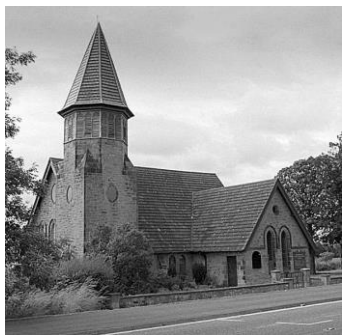


St George's, Widdrington  
& Great Bavington  
United Reformed Churches  
**Newsletter**



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



May  
2020

Website: [stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org](http://stgeorgesurcmorpeth.org)

*A message from our Minister, Revd Julian Sanders*

Dear Friends

It has been said often that we are living through 'strange times' – times that for many can be exciting, to some it has come as some sort of relief, for others it brings monotony, to some their normal routines continue, to some it nurses despair and despondency as to what the future might hold.

Those early followers of Jesus would have faced the same range of emotions following the resurrection. For them life would not be the same again, as everything they thought they knew about God and the world was turned upside down – death was not the end, God was not distant, Jesus was not just some bloke with a knack for teaching. For them they faced the despair of losing Jesus, and although Jesus kept appearing among them and being with them, it was not the same and they were having to face the fact that he would return to the Father. They faced their mission, God's mission, alone with all the excitement and anxiety and danger that that brought with it. We see the disciples hiding away, filled with peace, told not to fear, excited about sharing the good news – such is the range of emotions and feelings during their strange times.

We, perhaps, can recognise the range of emotions and feelings that come and go as we face these 'strange times'. That is only natural, and we will all cope with the situations we find ourselves in, in our own ways. But I wanted to assure that you are not in this alone, and that if you are struggling to cope with the situation, then do please contact me, or any of the elders of the church, and just tell us how you are feeling. We may not be able to do anything, but I do know that sharing how you are feeling with others is vitally important and can go a long way to actually healing some of that despair.

I am hopeful for the future. When we first went into 'lock down' I was struggling with feelings of despair – not being able to conceive how business could survive, how food production could continue, how society would hold together....all those things. But those feelings have passed and I am hopeful for what might emerge from this new life that comes after this time of 'hibernation'. I am hopeful for the ways in which society might emerge from its isolation with a renewed sense of community and a greater valuing of each other.

I am hopeful for the ways in which material things, which seemed such a bedrock of people's lives, will have been replaced with things that hold much greater value.

I am hopeful that people will have found time to listen to the silence, and find within themselves that divine voice that whispers and struggles to be heard amidst the chaos of everyday living.

The poet Yehuda Amichai writes this:

From the place where we are right flowers will never grow in the spring. The place where we are right is hard and trampled like a yard, but doubts and love dig up the world like a mole, a plow.

The prophet Jeremiah puts it like this:

"For this is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and Jerusalem:

"Break up your unplowed ground,  
and do not sow among the thorns"

Jeremiah 4:3

Each of those writers talk about the truth that anyone who owns an allotment, or garden, or farm knows – that dry hard ground needs to be broken up in order for things to grow. I am hopeful that during these 'strange times' the dry hard ground that was the foundation of many peoples lives, will be being broken up. The 'hard and trampled' places which we always thought were 'right' are being dug up by doubt and love, and in this soft ground new flowers will bloom.

I see some of that as I see people passing each other on the street and acknowledging each other with a 'hello' instead of putting their head down and rushing past. I see some of that with neighbours standing at the end of the drive having conversations with each other. I see some of that in the delight in faces as people connect with each other over video calls. I see some of that as neighbours stand outside clapping together for those who are involved in caring for the weakest among us. I see some of that in the new and creative ways in which people are reaching out to others, sharing their lives with each other, and discovering new talents that are hidden deep with themselves.

I am hopeful for the future because of the truth we find in the Bible. That out of nothing comes light, out of slavery comes freedom, out of exile comes homecoming, out of the tomb comes resurrection and out of despair comes hope. Whenever people face 'strange times' what emerges is something new. Whenever the accepted 'right' gets turned on its head there comes the possibility of seeing our lives in a new way.

