



The
United
Reformed
Church



Halifax Group Magazine

Heath New Hope New Providence



May 2019

Our vision is to know, love, live and
share Jesus, for a better world.

Letter from the New Manse

Dear friends,

At the time of writing this I'm limping, or to be more precise, I'm struggling to walk. Hopefully by the time you read it I'll be back to normal.

A very old injury means that from time to time one of my hips hurts. It usually gets better in a few days, but when it's painful I subconsciously modify my walking action in order to reduce the pressure on the joint. However, this time the hip pain has lasted a bit longer, and my modified walking action has put pressure on the knee of my other leg which is now painful and swollen. To compensate for this I'm walking differently again, and now have pain in one foot and my lower back. I'm sure that many of you will have had a similar experience, of one problem leading to another.

St Paul uses the body as an analogy for the Church, which I think is a helpful picture. When one of us has a problem or is ill it affects us all: we share in the pain and the anxiety. I've appreciated the concern shown for me by those who have noticed my predicament. Similarly, we can all share one another's joys and celebrations, as we do when there is a special birthday, anniversary or new addition to the family.

Just as there are different parts of the human body, so the church is made up of people with different gifts. Together we should have all the gifts necessary for the building up of the church and the mission that God calls us to.

At our recent annual meetings, I've been really encouraged by the number of people who exercise their gifts and give of

Letter from the New Manse

their time within the life of the church. Of course, there will be times when our health or our personal circumstances prevent us from exercising our gifts and participating fully in the life of the church. This is unavoidable, and at such times the rest of us will bear the extra weight, and we'll do so willingly. Some may feel themselves to be too elderly or too frail to participate fully, but it's as well to remember that the gifts of encouragement and prayer can be exercised from an armchair or bed.

There are, however, some who don't exercise their gifts for other reasons, and this may be putting too much strain on those who do, and perhaps even disabling the church. If this is you, please think carefully. A healthy knee is meant to work as a knee, and we would expect it to be bandaged and immobilised.

We are the body of Christ. May we have concern for one another and whenever possible play our part in the mission of God in this part of the world.

God bless,
Heather.

.....

Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school Teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

Pulpit list

Heath URC, Free School Lane. 10.30am

May

- 5 Mr Jim Walker
- 12 Mrs Valerie Jenkins
- 19 Rev John Jenkinson - Communion
- 26 Mrs Dawn Walker - Fair Trade Stall

Activities in May

Thursday 9 May – 7.30pm Thursday Club – Visit to Warley House Garden

Sunday 12 May – 4.00pm – Messy Church

Tuesday 21 May - 10.30am - Community Coffee Morning

Saturday 25 May – 10am-12noon- Bacon Butties Books and Bakes for Christian Aid

Weekly Events

Monday

- 9.15am Toddlers (term time only)
- 2.00pm Sing for Fun – Singing Group
- 5.45pm Beaver Scouts 5-8yrs
- 6.30pm Cub Scouts 8-10yrs

Friday

- 7.30pm Scouts 10-14yrs
- 7.30pm Explorer Scouts

The collection at the Group Service in March raised £220.00. This has been paid into the Christian Aid Hurricane Idai appeal.

Hello Folks

HEATH

How are you doing?

In the news on 10th April 2019 we saw the:

“First ever black hole image released captured by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), a network of eight linked telescopes. Prof Falcke had the idea for the project when he was a PhD student in 1993.

The black hole measures 40 billion km across - three million times the size of the Earth - and has been described by scientists as "a monster".

The black hole is 500 million trillion km away and was photographed by a network of eight telescopes across the world.

What is a black hole?

- § A black hole is a region of space from which nothing, not even light, can escape
- § Despite the name, they are not empty but instead consist of a huge amount of matter packed densely into a small area, giving it an immense gravitational pull
- § There is a region of space beyond the black hole called the event horizon. This is a "point of no return", beyond which it is impossible to escape the gravitational effects of the black hole

Dr Ziri Younsi, of University College London, of the EHT collaboration. "Although they are relatively simple objects, black holes raise some of the most complex questions about the nature of space and time, and ultimately of our existence," he said."

