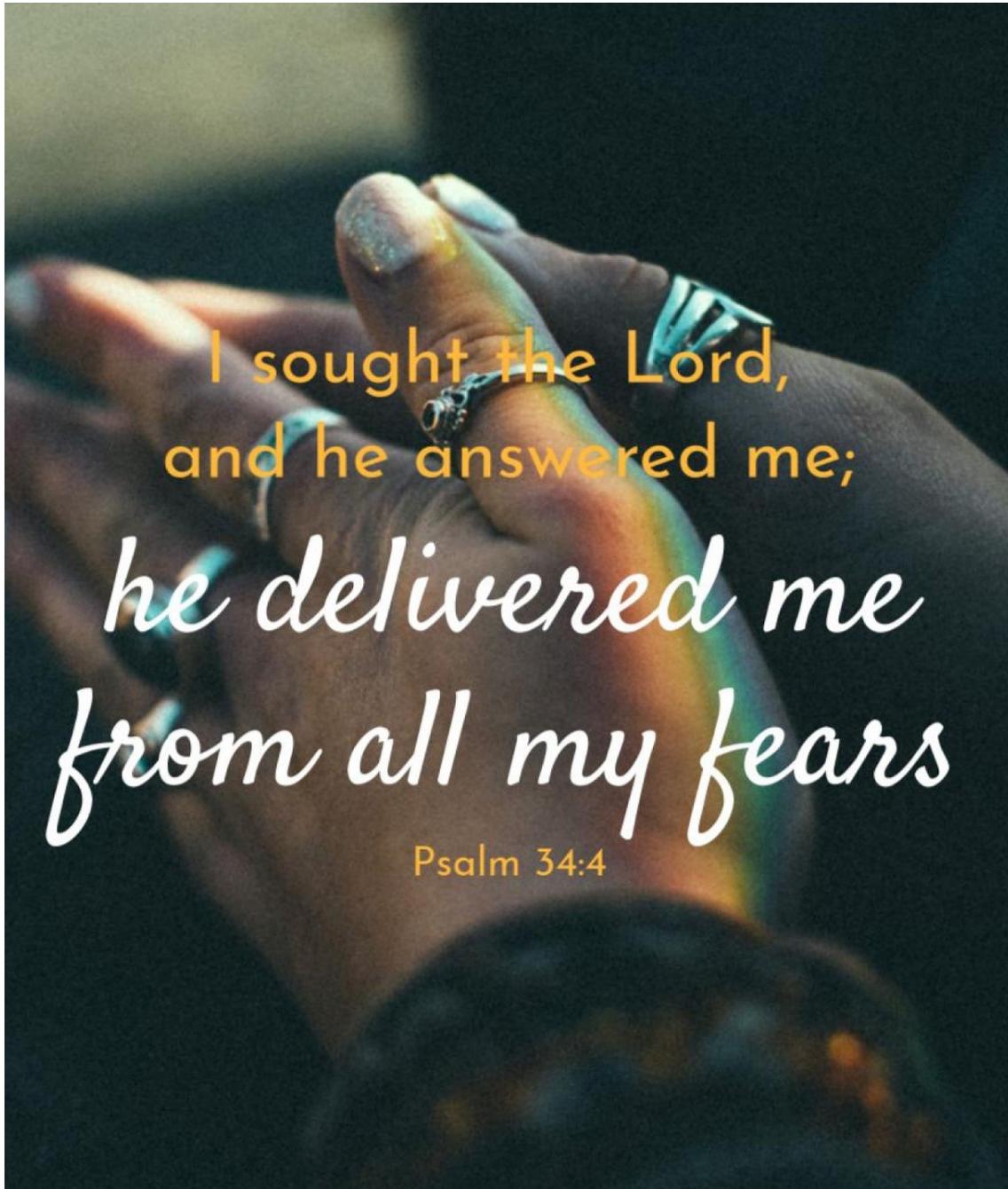




The HEATH



I sought the Lord,
and he answered me;

*he delivered me
from all my fears*

Psalm 34:4

News, Views & Comment from the
United Reformed Church, Chadwell Heath

50p

October 2020

Dear Friends,



The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe in guardian angels. He once said, 'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18:10)

The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12:15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were then seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2nd October.





Dear friends at Mill Lane,

I trust that you have all coped reasonably well over such a long and difficult period and have welcomed meeting up again for worship.