As you spend time in your garden, in your home, in your own thoughts during this time – I pray that you might dig over the unplowed ground of your lives, and open yourselves up to the new life that grows. As we emerge from our hibernation – I pray that hard and well trampled paths of the past might be broken up, so that a new way of living discovered.

With every blessing,

**Julian**

You can keep in touch during this time through Facebook and on YouTube – by checking out the "Morpeth and Area URC" channel. You can sign in for 'St George's URC Morpeth' Facebook page or the 'Morpeth and Area URC' YouTube channel where the video's of Julian and Noah can be found, also the weekly Morning Worship which should be available by 10:30am on a Sunday.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bill Lang. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Elsie and their family.

#### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (MAY 10 -16)**

In view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, CA have cancelled this year's national House-to- House collection scheme in order to avoid any cross-contamination by handling envelopes.

You are still actively encouraged to support the global work of CA and there are 3 simple ways you can make donations.

*(i) visit their website*

*[www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation)*

*(ii) Telephone 020 7523 2269 to donate by telephone*

*(iii) Telephone 020 7523 2226 to pay money directly into CA's Bank Account*

**REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER YOU CAN "GIFT AID" YOUR DONATION AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOURSELF AND THEREBY INCREASE YOUR DONATION BY A FURTHER 25%**

(Please note that CA are unable to accept POSTAL DONATIONS during the present circumstances)

## **West End Refugee Fund May 2020**

WERS reports that it has had to adjust a lot of its services in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. They are advising clients to access advice and support over the telephone (10am – noon Monday – Friday). They are also making regular calls to their most vulnerable clients. All their volunteering roles which require face to face contact have been paused, but befriending pairs are remaining in contact via phone, WhatsApp, video calls etc. They are also currently recruiting, from their trained group of volunteers, people to become remote befrienders to support this work and may shortly be looking to recruit more remote befrienders. So if anyone is interested in becoming a remote befriender with WERS you should email [volunteers@wers.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@wers.org.uk) to register interest and to request an application form.

They are also asking people to donate to the Hardship Fund to support their most vulnerable clients who may be unwell or may need to self isolate. Details of how to make a regular donation are available on their website ([www.wers.org.uk](http://www.wers.org.uk)). One off payments can be made by cheque and sent to West End Refugee Service, St Philip's Vicarage, St Philip's Close, Arthur's Hill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5JE. Gift aid forms to accompany donations can also be found on their website.

## **Justice and Peace Project**

I have an email update from Helen Woodland, Project Worker at the J&P Project, who says:-

"Hello everyone,

I hope that you are well and managing to cope with the 'strange new world' we find ourselves living in. John, myself and the Management Team at the Refugee Project have been continuing to work to provide a service to our most vulnerable clients.

The Project Management Team has asked me to relay the following update:

When we were last in touch, the plan was that the project was remaining open – although with restricted hours and focussing solely on financial support to destitute clients.

From then things moved quickly - the Summerhill Grove premises had to close and, unfortunately, our plans to operate out of St Mary's Cathedral café did not meet with police approval.

The positive development since then is that we have now established a mechanism for sending out 'digital vouchers' to the mobile phones of those destitute clients for whom we have contact details – and we are using various means to get the others to contact us. The vouchers (for either Tesco or ASDA) allow recipients to purchase goods to the value of £30 in the relevant supermarket.

The food we have available at the Project is being made available to similar local agencies to distribute to those who are struggling.

While we would have liked to be doing more, we feel, at least, that we are still able to offer support to some of the most vulnerable asylum seekers. Obviously, this way of operating is expensive as we are not able to utilise food contributions from parishes – so please encourage your parishioners and any other contacts to support the project financially at present.

Details of the Destitute Asylum Fund account are" for Bank transfer HSBC DHN DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND Sort code: 40-34-18 Account number: 52854058.