By Pallab Ghosh Science correspondent, BBC News

Focusing our thoughts on such things can be mind boggling and how small and insignificant we may feel. Yet God tells us

HEATH

Who made the heavens and the earth that we are Psalm 139:14 fearfully and wonderfully made and that Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

A lovely video of this can be seen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuDtIHtWR64>

In the Old Testament in Ecclesiastes Solomon had thoughts that all is vanity. But Jesus gave us two commandments as seen in Luke 10:27 to Love God and Love our neighbour as we love ourselves. In Genesis we see that God, in His greatness, after He had made all things including black holes He made us for Himself, for His reasons. He wants a relationship with us 1 John 4:19 “we love Him, because He first loved us” and for us to have good relationships with each other: Proverbs 14:21 “It is a sin to hate your neighbour, but being kind to the needy brings happiness.”

Bringing happiness to others is symbiotic and also incredibly nourishing for our own selves and for our own wellbeing. And what may seem like simple acts of kindness to others, even just a smile or encouraging word, can mean so much. Reaching out to and from our own circle of friends and family in kindness can help to change a life.

St Bernard pondered too, and said:

“Life is only for love
And time is that we may know God”

And finally for now: 3 John 1:2 So dear friends, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

With many blessings, and please don't hesitate to call me if you need to 07803295002. Please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Dawn Weald Parish Nurse, Heath Church.

Pulpit Supply

May 2019

May. 5th Rev John Jenkinson
May. 12th Rev Heather Pollard
May. 19th Mr. David Truswell
May. 26th Mr. Peter Oates

Friendship Hour at 2.15pm

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays most months to enjoy each others company, have a cup of tea, coffee and biscuits and meet new friends. The meeting on May 8th will be 'Cragside House and Gardens' with Trevor Moody. The meeting on May 22nd will be 'Some Calderdale Scientistst' with David Glover.

Ladies Excercise Class: Wednesdays at 7.30pm
Boys' Brigade: Mondays from 6.30pm

Quiz Night at New Hope on Saturday May 11th at 7.00pm including a pie and pea supper at £5 per person. We would like to welcome everyone from our other Churches.

Sunday May 12th is our Gift Day

THE MISSION GRANT

Most of our Church week is taken up doing things to keep the Church running. This came to notice at our AGM whilst looking at the list of 31 duties. We had an attendance of approx. 20 at the meeting. Any Mission initiative must take this mismatch of people and duties into account.

It would be useful to know what Synod means by 'Mission'. It must be age specific ie. We can't do running for Mission or start a Mission Football Team, but we can start a Choir. Something else would have to give way for this. Some of us do other non-church things.

Does Mission mean door knocking or leaflets – this doesn't work too well around Church.

What we need are more people to reflect on what we mean by Mission and then put a £3,000 price tag on it. Cynically it is just two years worth of Lay Preachers! Which can be classed as Mission in the writer's mind. Or it could be donated to Christian Aid which spreads grateful thoughts in the recipients heads.

Here is a bit for you, the reader:-

Mission means.....
I would spend £3,000 on.....

Mike Riley

NEW PROVIDENCE

Pulpit Supply

MAY

5th....Mr. John Brooksbank
12th....Mr. Jim Walker
19th....Rev. Heather Pollard (Parade)
26th....Mrs. Juliet Foster (Communion)

New Providence

Diary

MAY

Tuesday's – 5.00pm Garden Gang
Friday's – 6.30pm Brownies at New Providence
Friday's – 6.45pm Boy's Brigade / Girl's Association at
the Carlton Centre
Wednesday 15th – 7.30pm – Elders Meeting
Sunday 19th – 12.45pm Church Meeting
Monday 27th 7.30pm – New Provi Circle



THE TRUE ORIGINS OF THE INTERNET

An old, bearded shepherd with a crooked staff walked up to a stone pulpit and said, "And lo, it came to pass that the trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why doth thou travel far, from town to town, with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, Dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had, at the top price, without ever moving from his tent. But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secret himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young man did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums, that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only if you bought Brother Gates' drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known "eBay," he said, "we need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "Whoopee!" said Abraham. "No, YAHOO!" said Dot Com.....and that is how it all began.