When I left Chadwell Heath in February I was isolated in the family home until June. Difficult though this was, it gave me the time to look through things and peacefully reflect on the sixty- four years that I had lived there. It was all the more important as we

have now sold the house.

Since moving in to my bungalow, I have slowly unpacked as much as is presently possible but I am looking forward to going out to buy the items that I still need. There is only so much you can purchase online!

A gentleman from Plumbs came to measure for curtains and I look forward to having them soon.

Unfortunately, the work needed to give me access to the garden wasn't completed in time for me to take full advantage of sitting out there in the sunshine. I will have to wait until Spring for that but I can admire the plants from the open bedroom door, especially since my gardener told me what they were!

I like to spend much of the day gazing out to sea from my kitchen window but look forward to spending time with my new neighbours.

I do enjoy the occasional outing with friends, such as to the harbour or the park and I hope to join the congregation in my chapel, Jerusalem, when the rules are relaxed.

I trust that you will all be free from problems in the months ahead and able to continue with worship and fellowship, remembering those that, sadly, are no longer with us.

Love and best wishes,

From

Liz xx



Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

All Saints Day



They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from the God
of their salvation. Psalm 24.5



Ruby Wedding Celebration

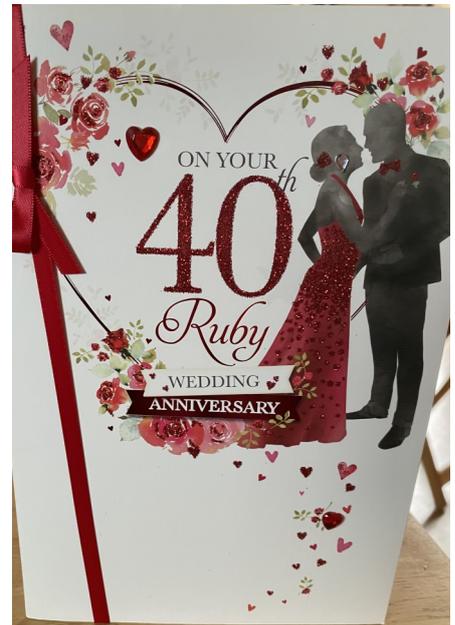
On Sunday 13 September, 2020,
Peter and I celebrated our Ruby Wedding.

Celebrations included a family get-together on the Saturday, hosted by Emily and Gary, which was socially distanced, of course. A beautiful buffet and gorgeous cake was enjoyed by all.

On the Sunday, Revd Ann was taking our service and she kindly prayed over us. We received a beautiful bouquet and card from our church family. A family lunch followed at a favourite pub of ours at Mounthessing where we could take the dogs. After which we watched a cricket match, which was quite appropriate as our first date was a cricket match and seemingly the sign of things to come.

Thank you so much to our family and friends for making our Anniversary so special.

Diana and Peter



Finance Notes for Church Meeting

27 September 2020



The Treasurers report for 2019 was published in the April 2020 magazine, but I will happily provide copies to anyone who needs it or answer any questions. Briefly our total income was £32,600 and our total assets fell by £13000 due to only receiving 4 months manse rent, and spending £17500 on manse refurbishment before getting a new tenant. We also took on a £40,000 loan for this work

Our total income to date this year is £28,250

Offertories. Whilst our cash offertories are down by £270, most envelope users have continued contributions since the Church closed, with some increasing their amounts, so offertories in total are £15 up on last year, averaging £240/week including gift aid.

Hall hire amounts to £5620, £5350 down on last year. Not all hall hirers have returned yet and some have reduced their hours. This is our biggest fall in income.

The Church account is £820 in credit. However of this £770 is in memory of Elaine, so if that were set aside for specific use, Church account would be just £50 in credit.

Loan repayments for the manse of £5000 have been made. Fortunately our tenants are paying the full rent but 60% of this goes in loan repayments. Whilst the new tenants are paying almost double the previous rent, until our loan is repaid we actually benefit by less than our old tenant's rent.

Repair account stands at £8000 and Capital account at £11000. Our total assets are £18725.

Woodview manse sale is in progress, but the proceeds of this will go to repaying our manse loan. Of course even while the premises were closed we still paid Ministry & Mission, utility bills, cleaning and insurance. Our monthly direct debits are £2120 (£490/week) including manse loan repayments, compared to our offertories of £240/week. How often do you review your offertory?

