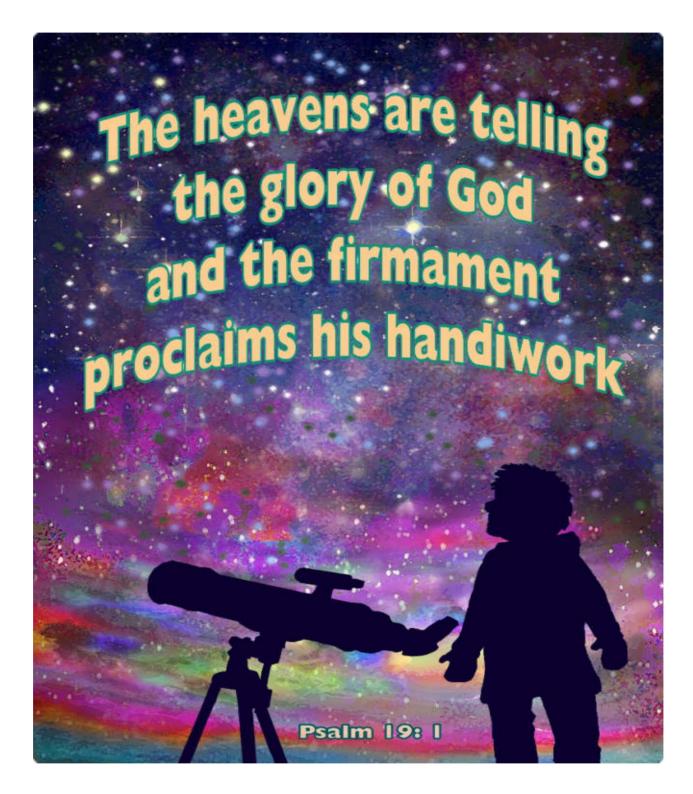
Christ Church Ramsbottom





Newsletter

JUNE 2024

Church Services Sundays 10.30am

2nd June	Cafe Worship	Susan Applegate
9th June		Rev Stephen Crook
16th June	Communion Service	Rev Stephen Crook
23rd June		Rev Stephen Crook
30th June		Stuart Martin
7th July	Cafe Worship	Rev Stephen Crook

Regular Activities at Church

Tuesdays	Prayer Meeting (usually on Zoom)	7pm
Wednesdays	Little Stars	9.30 - 11.30am
Thursdays	Drop-In Cafe	10am - 12pm

Dates & Events

1st June 9.30am - 12.30pm	Community Cafe in aid of Air Ambulance	@ Church
6th July 9.30am - 12.30pm	Community Cafe	@ Church
14th July 2.30pm	Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Bolton and Rochdale District	Harwood Methodist Church



From our Minister Stephen Crook

Hi Everyone - It's June already - can you believe it?

Isn't it strange how we're all different? This is no accident; God knew exactly what He was doing when He made us.

This is evident in what makes us laugh - some of you will laugh at some things whilst others will laugh at different things - some out loud - some quietly to themselves - some hardly breaking a smile.

When I was a boy I used to read my dad's 'readers digest' - and the best bit for me was the section "Laughter is the best medicine". Laughter is indeed strong medicine. It draws people together in ways that trigger healthy physical and emotional changes in the body. Laughter strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from the damaging effects of stress. I'm told nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Humour lightens your burdens, inspires hope, connects you to others, and keeps you grounded (especially if you can laugh at yourself), focused, and alert. It also helps you release anger and forgive sooner.

Prayer too is one of the things that comes in 'different sizes' and one could say a 'range of colours and styles'

Some find it easy to share 'out loud' whilst others prefer to pray 'internally' - both are very valuable and however you pray - you should keep on doing it.

It's the motive that counts and not necessarily the style although there are clear

directions Given in Nehemiah Chapter 1 and of course from our Lord Himself in Matthew chapter 6.