Author Unkown

The strongman at a circus squeezed the juice from a lemon between his hands. He then said to the audience, "I will offer £200 to anyone in the audience who can squeeze another drop from this lemon. A thin scholarly looking woman came forward, picked up the lemon, strained hard and managed to get a drop. The strongman was amazed. He paid the woman and asked, "What is the secret of your strength?" "Practice," the woman answered. "I was the treasurer in a United Reformed Church for thirty-two years!

My Religion Is Kindness

My religion is kindness
said the flower to the bee
come and take my nectar
it's a gift to you from me.

My religion is kindness
said the mother to her son
we've learned a lot together
and it's been a lot of fun.

My religion is kindness
said the husband to his wife
let's treat each other nicely
and we'll have a better life.

My religion is kindness
said the apple to its tree
help me not to fall
before it's time to pick me.

My religion is kindness
said the morning to the sun
I enable you to rise
when the night is done.

My religion is kindness
said the forest to the tree
no need to feel alone
stay and stand with me.

My religion is kindness
said the earth to the seed
trust and I will care for you
I'll fill your every need.

My religion is kindness,
sweet Jesus said to me
I am here to help you
and keep you company.

Paul Martin.

Disciple Quiz

1. Who was also known as Cephas?
2. Who were known as 'The Sons of Thunder'?
3. Who was Bartholomew also known as?
4. Who was Didymous?
5. Who was Levi?
6. Who was Thaddeus?
7. Who was known as 'The Zealot'?
8. Who were the elder and the younger (or the less)?
9. Who were the Boanerges?
10. Who was Peter's brother?

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 AD. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before Pentecost. Depending upon the phases of the Moon in a particular year, Ascension Day is usually celebrated on a Thursday. However, some churches may choose to celebrate it on the following Sunday. Many Eastern Orthodox churches calculate the date of Pascha (Easter) according to the Julian calendar, rather than the Gregorian calendar used by many western churches, so their Ascension Day usually occurs after the western observance.

Ascension Day Thursday May 30th 2019

Worth Trying For

In June 1985, two British mountaineers Joe Simpson and Simon Yates made the first-ever climb of the West Face of the 21,000 foot snow-covered Siula Grande mountain in Peru. It was an exceptionally tough assault - but nothing compared to what was to come. Early in the descent, Simpson fell and smashed his right knee. Yates could have abandoned him but managed to find a way of lowering him down the mountain in a series of difficult drops blinded by snow and cold. Then Simpson fell into a crevasse and Yates eventually had no choice but to cut the rope, utterly convinced that his friend was now dead.

In his subsequent book on the climb entitled "Touching The Void", Joe Simpson wrote:

"As I gazed at the distant moraines, I knew that I must at least try. I would probably die out there amid those boulders. The thought didn't alarm me. It seemed reasonable, matter-of-fact. That was how it was. I could aim for something. If I died, well, that wasn't so surprising, but I wouldn't have just waited for it to happen. The horror of dying no longer affected me as it had in the crevasse. I now had the chance to confront it and struggle against it. It wasn't a bleak dark terror any more, just fact, like my broken leg and frostbitten fingers, and I couldn't be afraid of things like that. My leg would hurt when I fell and when I couldn't get up I would die."

The survival of Yates himself was extraordinary. That Simpson somehow found a way of climbing out of the crevasse after 12 hours and then literally crawled and dragged himself six miles back to camp, going three days and nights without food or drink, losing three stone, and contracting ketoacidosis in the process, would be the stuff of heroic fiction if it was not so true. Indeed, six operations and two years later, he was even back climbing. All because, against all the odds, he tried ...

Source: "Touching The Void" by Joe Simpson

Is Spring Bank Holiday a Public Holiday?

Spring Bank Holiday is a public holiday. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed.

What Do People Do?

For many people the spring bank holiday is a pleasant day off work or school. Some people choose to take a short trip or vacation. Others use the time to walk in the country, catch up with family and friends, visit garden centres or do home maintenance. However, in some parts of the United Kingdom, there are some customs associated with this day.