As part of risk assessment for reopening our buildings, a fire risk assessment was required, as a result of which we may need to install an alarm system and emergency lighting. I suggest final decision on this is left to Elders. These items will need testing every week so would need someone to take on that duty.

If our offertory continues at the present level, and some hall income remains (albeit reduced) I suggest that we could finish the year about £1200 in credit, provided there are no unforeseen bills. If the halls closed again our expenditure would exceed the income by some £900.

Ivy – never underestimate its goodness!

Autumn is in full swing but there is at least one plant that is in full bloom. Not spectacular to look at, yet ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.

Ivy produces flowers from September to November. Spherical clusters of greeny-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns with knobs on! The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs each containing five seeds. Poisonous for us, but birds love them.

Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered, roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground. [There's not much nutritional value in a brick.] Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy trees, its weight can cause problems.

What a useful plant it can be! Providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed ones we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy. But has anyone discovered why although mentioned in the first line of the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is absent from the rest of the verses?



Ministry and Mission 2021

Ministers training, stipends and pensions are all paid for from central funds, to which every Church contributes regardless of whether they currently have a minister.

Synod determine how much each Church should contribute by applying a set formula to all of that Church's income (expenditure is ignored!). This amounts to approximately 25% of hall hirings and 50% of everything else (manse rent, offertory, donations etc). This must be paid before any other expenses, and failure to meet the required figure means a Church would not be able to access grants or loans.

The M&M contribution for 2021 is based on 2019 income, and similarly that for 2022 will be based on 2020 income. For the last 4 years our contributions have been around £1100/month (£250/week – just about covered by our offertory,) Therefore all other expenses – heating, cleaning, insurance, ministers expenses and housing etc rely on hall lettings and manse income.

Recognising all churches income is reduced due to Covid, Synod have suggested alternative means of payment of M&M for 2021 and 2022 for those who might have difficulty by allowing a partial deferred payment in 2021.

Having already provided figures for 2021, they now suggest applying a reduced formula to give a lower figure which could be paid for 2021, but keeping a note of the difference from the original figures.

For 2022, the normal formula would be applied to 2020 income (which will be lower than normal due to church closures), and the difference between the two 2021 figures would be added to this.

Our full assessed figure for 2021 is £930/month (£215/week). This is lower than this year as we only received manse rent for 4 months in 2019. The new Synod calculated figure should be £615/month, which would reduce our payment by £315, (artificially low due to low manse income in 2019.)

David Sagers

In 2022 our assessment would be based on actual 2020 income (my estimate £810/month) plus the reduced amount from 2021 of £315 = £1125, almost double 2021. The total amount paid over two years would be the same as if full payments were made each year – just the time of payment would differ.

Hopefully our offerings would remain the same (or increase!). Hall hirings might pick up, even if they do not return to previous levels, and our manse rent remains stable. If so I think we could manage the full payments for 2021, and 2022 should be slightly lower based on reduced income. If income fell significantly we would need to draw on our savings to meet our bills, although I would be reluctant to take up Synod's other offer of a loan to pay M&M (if we could not afford the M&M payments, how could we repay a loan!)

If we had a new Minister by 2022, they would incur additional expenses and manse costs, so I would prefer to plan for keeping 2022 M&M more manageable even if it means paying a higher amount for 2021.

Church Meeting decision was ratified to pay the full amount in 2021.

David Sagers



HARVEST 2020 11th September

For this year's Harvest service our collection of non perishable donations will be donated to Foodbank.

Thank you

FLY TIPPING ...The king sent them after the Aramean army. He commanded the drivers, 'Go and find out what has happened.' They followed them as far as the Jordan, and they found the whole road strewn with the clothing and equipment the Arameans had thrown away in their headlong flight. So the messengers returned and reported to the king.' (2 Kings 7:14-16) One good thing about coronavirus has been the reduction of litter on the roads. When the burger shops were shut, people did not buy a snack, eat it on the way home and then throw the plastic container and the milkshake mug and straw out the car window.

What possesses people to do this? For another type of anti-social behaviour has increased: fly-tipping. Council tips have been closed, so irresponsible people have decided to turn a field entrance or a pathway into another tip. Fly-tipping costs money to deal with and it is also dangerous to people and wildlife.