Some years ago, (over 30! eek!!) with a small group of friends I was praying what I thought was a brilliant prayer - it flowed, was focussed on God and 'felt' just right. HOWEVER, as many of you may have experienced - I just couldn't bring it to a close. Rather than just saying AMEN, I carried on trying to deliver a meaningful ending to my prayer and went round and round - and round and round. Finally I stumbled across the finish line - phew!!! Immediately those with me burst into polite laughter with one saying - "what was all that about?" they were laughing 'with me' and not 'at me' - I think??

Sometimes we get the better of ourselves, but it made me think.

Here's a link to prayer that always makes me consider my own prayers and always makes me laugh. If you see yourself in it - keep on praying whilst smiling.

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=DzaZZZsyVXI

Pray today for those who can't! - maybe they don't know that they can, or have never experienced prayer in any way - even telling someone you're praying for them often breaks their heart with love never felt before. If you're not sure how, just open your mouth and start talking to God - He'll hear you and know exactly what you mean.

May God bless your day. Rev Stephen

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Ruth

By Canon Paul Hardingham

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances, during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons left Judah for Moab, where her sons married. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.

In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem (chapter 1). In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields (chapter 2).

The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim (chapter 3). Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth (chapter 4).

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose e.g. 'Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning' (1:22). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

'In its artful telling of this 'outsider' widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story'. (Eugene Peterson).

Prayer for June 2024

Dear Lord,

Here we are in June. Halfway through this year already! How the years fly by and often we are so busy, so taken up with everyday concerns that we forget to take time to be still; to consciously be in your presence; to be aware of the wonders of your world.

June is such a beautiful month, so we take this moment, Lord - and we thank you for your goodness to us and your provision for us.

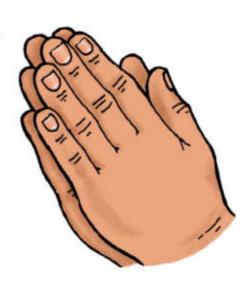
Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus who is the only way to you, who is your truth and who offers us eternal life, if we will turn

away from our self-centredness and put our trust in Him.

For June and for Jesus, Lord, we praise you and we glorify you. And we move into the rest of the year in hope and trust.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



God in Music: Johannes S Bach "Glorious the song when God's the theme"

The Rev Michael Burgess continues a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.

'Surprised by Joy' is the title C S Lewis gave to his spiritual autobiography. To him, joy meant not just the name of the woman he eventually married, but also an awareness of God's glory and goodness. It was something that, like Wordsworth, he experienced in childhood, and later in his thirties when his faith was relit. That experience of joy Jesus shared with His disciples at the Last Supper: it is a word that permeates chapters 16 and 17 of St John's Gospel.

And it is a word that lies at the heart of the music of J S Bach. Whenever he set Freude, the German word for joy, his music rises to a new level of movement and excitement. The joy is there, not just as a word set to music, but as the heart and life of all his compositions. Almost a thousand works with many for church worship: two Passions, three oratorios, six motets, a Magnificat, a great mass setting, nearly 200 church cantatas, 143

chorale preludes for organ, and dozens of other works - and that is just the music we have, for much has been lost.

When Bach moved to Leipzig in 1723, he had the task as choirmaster of composing cantatas for each Sunday of the year for five years, as well as looking after the choir, teaching, and tending his own family. And all with a reduced salary and social status, dreary living conditions, and a choir that was ill-fed and badly housed. The miracle is that he produced work of such beauty and wonder and grace. There is a logic and a technical precision behind his music, but also a living pulse. One moment he can reach into the depths of the soul as it faces the realities of sin, death and judgment. The next, it is ecstasy and joy at the birth and resurrection of Christ.

Next month we continue our look at Bach's music.

Watching birds is positively good for you

So says a new study out of North Carolina State University. It goes on to say that watching birds is even more beneficial to us than watching other forms of wildlife.

The new study found that birdwatchers' recorded 'distress' levels dropped by 13.7 per cent, compared to that of nature-walkers' at 6.9 per cent.

The study suggests that the reason may be that birds provide their own narrative and sense of drama, which can be enough to lift someone watching them out of the everyday.