On Cooper's Hill in Brockworth, Gloucestershire, people race down a steep hill following a large round cheese. The hill is concave and has an incline of 1:1 in some places. The first person to cross the finishing line wins a Double Gloucester cheese weighing about 8lbs (around 3.5kg). The custom may have been started by the Romans or ancient Britons and be an ancient fertility rite or a way of guaranteeing the rights of the villagers to graze their livestock on the surrounding land. In some years, there have been a lot of injuries, causing the event to be cancelled a couple of times in recent years. In these years, the cheese was rolled down the hill, but nobody was allowed to chase it.

In Endon in Staffordshire, the villagers dress their well, hold a fayre (village celebration) and crown a girl as the Well Dressing Queen. Local men hold a competition, known as 'Tossing the Sheaf', in which they compete to see who can toss a bale of straw the highest. In other places, boats are blessed, Morris dancers put on displays and local festivals are held.

NORM'S WORD SEARCH

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

Ascention

Spring Bank

Transfiguration

Apostles

Buds

Stone

Tomb

Language

Blossom

Flames

Spices

Emmaus

May

Tongues

Myrrh

Cave

Maypole

Whit

Holidays

Grave

Dancing

Sunday

Peace

Mary

Death

When you have found all the above words work out the message with the left over letters:-

Crossword Clues

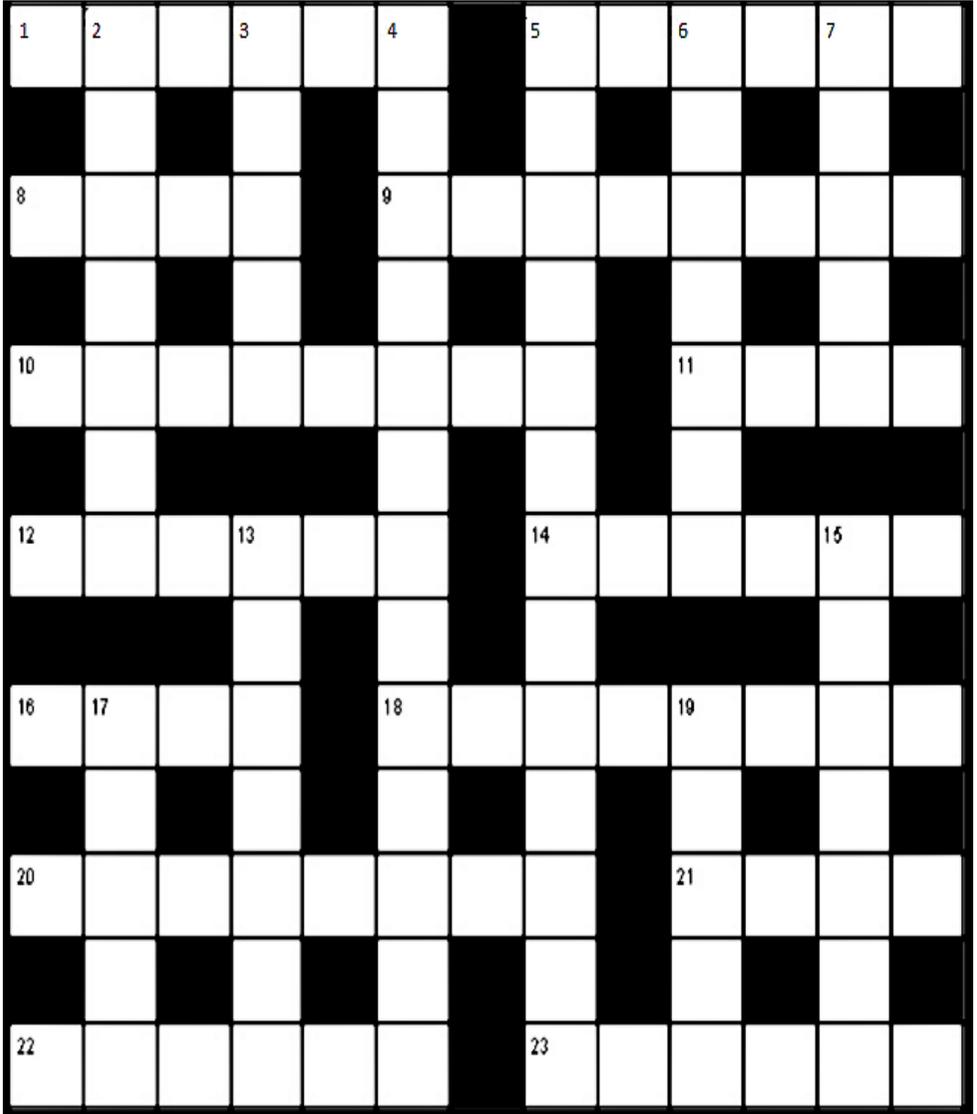
Across

1. Writer of “cautionary tales” e.g “Matilda who told lies”.(6)
5. Major feast of the Christian calendar. (6)
8. “---- Dei”; Roman Catholic organisation. (4)
9. Footwear worn by native Americans. (8)
10. Italian musical term meaning “hold back”. (8)
11. Emblem of St David and Wales. (4)
12. “O come, O come, -----, Who in thy glorious majesty, From that high mountain clothed in awe, Gavest thy folk the elder Law.” hymn (6)
14. Martyr whose relics are kept at Brookwood cemetery near Woking. (6)
16. “Is there no ---- in Gilead; is there no physician there?” Jeremiah (4)
18. The middle of the day. (8)
20. “And Mary said, Behold the ----- of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” (8)
21. “Cast me not ---- from thy Presence” Church Anthem by SS Wesley. (4)
22. “The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit Shall lure it back to ----- half a Line, Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it” Edward Fitzgerald (6)
23. Bridge in Venice over the Grand Canal. (6)

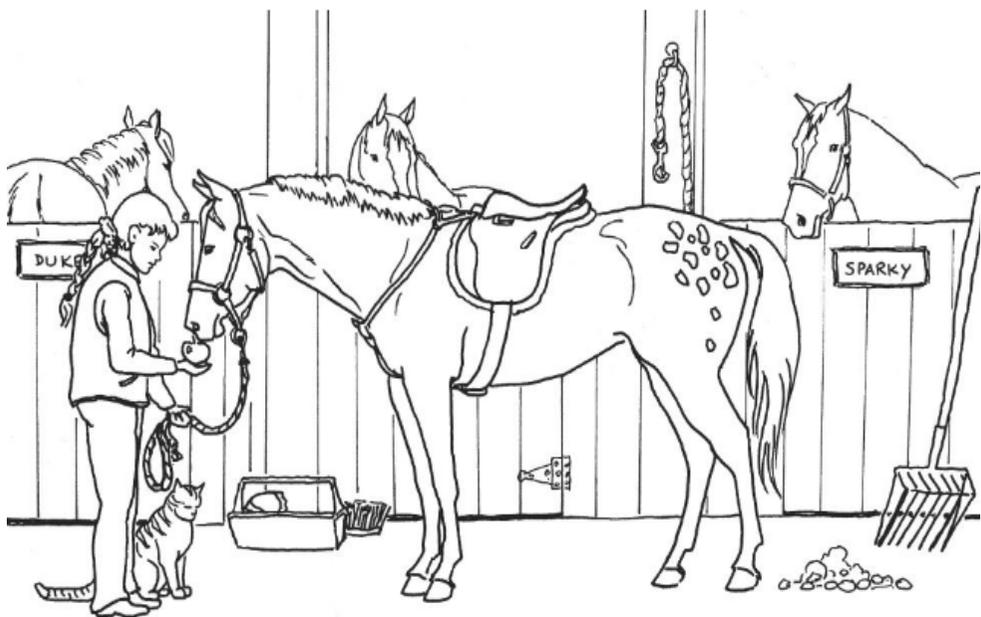
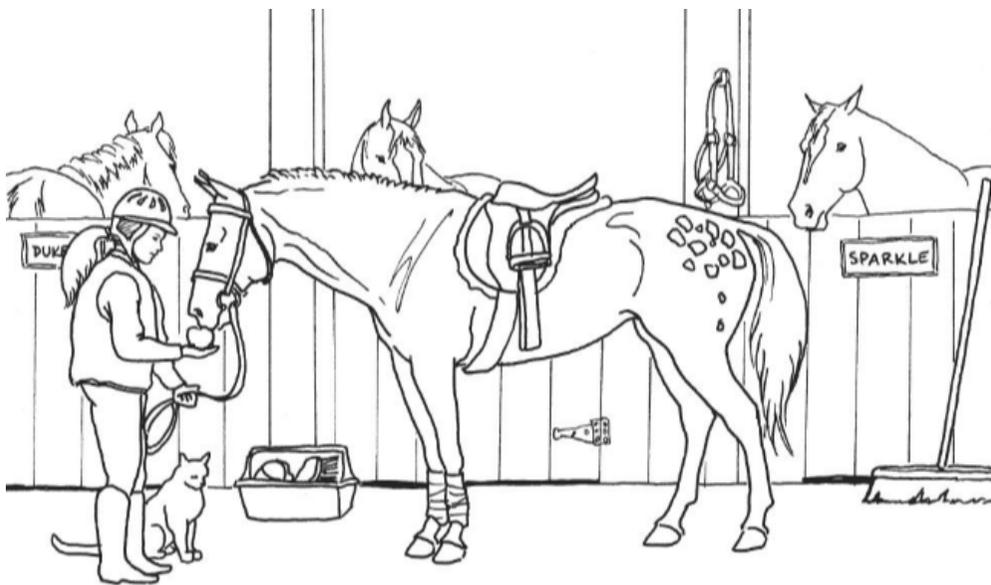
Down

