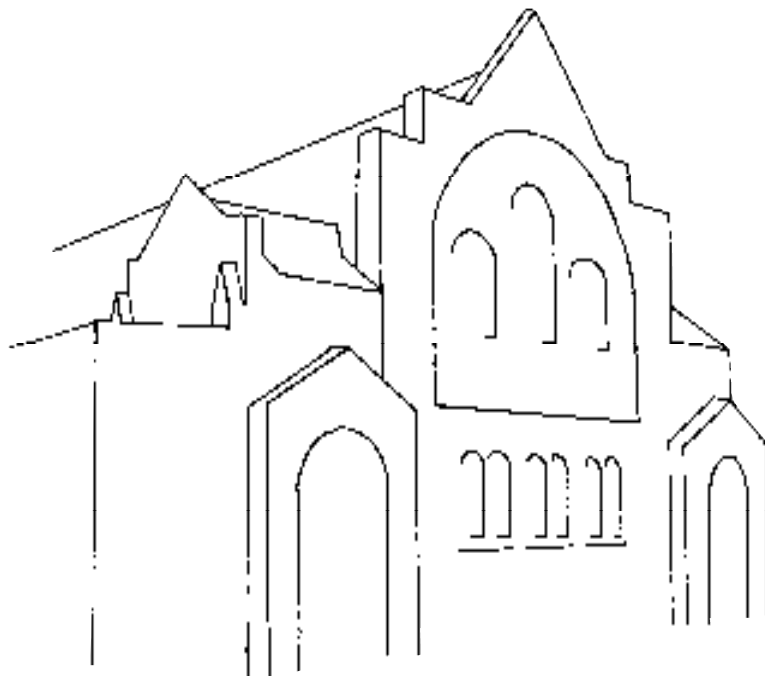


May



2010

Newsletter



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ

www.bhpurc.org.uk

Minister
Associate Minister:
Secretary
Office:

Revd Denis Simons
Revd Martin Legg
Sylvia Page

020 8367 7084
020 8367 0289
020 8366 7481
020 8366 5526

Serving Elders

(with areas of special responsibility)

Sylvia Page (Secretary)	020 8366 7481
Martin Hamblin (Treasurer)	020 8363 0974
Lynda Cook	020 8360 5112
Doreen Bamberger (Youth and Children's Work, excluding Brigades)	020 8366 0866
Carol Rensch	020 8367 1208
Andrew Caddies	020 8363 0844

Where an Elder is listed with special responsibility for an area, please contact them first if your question relates to that area.

The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.

Have you seen the news on the Church Internet site? Check it out at www.bhpurc.org.uk/news.htm

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 30th May. All material for inclusion should be placed in the folder in the church lounge (or e-mailed to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk) by **Sunday 16th May.**

Please note that late contributions may be held over.

Editor: **Lisa Hamblin, 130 Clive Road, Enfield EN1 1RF**

FROM OUR MINISTER

Someone has said, 'Religion is what you do with your solitude'; perhaps we should say 'Religion is what you do with suffering, yours and that of others,' Desmond Tutu 'God is There' 1987.

Religion is not necessarily a good thing. It depends; religion can lead to great good, but it can equally lead to unspeakable evil and suffering. Desmond Tutu. 'The Secular State and Religions.' 1992

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is one of the modern day prophets whose words are a complete challenge to our modern minds. A man who stood almost alone against the evils of the regime in his country, I remember seeing a newspaper photo of him attired in his priest's cloak standing in front of a tank on a sand road in a township protesting the evil of forced domination over an untenable system of manipulation of the lives of millions of people of all races and creeds.

A man of infinite compassion and humility, Tutu goes annually for a retreat led by nuns in a convent on the Highveld of South Africa where he seeks again to connect intimately with the Triune God he loves. I remember well the strong emotion of seeing the testimonies of the Truth Commission set up to allow the people to talk and confront the terrible things that had been perpetrated between the peoples of that beautiful beleaguered, bleeding country of South Africa. Its colonial past and its recent history combined sometimes in the name of religion to bring 'unspeakable evil and suffering.' I remember his tears as he was sometimes driven from his chair at the commission onto the

floor in pain and suffering as he helped so many come to terms and closure with the turbulent past. Desmond Tutu brought great good amidst unspeakable evil and later challenged the post apartheid government about its secular agenda already tinged with corruption.