"Ideally, contributions by direct transfer would be most welcome but cheques made payable to D.H&N DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND can also be sent temporarily to Justice and Peace Refugee Project c/o Fr Adrian Tuckwell, St Anne's Presbytery, Half Fields Road, Winlaton, NE21 5RW.

We also have a new telephone number for the project. It is 07407091184

Thank you for your continued support of the Refugee Project – we will keep you informed of developments. Stay safe and take care"

Please remember both of these organisations at this difficult time.

***Margaret Brock***

**By the Revd Tony Horsfall of Charis Training. Visit:**

**[www.Charistraining.co.uk](http://www.Charistraining.co.uk)**

*The wisdom of afternoon tea*

My wife and I were at one time missionaries with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. We joined them in 1975 after a period of training at their headquarters in London. While we were there, we met the hostess of the Mission Home, a matronly lady who had herself served overseas. She was a formidable person, but with a soft heart, and a depth of spiritual wisdom.

I remember her offering to our group of would-be missionaries this piece of sage advice: "The missionaries who stay the longest on the field are those who have their afternoon tea." It struck me then as being very profound, and it is a life rule that I have followed ever since, with great benefits.

This practice of course is typically British, but valuable none the less. For us, a cup of tea is the answer to everything. "Let's make a cup of tea," we say in any crisis. It soothes and refreshes and helps us get things in perspective. Somehow things seem much brighter when you have had a cuppa, especially if shared with friends or colleagues.

But there is more to the custom of afternoon tea. This little ritual gives us permission to stop in the midst of a busy day and rest a while. It enables us to make contact with others, and to step back from whatever is filling our mind at the time. And over time, these little oases are the way we care for our souls as well as our bodies.

We read that Jesus, when He was tired, sat down by the well at Sychar (John 4:6). He gave Himself permission to stop and have a break. I like to think on that basis He would heartily approve of afternoon tea.

**Leave your dandelions alone...**

When mowing your lawn, avoid cutting your dandelions. That is the advice of the president of the British Ecological Society, Prof Jane Memmott. It will help to save the bees. She explains: "Dandelions are a fantastic source of pollen and nectar for the early pollinators in particular. If they were rare, people would be fighting over them, but because they're common, people pull them out and spray them with all sorts of horrible things when they should just let them flower. If you leave the lawn to three or four inches, then dandelions, clover and daisies can flower and then you end with something like a tapestry, and it's much nicer to sit there and watch the insects buzzing about." Prof Memmott encourages everyone to get a bee hotel for their garden. "There's nothing nicer than being sat in a chair with a glass of wine and watching the bees going in and out of your own personal little beehive. Even just a potted plant on a doorstep will provide lunch for a bee or a fly or a butterfly.

## Wordsearch for May

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, 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. That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Ascension Blessed Taken  
Jerusalem Wait Prayer  
Power One Room Disciples

Tongues Flame Joy Praise  
Confusion Languages Earth  
Peter Holy Spirit Trinity  
Father Son triune

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

*Solution on page 19*

**Worth remembering...** A man felt he was overloaded in the 'trouble shooting department' of his office, until he found this memo on his desk. "Be thankful for the problems, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job."

**Meow...** "What is your kitty's name, James?" asked the visitor.

"Ben Hur," said James. "That's a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?"

"Well, we just called him Ben – until he had kittens."

## May Plant Sale

As you will know the Plant Sale for church funds has had to be cancelled due to restrictions around Coronavirus. However, there are still plants available from Gillian Irvine and Mary Kelly. Please phone Mary for her plant details.

Gillian has the following available with local delivery/collection by arrangement.

Allysum, Stocks, Nicotiana, Cineraria, Small

begonias, Antirrhinum, Gazania,

Lobelia blue compact. Also red Penstemon

There has already been a lot of interest shown and these will be sold on a first come first served basis. The plants are £2-50 for ten but can be sold by the number you require. Please phone 01670 515870 to order. They will be available from mid May.

We will of course abide by government advice with regards to delivery and payment can be made by post.