2. Having been made devoid of contents. (7)
3. A fine, smooth, tightly twisted thread spun cotton, used especially for hosiery.(5)
4. The partition which separates the sanctuary from the body of the church where the Holy Sacrament is administered. (9,4)
5. A self-contained Christian community: a Christian religious community whose members remain physically within it (8,5)
6. “Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the ----- a nest for herself, where she may lay her young” Psalms (7)
7. Enforced removal from one's native country (5)
13. Leading the life of a person without a fixed domicile; moving from place to place. (7)
15. Beaming; emitting light or heat. (7)
17. Seaport of Jordan. (5)
19. Another name for the triple crown worn by the Pope. (5)

CROSSWORD



CAN YOU FIND AT LEAST 15 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 2 PICTURES



Answers

Crossword

Across 1. Belloc 5. Easter 8. Opus 9. Moccasin 10. Ritenuto 11. Leek 12. Adonai 14. Edward 16. Balm 18. Noontide 20. Handmaid 21. Away 22. Cancel 23. Rialto
Down 2. Emptied 3. Lisle 4. Communion Rail 5. Enclosed Order 6. Swallow 7. Exile 13. Nomadic 15. Radiant 17. Aqaba 19. Tiara

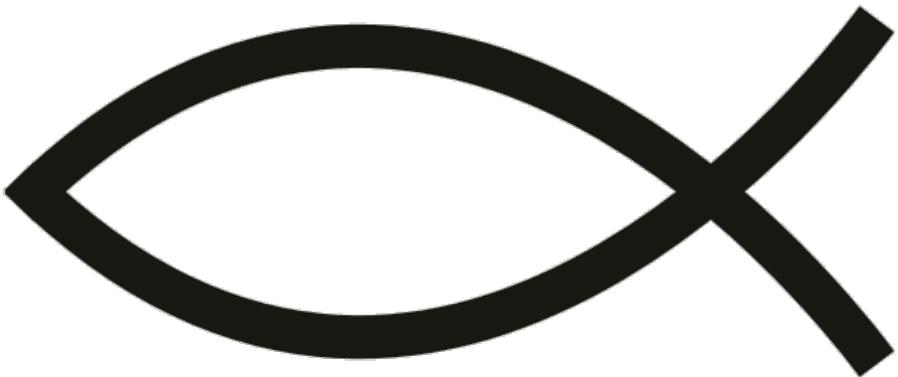
Norma's Wordsearch Roll away the stone and be amazed. Stop doubting believe in Jesus