Whilst in Malvern in Worcestershire I met two URC ministers who were military chaplains in the British army spanning times from the Suez crisis to the current military campaigns. Both men had suffered incredible spiritual and mental anguish when dealing with the deaths of young men who had died on duty for queen and country. Both men had found the constant pressure of dealing with abject grief of families whose sons and daughters had come home in flag - draped coffins. Even worse has been the unseen hurt of many young men or women returned home who have lost their full physical functions because a roadside bomb has blinded or maimed them leaving deep mental scarring and despair. Clashing cultures based in religious belief has brought a massive level of evil and suffering.

What we do as a nation with that suffering is of paramount importance and I salute the chaplains who work with the families and loved ones of these men and women as they try and make sense of their courage and devotion to the calling they have to serve their country. It is these families who are in danger of sinking into forgotten obscurity as time passes by. The good that religion can bring is often missing as our society becomes more secularised and the spiritual side of our natures is sublimated to the forces of economic striving that now has begun to let us down from the time of financial ease and acquisition of material things often on credit.

Is this time of crisis in our society the beginning of pendulum swing again as God leads us to rediscover that truth that Jesus gave us to Love our neighbours as we love ourselves, and to love our enemies with equal measure. We need to be aware that our religion seeks ultimately to bring the love, grace and compassion of Christ to all we encounter. This is the great good that God envisioned when he sent his Son to be expiation for our sins so that we can handle and heal our own sufferings as well as those of others.

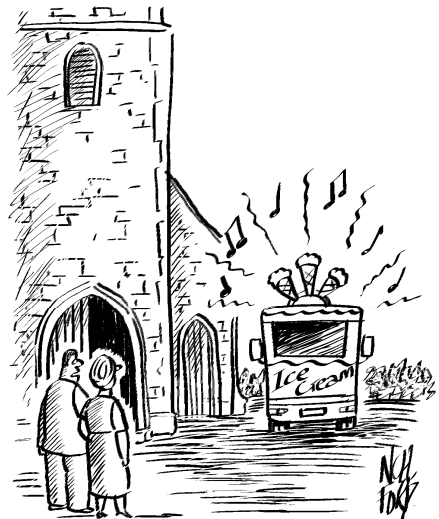
Martin Legg and I are going to begin a series of sermons, beginning in May, to look at the work of the so – called “minor prophets” in our bibles in order to discover the truths of what they were addressing for their societies as evil permeated every

aspect of their lives. Seeking to understand the world that Jesus entered after their prophesies, we will try and establish if there are any lessons applicable to our current situation in a demographically changing area of Enfield in north London we call home. Please pray for us as we prepare for we need to be aware that prophets are just challenging agents of God’s word.

As summer finally comes I pray you and your family may find time to meditate on the glory of God the Creator who gives us its beauty and opportunity to rest in His grace. May you keep safe and enjoy quality time together as you find the good that God wishes for all families.

Every blessing,

Darius



"It was the best we could do whilst the churchbells are being replaced – and O Sole Mio is quite a nice tune."

Smile lines

Genesis and politicians

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest.

Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"

Don't look back

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt. One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he confided, "and she turned into a lamp post."

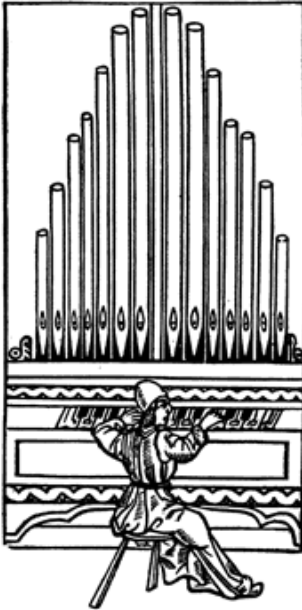
Sharing one's faith at work

His local church had done a week of outreach training, leaving the local barber feeling guilty. When had he last shared his faith with anyone? So the next morning he prayed: "Lord, today I promise to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a haircut and a shave, please." The barber said nervously, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment."

The barber rushed into the back of his shop and sent up a desperate prayer: "Dear God, this is it. Give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen." Then slowly the barber came back to his customer with his razor knife in one hand. He laid a shaking hand on the man's shoulder, stared at him in the mirror, and said: "I am glad you came to see me this morning...are you ready to die?"