## Library

We imagine there will be a lot of reading going on at present. Would you remember the library when you have finished your paperback? We always welcome up to date books and also jigsaws. Please save them for when we are all back together again.



## St. G'S KNITTER NATTER GROUP

Our members are weathering these strange times supporting each other with phone calls and a whatsapp group. We are sharing practical information and having a little fun, today we are going to the beach??

Trying to find the appropriate clothes and what activities we will take has cheered everyone along,

One person said she used to skinny dip but now chunky dunks, so only needs to find her sunhat.

You can't help but smile which must be a good start to the day, and no-one said you couldn't dream!

Stay safe everyone and keep knitting.

**Joan Cooper**

*Taken from Parish Pump this is an extract from a message by Ed Brown, for the Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Family.*

*<http://news.lwccn.com/index.php/2020/03/15/god-is-our-refuge-thoughts-on-covid-19/>*

## So where do we go from here?

Let's not waste this crisis. The current situation is quite dismal. Many people will die, and companies and entire industries will not survive. Even so, Covid-19 won't last forever. In six months, a year, perhaps two at the outside, life will start to look 'normal' again. That is our great danger: that Society (and the Church) will slip back into complacency and business as usual. We will congratulate ourselves that we did so well in 'our finest hour.'

That is when it will be critical that we remind our sisters and brothers that God's first command to us – to 'take care of the garden' – is still in force. Covid-19 is not the end. This is only a warning that we ignore that command at our peril. In the meantime, may I encourage you to keep on loving your community. Reach out to your neighbours. Share your hope (and supplies) selflessly and fearlessly, in the confidence that God is still on his throne. Work with your church and encourage your church leaders. This is when the church should be the church. Above all, take care of yourself. Spend time with God in creation – if you have a garden, it is probably the healthiest place you can be. Spend more time with your family – enforced isolation may turn out to be a gift.



The Ven John Barton muses on our present isolation...

## Life in quarantine

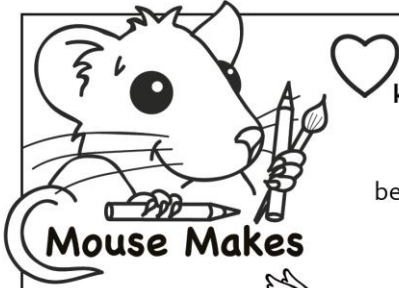
Full marks to Jamie Oliver for his Channel 4 series, 'Keep Cooking and Carry On'. He showed us how to make tasty meals with basic ingredients and a minimum of fuss.

The pandemic prompted other encouraging responses. One mother in the 'at risk' category said her adult children thought she was immortal until now. Now they ring her every day to see how she's getting on. An elderly clergyman had offers to shop from two new neighbours whom he hardly knew. The whole nation stopped taking the National Health Service for granted and started showing gratitude. Telephone, television, the internet and email prevented many from going stir-crazy. Some even tried the cryptic crossword, though newcomers should be warned it takes years to learn its secrets!

The isolation was tough for many. Isolated families had to get used to each other's company and foibles for long periods, away from the park or beach. Couples were parted from each other by distance or illness. Those living alone were cut off from visitors and communal activities. Churchgoers missed Holy Communion at Easter for the first time. That should help us identify with millions of Christians across the world who have to pray in secret because their neighbours would persecute them if they did so publicly.

Alone-ness, rather than loneliness, can be productive. Albert Einstein valued time alone, when he could "go for long walks on the beach so that I can listen to what is going on inside my head." Isaac Newton's greatest discoveries began when he escaped the effects of the bubonic plague, by returning home to the family farm in Lincolnshire. He had time to observe what was going on around him and, yes, that did include watching the famous apple fall.






**Mouse Makes**




"The fruit of the Spirit is  
love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness  
gentleness and self control.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also  
behave in accordance with the Spirit"





How many  
other words can you find  
using the letters from:



**FRUIT OF  
THE SPIRIT?**



Read  
*Galatians*  
5:13-26



Which  
symbol goes  
with which fruit?



