

And just to fill up the space, here are some
more anagrams to test those brain cells
Answers in Issue 7

BAKER'S SHOP

BUT RENT BAG
SAIL ALL VINCE
JOG MAUD HUNT
LOCATE LACE CHOIR
ACE LEN BUSH
BUGLE IN BAN
SS LIL ROWS
A RACK ME IDEA
TA TA MR J
RAM EEL BACK
I GEM RUNE
O I CRAVE POSTING
BEER GRADING
ROY ARCH GENE
WELK TABLE ART
MORE RANCH
SPY TRY TAG
PACK CUE
CC SLEEK ACE
TACK OR RACE

GOOD LUCK!

ANSWERS TO DO IT YOURSELF-APOLOGIES THAT AN R WAS MISSING FROM RRED PILLOW

NAILS AND SCREWS	ANDREW SCANS SIL
SANDPAPER	RAP SAD PEN
PAINTBRUSHES	PUSH SET BRAIN
LADDERS	EDS LARD
SAND AND CEMENT	MEN ANTS DANCED
POWER DRILL	RRED PILLOW
WALLPAPER PASTE	WRAP PALE STAPLE
BRICKS	SICK BR
EMULSION PAINT	PUT AIM ON LINES
GLOSS PAINT	PASSING TOL
SAW	WAS
HAMMERS	HER MAMS
SCREWDRIVERS	CRISS DREW REV
CABLE CLIPS	PICCLE SLAB
SKIRTING BOARD	BARRKIN DOG S
HINGES	HE SING
BRACKETS	SCAB TREK
SOLDERING IRON	LINGERS IN D
STANLEY KNIFE	FLY EATEN SINK
SPIRIT LEVEL	VILE LIP REST
TROWEL	ROT LEW
TILE CUTTER	I CUT LETTER

WELL DONE!!

Our next issue, number 7. If you would like a message included, let me know
by email, text, or phone. Stay safe and keep well. Love, Heather x
morg.heather@btinternet.com 07914 079440 01795 663876

The Church in Hope Street LEP

CHURCH NOTICES

ISSUE 6 2020



*Risen Jesus, my Lord and my God,
I do not see
your presence with me,
your victory for the world,
love overcoming hatred,
and life instead of death.
I do not see:
My sight is poor;
My vision is weak.
But with the help of the gospel
And your Spirit at work within me,
I will believe.
I will put my trust in you,
and believing, here and now,
I receive your overflowing life,
abundant and eternal,
a life given in love for the world. Amen*



Mission Statement

*Our mission is to help all people understand and respond
to the depth of God's love for them*

MESSAGES

Thank you to Maureen who had a piece of music played on the radio for everyone at Hope Street. What a lovely thought.

Dear Friends,
Brian and I have been thinking about you all in our prayers as we listen to the Daily Service on radio 4 each morning. We thank you all for your kind messages of support and love. Recently one of the services was about God's love for us all and the favoured hymn that morning was "For the beauty of the earth", the John Rutter version. As I listened I gazed out of the window into the garden and I could see colourful flowers, the little dianthus poking their heads between the geraniums, the shrubs standing tall. and even the bindweed seemed to remind me of God's love binding us all together! But, it was the word "Beauty" which really caught my imagination and morning and how each letter showed us of that love! Have a go!!!

B bountiful
E endless
A abiding
U understanding
T tender
Y YOURS AND MINE

Love and God bless, from us both, Kathy & Brian xx



Calling all crafters

I wonder whether anyone would make some Teeny Teddies or Bunnies for a charity project I am working on. These must be soft to touch as they are for babies. I have a knitting pattern if anyone would like a copy, these can be crocheted too if knitting isn't your thing. I don't need a huge number so perhaps you can let me know if you are willing to help. I do need some by mid- October and these should either be bear colour, white or lilac, mauve or lavender. Others I need by mid-November and these can be any colour you choose.

I would really appreciate this as I am trying to knit the larger items required.

Lynne

BIRTHDAYS: Derek 14th July, Daphne 24th July,
Lynda (Bourne) 2nd August, Alice 4th August, Judith (German) 14th August,
Julie (Maple) 22nd August, Lynda (Lucas) 22nd August,
Doris (German) 24th August, Joan (Norris) 31st August

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM SHARON

In case you missed it in the last news sheet

As you know, I (Sharon) have been our interim treasurer since Heather became unwell in September of last year, and am due to finish at the end of August. At present, all offertory/donations for the Church and it's running costs, are in cheque form. My husband then deposits them at HSBC in Sittingbourne once a month as I, like many of us, am vulnerable, due to health issues and unable to circulate within the community. We do not know who will be able to take over from me, so it seems sensible to look at an alternative method of offertory/donation.