The author and presenter Kate Humble agrees. "There is something reassuring about life continuing and nature just getting on with it, even if it feels like the rest of the world is falling to bits. Birdwatching makes me feel part of a bigger, richer, beautiful picture."

"Birds give me an excuse to explore and find some solitude and calmness away from the bustle of life," says James Lowen, author of 52 Wildlife Weekends. "It helps put me in my place."

God in the Sciences: Wonders of the Living World

by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

See www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches and http://www.cis.org.uk

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like 'your genetic blueprint' or 'survival of the fittest', but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase 'The Snuggle for Existence' as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA - which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These 'mitochondria', as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

'The Map of Life' is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the

living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms' family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That's not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there's an overarching physical law we don't yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org.

Advice to young clergy on preaching

'Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.'

Park

A journey of a thousand miles begins with trying to find a place to park your car near the church.

Birthday Scheme

When you give thanks for another year of life, give something back. Make a donation to BMS World Mission and Methodist World Mission through **Christ Church's Birthday Scheme** and help bring new life to the World's most disadvantaged peoples.



Every year, Birthday Scheme members in the UK donate hundreds of thousands of pounds! These gifts are having a huge impact, saving and transforming lives in countries across the world.

Where Does Your Money Go



- •Your birthday can help medics in Chad keep vulnerable mothers and babies safe in childbirth.
- •It can help struggling families in Uganda put food on the table by improving farming techniques and increasing crop yields.
- •It can share the gospel with people who have never heard the good news of Jesus, so that they may find faith in Christ and the fullness of life that only he can bring.



The money raised for Methodist World Mission supports projects aimed at celebrating diversity and promoting partnerships between people of widely differing cultures and ages from all parts of the world who are rooted in the Christian faith.

Share life in all its fullness and give someone else a reason to celebrate on your birthday.

Your gift will make a real difference - Thank You

Mary Vale
Christ Church Birthday Scheme



3rd June Tom

To join the birthday scheme please contact Mary

Social Trends in 2024 that churches might do well to remember

What are some of the societal trends likely to happen this summer? Should we bear them in mind when planning our own church outreach programme?

Eventbrite has highlighted some trends for those in their 20s and 30s. These could provide ideas for how we might also engage with our community.

1) The importance of self-care.

Eventbrite says that 65% of 'eventgoers' (which could easily include churchgoers) seek events which allow them to take control of their well-being, health and longevity. "People are actively seeking transformative experiences to improve their well-being."

2) Going back to nature.

75% of attendees prefer something which will connect them with nature. Eventbrite identified a growing appetite for nature-based activities such as runs, hikes, wild swimming or even park bike rides.

3) Healthy hedonism.

This is Eventbrite's title for low and noalcohol events which are becoming increasing popular. This indicates the value of getting together informally, an opportunity just to 'go out' which focuses on simply mixing. One church has a regular Men's Curry Night which is very popular and which includes a brief Christian challenge.

4) Disconnect to connect.

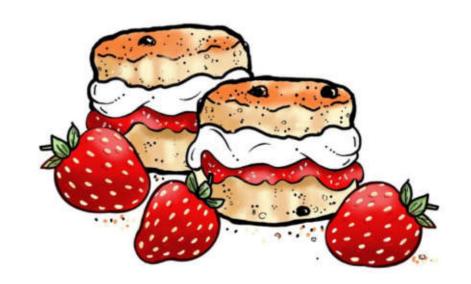
This means not viewing things through smartphones, live streaming, iPads, computers or whatever, but making it interesting enough for people to desire to go personally. Local University of the Third Age (U3A) groups arrange local outings, usually by coach, or arrange a holiday gathering. Again, the focus is on connecting, which for the church might mean an Alpha or equivalent course.

Overall, Eventbrite found that 69% of younger people would rather pay to do something or go somewhere, than spend money on material goods. This points to an outlook which imaginative churches might be able to realise.