Disciple Quiz

1. Peter
2. James and John
3. Nathanael
4. Thomas
5. Matthew
6. Jude
7. Simon
8. John (the elder) and James (the younger, the less)
9. James and John
10. Andrew

GROUP CALENDAR

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>What's on</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| <u>May</u> | | | |
| Wed. 8 th | 2.15pm | New Hope | Friendship Hour |
| Thu. 9 th | 7.30pm | Heath | Thursday Club |
| Sat. 11 th | 7.00pm | New Hope | Quiz Night |
| Sun. 12 th | 4.00pm | Heath | Messy Church |
| Wed 15 th | 7.30pm | New Providence | Elders Meeting |
| Sun. 19 th | 12.45pm | New Providence | Church Meeting |
| Tue. 21 st | 10.30am | Heath | Community coffee club |
| Wed 22 nd | 2.15pm | New Hope | Friendship Hour |
| Sat. 25 th | 10am till noon | Heath | For Christian aid |
| Mon. 27 th | 7.30pm | New Providence | New Provi Circle |



PREACHER PLAN

HEATH URC, MANOR DRIVE, 10.30 AM

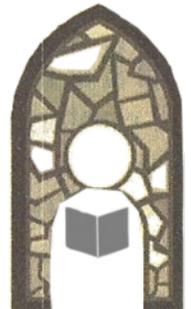
May. 5th Mr. Jim Walker
May. 12th Mrs. Valerie Jenkins
May. 19th Rev John Jenkinson
May. 26th Mrs. Dawn Walker

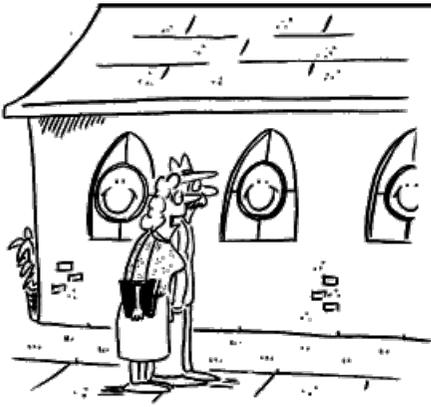
NEW HOPE URC, WARLEY ROAD 10.30 AM

May. 5th Rev John Jenkinson
May. 12th Rev Heather Pollard
May. 19th Mr. David Truswell
May. 26th Mr. Peter Oates

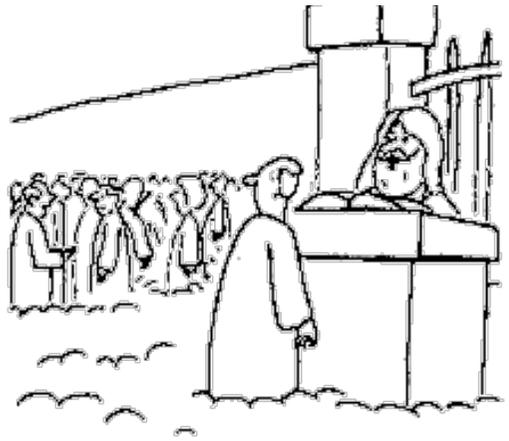
NEW PROVIDENCE URC, KEIGHLEY ROAD 11.00 AM

May. 5th Mr. John Brooksbank
May. 12th Mr. Jim Walker
May. 19th Rev Heather Pollard
May. 26th Mrs. Juliet Foster





"There's something very positive
About this Church."



"Those are the Saints. One day
they just came marching in."

Useful Numbers

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Mrs S Wolfenden (New Providence) 244402

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URC web site: www.urc.org.uk

Yorkshire Synod www.urcyorkshire.org.uk

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June Deadline



All contribution need to be in by **THURSDAY MAY 16th**
please. These can be either handed in to your church reps
or stop press direct to the editor at:

robertbrook@sky.com

Late submissions may not be inserted.

Thank you.