We are currently looking into our congregation setting up standing orders to ensure this vital revenue keeps us afloat during these trying times. If anyone has any questions, other ideas or suggestions about the way forward in this important matter, please could you write a note to me or contact me on:

01795 874297/ 07718289666

I will e-mail Chris Chare and remind him that I go at the end of August and ask him to give me a call. My friend is the treasurer for her church in Canterbury and the congregation use standing orders for their 'giving'. They no longer use envelopes at all.

BUT, it is up for discussion and we can explore options as they become available. If you would like to make your offerings or donations, you can still send them to Sharon until mid-August.

As yet, no arrangements are in place from 1st September 2020, so you will need to hold on to your offerings until something has been arranged.

Please make cheques payable to:

The Church in Hope Street

If you have envelopes, please include them. Thank you

Or for BACS payments: **Account name: The Church in Hope Street**

Sort code: 40-41-41

Account number: 71387421

This is what is printed in the order of service for Sundays URC services
'Giving is part of our faith - as much as prayer, reading the Bible, singing hymns or the various other things we do to show our Christianity. In these days of lockdown we can't get along to church to give in the collection - some of us have changed to standing orders, some have sent a cheque or made a direct bank transfer to church and other charities we support. Some of us are storing our envelopes until they can be safely collected. However,

we're doing it, we're still giving.' Lynne

The challenge of such a commitment is expressed by Kathy Galloway in her poem,"
The sower and the seed " from 'Talking to the bones', which finishes with these
lines:

I look at my own hand. It is closed, still clutching for what is gone.

But I cannot scatter seed with a clenched fist.

I open my hand. I let go of all that I have been holding that needs to die.

It hurts to let it go.

But it is the hurt of life. Now I can sow new seed.

My seeds are small. But they have great potential.

I don't know where they will take root.

*So I want to sow well, with care, seeds of friendship and respect, and value for
people.*

Seeds of justice and love, seeds of reverence and encouragement.

I want to sow seeds of peace.

I can only sow. For the rest, I trust, and I let go...

Let us learn to trust and let go

Teach me, my God and King Singing The Faith 668

Prayer

The field is the world.

Lord, I live in a tiny patch of your world

but it is still my field to serve you.

I pray that I will give my time and gifts

to you and yours

in whatever way I can.

Your kingdom come, O Lord.

Amen.

The Kingdom of God is justice and joy Singing The Faith 255

Blessing

Lord of the

Help us to keep looking to You

And learning from You all the time,

So that we may grow together in love.

Amen

When can we meet again?

The leaders will be having another ZOOM meeting on Monday 6th July to
review the situation and will keep you all informed.

Greetings

Another message from my study:

As I watch, on TV, another gathering of mindless people playing little or no regard to the
situation we find ourselves in I have to ask – do they not know we are in the midst of a global
pandemic? Do they not care? We had until recently been watching daily government
bulletins so how could they not know?

Yet the media was awash with images of protests about this and that, with so much anger,
Illegal raves even popping up on our doorstep, and sun bathing on the beaches just because
the sun was out and they could. What is wrong with these people? Many were asking! Well
it seems that a percentage of people think this is all a conspiracy to control us; another group
are radically against being told what to do – it is their right to do what they like with no
regard to anyone else. There are the sceptics who refuse to believe without personal
experience. And there are a huge number of these around – because they cannot SEE the
virus it does not exist. Remind you of someone?

We find him in St Johns gospel chapter 20. Thomas had been told, by the other disciples that
they had seen Jesus after his crucifixion. His reply was " Unless I see the nail marks in his
hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side I will not
believe"

Have we bred a society of sceptics who refuse to believe anything beyond their own
experience? People who have largely blinkered themselves to a world beyond themselves. I
sincerely hope not, for in doing so they miss out on so much. Think of a dandelion trying to
grow in the crack of a concrete path. Yes it has made it, but with a struggle -where growing
in rich soil would have been so much easier and it would have been so much stronger.

This refusal to believe leads them to deny God too! - to discount His very existence just
because they cannot see Him.

Thomas did eventually come to believe when he was shown.

In John 20: 29 Jesus said "have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those
who have not seen and yet have come to believe"

How can we as modern day disciples help those who proclaim they don't believe? Is that
really their true stance? I have known some who call on His name when in trouble yet deny
his existence. My wise Mum would have called that hedging your bets.