From providing games equipment for primary-aged children to take the adventure of sliding, pedalling, climbing, cooking, or whatever, to After School Clubs for older children and Lunch Clubs for seniors, the opportunities for the church for community involvement are multiple.

We don't need to let societal trends dictate church activities, but we can utilise some of them without losing our Gospel-focus.

Source: Eventbrite advertisement via email on 22nd January 2024.



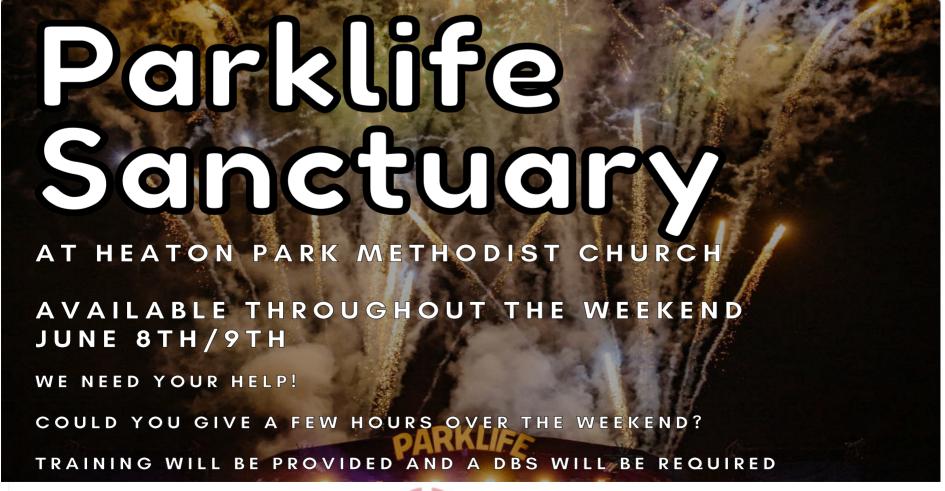
This years theme is The parable of the mustard
seed



NATIONAL MONTH OF PRAYER FOR TODDLER GROUPS JUNE 2024

Pray for your local toddler group, its leaders and all the families it comes into contact with.

For more information, ideas and resources visit; FB GROUP - 1277 National Month Of Prayer www. 1277.org.uk/resources



June Prayer Diary

Christ Church

Ramsbottom

Please take time each day to pray for the event or the person mentioned in the diary. If you are unsure what to pray or are unsure who the people are, then simply pray that God might bless them and keep them safe.

Saturday	1	For a successful Community Cafe in aid of the North West Ambulance Service
Sunday	2	Our Service today led by Susan Applegate
Monday	3	For those attending Pilates within our building
Tuesday	4	For the work of Rammy Pantry
Wednesday	5	For Little Stars, its leaders, and all the families it comes in contact with
Thursday	6	Harry
Friday	7	Baby Ballet as they use our building
Saturday	8	Diana
Sunday	9	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	10	For Messy Play as they use our building
Tuesday	11	Jo Jingles as they use our building
Wednesday	12	For those running Haven Bereavement Support Group
Thursday	13	For our Drop-In Cafe
Friday	14	Norma P.

Saturday	15	Bill & Joan
Sunday	16	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	17	Christine S.
Tuesday	18	For those who are struggling and waiting for life to change
Wednesday	19	Judith
Thursday	20	For the Circuit meeting and those attending
Friday	21	Bill & Pauline
Saturday	22	For StreetPastors, Bury
Sunday	23	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	24	For those who live in the Great Eaves Area
Tuesday	25	Rammy Pantry Clients
Wednesday	26	For those attending Slimming World
Thursday	27	Recorded Music Society as they use our building
Friday	28	Brenda
Saturday	29	Pray for the street where you live
Sunday	30	Our Service today led by Stuart Martin

THE EQUIP SERIES



TUE 12 MARCH WED 17 APRIL THU 16 MAY MON 10 JUNE TUE 16 JULY WED 14 AUGUST 2024

MONTHLY ONLINE EVENTS

HOSTED ON ZOOM

7.30 - 8.30PM

(ARRIVE FROM **7.20PM FOR A 7.30PM START)**

Come along to these information evenings and be equipped as we move towards the launch of the North West England District. These evenings will include:

- Devotions
- An update from each sub group, to increase our knowledge and understanding of how the new district will look and feel
- Q and A session

These events will run on a monthly basis, and you are invited to attend any/all of these sessions. To Join:

https://zoom.us/j/94658927054? pwd=ZmNKUGl3SWdleXJsckZyZW5tT3MrZz09

(Meeting ID: 946 5892 7054 Passcode: 125750)

To access via phone dial 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240 and follow prompts.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL NWEDCOMMUNICATION@OUTLOOK.COM.

NWED LAUNCH EV



This event is an opportunity to celebrate as five districts become one, to form the North West England District. Starting at 2.30pm, the event will include the welcome service for Rev. Dr. James Tebbutt, our District Chair (subject to Methodist Conference), and will also welcome the wider District Team. The President of Conference will be preaching, along with the Vice-President and Secretary of Conference in attendance.

Christ Church Ramsbottom



Saturday Coffee Mornings for Charity 9.30am - 12.30pm

May - July 2024

Date Charity Amt Raised

May 4th Christian Aid £165

June 1st North West

Air Ambulance

July 6th tbc



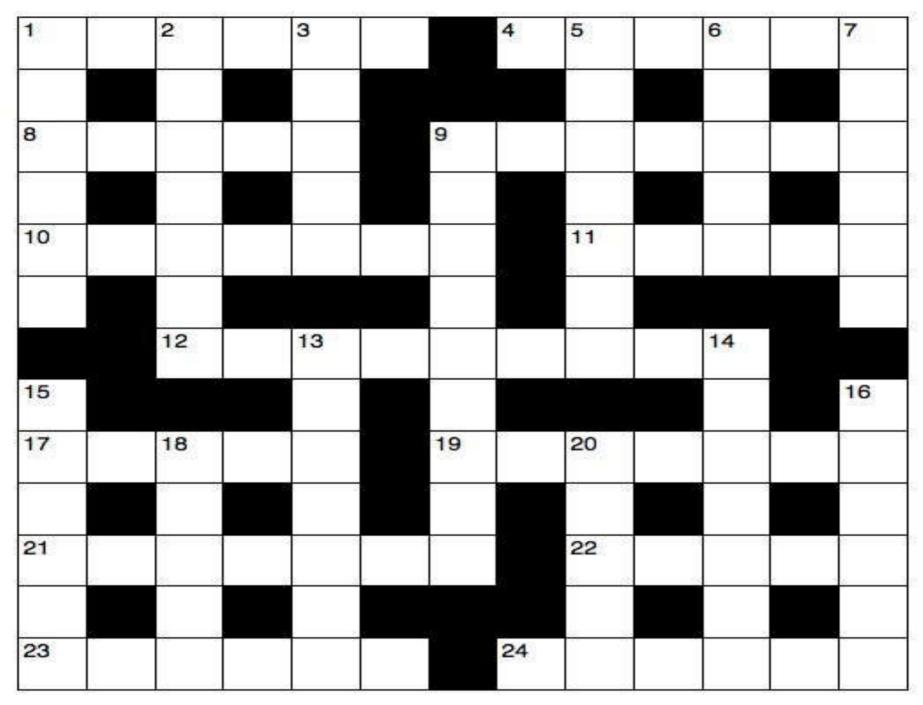


Sudoku

Sudoku is a number puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The object is to place the numbers 1-9 in the empty squares so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

6	8							
		2					5	7
	5			7	2	3	8	
			7		1	9		
7	9		3	2	4		6	1
		4	5		8			
	1	3	6	4			9	
4	7				1-7	8		
							7	4
2					5			3
	9	170	6			7		
	5						4	
				8		3		
	3	7				2	6	
		1		9				
	2						3	
		6			4		9	

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

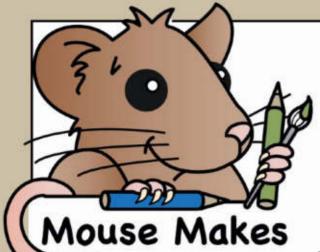
WORDSEARCH

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Erasmus, patron saint of sailors

Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea. St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms. Legend has it that one day when Erasmus was preaching outside, a thunderbolt hit the ground right beside him. That might have distracted modern bishops, but not Erasmus - he just kept on preaching. His courage won him the respect of sailors, who made him their patron saint. Erasmus finally died during the Diocletian persecutions in 300AD, and his feast day is 2nd June.