Here is the News



Dear All

Thank you very much for the generous voucher I was given on Palm Sunday. I have been Organist here for over 30 years and seen many changes.

We are lucky to have two pianists but Christ Church has no Organist or pianist to play for services, so I am going there where I can be of more use.

Don't think you have seen the last of me because I will still be the Leprosy Mission rep. and help with Messy Church etc. You might even find me playing the organ on occasions.

Best wishes to you all.

Christine

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Building Fund. The work continues but more funds will be needed to finish the work in the future.

Thank you also to the Boys Brigade who have painted the passage way which looks much improved.



Hymns of the Loadicean Church - Hymns Of The Loadicean Church (God's Frozen People)

The Loadicean Church announces publication of "Church Songs," whose title, according to the editor, was chosen because "We didn't want to turn anybody off with threatening words that no one understands anymore like 'worship' or 'hymn.' People in today's society get kind of uncomfortable with too much talk about things like commitment and dedication. They'd much rather have a religion that they can turn on or off at will. Our book seeks to meet that need."

Table Of Contents:

A Comfy Mattress Is Our God
Above Average is Thy Faithfulness
All Hail the Influence of Jesus'
Name

Amazing Grace, How Interesting the
Sound

Be Thou My Hobby
Blest Be the Tie That Doesn't
Cramp My Style

God of Taste, and God of Stories

He's Quite a Bit to Me

I Lay My Inappropriate Behaviours
on Jesus
I Surrender Some
I'm Fairly Certain That My
Redeemer Lives

Joyful, Joyful, We Kinda Like Thee

Lift Every Voice and Intellectualize
Lord, Keep Us Loosely Connected
to Your Word

My Faith Looks Around for Thee
My Hope is Built on Nothing Much

O God, Our Enabler in Ages Past
Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing
Oh, How I Like Jesus

Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me
Praise God from Whom All
Affirmations Flow

Self-Esteem to the World! The Lord
is Come
Sit Up, Sit Up for Jesus
Special, Special, Special
Spirit of the Living God, Fall
Somewhere Near Me
Stick Nearby, It's Getting Dark
Outside

Take My Life and Let Me Be
There is Scattered Cloudiness in My
Soul Today
There Shall be Sprinkles of
Blessings

What an Acquaintance We Have in
Jesus
When Peace, Like a Trickle. . .
When the Saints Go Sneaking In
Where He Leads Me, I Will Consider
Following

.....

Ed: can anyone come up with better
hymn names? Answers on a
postcard & they may even make it
into the next newsletter!

A jet tour through the minor prophets flown by your ministers:

Understanding the reason God needed to send Jesus.

Date of Service (preacher)	Date BC	Prophet name (meaning of name)	Theme of the book	Prophecies to/about	Major sins addressed
2nd May (Denis)	840 - 830	Obadiah (worshiper of Yahweh)	Day of the Lord, Edom's destruction, Israel's restoration	Against Edom	Edom had continual violence toward Jacob. Edom cheered when Judah was captured
9th May (Denis)	830 - 750	Joel (Yahweh is God)	The day of the Lord	Israel Northern kingdom	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness
16th May (Denis)	780 - 740	Jonah (Dove)	Sign of commitment, type of Jesus Christ, Mercy to repentant	Ninevah. Implication for all peoples	Cruelty of the Assyrians
23rd May Pentecost (Martin)	765 - 725	Hosea (Salvation)	Salvation	Israel Northern kingdom	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness
30th May (Martin)	760	Amos (Burden bearer)	The day of the Lord	Israel, Judah, Benjamin and all nations	Oppression of the poor, sexual immorality, wanton luxury, corrupt law & men

Diary

May

See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities

Sun 2nd	10:30am 6:00pm	Communion with Denis Simons Bible Study in Parlour
Tues 4th	7:45pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 9th	10:30am	Parade with Denis Simons
Thurs 13th	7.30pm	Ascension Day
Sun 16th	10:30am	Morning Worship with Denis Simons
Sun 23rd	10:30am 3.00pm	Pentecost Morning Worship with Martin Legg Messy Church
Sun 30th	10:30am	Morning Worship with Martin Legg