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

A M E N  
G C H H  
R R H E O D  
J E E E A P O  
P S E R V E V

**LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD**  
**AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST**  
**PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP**  
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**FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE**  
**SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE**

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Samuel 8:1 - 10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...



## CORONAVIRUS BLUES submitted by Jared Johnson

(Sung to the tune of "The Water of Tyne" or "The Cliffs of Old Tynemouth" or suitable alternatives!)

Aa've got Covid-19 pandemical blues, Aye – Aa've got Covid-19 pandemical blues; The TV and radio's full o' bad news, So Aa've got piggin' Covid pandemical blues!

Covid-19 has trapped us, we've ti taalk ti worselves, If Aa gan ti the shops there's nowt much on the shelves; An' Aa've done aall the jobs that's been waitin' for years, An' the news on the telly just fills us wi feors.

Aa'm stoppin' at hyem cos that's wat we've been telt; Aa'm a bit less than chuffed at the hand we've been dealt. Aa've sat in the garden - enjoyin' the sun, But efter a while deein' nowt's not much fun. Aa'm tired o' hearin' that Aa'm "most at risk" It's beginin' ti soond like a lang-playin' disc ! Aa'm tyekin' precautions – Aa'm coverin' mi gob, An' feelin' quite lucky that Aa'm not in a job!

Aa've mowed the lawn twice – just encouraged the moss! An' wat ti dee next hes us quite at a loss; Aa've mended mi fence an' repaired mi back gate, It's aall varry weel – but Aa miss me best mate!

Aa'm not knaan for patience – Aa'm sure ye'll agree! Sittin' doon on mi backside just isn't for me. Aa've tried gannin' for waalks – hoped Aa'd meet varry few, But had ti dodge dog-waalkers - (an' bags full o' poo!)

"Nee man is an island" – Aa'm sure that's wat Aa've hord, Nivvor mair true than noo that "social distancin's" occored; The Govern'mt – quite rightly – says wi canna aall meet, So – AT LAST! – there's a point ti "FaceTime" an' a "Tweet"!

Noo wor thanks gan ti Julian for aall his support, For his words of encouragement, comfort an' thought; An' ti Noah an' Emily, Pieter, Julie an' Dan, For their biblical stories, told as only THEY can!

So – “Keep a haad, hinnies” (‘tho not literally o’ course!) Efter aall - wi divvent want Covid ti git any worse.

Write some letter; myek phone caalls; post a video online, An’if ivvorything else fails then just drink lots mair wine!

Aa hope yiv been cheered up by my little song, An’ Aa hope wi can aall meet up afore varry long.

But Aa say this in hope more than true expectation, Aa look forward ti that day wi fond anticipation.

Chorus Aa’ve got Covid-19 pandemical blues, Aye – Aa’ve got Covid-19 pandemical blues; The TV and radio’s full o’ bad news,

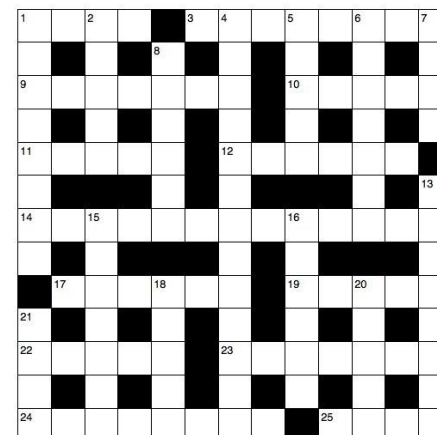
So Aa’ve got piggin’ Covid pandemical blues!

### New Senior's Exam *submitted by Gillian Irvine*

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

*Check your answers on page 19*

### CROSSWORD FOR MAY



Across: **1** ‘Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another’ (Romans 14:13) (4) **3** ‘I — — these persons here present’ (Marriage service) (4,4)

**9** According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)

**10** Group of eight (5) **11** The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)

**12** — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6) **14** Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord’s Table (4,9)

**17** ‘So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize’ (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6) **19** Attend to (3,2) **22** Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5) **23** Tea rite (anag.) (7) **24** Rule of sovereign (8) **25** Test (anag.) (4).

