we just need to keep remembering that's what we are."

He reflected: "We are too easily drawn to the institutional-survival resource questions, which, of course, the Church cares about. But I think we're more likely to find the right answers if we keep remembering our primary call.

He hoped that Vision and Strategy would begin to change the culture by "developing a different sort of narrative: a non-anxious, hopeful, Christ-centred narrative. Of course, we will have to make some difficult decisions about resourcing; we will have to balance the books. But I believe bishops are primarily called to be pastors and evangelists, teachers of the Christian faith. And that's what I intend to be."

He had heard "energy and hopefulness" from the 150 young people who had taken part in informal consultations. He acknowledged diversity to be "something the Church struggles with, and, though it's not a new thing, I heard it with prophetic clarity from the voices of a younger and more diverse generation".

## **Love Christmas**

Churches of all denominations, in London and around the country, are linking up to show how Christians are spreading the power of love, hope and kindness this Christmas.

Love Christmas aims to share a million Christmas gifts – boxes of love, or bags of blessing – to people in our local



communities. Churches are giving gifts to the most vulnerable and isolated, letting them know we stand with them and for them during this difficult season.

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5.16



"Love Christmas will help support churches to deliver a practical message of hope and kindness this Christmas. It is an initiative which will help people struggling in the midst of the pandemic over winter to encounter the love of God in Christ to which I am pleased to give my personal support. It is a wonderful ambition to see a million Christmas Boxes sponsored and delivered to the most vulnerable and isolated. Churches of many denominations are coming together to show the world that, however bleak the circumstances, the Church is on hand to help one another overcome the

challenges we face. Love Christmas will play an important part in our spreading *Comfort* and *Joy* this year."

Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London

The Salvation Army are participating, see here how you can support/ contribute.



## Street Angels celebrates its 15th Birthday

It's 15 years since Street Angels launched on the streets of Halifax in response to issues with the night-time economy.

Founded by Christians Paul and Jean Blakey, the couple decided to help the town shed its image as the 'Wild West of West Yorkshire' and opened a safe-place drop in at cafe owned by Churches Together and the YMCA.

Opening night was Friday 25th November 2005 and 50 volunteers turned up. With too many to help in the cafe, the volunteers took to the streets and Street Angels was born.



Paul told Premier how it all began:

"I thought: 'is there anything that we as a local church can do just to help those who are vulnerable, or those who may become vulnerable?' So, talking to the police and The Churches Together, who have this wonderful cafe facility in the heart of the town centre, it went from literally an idea to launch in just over two weeks.

"The police wanted a fresh new approach to the town centre on a Friday, Saturday night, when in Halifax between eight and 10,000 people can descend on the town. So we thought let's give something ago, a group of us committed to keeping that cafe open as a safe place. And amazingly, on the first evening, 50 people turned up to volunteer to work. It's been a fantastic roller coaster."

Paul and Jean Blakey's idea was almost an overnight success when it came to addressing problems in the town.

"I think it helped in the first 12 months in Halifax Town Centre. Violent crime, which normally goes up on a Friday and Saturday night was reduced by 42 per cent. And the police very publicly, locally as well as nationally, put that down to the fact that the church was out doing Street Angels on weekend evenings at a time when it was very much needed,".

Fifteen years on, teams of Street Angels continue to offer help - armed with first aid kits, flip-flops and lollipops and are seen on streets right across the country.

Paul Blakey MBE went on to form Christian Nightlife Initiatives, an umbrella organisation for around 130 projects.

"We've expanded from just working within the night-time economy to doing things like festival angels. And we had last year a team of festival angels at 16 music festivals across the UK, as well as supporting initiatives abroad.

"We've had community angels, and they've responded amazingly during these last few months of lockdown, community angels are dealing with some of the most vulnerable, perhaps elderly people within communities.

"So, they've really stepped up to the mark and lots of our Street Angel teams have become community angels and offered telephone helplines and prayer and counselling and support and lots of different ways of responding to our current situation."

As for the future there are plans to continue expanding overseas. Street Angels already operate in Magaluf and have links in Tenerife and to the Seychelles Night Pastors.

"We've got a team in Wilmington, North Carolina, and so, very much that the fact that it works so amazingly well in the UK, and we can export that and expand into other countries was on our heart.

"We're so thankful to the amazing teams of volunteers that go out week in week out, when they can of course, and they've made a massive difference in local communities by helping reduce crime, helping reduce antisocial behaviour, and showcasing the church as a real agent of change."

#### Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the work of Street Angels and for Paul and Jean Blakey who came up with the idea 15 years ago.

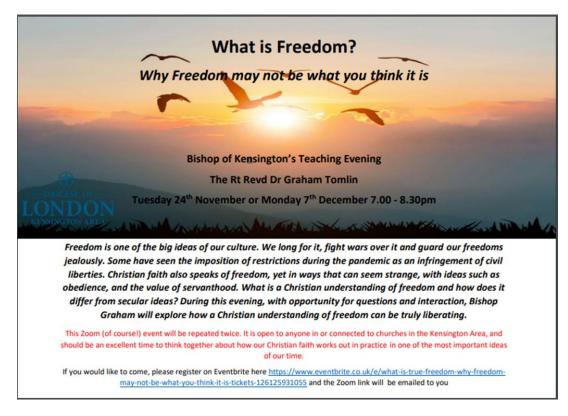
We thank you for the help given by volunteers in the network over that time. May it continue to go from strength to strength.

Bless the community angels at this time as they seek to help people during the pandemic.

Amen



### St Hilda's Parish News



We attended the first session earlier this week, I know several of you also attended and we hope you agree that it was very thought provoking which led onto a very insightful Q&A session.