Next newsletter deadline
Sunday 16th May

PRAYER PLAN

MAY 2009

My salvation and my honour depend on God, he
is my mighty rock, my refuge.
Trust in him at all times O people,
pour out your hearts to him for God is our refuge
Psalm 62 v7-8

Saturday 1st

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 2nd

Thanks for all who do work
around the church

Monday 3rd

Sylvia Page as she recovers
from her broken wrist

Tuesday 4th

That we will all seriously
think about who to vote for

Wednesday 5th

Trinity Avenue

Thursday 6th

For safety for all those taking
part in the elections and us-
ing our hall to vote

Friday 7th

The people of China affected
by the earthquake there

Saturday 8th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 9th

Thanks for those who help
with the flowers and the tea
rota week by week

Monday 10th

Sue Paraskeva

Tuesday 11th

All taking part in the Chris-
tian Aid collections this week

Wednesday 12th

Tweedy Close

Thursday 13th

Those taking part in immunisation programmes to help wipe out polio in Africa

Friday 14th

People of Sri Lanka

Saturday 15th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 16th

Christian Aid and the work it does to help so many in need in various countries

Monday 17th

Christopher Payne

Tuesday 18th

Those struggling to cope with the affects of climate change

Wednesday 19th

Third Avenue

Thursday 20th

That we will consider how our food is grown and our clothes are made and the affect it has on the countries where they are produced

Friday 21st

People of the Sudan still suffering the affects of war

Saturday 22nd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 23rd

Thanks for friends and the fellowship of our church

Monday 24th

Pam Pite and all those in Holly House and the staff

Tuesday 25th

Better water supplies for those using polluted water

Wednesday 26th

Wellington Road

Thursday 27th

Those suffering from various problems with their health

Friday 28th

People of Colombia

Saturday 29th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 30th

Thanks for the suppliers of our food and those who sell it especially locally grown food

Monday 31st

Stephanie Rees and all those living away from their families at University.

Remember that we have a prayer chain for urgent prayer if needed. Contact Doreen on 020 8366 0866 who will pass the message on for prayer.

Pentecost - May 23rd

Pentecost was the old Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which took place at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but he knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need his help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Poverty. Let's end it.



That is the message for this year's Christian Aid Week - 9 to 15 May. What began as the churches' response to the horrors of the refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War has

become the country's biggest 'house-to-house' collection – with 300,000 volunteers delivering envelopes and picking them back up from householders in the week. In all, it raises more than £9 million a year. If you can help us in any way this year with our church's collection efforts, please contact Doreen Bamberger for more details.



“That’s the trouble with these cheap cruises, Amanda darling. They treat you like cattle.”

Church Library

Once an Addict

The fascinating true story of one man's escape
from the murky drugs underworld

Barry Woodward

Barry Woodward was a drug dealer and heroin addict who once lived on the notorious Bull Rings in the centre of Manchester. This book describes Barry's descent into the murky underworld of drug dealing, addiction, crime and imprisonment and gives first hand insight into the city's nightlife and music scene. Along the way we are introduced to some of the most extraordinary characters and we see the extreme lengths to which some of them will go to get their next 'fix'.

Illegal drug use claimed the lives of many such people and it seemed inevitable that Barry would also succumb to the drastic consequences of his addiction. With devastating amphetamine-induced mental health issues, a fourteen-year heroin addiction, a string of broken relationships and the threat of HIV looming, the outlook for Barry appeared very bleak. Then three extraordinary encounters changed his life forever...

Once an Addict takes you to the heart of a world of drugs and addiction but fortunately does not leave you there. Through the many twists and turns of Barry's life this "can't put down" book will have you shocked, surprised but ultimately relieved that there is hope even in the most despairing of circumstances. J. John, author and speaker

Find this and other great books on the windowsill in the lounge at the back of the church.

Have you ever tried using Celtic Prayer to pray?

At one level praying is fairly straightforward. It is simply starting a conversation. But the problem is you are talking to a person you can't see with your eyes, nor touch with your hands, and whose voice you can't hear with your ears. No matter how real God may be to you, there is always a problem with the fact that God is so different to humans. So some people try to be very other-worldly and hope they can have a sensible conversation with God that way. But even they have problems.

The early Celtic Christians, who flourished in Britain and Ireland from the 6th century onwards, did it differently. They discovered that God made himself known to them through the creation around them. They saw him in the sturdy oak and the opening primrose; they heard him shouting through the storm and whispering through a silent moonlit night. They learned to sense his presence through this blessed earth.