**Down:** **1** The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8) **2** ‘The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir’ (5) **4** ‘We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous’ (Romans 4:9) (8,5) **5** Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5) **6** Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7) **7** Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4) **8** Minister of religion (6)

**13** ‘I am — of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility’ (Matthew 27:24) (8)

**15** ‘Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends’ (John 15:13) (3,4) **16** Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)

**18** ‘No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit’ (John 3:5) (5) **20** Establish by law (5) **21** Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4). *Solution on page 19*

### Why Jesus walked on water...

A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. “Goodness,” he objected to the travel agent. “In England it would not have been more than £20.” “That might be true,” said the travel agent, “but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked.” “Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,” said the tourist, “it’s no wonder He walked.”



**Calling all those who can crochet, or those who might want to learn a new skill!**

Rev Una McLean from Doxford Place Methodist Church, Cramlington, has sent out the following request: 'Would you be willing to crochet small hearts for the hospital? They may go as a 'Thank you' to staff or they may go one to a patient and one to their family.'

The pattern is not difficult if you can manage chain, slip stitch, treble and double treble stitches. Double knit yarn or chunky wool, any colour, is perfect. A 4.5, 5 or 6mm hook will be fine.



The pattern is as follows.

Make a slip knot leaving a loose end of about 4".

Chain 4.

Slip stitch into 1st chain to make a circle.

All stitches are now worked into the centre of the circle.

Chain 3.

2 double treble (dtr) into centre of circle.

3 treble (tr) into centre of circle.

Chain 1.

1 dtr into centre of circle.

Chain 1.

3 tr into centre of circle.

2 dtr into centre of circle.

Chain 3.

Slip stitch into centre of circle.

Tie off ends leaving a loose end of about 4".

Tie the two loose ends together to make a hanging loop.

At the time of going to print, no details were available about getting the hearts to Una, however don't let that stop you from starting to crochet. When you have some hearts to pass on, please call, text or email me, and hopefully, by then, I'll have information about where to send them. Many thanks.

**Teresa Benkhaleb-House, Church Secretary Tel: 07462 371208 or email: [teresa.bh@btopenworld.com](mailto:teresa.bh@btopenworld.com)**

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**Parental excuses....?**

These are actual 'excuse notes' from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

~ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.

~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

~ Dear School: Please ekscuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.

~ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

~ Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.

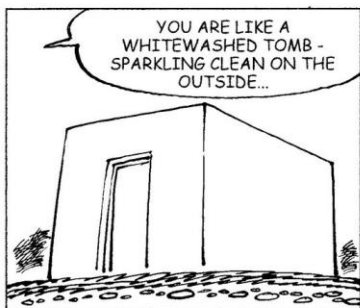
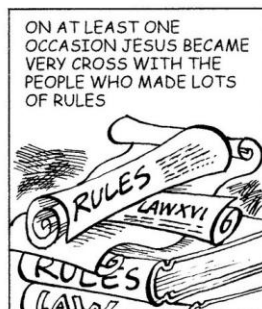
~ Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.

~ Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

~ Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.~ Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.

*Solution on page 19*

# "Some tough talking"



## Solutions

**Crossword: ACROSS:** 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

**DOWN:** 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.



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

## ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? 116 years
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? Ecuador
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut? Sheep and Horses
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October evolution? November
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? Squirrel fur
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? Dogs
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? Albert
- 8) What colour is a purple finch? Crimson
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? New Zealand
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane? Orange (of course)

## A wee bit too pious...

A Scottish lady invited a gentleman to dinner on a particular day, and he accepted with the dour reservation: "If I am spared."  
"Weel, weel," she replied briskly, "If ye're deid I'll no' expect ye."



## Greetings from Great Bavington!

### Church life

Like everywhere else, the church building is closed but we appreciate very much Julian's online services and reflections (find on YouTube at Morpeth and Area URC), ably assisted by Noah and Louise and other members of St George's. We look forward to all being able to meet again in person at some point in the future.

### Broadband

Fortunately the internet is holding up quite well most of the time, as it accommodates everyone's much greater broadband use and the huge increase in the use of Zoom and other platforms enabling people to keep in touch and work at home. This is a timely reminder that if you live in the parishes of Bavington, Kirkwhelpington, Cambo, Wallington, Corsenside, Ridsdale, East and West Woodburn, Barrasford, Birtley, Chollerton, Gunnerton or Colwell (or if you know anyone who does, please pass this information on to them), you can sign up for B4NTR's (Broadband for the North Tyne and Redesdale (and a bit beyond)) ultrafast gigabit broadband scheme (that's 1000 mbps!) which is currently in development. If you haven't signed up already, the link is here: <https://b4rn.org.uk/postcode-checker/> and you can find out more about the scheme here: <https://b4rn.org.uk/>. Having gigabit internet will be transformational for the use of the internet for work, entertainment, online banking and shopping as everything will work so much more quickly and effectively.

The plan is that Great Bavington Church will get B4NTR broadband once the scheme is implemented, so we will be able to do online research during History Night meetings, stream films and so on, which will open up all sorts of possibilities for the church.

### Private James Clapperton – Roll of Heroes

To commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I, the History Night team researched the soldiers named on the Roll of Honour in the church and Ian Rawles wrote a book about them (copies still available for £5 + p&p). Since then, some more information has come to light about Private James Clapperton, thanks to Stan Owen of the Heritage Centre at Bellingham.

Private James Clapperton, Northumberland Fusiliers, died when he was in training at Hexham, six weeks after he had joined up.

Before that, he was a gamekeeper at Hesleyside near Bellingham. His death was reported in the Newcastle Journal, 27 February 1915. Stan located the death certificate which said that he died from chronic nephritis (kidney disease), rather than as a result of a training accident. Private Clapperton is buried in the cemetery at Bellingham.

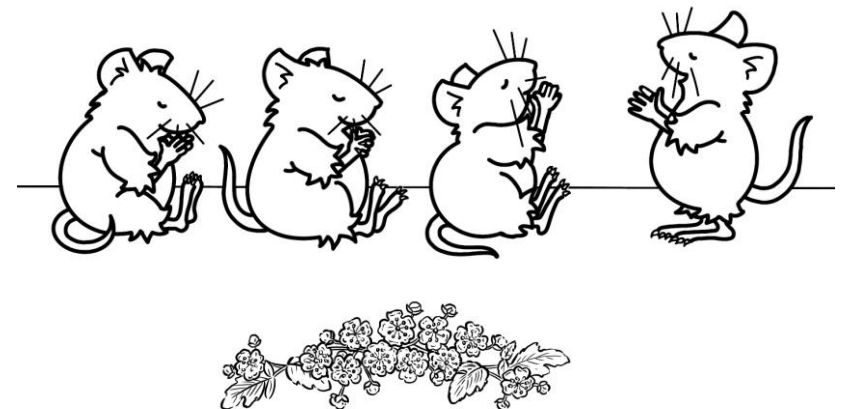
Meanwhile, in the present day, everyone with sheep is thankful that the weather is remaining dry for lambing. The swallows and house martins should arrive soon.

Keep an eye on the church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GreatBavingtonURC/>.

Keep safe!

**Nicola Bell**

Mice at Prayer



## Widdrington United Reformed Church

### PRAYING TOGETHER

During May please pray for:

People in war zones

Victims of natural disasters

Those suffering religious persecution (of any faith)

The refugee families being settled in the county, and those who help them

The work of relief agencies

Those suffering from Covid19 throughout the world, especially in countries where health services are less advanced

Health workers, farmers, shop workers, delivery drivers, postmen and anyone else doing essential work at this time

Researchers working on covid19 vaccine

The elderly and those who may be particularly vulnerable to the virus

The homeless

Anyone who is recently bereaved

Your neighbours

"Prayer, the Churches banquet, Angels age,

God's breath in man, returning to his birth,

The soul in paradise, heart in pilgrimage,

The Christian plummet, sounding heav'n and earth" **(George Herbert)**

*Seven days without prayer makes one weak*

### WIDDRINGTON CHURCH NEWS

I'd like to invite everybody to contribute information that they think might be of interest. Just give me the details **in writing** either on a piece of paper or by email to **elliemist@gmail.com** and I'll do the rest. (I'd still welcome articles though). Perhaps you have some reflections on our situation which you'd like to share? The **Copy Date** for each magazine is the Sunday prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month before the next issue. If you miss the deadline your contribution may have to be held over to the next issue. December/January and June/July are usually double issues.

The Newsletter is being delivered by email to those whose email address we have. If you have received a paper copy, and you have an email address, please contact me as above. As well as saving printing and posting costs, it will enable us to send you other relevant information, and links to worship resources.

**Flowers:** If we are able to recommence worship in June, flowers will be arranged by Kathleen.

**Easy Fund Raising (Easy?)** Do you shop online? Perhaps you are considering doing this during the current emergency? Now's your chance to get busy with Easy Fund Raising! The chances are that your vendor will be part of Easy Fund Raising. Amazon and John Lewis are, for instance. Also most of the big supermarkets who do home delivery offer a donation, at least for first time shoppers. I've identified Morrisons, Asda, Sainsburys, Tesco and Iceland - something for everybody. (Some of our EF members only shop with retailers who are in the scheme!) This means that if you register for Easy Fund Raising at [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select Widdrington United Reformed Church as your Good Cause 1 or 2 % of the purchase price of your item will come to us at no extra cost to yourself. Please talk to Fiona about it soon (though you can easily register with no help from me! as all our members have discovered). We have raised over £260 so far with just eight members. As they say, every little helps.

**Social:** Sadly our social programme remains suspended. This means we will have lost at least two coffee mornings, at a time when our funds are somewhat squeezed. As soon as we can operate again we will plan for some Saturday coffee mornings. We'll let you know. Please make sure that you put aside your usual weekly collection, by filling up your envelopes, or, if you use online banking, by direct transfer. Contact Kathleen for bank details.

The church meeting scheduled for Thursday 30th April is also postponed (unless things change unexpectedly!) We'll let you know about a future date. Meanwhile, anyone who presents a report to this meeting (which is the AGM) might as well get it written (note to self).

Sunday worship remains suspended until further notice. A huge thank you to Julian for his reflections and services, and to Noah for his help with the children's stories. The Services from URC Daily Devotions are also available as I said last month.

**Regular events:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday:** Coffee Club usually meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month. However, I'm afraid this will need to be suspended until coffee shops are allowed to open again.

**1st Wednesday: Prayer Group:** The Elders have just experimented with virtual meetings using the Zoom app. We would like to try a virtual prayer group by this means. The date will be Wednesday May 6th, time probably 7.15pm. Anybody interested should download the Zoom app, which is very easy and will go on phones, tablets including Kindle fire, and laptops or PCs, though you will need a camera with these, then email me as above so that I can invite you to the meeting.

**Facebook:** If you are on Facebook, have you checked out our Facebook page yet? Search for Widdrington United Reformed Church. Please like us and let me know if you think I've missed anything that should be on. The page now has over 100 (106 actually) likes, with another 6 people 'following'!

Please note: Sean, our sheep, has his own Facebook page! Search for 'Sean'. Sean now has 17 page 'likes' but he wants some more, so please tell your friends about him! He's going to be lonely for the next few weeks.

The website is at: [www.widdringtonurc.org.uk](http://www.widdringtonurc.org.uk)

I'd appreciate some help to improve it, as it's very wordy at the moment, partly because I'm happiest with words. I'm still looking for volunteers to be additional site editors. Someone with hardware that can post pictures would be good!

**Churches Together in Widdrington and Ulgham**

Unfortunately the Big Brekkie is also cancelled. Why not support Christian Aid by sponsoring Ron and Shirley's 200K in 30 days.

***FEM***