The government is tackling this problem and there are heavy fines and even imprisonment for the offenders. Quite right, but it is not only the tipper who is responsible. You have an old settee and some



bags of rubbish and need someone to dump it. A man with a van offers to do it for £20 in cash. A week later you get an email from the council to say that *you* are going to be investigated for fly-tipping as the man simply dumped your stuff on a roadside, and someone recognised the sofa and there were letters to your home address in the bags.

Or here is another scenario: you are going on holiday and decide to leave some rubbish at the back of your house. You phone a mate to come and collect it, but they forget. Both of these scenarios could result in a heavy fine.

In the 2018/19 year, local authorities in England dealt with over one *million* fly-tipping incidents, nearly two thirds of which involved household waste. But fly-tipping is a *criminal offence* punishable by a fine of up to £50,000, or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court. The offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to five years imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

What can we do as responsible people? We can report fly-tipping to the local authority and if there is a serious problem, we can ask our local and parish councillors what is being done about it.

When you go for a walk, you might sometimes take a rubbish bag with you, to collect stray litter. Just make sure you protect yourself with rubber gloves, and take care on the roads. You could even suggest that your church should organise a litter pick one Saturday!

Psalm 90

'War simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice.' (CS Lewis on World War II). Coronavirus powerfully illustrates this, and Psalm 90 demonstrates a right response to the crisis: *'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.'* (12).

The Shortness of Life

We live as though life will go on forever, but in reality our time on earth is short: *'A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by'* (4). By contrast God, who inhabits eternity, sees the whole of history in a single moment. How can we see our lives in the light of God, who is *'from everlasting to everlasting'* (2). True wisdom is making sure that we don't waste the time we are given in this life!

The Fragility of Life

Living to 80 years old is definitely an achievement! We know how we wear out in life until we are dust again: *'You turn people back to dust, saying, 'Return to dust, you mortals.'*(3). This is the result of turning from God to sin: *'You have set our iniquities before you'* (8). True wisdom warns us not to trust in our own abilities or seek satisfaction in the things of this world.

The Love of God

During the pandemic, many have lost loved ones, yet if we allow God's love to take hold of our lives, even death can bring us closer to God: *'Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.'* (14). True wisdom is able to ask: *'May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us'* (17).





Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22,23, Ps 34:8)



Opportunities
To ripen your fruit in our lives,
Lord, give us opportunities.

To grow in your Spirit,
Know your warmth
And your light,

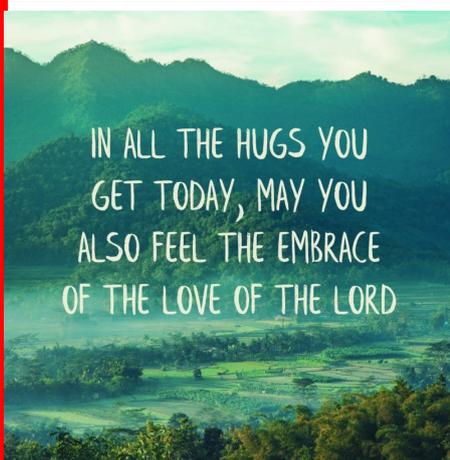
Allow the segments of
Self-control, gentleness,
Faithfulness, goodness,
Kindness, patience, peace and joy
To be lubricated and sweetened
By love,

Showing the world
Your nature transforming
Our natures,
In the fruit bowl of our lives
In Jesus.

Lord give opportunities
For the hungry to taste
Your ripening fruit in us,
See that you are good
And come to you.



By Daphne Kitching



Happy Birthday's in October

Elijah Burma 13th, Brian Allison 6th,
David Saggars 20th, Peter Baker 26th
Angela Saggars 28th