And so much Celtic prayer refers to Creation. Thus a prayer by the great St.Columba was written on a beach, probably on the island of Iona and there he 'hears the waves chanting a tune to God' and they in turn inspire him to worship God. He says prayers that rise from his soul, and everything he sees – the golden beaches, waves, rocks, seaweed - all become images that he uses in his prayers.

They also knew that creation could be very disturbed, and whilst it could be so beautiful, it could also be violent. We are told that when there was thunder and lightning around, the great St.Chad at Lichfield would turn to prayer, for such outward disturbance made him aware of inner disturbance in his own soul and he confess all that he felt was wrong in his life which caused harm to others.

Jesus said that it was the 'pure in heart' who could see God. The way to see God and hear God is to start with our normal human experience of this world, but then allow that seeing and hearing to touch our hearts. The Celtic Christians were people of the heart, and creation in all its moods, is a great way to allow our hearts to become open. Then with an open or 'pure' heart we will find ways of having conversations with God.



Boys Brigade News

I should start by telling you all about our expedition trip to the Snowdonia Nation Park in Wales during the Easter Holidays. We took eight boys away for the four day trip and left very early on Wednesday morning. They were all very excited and had spent the previous day packing up their rucksacks, as they need to get used to fitting everything they need in a rucksack. Some of the boys are at the age where they will hopefully undertake their bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition assessment.

The traffic seemed to be in our favour and we made good progress arriving at the farm where we were camping by the early afternoon. Being the only ones on the farm, we were able to choose a nice spot next to the river.

That afternoon we spent a few hours walking for area familiarisation. As part of the expedition, all the boys have to cook all their own meals. Each tent of 2 was given one crate of food, some pans and a camping stove. They were also given recipes, including chilli con carne and corned beef hash.

Our first day of full walking took us up a valley following a water fall. It was quite steep and hard work, but our legs soon got used to it. After about an hour and a half of uphill hiking we came to a large mountain lake. This was a perfect place to re-fill our water bottles and rest for a bit. After a change of leader on the map and compass, we set off on the hardest part of the day, the very steep climb to the ridge of justice. Words cannot be used to describe the feeling at reaching the ridge nor could they describe the amazing view. We were now $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up, and had about 2 miles of ridge to follow to reach the summit. At this point some RAF fighter jets came flying up the valley, but we had to look down to see them, as we were so high they were below us - amazing!

After walking along the ridge with some shear drops in places, we eventually reached the top and had lunch before the four hour decent. At this point we worked out that Mt. Snowden was about 300 meters higher than what we had just climbed.

Back at base we organised a night hike for the older boys once they had finished their evening meal (just encase they weren't tired enough yet).

The next day was what we had all come for - conquering Snowdon. Now, there are a few routes up Snowdon - the route for most tourists or the proper route, well Mr. Cutts suggested a route, I bet you can guess which one that was - yep, the tourist route. However, being the 2nd Enfield, we decided to set off up the route that no one else seemed to take.

The 1st hour and a half saw us gain incredible height, winding up a narrow mountain path, climbing over boulders and across streams. At places along the way there were large patches of snow which we rested in. Being able to put ice cold snow on your face or in your water bottle was so refreshing. We pressed on and after about two hours we reached a ridge where we had lunch. We were not far from the summit now, only about 280 meters. The trouble was those last 280m were almost vertical. But they were amazing, it was the best bit of the holiday. We felt like proper mountaineers. Picking out our route and climbing up over the rocks.

The last section was covered in snow, which was just great to climb through. Reaching the peak was just brilliant and everyone was so proud of themselves. Setting off that morning, the task ahead was very daunting but we had made it. And the views were stunning. If only more young people from BHP were doing this during their holidays!

It was interesting to see at least 40 people at the summit, yet all day we had only seen 5 or 6 people. After a brief relax, we had the trek down.

On the final morning we took the boys to the national white water rafting centre, where they spent the morning braving the rapids in their eight man rafts. I have got photos of the whole trip if anyone wants to have a look, plus I hope they go on our web site soon.

Also during the Easter break, a few of the D of E boys carried out some painting in the corridor as part of their community work. It's really great to see these lads taking an active part in the up keep of our building.

We now have a week till our Awards night, where all the boys will be presented with any badges and awards they may have gained through the year. We will also use this night to show the parents what we have been up to. I also hope to display many photos from the year as well. The awards night will take place on Friday 7th may and you are all welcome to come along.

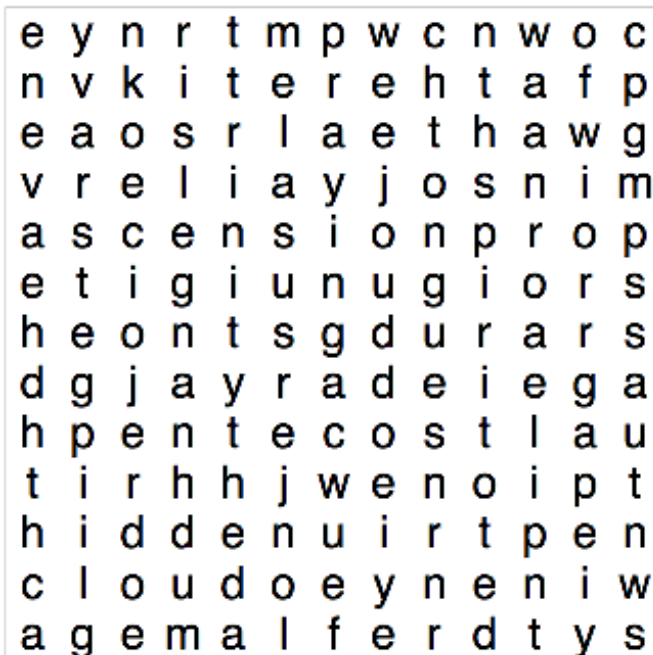
Wordsearch

What a joyful month May is in the church calendar! On Ascension Day (13th) we remember with joy the completion of Jesus' work on earth and his return to his rightful place in heaven.

But he did not leave his followers all on their own: for on Pentecost (23rd) the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven to indwell the followers of Jesus. He did not come quietly! Instead, there was a roaring of wind, tongues of flames, and such rejoicing that all Jerusalem was stirred up. It was a dramatic birth for the Christian Church!

Finally, on Trinity Sunday (30th) we celebrate the very nature of our God: manifest in the love shown to us by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

ascension	angels	cloud	sky	hidden	heaven
jersusalem	trinity	glory	pentecost	praying	upper
room	tongues	flame	wind	rejoice	wine
praise	triune	father	son	spirit	godhead
love					





UNDER THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the month of May we can remember two very different men who fought under the sign of the cross.

On the night before a great battle, the Roman Emperor Constantine dreamt of a cross in the sky and the words 'in this sign conquer'. After his victory, Constantine ended 300 years of persecution and Romans were allowed to become Christians. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine died on 22nd May in the year 337.



Some 1,500 years later, Jean Henry Dunant (who was born on 8th May 1828) was horrified to see the dreadful suffering after the Battle of Solferino. He spent the rest of his life working for the casualties of war, fighting under the banner of the Red Cross to relieve world-wide suffering.

WHAT'S IT FOR?

What would you do with these things? All the words are in the Bible but are rarely heard today. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. KNOP a) polish it
 b) eat it
 c) harness it
2. DARIC a) herd it
 b) sharpen it
 c) spend it
3. HYSOPP a) carry it
 b) cultivate it
 c) dig with it
4. SHOFAR a) drive it
 b) play it
 c) prune

it



**Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Some poems rhyme,
This one doesn't.**



Answers: 1. a) polish it, it is an ornamental knob, part of the lamp-stands in the tabernacle. 2. c) spend it, it's a gold coin. 3. b) cultivate it, it's a type of plant. 4. b) play it, it is musical instrument made from a ram's horn.

BHP DAY BY DAY URC

Sunday 10:30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday in the month)
3:00pm Messy Church (4th Sunday in the month)
6:00pm Bible study (1st Sunday in the month)

Monday 7:30pm Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
8:00pm Book Club (1st Monday in the month)

Wednesday 6:15pm Girls' Brigade

Friday 9:15am Prayers in the Lounge
10:15am Baby & Toddler Group
6:00pm Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys and Junior Section)

Saturday 9:00am Prayer Breakfast (1st Saturday in the month)