We strongly recommend that if you are able to, to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> session on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

## Ashford Christmas Craft Trail - Sunday 6th December

It's with regret due to the current climate, the organisers have cancelled the event.

If anyone has already baked cakes for this event, would you please consider donating these to The Salvation Army (see below section).

## An Advent journey to Christmas - Friday 11th December @ 5.30pm



#### **Salvation Army Foodbank Appeal**

In place of the Christmas Hamper raffle that we ran over the last couple of years, we will be supporting the mission of The Salvation Army with both their foodbank appeal as well as their Christmas Day afternoon tea delivery.

Below is a list of the items that they are most in need at the moment.

Tinned meats Tea and Coffee UHT Milk Cereal

Tuna
 Christmassy chocolate bars

Toilet roll

#### **Remembrance Lilies**

With Christmas festivities around the corner we have unfortunately come to the decision that we will not be displaying remembrance lilies. We appreciate that this will be of great disappointment to the many of you who have purchased lilies in memory of loved ones. We will roll this over to next Easter, if however, you would like a refund, then please contact the parish office and we arrange for monies to be returned. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Remembrance art installation, we are planning to keep the display up until the end of the year, so that everyone can get to see this magnificent work of art in person.

#### Christmas services – help required

Over the festive period, there will be a number of services held in the church often on consecutive days, and to ensure we maintain our high standard of being covid safe, there is a need for a 'clean' after each service (this will involve wiping touch points and chairs). If you are able to spend 15-20 minutes after any of the services to help out with this, please let Denise know.

In next weeks St Hilda's News, we will publish all the dates for the services planned, booking for each will be required and is open from 1<sup>st</sup> December – links via the website, Facebook or call the parish office.

If you have any Parish News you would like to share, then please send them into the Parish Office.

## **Tea and Chat after Sunday Service**

With new lockdown in place, this is a great opportunity for you to have a cup of favourite brew whilst have a chat amongst the St Hilda's Community.

We would like to invite you to join us for a virtual Tea and Chat after the service on **Sunday 29**<sup>th</sup> **November 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 <u>www.zoom.us</u>
- Click Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id 930 9318 5687
- Enter password 028649
- 2. Join via telephone cost of a local call.
  - Dial 0203 051 2874

## More Tea ... - Weekday Tea and Chat

The second of the weekly Tea and chat sessions where you are able to 'meet up' over a cuppa.

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 1**<sup>st</sup> **December @ 10.30am** The codes are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id 939 1572 8896
- Password 595675

**Canaan Ministries** will fully re-open (with normal shop hours) again on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. HOWEVER, if you are unable to get into the shop, they are able to deliver anything you require. Just simply phone or email them and they will look after you.

They sell a vast and diverse number of products; it is difficult to keep everything they sell on their website.

They would like to thank you all for your much-needed continued support.

In addition, please join the (Canaan) Facebook group, as it will be the best way for them to keep everyone up to date in this fast-changing situation that we find ourselves in! Any other information can be found on their website <a href="https://www.canaanchristianministries.co.uk/">www.canaanchristianministries.co.uk/</a>

#### Isaiah 28 v 16

therefore thus says the
Lord God,
See, I am laying in Zion a
foundation stone,
a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, a
sure foundation:
"One who trusts will not
panic."

#### Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at <u>crossroads ashford@hotmail.com</u> if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The November edition is now available on our website.

#### This weeks services

## Sunday Eucharist – 29th November @ 9.30am

This service can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter.

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

The Church will be open for private prayer between 9.30 – 12.00

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

## Vacancy – St Hilda's

We have 2 vacancies for cleaners on a job share basis for the Church Hall,

the requirement will be 2 hours per day 7 days a week.

The hours will be either early mornings or late evening.

References will be required

If interested please contact the Parish Office.

## 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	Eileen Gilbert	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Chick Wilson
Michael Browne	Jim Hennessey	Delphine Scrivener	Peter Wilson
Pamela Claridge	Jean Iddiols	Riley Shaw	Jo Wood
Robb Clarke	Jane Johnson	Anne Shenton	Erin
Rebecca Cohen	Libby Mills	Elsie Stone	Joey
Ann Considine	Raymond Nation	Roy Stone	Martyn
Michael Dixon	June Prentice	Sandra Swain	Nic
Peter Garner	John Radford	Rev. Peter Taylor	

## **The Recently Departed**

## **Prayer**

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of
heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at
his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

## **Puzzle Page**

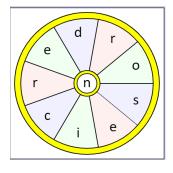
## Wordsnake

Α	R	Ε	Υ	W	Α	L	R	Ε	Ε	K	Α
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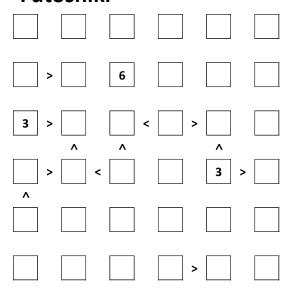
## **Instructions**

Can you find 20 words relating to the subject 'Careers'. Start at the Red letter and follow a path, until all the letters are used.

## Wordwheel



## **Futoshiki**



#### Riddle

There are 3 chests, each of which contains 100 coins.

One chest has 100 gold coins, one has 100 silver coins, and the third has an equal split of 50 gold coins and 50 silver coins. Each chest is labelled, but incorrectly. You are allowed to pick one coin from just one of the chests and after this you must correctly identify each of the 3 chests.

What should you do?

How many words can you find using the centre letter?
There is one 10 letter word, what Archbishop Welby wants the government to do.

#### **Answers from last week**

#### Wordsearch

										G				
K						В					R			
N						L						Ε		
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#### Quotation

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**Word Wheel** 

10 letter word –

Compassion

Riddle

Mr Sixty-Two!