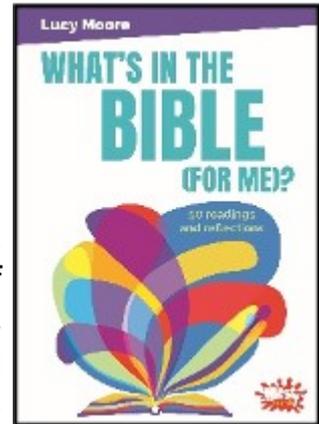


Book Reviews

What's in the Bible (for me)? - 50 readings and reflections

By Lucy Moore, BRF, £4.99

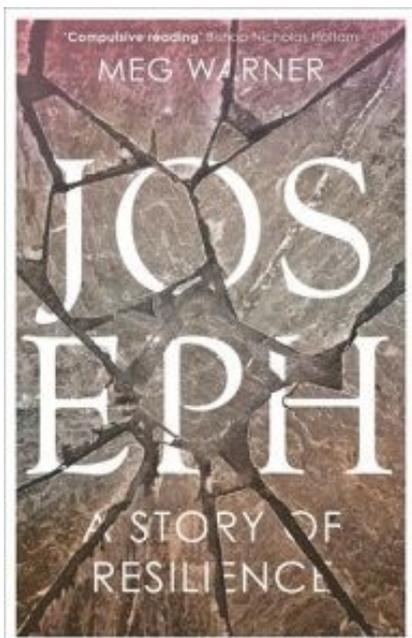
Lucy Moore's pocket-sized guide to the Bible takes readers on an epic journey through 4,000 years of history. Spanning Old and New Testaments from Genesis to Revelation in 50 bite-sized readings, the founder and leader of Messy Church writes for families and individuals who are new to the Bible: its riches, puzzles and complexities.



Taking a single theme, she explores 'the big journey' of God's people in order to help the reader to better understand their own journey. She explains the different kinds of writing within the Bible and the different perspectives of the writers.

For anyone who wonders where to start reading the Bible, this is the perfect introduction and companion. It will, writes Lucy, 'fit in your bag or pocket, so it can go with you to the place where you have time to read it – on the bus or train, in the cafe or playground or on your lunch break. Scribble on it; wave it at your local minister or Christian friend and make them answer your questions or listen to your theories. Safe travels!'

By Meg Warner, SPCK, £12.99



You may think you know the story of Joseph, but this book will make you think again! It invites you to think deeply about Joseph's character and how he responds to the traumatic events that threaten to overwhelm him.

Lacing her commentary with telling anecdotes from her own life story, Meg Warner shows how a deeper understanding of Joseph's story can help you develop the vital quality of *resilience*: the will and the strength to endure life's hardships and rise above the effects of trauma whenever it may strike.



Jesus said:
 "The kingdom of heaven is like a **seed** that a man took and sowed in his **field**. It is the _____ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild _____ come and nest in its branches."

Read
 Matthew
 13:31-32

"**GOD** is the **one** who gives seed to those who **plant**, and He gives **bread** for **food**. And **GOD** will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."
 2 Corinthians 9:10

Jesus said:
 "You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree
 "Go jump into the lake"
 and it would do it."
 Luke 17:6

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."
 1 Corinthians 3:7

Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.

How many different seeds can you find?

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

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Diary/Noticeboard:

Chadwell Heath + Heath & Havering Group of Churches

Foodbank: Thank you for your continued support. We are short of cereals, milk, tinned fruit, sweets, ketchup & pet food. We are very grateful to receive any non-perishable food items, as well as general items e.g. washing powder/liquid, washing up liquid, tin openers – plus all important personal/ female/ toiletries including soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste/toilet rolls & baby nappies, sizes 5/6.



Smile Lines for October

Sorry Our minister, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organiser of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. “Sir,” the organiser said, “I trust you’ll see to it that the weather won’t turn bad on us.”

Our minister shook his head. “Sorry,” he replied. “I’m in sales, not management!”

Ten Commandments A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to ‘honour thy father and thy mother’, she said: “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?”

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: “Thou shalt not kill.”

A spirit guest? When new neighbours moved in next door, they held a House Warming party and invited the entire road. My husband and I were glad to go along, as our daughters were both five years old. But next morning I was taken aback when my daughter told me that the mother had taken her into the kitchen and given her ‘a spirit guest’, which my daughter had really enjoyed. Now she wanted me to get her ‘a spirit guest.’

I was wondering how to contact the local vicar for exorcism when I realised that my daughter meant ‘asparagus’.

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important – and oldest – Top Ten list.



WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES
Foodbank, Thursday
10:00am - 12 noon.



Web site: <http://www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk/chadwellheath.html>
Chadwell Heath URC is part of the Heath and Havering Group



Inclusive
Church



The
United
Reformed
Church

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

Sudoku solution October



Please send any news, information or an article for the Heath to Dianne Crisp.

Email Dianne.crisp@ntlworld.com The deadline is Monday 19th October 2020 for the November issue.