We are called to make disciples of all. Jesus did not say it was an easy task, and God knows
we need more labourers. How can we help the disbelievers? Perhaps! one way, they may at
least ask questions, is by watching the Lord's disciples of today. Someone once said to me
after I had led worship years ago "I want some of what you have got" my reply "It is there
for the taking just ask and it will be given". However, be aware that what you do and say can
make that difference. My beautiful and wise erstwhile friend often used to say " Please
protect me from miserable Christians" let people see you are happy to be called His people.
That doesn't mean plastering a false smile on your face but just be you in Him and let people
see Him in You. Who knows you might even change someone's life for the better!

May the Lord Bless and Keep you, and Enfold you in His arms. And until we can meet again
Stay safe my friends.

With Love  Lynne

lynne.hopestreet@outlook.com and mobile is 0751996318

Martin (Smith) was planned to lead worship at Hope Street on Sunday 19th July. Sadly, this will not be possible, but Martin has sent some of what would have been in his service for you along with his good wishes.

God is Love: let heaven adore him (Singing The Faith 103)

Psalms 86:11-13

Abba, Father, let me be Singing The Faith 439

Isaiah 44: 6-8

Romans 8: 12-27

Singing The Faith 72 Father God, I wonder

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

SERMON

What are weeds? I have a lot of flowers growing in the wrong place in my garden. Some people say that a weed is just a flower growing in the wrong place.

Does anyone have weeds in their garden? I have to admit that when I told Vicky I had been doing some sermon prep by looking at the weeds in our garden she found the gardening gloves and told me to do something more useful about them! It's amazing how well they grow – they are very successful. Think of dandelions, or poppies, or bindweed or, a particular problem in our garden, bindweed. And I have to admit I have a soft spot for daisies and buttercups. Weeds can look very pretty. Even my arch-enemy, bindweed, can look very pretty. But not in MY back garden! It's just in the wrong place.

What happens to the farmer in the story? Jesus tells us that he has a bit of bad luck. He plants a crop, but a trouble-maker scatters weeds over the field. I wonder if any of them were pretty, like buttercups? It makes no difference if they were; they were in the wrong place.

Part of growing in the way that God wants is being where He wants us to be. This isn't always easy. We may get an idea of something we would like to do and we get on with it, without ever asking if it's what God wants. It might be something good in itself; but it simply isn't part of God's plan for us. Then when things go wrong, we end up blaming God. To grow in the right way, we need to keep talking to God all the time; but more importantly listening.

After planting what does a farmer have to do? Water, weed, fertilise maybe but **wait**. In all kinds of gardening, there has to be a time of waiting, when it looks as if nothing's happening. Things are happening, of course. The seed under the ground is starting to sprout, out of sight. We have to wait to see the results. This is true in life as well. Sometimes, God doesn't want us to do anything at all. He wants us to wait whilst he is preparing a situation for us. Did I say He doesn't want us to do

anything? That isn't true of course. He wants us to keep praying; to keep listening, so that we are ready to act when He gives the word.

What did the servants want to do? In the story Jesus tells, the servants want to pull the weeds up, but the master tells them to let them all grow together, then when harvest comes, he will sort them out.

Jesus explains that the field is like the world. In the world, good and bad people grow side by side together. When the world ends, God will decide what will happen to these people. Why is this wait necessary?

The servants won't be able to tell which are weeds and which are plants. A man comes to the house to do odd jobs. You ask him to do some weeding. Later, you discovered that he had pulled up all the carnations. He doesn't know the difference. How would you feel? The bible tells us that although people judge by outside appearances, God knows what is in people's hearts. If we had to decide who was in or out, we would often get it wrong, by judging by appearances. That is why it has to be God who decides.

What did the master tell the servants to do? Jesus said that the master told the servants not to pull up the weeds for fear of damaging good plants. That means that the weeds have a chance to grow in the right way, and to bear good fruit after all. I think that this means we have a responsibility to tell others about Jesus. If we don't decide whom God does or doesn't include, our job must be to give as many people as we can the opportunity to be included.

And so our churches must be where everybody is always welcome no matter how awkward they are, and where we learn from each other.

And perhaps we need to especially welcome are the awkward ones, the annoying ones, the trouble makers, even the ones who are absolute monsters (I am not thinking about anyone in particular!) because they're the ones who dare to rock the boat and ruffle the surface, and who so often bring honesty into our church community. A church which allows dissension and argument may not feel very comfortable and may not appear to those outside to be very loving or very nice, but it's usually a church which is alive and growing. And it's only by learning to love and accept the awkward that we can really begin to know what loving is all about. This may be a lesson we will need to learn and apply as we learn how to be Church in these changing times

- we will need to listen to other ways of doing things,
- new ways,
- ways which we don't like the look of.
- We may need to do a lot of loving and accepting.

The challenge for us as individuals, as a church, as a circuit is to

- be where God wants us to be
- wait and pray so we are ready to act
- to love and accept, however awkward the other people might be