Boats	Storm	Legend	Courage
Elmo	Sea	Preaching	Sailors
Fire	Fourth	Thunder	Saints
Light	Century	Ground	Died
Masthead	Bishop	Respect	persecution



WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG MPWF UIF GBUIFS IBT HJWFO UP VT UIBU XF TIPVME CF DBMMFE DIJMESFO PG HPE

POF KPIO UISFF: POF

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

AGADAUGHT ZECHA EEZEADAMA

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words

FATHER • GOD **SON • DAUGHTER** JOSEPH • ISAAC MOSES • JOB SOLOMON ZECHARIAH ZEBEDEE

This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates: "Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."



If you rearrange the letters it can spell PATER NOSTER which means "Our Father".

APATERNOSTERO

below in the word search.

Puzzle Answers



Sudoku Easy

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

STLRPFIRENU ACIEOMSTHCE IEGDHADTCAR NPHNSSTSODG TSTUITSMURS SERHBHLTREM YRUTNECYAGE SROLIASAGOP UIFDEDDIEDB LEGENDNUORG NOITUCESREP

Sudoku Medium

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

June Rotas

Sundays								
2024	Chairs	Opening up	Door	Closing	Vestry	Refreshments	Communion	
2nd June	Diana & Steve	Diana & Steve	Bill	Diana & Steve	Joan H.	Dian & Steve		
9th June	Valerie & Norman	Valerie & Norman	Joan R.	Valerie & Norman	Susan	Julie & Judith		
16th June	Joan & Bill	Joan & Bill	Julie	Joan & Bill	Louise	Joan & Bill	Louise & Susan	
23rd June	Louise & John	Louise & John	John	Louise & John	Bill	Louise & John		
30th June	lan & Joan	Susan	Bill	Marjorie	Joan R.	Susan & Joan H.		

Thursday Drop in Café							
2024	9am	9am	Baker 1	Baker 2			
	Set up 1	Set up 2	3 x cakes	1 x cakes	Help to close		
30th May	Susan	Julie	Marjorie	Marjorie			
6th June	Susan	Julie	Diana	Diana	Susan		
13th June	Susan	Julie	Marjorie	Marjorie	Susan		
20th June	Susan	Julie	Joan H.		Susan		
27th June	Susan	Julie	Louise		Susan		

Little Stars							
Date	Lead	Helper 1	Helper 2	Kitchen			
5th June	Louise	Judith	Carol	Julie			
12th June	Judith	Louise	Carol	Joan H.			
19th June	Louie	Judith	Carol	Lesley			
26th June	Judith	Louise	Carol	Joan & Bill			

Junior Church	
Louise	Joan H.
Diana	Julie
Louise	Judith C.
Diana	Julie
	Louise Diana Louise

19



First Meeting being held on 12th June 2024

Newsletter by email

You may have noticed that the Newsletter is no longer being automatically emailed out each month, therefore, if you wish to keep receiving the Newsletter by email please let Valerie know, either in person or by sending a quick email to newsletter@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk.

Alternatively, the Newsletter is available on the website at https://www.christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk/news/

Christ Church Contact Details

Pastor: Stephen Crook <u>minister@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk</u>

Tel: 07795432996

Church Secretary: Susan Applegate <u>secretary@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk</u>

Tel: 07814173027

Church Treasurer: John Leyland <u>treasurer@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk</u>

Tel: 01706 827253

Church Telephone: 01706 821803

Newsletter: newsletter@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk