

The magazine of Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

# Messenger



Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.



Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All your works shall praise your name,  
in earth, and sky, and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

**Letter**  
**Page 3**

**Golden**  
**Jubilee**  
**Celebrations**  
**Pages 6, 7**  
**& 8**

**Services**  
**Page**  
**18 & 23**

**APCM**  
**results of**  
**elections**  
**Back page**

**Next edition will be**  
**a double issue -**  
**July/August**

**Meetings and Events**  
**Pages 34 - 35**

**June 2026** 40p

## Rector : Position vacant

The Vicarage,  
Bolton Road, Hawkshaw, Bury,  
BL8 4JN

*Please contact Wardens .  
See page 39 for all contact details*

Emmanuel Church,  
Holcombe,  
Ramsbottom,  
Bury,  
Greater Manchester.  
BL8 4NB

Emmanuel Church Centre  
Canon Lewis Hall,  
Longsight Road,  
Holcombe Brook,  
Ramsbottom,  
Bury,  
Greater Manchester.  
BL8 4DB

St Mary,  
Hawkshaw,  
Bury,  
Greater Manchester.  
BL8 4JN

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Do you know anyone struggling to meet essential needs? Help may be available. Visit this website for further information.  
<http://www.bbrtrust.co.uk>

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Copy can be handed to Stephen Newhouse, sent by email to [stephen.newhouse@sky.com](mailto:stephen.newhouse@sky.com) or can be handed in at any service by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication, we can not guarantee insertion after this date.

Note: The editor would be grateful for copy by email, but typed or hand written contributions are always welcome.



### 100% Recycled

Our printed version of this magazine is now produced on 100% recycled paper.

The Emmanuel Church Centre, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and St. Mary, Hawkshaw, have each achieved a BRONZE Eco Church Award.



Why not visit our website:  
[www.holcombehawkshaw.org](http://www.holcombehawkshaw.org)

Our charity number is: 1176184

All correspondence will be assumed for publication unless you specify otherwise. Contributions may be edited. Ideas and opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the editor.



Member Editor 2026  
Association for Church Editors

# Robert's Rambles.

A close-up photograph of a fountain pen with a silver nib writing on a piece of lined paper. The pen is positioned diagonally, and the nib is in contact with the paper, creating a dark line of ink. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the paper and the pen's body.

“We know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who was crucified, died and rose again. That is the truth!” as Mike wrote in his “Musings” last month, which is the wonderful truth we celebrate at Easter. As we enter the long church season of Sundays after Trinity we have to ask what do we do once the Easter flowers have faded, the “alleluias” are finished in our hymns, and the joy of Easter settles into the slower work of discipleship?

That Easter joy should still echo in our hearts and lives as we do our daily work as a church and as individual Christians, in our parish life – our meetings and worship, in our conversations with other people; in those quiet acts of service that are done by so many all over our parish and beyond. We can settle into or renew a pattern of daily prayer and Bible reading using the resources we have in our churches, perhaps look at the “Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives” booklet the national Church has prepared for this season. We carry the celebration of our Risen Lord in ourselves as we continue His mission as His people in our own communities over this coming Trinity season.

*Robert*

**We celebrated** Ascension Day with over 20 of us at Emmanuel Church Centre on 14th May with Robert leading **Holy Communion**. This was after a great **Soup Company** where we welcomed two new volunteers; Vanessa and Louise, who fitted in marvellously. As always there was plenty of delicious home made soup with garlic bread and mouth watering desserts made by Annette.



Next one 11th June Just come along

**Do you believe in fairies?** We do at the Church Centre as they quietly do helpful things each week and don't let on that they have done it. One of the latest was a fairy that we know who offered to paint our forget me not bird feeders in time for our 10th birthday of D-CaFF. Elinor Carter who comes to Quiet Morning and supports lots of other events kindly repainted them and they look wonderful in the Reflective Garden .She has offered to paint the poppies and daffodils too.



Thank you to all our fairies you know who you are.

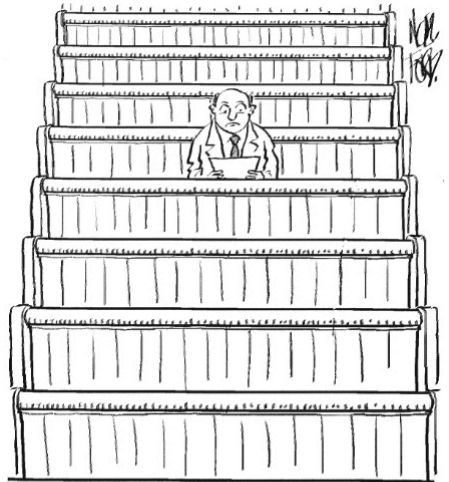
As well as our locals who read our monthly magazine we also deliver them to a number of our former congregation who can no longer come to church and live in residential care.



**Glenis and Jo.**

I took Glenis last month's magazine down to Stokes Mandeville where she now lives and we enjoyed reading through the articles and talking about church which she enjoyed. Alex and Hilda in Epworth Grange enjoy the magazine each month too. Let us know if we need to deliver them to anyone you know.

*Jo*



With the congregation depleted by the bug that was going around, it suddenly dawned on Roy that he wouldn't be able to get away with just miming to the hymns this week

## 4<sup>th</sup> June Corpus Christi, thanks for Holy Communion

The feast of Corpus Christi was proposed by Thomas Aquinas, focused on the Eucharist or Holy Communion. It celebrates the joy of sharing the Body and Blood of Christ with His presence in the Eucharist, and is usually celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

Today, most Protestant denominations don't acknowledge the festival, because of its association with the doctrine of the Real Presence. However, some Anglican churches do observe it, as the Thanksgiving for Holy Communion.

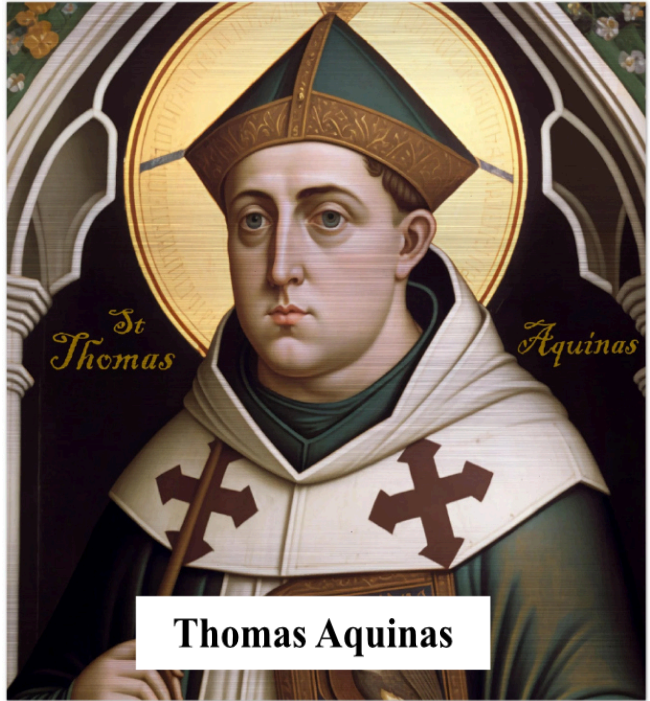
How do we understand the significance of the Eucharist or Holy Communion? Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32, points us in three directions.

### **A Past Commemoration:**

The Eucharist looks back as we remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples (Luke 22:14–20). Jesus broke the bread and took the cup to signify that His atoning sacrifice on the Cross delivers us from the bondage of sin and death. As we remember His broken body and shed blood, it becomes personal: Christ died for me, suffered for my sins that I might live. It is truly a eucharist, a thanksgiving: 'Do this in remembrance of Me' (1 Corinthians 11: 24,25).

### **A Present Communion:**

The Eucharist speaks of the communion we enjoy with a living Christ, because our sins are forgiven. Paul encourages us to look in at the



state of our hearts: 'Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.' (28). We should also look around acknowledging the communion we have with other believers. Holy Communion expresses our unity together: 'Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.' (11:17). Paul is expressing his concerns here about the divisions in the Corinthian Church.

### **A Future Certainty:**

The Eucharist is also a place where we look forward to Christ's return: 'For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.' (26). It declares that the reign of Christ has already begun, as we look forward to Jesus' return. He will unite earth and heaven under His rule and sin, death and Satan will finally be defeated.

So, when we next take Holy Communion, let's reflect on the past, present and future implications of what this meal means for us.

# Wow !

How special is our Jubilee Year. It just gets better and better. On Monday 11th May we had a fantastic day thanks to Barbara Newhouse. Over 60 people came throughout the day to make pottery plaques as part of our reflective garden jubilee trail. We had



members of Drop In during the morning and then members of the Parish and friends at the afternoon and evening sessions. We learned about sgraffito and then chose which design we wanted to make on our tile.

We also made an extra round one of our choice for our own garden. We learned new skills and met new people and had a great day. With refreshments whenever we wanted them and delicious biscuits it was very good value for money as it only cost £5 per person .

We are looking forward to seeing them fired and put on the posts that John Partridge has made and seeing them in situ in the garden.

We hope that as many people as possible will come and see the launch of the trail at the Open Garden and Afternoon Tea on Saturday 11th July starting at 2 pm. This day will be celebrating 50 years of

Canon Lewis Hall. Come and enjoy the garden, letter hunt, hoopla, boules, stalls and the unveiling of the 50 years mural. There will be afternoon cream tea with lots of delicious cakes made by Annette and other people in the parish. The event is free of charge but for catering purposes please let Jo know or sign up at one of the worship centres.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you to everyone who has been part of this magnificent project which was Barbara's vision and inspiration.

## Church council

The minister was praising his church council. "Unlike others I have known, where half the council does all the work and the other half are hopeless, in this church it is completely the reverse!"

## Jubilee event - Ukulele band

Another excellent Jubilee event enjoyed by the whole parish was held on 24th April with dancing to 60s, 70s and 80s music played by The Ukulele band. Over 50 people attended and a fantastic evening was had by all full of faith fun and fellowship.

As always we had a glass of fizz to start the evening and Annette made beautiful savoury scones and cheese palmiers.

The evening saw everyone dancing to their favourite tunes and who says people in their 90s cannot still enjoy a dance? Even the band had a 90 year old player!! Some of us even leaned to play a bit on the Ukulele.

With the band giving their fee to Bury Hospice and our usual raffle raising money for the Golden Jubilee fund it was a good night all round. When asked if these evenings should be a regular occurrence there was a unanimous yes. Thanks to all who helped clear away and set up.



## A lesson in lies

A **minister** told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."



# Alan Goldsmith

This month's jubilee interview is with Alan Goldsmith who has been a member of the Parish since the family moved up here from Heap Bridge in 1966 where they used to worship at the Methodist Church.

I interviewed him the day before his 91st birthday.

They started worshipping at Emmanuel Church and when Winifred died and he met Wendy they started worshipping at the centre.

At Emmanuel, Alan was on the P C C and heavily involved with the Pantomime. He remembers being the dame on several occasions the last time being in 1986. He used to enjoy going on the Whit walks and he even carried the banner.

Alan has been an active member of Emmanuel Church Centre being on the ECC Team and a reader of the lesson on a Sunday.

Alan used to teach Electronics and is a very practical man, so has done lots of jobs at the centre over the years.

Alan likes to sing and dance and gets involved in various events like Words and Music for Christmas and playing his banjo and guitar.

Alan was in Open the Book from the beginning and can remember playing the role of the snake in the Garden of Eden.

After Wendy died, Alan married Gwynneth who was also in Open the Book. Sadly she died having lived with dementia for a while. Through this Alan has become a valued member of D-CaFF that meets at the centre.

Alan continues to be a weekly worshipper at the centre and a stalwart of Drop In and has been for many years .



*...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...*

## Giving Update

At services in April we appealed for people to review their regular giving. So far 16 people have responded, (with two completely new members) with a projected increase in our annual income of around £2500. A huge thank you to those who have responded.

### Not in scheme

If you are not in the scheme, please consider joining it. Regular donations can be made through your bank or in cash using the Planned Giving Envelopes. Using these methods allows you to make regular donations, even if you can't attend church in person.

# All in the month of JUNE



It was:

- 250 years ago, on 11th June, that John Constable, British landscape artist, was born.
- 90 years ago, on 14th June 1936 that G K Chesterton died. Novelist, short story writer, journalist, essayist, poet, social/literary critic and theologian, and remembered for his stories about the priest-detective Father Brown.
- 80 years ago, on 8th June 1946 that the London Victory Celebrations following WW2 took place. Allied forces paraded through London, cheered by crowds that stretched from Buckingham Palace to Regent's Park. Countrywide, an estimated 12 million people joined in various celebrations.
- 65 years ago, from 4th June to 9th November, that the Berlin Crisis of 1961 took place. It led to Berlin being partitioned into East Berlin and West Berlin, and the erection of the Berlin Wall on 13th August.
- 50 years ago, from 23rd June to 27th August, the 1976 British Isles Heat Wave took place. One of the hottest and driest summers on record, it dried up rivers and evaporated reservoirs. Domestic water supplies were rationed, and public standpipes were installed in some areas. September and October both saw very heavy rainfall.
- 40 years ago, on 22nd June 1986 that the 'Hand of God' goal took place during the quarter-final of the 1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico City. Argentine football player Diego Maradona scored a goal against England using his hand, which the referee mistakenly thought was his head, and allowed the goal. England was knocked out of the World Cup as a result, and Argentina won it.
- 30 years ago, on 4th June 1996 that the Second Severn Crossing was officially opened. The bridge spans the River Severn and links England and Wales via the M4 motorway.
- Also 30 years ago, on 15th June 1996 that the centre of Manchester was devastated by an IRA bomb. 200 people were injured and the city centre had to be redeveloped because of the immense amount of damage.
- Also 30 years ago, on 18th June 1996 that Benjamin Netanyahu became Prime Minister of Israel for the first time. He served from 1996 to 1999, then from 2009 to 2021, and then from 2022 to the present time. He is Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister.
- Also 10 years ago, on 23rd June 2016 that the UK European Union (EU) membership referendum was held. 52 per cent of voters voted to leave the EU, and 48 per cent voted to remain. The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020.

**Summer has arrived** and we are excited about what this next term has in store at Emmanuel Holcombe and St Mary's Hawkshaw.

### SAT's

Firstly, we want to say a huge well done to our fabulous Year 6 pupils at both schools, who have just completed their SATs in Reading, Grammar, Spelling, Writing and Maths. We are extremely proud of our children, and we have been so impressed by their maturity, determination and resilience. As teachers, we recognise that although these statutory tests must take place, they do not assess what makes each of our pupils special and unique - that is something a test cannot measure. A big thank you and well done to the staff too!



### Sports Day

At the end of May we held two fabulous Sports Days. Pupils, parents and staff all enjoyed an afternoon of games and races. Well done to everyone!

### Eco Schools

Our Eco Committee at Emmanuel Holcombe and 'Tree Huggers' group at St Mary's have been established and have been busy planting flowers, recycling our waste, and participating in the 'Big Bird Watch.' Both teams are working through the seven 'Eco-Schools' steps during the academic year. We will then be able to apply for an Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

### Working Together

Staff at St Mary's and Emmanuel have been working together, in a variety of areas, including sports. We have established two netball and rounders teams and the schools have had chance to play matches against each other!

### Y6

At this time of year, we prepare to say a fond farewell to our Y6 pupils, but not before they enjoy the jam-packed programme of celebrations. Our schedule includes both schools visiting Manchester Cathedral together for a very special service, with all the other Year 6 pupils across the diocese; two end of year shows, both being performed for the first time at The Theatre Royal in Ramsbottom; Leavers' meals; and of course, the final Leavers' services at our respective churches.

### Get involved

**Have you ever** thought about being a Governor at one of our Primary Schools. We are at an exciting time working closer together as schools and have a vacancy for a foundation governor at Emmanuel Holcombe supported by the PCC. If this is something that interests you have a word with Jo Venn, Robert Airey, Claire Carsley, Glad Cooper or Keith Jones for more details. Or email [stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org](mailto:stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org)

**As you know** the two schools of St Mary's and Emmanuel are working very closely together under Amy Longstaff our Executive Head.

We have always tried hard to support our schools in any way we can and Emmanuel have been delighted with all the craft materials, paper, paints and cardboard tubes and newspapers that the parishioners have collected over the years. These have saved us a lot of money.

Please continue to donate anything you think that we can use.

St Mary's are starting a preschool in September and are looking for outdoor toys for the little ones so if you have any that you no longer use please let Jo know and she will collect.

## Re-joining the Choir: Why people are the helpers, not priests, of Creation

**Urbanisation** has taken us away from the rest of Creation, often reducing it in our eyes to a resource that we draw on when we feel like it, or need it. But Jesus said the stones would start praising Him if people didn't (Luke 19:40), and in the Psalms and Job, all of Creation is praising God. There is no hint here that people are needed to enable Creation's praise to happen. The singing is metaphorical, but it draws attention to fact that all creatures praise God by being themselves. They don't only praise with their 'voices', but with everything else they do as well: eating, running, hopping, grooming, reproducing, and so on (which is a reminder to us that our whole lives can be an act of praise to God).

Our isolation from Creation's praise can add to our sense that the whole world revolves around us and our needs. In reality, Creation is God-centred and 'His name alone is exalted' (Psalm 148:13). The value of Creation for God is not necessarily linked to its value for us – it is of value to God because He made it, He cares for it, and it praises Him.

Genesis 1:28 says that we must "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground". To rule wisely we need to get hold of the fact that, although we have a special responsibility, we are creatures alongside all the other creatures. One way to ground



ourselves in this idea is to re-join the choir and worship God together with every other living and non-living thing on earth.

Rather than being needed to help Creation praise God, we can actually rely on it to help us in our worship. Sharing God's delight in Creation, we can learn to delight in God. In return, the best thing we can do is to let living things recover their full fruitfulness as much as possible so they can praise God fully. We are called to a life of humble service, taking care of each other and everything else on this planet. In this way, we can choose to see other creatures as they are, pointing our attention away from ourselves towards God – until we are caught up in their praise of Him.

**SUMMER CONCERT**  
**2pm Sunday 28th June at St Paul's**  
**HERE COMES SUMMER**  
**with Whitworth Vale and Healey**  
**BRASS BAND**

**Tickets £8 including light refreshments**

*Book online at [retm.org.uk/go/brassband](http://retm.org.uk/go/brassband)*

*Or telephone 07751 599692*

*0741 531 4594*



# Soup Company

Well we are getting known in Bury for our **Soup Company** and on 16<sup>th</sup> April we were visited by our local community policeman and Hilja Jeffery who is the Policy Officer for Bury Community Engagement who thought it was a wonderful idea to bring people together.

They enjoyed several different bowls of soup together with garlic bread and Annette's wonderful puddings. They were amazed how long we have been going and even managed to deliver soup during Covid.

It was great to see them talking and mingling with the other 25 guests and they promised to come again. Not only do we all enjoy ourselves and it is great to see Pam back with us but over £500 per year is donated to Church funds so it is win win. Why not come along. It is the second Thursday of every month except August when we have a break.



# Lunch Club

**The Lunch Club** that goes out every two months is growing. Not just because we are always eating!!!

18 of us went to the Grey Mare on the Grane Road on Wednesday 13th May. We share Fun Fellowship and obviously Food when we get together. With the midweek lunch special it was great value. Next one will be in July so if you are interested in joining us just let Jo know. We are not sexist you can join , male or female and lifts can be arranged . There is no excuse if you are not very mobile as we only go places where wheelchairs, walkers and sticks can be used and the place must have a ground floor accessible toilet.

The only stipulation is you have to be able to enjoy yourself .



# Elvis was in the building

Well it is not every day you meet your idol even if it is a younger tribute act. Several of our congregation like Pauline, Alan, Marianne, David and Jo went to the celebration of 10 years of D-CaFF. favourite songs like Return to Sender, Jailhouse Rock, Love me Tender and many others were sung and danced to. Over 110 of us were there to enjoy Birthday cake a brew and of course the atmosphere which as always was very friendly and welcoming. We had a number of new members this month. If you know someone living with Dementia or caring for someone who is , the details are on the board in the hall or ask Jo.

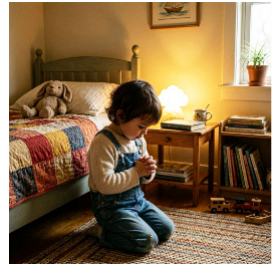


## Quiet prayers

The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice.

“I can’t hear you, dear,” his mother whispered.

“But I wasn’t talking to you,” said the small one firmly.



## International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services - 25th June

Each year, the Christian Police Association hosts an International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services. This year it will be on Thursday 25th June 2026. There are four ways to get involved:

- Watch the CPA YouTube channel ‘International Day of Prayer’ playlist



- Join one of the Zoom meetings held on the day. Contact CPA for details.
- Use the Pray 4 Your Police (P4YP) material on its Publications Page.
- Engage in its Social Media using the hashtag #WaveofPrayer

Please help support Emergency Service colleagues around the world, as they face a variety of challenges. More info at: <https://cpauk.net/events>

# Feed the birds – but thoughtfully

If you enjoy feeding the birds, you are not alone. Up to 60% of all households in the UK regularly feed their wild birds, according to surveys from UK Pet Food. It all adds up to an estimated £250 million in sales annually, with roughly 150,000 tonnes of seed being sold.

When feeding wild birds, here are five mistakes to avoid:

- Not keeping the feeders clean. This can spread disease. The RSPB advises cleaning bird feeders once a week with a mild soap such as washing-up liquid. Do it outside, using brushes that you keep for this job alone.
- Leaving too much food out. It attracts rodents. Instead, the RSPB advises that little and often is best. But keep an eye on those feeders and keep them topped up. When birds are nest-building and raising broods, they need a lot of energy. Feed peanuts in a rigid mesh feeder, so that large piece of nut cannot choke baby birds. Avoid putting out fat in hot weather – it can go rancid.



- Feeding bread. This can lead to malnutrition. Bread is high in carbohydrates, while garden birds require a protein-rich and high-calorie diet. A chick with a stomach full of bread can freeze to death overnight. Ideally, feed a combination of mealworms, seeds, sunflower hearts, dried fruit, peanuts and fat.
- Forgetting to provide water. Birds need to drink and bathe daily, especially in hot weather. Change the water every day and keep the basin clean.
- Putting feeders in the wrong place. Place your feeders near to shrubs, trees and bushes, to provide cover. Blackbirds and robins are ground feeders, whereas tits and sparrows prefer to feed from hanging stations. Using an array of feeders will attract a wide range of birds.

## Parents blamed for children’s bad behaviour in class

A government schools tsar has said that weak-willed parents are to blame for the increasingly bad behaviour of many children in the classroom.

In the autumn term of 2024-25 alone, 16,000 pupils were suspended for violence against an adult. Some teachers are now forced to wear bite sleeves, to protect themselves from their pupils’ teeth. Other teachers keep an emergency radio on hand, so they can call for back-up in the event of their pupils mounting a physical attack on them in the classroom.

Tom Bennett, the Department of Education’s ambassador for attendance and behaviour, says there is a growing dispute between parents and teachers as to who is responsible for such disruptive pupils. Bennett claims that unruly children think “they can do what they want and that they’re the most important person in the room and that their feelings are the only feelings that matter”. The schools think otherwise.





**‘If you want to know** how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God’s child and having God as their Father.’ (J I Packer, Knowing God)

This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father’s Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn’t have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God’s Fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: ‘heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’ (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus’ relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

### **The Father’s presence**

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It’s the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy (‘abba’, Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

### **The Father’s love**

The Father described His Son as ‘beloved’; like us, Jesus was the subject of God’s unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.

### **The Father’s pleasure**

The Father tells Jesus that He is ‘well pleased’ with Him, as He embarked on His public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken to our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.

## **Be the Power of All Things Within us**

**O God the Holy Ghost who art Light unto Thine elect,  
Evermore enlighten us.  
Thou who are Fire of Love,  
Evermore enkindle us.**

**Thou who art Lord and Giver of life,  
Evermore live in us.  
Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace,  
Evermore replenish us.**

*By Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

# 'Our Marilyn Monroe' – born 100 years ago this month

One hundred years ago, on 1st June 1926, the American film actress, model and sex symbol Marilyn Monroe was born. Remembered for *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *The Seven Year Itch* and *Some Like it Hot*, among others, she died in 1962.

Her original name was Norma Jeane Mortenson, and she was born in Los Angeles, spending much of her childhood in foster homes; she lived for a while with evangelical Christians Albert and Ida Bolender, as did her mother, Gladys Monroe. She married James Dougherty at the age of 16, and later Joe DiMaggio, the baseball star.

Marilyn suffered a great deal from endometriosis, and although she became pregnant on three occasions, she had no children. Her character was contradictory: she was probably bipolar, but combined an apparent naivety with an extremely shrewd business intelligence: some estimated her IQ at a very high 165. She certainly had a spiritual side, but this was rarely obvious.

When she married Arthur Miller in 1956, she converted to Judaism because she identified with Jews as an oppressed group, and she retained this spiritual connection after they divorced.



Monroe's career in films started when she was spotted by a photographer while she was working in an aircraft factory. She was always seen as a pin-up, and it was an image she cultivated. She wore white to draw attention to her blondness (though she was naturally brunette) and wore deliberately revealing clothes.

As far as politics were concerned, Monroe was a democrat, admiring Abraham Lincoln and giving her backing to civil rights. Her closeness to the Kennedy family – she was rumoured to have had brief affairs with both the president, JFK, and his brother Bobby – came at the end of her life. She died of a barbiturate overdose at her Los Angeles home.

## Some of the great questions of life

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built's?

Why is it that when you tell a someone there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint, they has to touch it?

If your supermarket has been lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If a firefighter fights fire and a crime fighter fights crime, what does a freedom fighter fight?

Do you find it unnerving that what doctors do is called 'practice'?



# For Reflection



*“The world is shot through with the grandeur of God”.* So said Gerard Manley Hopkins; a statement we can surely echo as we look at the early summer environment all around us.

**We can’t fail** to be amazed by the beauty, complexity and diversity we find in Creation. And, far from diminishing the wonder, scientific knowledge and technological advances only serve to increase our sense of awe as we discover more about our world and the cosmos. The stunning images coming back from space exploration and the wonderful documentaries by Sir David Attenborough and others give us a vivid insight into the natural world.

The beauty of creation draws us into praise and worship of God, its Creator, and nowhere is this expressed more powerfully than in the Book of Psalms. Celtic Christians in particular looked to the natural world for evidence of the presence and loving provision of God. The Quiet Gardens Movement puts something of this into words:

*“Every creature, every plant, every rock and grain of sand proclaims the glory of its Creator; worships through colour, shape, scent and orm, a multi-sensory song of praise.”*

And engaging with nature is increasingly being recognised as vital to our physical and mental wellbeing, as well as being good for the soul.

Perhaps, as the days brighten and lengthen, we can take the opportunity to step out into our environment, embrace its beauty and experience a closer connection with God. We

are fortunate in our parish to live so close to countryside and green spaces, to have our own gardens, and the colourful and welcoming Reflective Garden at the Emmanuel Church Centre. As theologian Richard Foster encourages us:

*“Give your attention to the created order.  
Look at the trees, really look at them.  
Take a flower and allow its beauty and symmetry to sink deep into your heart and mind.  
Listen to the birds – they are messengers of God.  
Watch the little creatures that creep upon the earth.*

These are humble acts, to be sure, but sometimes God reaches us profoundly in these simple ways if we will quiet ourselves to listen.”

Take time to bring to mind and thank God for those special moments when the beauty and wonder of creation have taken your breath away, and, whether we travel far or remain close to home this summer, may these words of blessing by Fiona MacLeod speak to us and still our hearts and minds:

*Deep peace of the running wave to you;  
deep peace of the flowing air to you;  
deep peace of the quiet earth to you;  
deep peace of the shining stars to you;  
deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.*

*Amen.*

Linda Jackson

# June Services

**7<sup>th</sup> June - First Sunday after Trinity**

*Romans 4.13-25 ; Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26*

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<p>9.30am <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Common Worship</b> <i>Rev Richard Moffat &amp; Michael Burton</i></p>	<p>11.00am <b>Morning Worship</b> <b>Wth Baptism</b> <b>Common Worship</b> <i>Michael Burton &amp; Rev. Robert Airey</i></p>	<p>10.45am <b>All Age Worship</b> <b>with Holy Communion</b>  <i>Rev Richard Moffat &amp; Ethel Houghton</i></p>
		<p><b>6.30pm Evening Worship</b> 3 Hawkshaw Lane</p>

**11th June - 2.00pm - Holy Communion**

*Emmanuel Church Centre - Rev. Vic Fletcher*

**14<sup>th</sup> June - The Second Sunday after Trinity**

*Romans 5.1-8, Matthew 9.35 - 10.8 [9-23]*

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<p>9.30am <b>Morning Worship</b> <b>Common Worship</b> <i>Jo Venn &amp; Rev Robert Airey</i></p>	<p>11.00am <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Common Worship</b> <i>Rev Robert Airey</i></p>	<p>10.45am <b>Morning Worship</b> <b>with Groups</b>  <i>Tim Webber &amp; Richard Byrom</i></p>
<p>3pm <b>Campfire Church</b></p>		<p><b>6.30pm Evening Worship</b> 3 Hawkshaw Lane</p>

**21<sup>st</sup> June - The Third Sunday after Trinity**

**Fathers' Day**

*Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39*

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<p>9.30am <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Common Worship</b> <i>Rev Robert Airey</i></p>	<p>11.00am <b>Morning Worship</b>  <i>Rev Robert Airey</i></p>	<p>10.45am <b>Morning Worship with groups</b>  <i>Ethel Houghton &amp; Richard Byrom</i></p>
	<p>6.30pm <b>CHORAL EVENSONG</b> 1662 <i>Rev Robert Airey</i></p>	<p><b>6.30pm Evening Worship</b> 3 Hawkshaw Lane</p>

# Passage and Prayer

The idea is to take a few moments out during each day to meet with God.

Keep these pages for the month and refer to them each day.

Read a passage of Scripture and spend a little while thinking on what God might be saying to you through it. Then pray for whatever is on your heart and mind, and perhaps include the things happening around the parish.

Each month, a new sheet will be included in the magazine.

**Passage & Prayer  
8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June**

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**Prayer for the week :**

Dear Father, I humble myself this morning and I ask for your strength. Lord uphold me with your right hand in this world of grave temptations. By my strength I cannot do it, I need the strength that only you give. The strength to say “No” to sin and temptations. The strength to choose and do that which is right. And, as I go through this trying period, create in me a pure heart, O God. Renew a steadfast spirit within me. Help me to recognize and accept your divine help when I see it today. I receive the grace to depend on you and not on myself. So, today Lord, help me to safely anchor myself to you.

**Please include the following in your prayers each day:**

For Hunter who was baptized last week and for our Parish Leadership Team as they meet this week to consider our mission work in the parish.

**Readings for this week:**

Psalm 121

**Sunday Reading:**

Romans 5: 1 – 8.

**Passage & Prayer  
15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June**

---

**Prayer for the week :**

Lord God Almighty, I thank you because you have been gracious to me. As I go through today, I welcome the opportunities to contribute with the gifts that you have blessed me with, to the growth of the world. I receive the opportunity to be used by you to bless others today. In this world of instant gratification, wild desires, unholy ambitions and evil dreams, Lord I ask that you give me the spirit of contentment. Even as I pray that you will make my life better, I receive the capacity to be content in my circumstances.

**Please include the following in your prayers each day:**

For our Open The Book Team as they go into Holcombe Brook School this term telling our Bible stories.

**Readings for this week:**

Psalm 51

**Sunday Reading:**

Romans 6: 1b – 11.

## Passage & Prayer 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June

---

### Prayer for the week :

As I go out today, show yourself strong for me. My God is all powerful and is able to do immeasurably more than all I ask or imagine. There is a reason you brought me to this new day, Lord. Shine brightly through me so that everyone that comes across me today may feel your presence in me. Take my hand, Lord and teach me to do that which is right. As I step out today, let lives and destinies be blessed by my words and actions. I receive the grace to make wise decisions. I receive the capacity to choose wisdom over folly. And I thank you for your blessings and wisdom.

### Please include the following in your prayers each day:

For the young people, parents, staff and governors of our schools in the parish.

### Readings for this week:

Psalm 60

### Sunday Reading:

Romans 6: 12 - 23

## Passage & Prayer 29<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July

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### Prayer for the week :

Dear God, you said in your word that if anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask of you who gives liberally, without reproaching or fault-finding. So in response to your word, I come this morning that you fill me up with the type of knowledge that can only come from you. For too long, all I have done is ask, demand and complain to you without appreciating you for the things you have done for me. Today, I give thanks for my life, my family, my friends. Lord, I'm grateful for your blessings of health, food, water, clothing. You have always been my rock and strength and for this, I give you my thanks.

### Please include the following in your prayers each day:

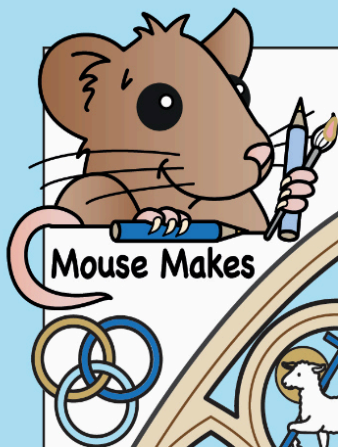
All those who maybe ill at home or in hospital and those who care for them.

### Readings for this week:

Psalm 125

### Sunday Reading:




Matthew 11: 16-19; 25 – 30.



"May the grace of the Lord  
**JESUS CHRIST** and the  
 love of **GOD** and the  
 fellowship of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT** be  
 with you all."

2 Corinthians  
 13:14



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

**JESUS • CHRIST**  
 SON • SAVIOUR • LORD  
 EMMANUEL • MESSIAH  
 SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY  
 TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR  
 BREAD • WORD • HEALER  
 VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

**GOD • FATHER**  
 ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH  
 YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY  
 HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR  
 ETERNAL • CREATOR  
 KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE  
 SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

**HOLY SPIRIT**  
 GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS  
 COMFORTER • GUIDE  
 ADVOCATE • WISDOM  
 POWER • TRUTH • BREATH  
 LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE  
 WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



# June Services

28<sup>th</sup> June - The Fourth Sunday after Trinity  
Romans 6.12-23 ; Matthew 10.40-42

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
<p>9.30am Morning Worship Common Worship</p> <p><i>Jo Venn &amp; Ethel Houghton</i></p>	<p>11.00am Holy Communion Common Worship</p> <p><i>Rev Richard Moffat &amp; Ethel Houghton</i></p>	<p>10.45am Morning Worship with groups</p> <p><i>Rev Vic Fletcher</i></p>
		<p><b>6.30pm Evening Worship</b> 3 Hawkshaw Lane</p>

25<sup>th</sup> June - 2.00pm - Home Communion  
Emmanuel Church Centre - Barbara Atkin

# July Services

5<sup>th</sup> July - The Fifth Sunday after Trinity  
Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49,58-67; Matthew 11: 16 -19,25-30

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
<p>9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship</p> <p><i>Rev. Richard Maffat</i></p>	<p>11.00am Morning Worship Common Worship</p> <p><i>Rev Robert Airey</i></p>	<p>10.45am All Age Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Rev Vic Fletcher &amp; Richard Byrom</i></p>
		<p><b>6.30pm Evening Worship</b> 3 Hawkshaw Lane</p>

**Why did the cow go to space?**

*To visit the Milky Way!*

**Why are fish so smart?** *Because they live in schools.*

**What do you call a bear with no teeth?**

*A gummy bear.*

**Why did the banana go to the doctor?**

*Because it wasn't peeling well.*

**How do you know when the moon has had enough to eat?**

*When it's full.*

**What kind of music do planets listen to?**

*Nep-tunes.*

**Why did the sun go to school?**

*To get brighter.*

**What do you call a tick on the moon?**

*A luna-tick.*

**How does the man on the moon cut his hair?**

*Eclipse it.*

**Why did the rocket lose its job?**

*It got fired.*

**What did Mars say to**

**Saturn?**

*Give me a ring sometime.*

**What's an astronaut's favourite key on the keyboard?**

*The space bar.*



## Our British bumblebees

**Did you know** we have about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees? Here are just six of them:

**Early Bumblebee:** - Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.

**Common Carder Bee:** - One of our most common bees, and often still feeding in November. Fluffy, brown and orange, with sometimes darker bands on the abdomen.

**Tree Bumblebee:** - Found in England and Wales, and recently Southern Scotland. A fuzzy bee, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and a white tail.

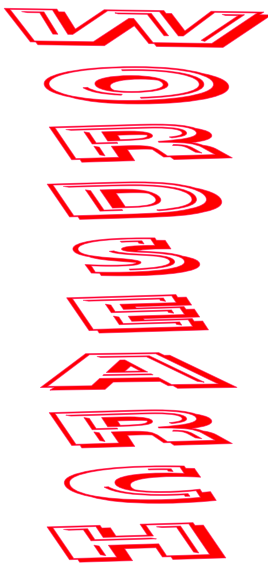


**Red-tailed Bumblebee:** - The female is very large, with a big red 'tail', while males are smaller.

**Garden Bumblebee:** - A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has yellow bands at the collar, rear of the thorax and at the first segment of the abdomen, and the tip of the tail is white.

**Buff-tailed bumblebee:** - The biggest of our bumblebees, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured 'tail', while the workers have white 'tails' and black hair on their faces.

Be kind to our bees. They are in steady decline across the UK.



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

**Solution page 29**

**Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth – jun26**

Mary - the virgin mother of Jesus. Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her Son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary’s last appearance is in Acts, just before Pentecost.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in history. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. “All generations shall call me blessed...”

Mary	Event	Cross
Virgin	Family	Keeping
Mother	Jerusalem	Unique
Elizabeth	Wedding	Place
Pregnant	Cana	Centuries
Ordinary	Wine	Church
World	Beloved	blesed
History	Disciples	
Great	Dying	

# Sudoku

Easy

Medium

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

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

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## Solution page 29



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

# MAT PILATES

for your pelvic floor



BRING YOUR BABY



BRING YOUR TODDLER



£10



TUESDAYS

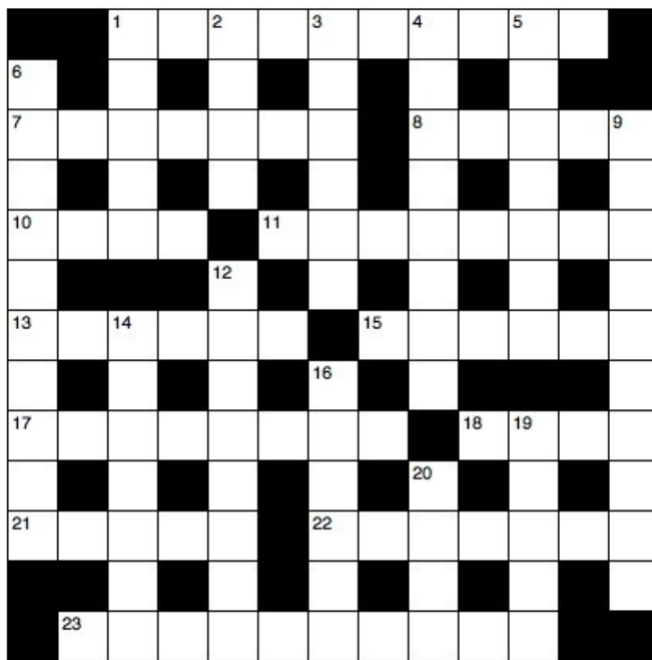
1:45 – 2:45

TERM TIME ONLY

CONTACT 0781 7703186 TO BOOK ON

STARTING 2ND JUNE 2026

CANON LEWIS HALL  
GREENMOUNT, BL8 4BD



17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)

18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)

21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)

22 Or I live (anag.) (7)

23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

**Down**

1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)

**Across**

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (4)
- 11 Fraud (2 Corinthians 6:8) (8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)

- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)
- 14 A return (anag.) (7)
- 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
- 19 'All these— come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)

**Solution page 29**



## A Deep Dive into OCD: Setting the Captives Free

By Rebekah Keen, Grove Books,  
£5.95

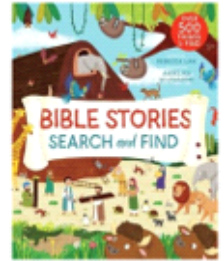
**Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)** is sadly an increasingly common affliction of debilitating anxiety. This informative booklet offers a personal and professional reflection on OCD, with many insights to help sufferers (and those who seek to help them) find greater peace.



## Bible Stories Search and Find

By Rebecca Law, SPCK, £9.99

The book is a helpful introduction to the Bible for children ages 6-9. Youngsters will have fun searching for the more than 500 hidden objects across 20 fantastically illustrated scenes, while learning key stories from God's



Word. This interactive Bible storybook could be an exciting way for your children to engage with the Bible while developing concentration and biblical knowledge.

## What do they teach them in school these days?!

*The following excerpts are 10- and 11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. Read carefully and enjoy the grammar, misplaced modifiers, and of course, spelling!*

**Ancient Egypt** was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

**Moses** led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandos. He died before he ever reached Canada but the commandos made it.

**The Greeks** were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a young female moth.

**Sir Francis Drake** circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper which was very dangerous to all his men.

# Wordsearch solution

From page 25

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

# Crossword solution

From page 27

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

# Sudoku solutions

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

From page 26

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

From page 26

## School assembly songs to inspire new worshipping communities for children

A major new programme will see the launch of worshipping communities for children and families, based on songs that are already popular in school assemblies.

[iSingPOP](#) will support 300 churches to create new gatherings where families from local primary schools will be invited to explore faith together, drawing on the energetic worship songs children already know from school.

The aim is to connect collective worship in schools to engagement with church for families interested in growing in faith together. The programme has received £500k investment from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB).

iSingPOP, from the charity Innervation Trust, produces vibrant worship songs that engage more than 77,000 children every week, alongside resources that equip teachers, clergy and volunteers to lead faith-based music sessions in schools and churches.



It also brings schools, churches, and the community together by giving churches the opportunity to host a large joy-filled concert, teaching children songs that explore the Christian faith over four days, culminating in a whole-school performance to parents. This approach has already inspired many families to explore faith beyond the school gates.

Through the new programme, iSingPOP will help to link worship in schools with the life of local churches.

Miz Porter, Director of iSingPOP by Innervation Trust, said: "For 25 years, we have been working with churches and schools to create inspirational collective worship resources that uplift children.

"We believe intergenerational worship has the power to introduce whole families to the Gospel, and we are delighted that this new programme will help churches across the country to deepen their relationships with local schools."

## Going somewhere?

Older people often go to another room to get something, and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for.

This is not a memory problem. It is God's way of helping older people get more exercise.



# Assisted dying: Proper scrutiny was ‘moral necessity’, says bishop as bill falls

**Adequate scrutiny** of the assisted dying Bill before Parliament was a “moral necessity” and not just a “procedural detail”, the Bishop of Newcastle said recently, as the proposed legislation ran out of time in the House of Lords.

Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, said the more closely the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill had been examined, the more concerns came into focus, not fewer, as she spoke in the final day of the Bill in the House of Lords.

“In our context, where questions of life, death, care and conscience are so closely intertwined, the quality of our scrutiny is not a procedural detail—it is a moral necessity,” Bishop Helen-Ann, who was a member of a Select Committee that examined the Bill – told Peers.

“Some may dismiss my contribution as one which is grounded in a faith, but this is as legitimate and significant as any other viewpoint – grounded in faith, belief or none.

“Whilst my faith informs my alarm at our designation of dignity or the lack of it, it is from my experience on the Select Committee, that I have found that the more closely we have examined this Bill, the more concerns have come into focus, not fewer.



Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley

“For a Bill of this magnitude in terms of societal change, the highest level of scrutiny is imperative.”

The Private Member’s Bill would have allowed someone with a terminal diagnosis and six months or less to live to be provided with drugs to end their life if they had capacity and met the eligibility criteria.

It has been going through Parliament for the past year and a half, but ran out of time before the current session of Parliament came to an end.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, speaking briefly in the debate, emphasised the shared wish of both opponents and proponents of the Bill that those who are terminally ill should be treated with compassion and be able to die in a pain-free and dignified way. She paid tribute to the ‘enormous’ amount of work that had gone into the Committee Stage of the Bill.

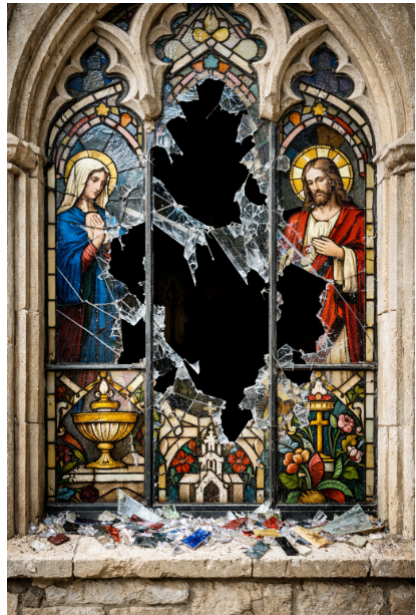
## Ten crimes against churches a day

On average, ten crimes are committed on church properties every day. And of the nearly 4,000 offences in the past year, most of them were either theft, vandalism or violence, according to police data.

It is a rise from the average of eight crimes a day recorded between 2022 and 2024, and the true figure could be higher, as not all police forces responded to Freedom of Information requests sent by the Countryside Alliance.

Earlier this year, £250,000 worth of historic silverware was stolen a church in Hertfordshire. Criminals targeted another in Nottinghamshire, by kicking in its stained-glass window. Others targeted gravestones outside a church near Preston, in what police have treated as a hate crime.

Ben Sims, head of policy and public affairs for the National Churches Trust, recently told *Premier Christian News* that the figures are “really concerning” at a time when churches are facing financial pressures, including the scrapping of VAT relief on listed places of worship.



“Imagine you’re one of the volunteers,” Sims said, “the idea of violent crime going on at the place you love and you’re caring for. You come and discover that all of the gravestones have been smashed, all the windows have been smashed. Or inside, the pews have been broken up. It’s a really demoralising, quite scary thing to happen.”

**Renew**  
for women

**Monday 8th June 2026**  
St. Mary's Church, Rawtenstall  
7.15 Refreshments for 7.45 start

**“God's love will never let you go”**  
Come along and hear how God has been faithful to others  
in difficult times, and how He will be faithful to you.

Free event - No need to book - Just turn up!  
For more information email [renew@rossendalecofe.church](mailto:renew@rossendalecofe.church)

# Hawkshaw's Christian Heritage

## 1892-1909

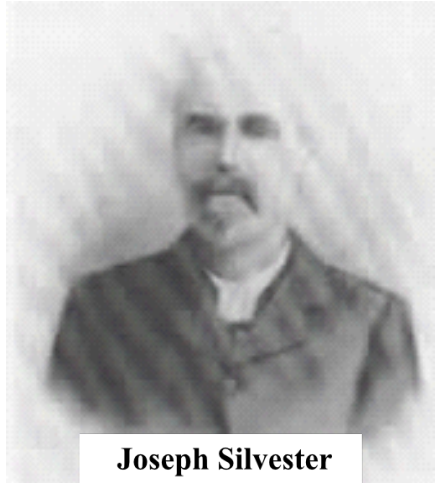
The Howells refurbished the chancel with new oak choir pews, new clergy stalls and a panelled screen to separate the chancel from the nave. In 1933 the graveyard was extended behind the vicarage and to the south of the church building on land given by Frederick Howell. In 1934 a toilet was added (to the vicar's vestry) – how did they manage before 1934? In the mid-1950s someone – who didn't attend the church – gave some choir robes. The west porch, which had never been used, (now the kitchen and toilet) became a choir vestry. Anglo-Catholic influence, now infused with liberalism, had reached its zenith: robed clergy and choir processing towards a central "altar" with an embroidered frontal, to their monastic seating arrangement in a chancel cut off from the rest by oak panelling – what many people still consider typical Anglican worship. Yet the first robed choir did not appear in an Anglican church building until 1841.

So from 1892 Hawkshaw had an Anglican place of worship.

### The First Vicar

Hawkshaw's first vicar was Joseph Silvester – although we must not forget those who ministered here before the parish was formed. He was born in West Bromwich and trained at Trinity College, Dublin. 'Why would he have gone to Dublin?' is a fair question and none too easy to answer. Perhaps the Protestant nature of the College was a draw. But then he came to the Manchester Diocese, serving curacies at Miles Platting, Harpurhey, Rawtenstall and St George's, Bolton. Why four curacies for over a decade? Does this reflect the large number of clergy there were at that time?

The first reference to Silvester is when three ladies, Mesdames Rigg, Greenhalgh and Holt met Henry Dowsett, Rector of Holcombe, on 28 March 1890 to say they had approached Joseph Silvester with a view to his becoming the first Vicar of Hawkshaw and Dowsett agreed to support the appointment. Most of the



Joseph Silvester

decisions at that time were made by committees of men, but there can be no doubt from subsequent events that Silvester had the full support of William Rigg and Frederick Howell.

Silvester was clearly a man with private means. His offered gift of £500 towards the construction of the church building would be £60,000 in today's money. The patronage – the right to nominate the incumbent - had been vested in James Moorhouse, Bishop of Manchester in 1887, so, on 29 April 1890, a deputation – Dowsett, Rigg, Whowell and Silvester went to discuss the appointment with him. Silvester's offer of £500 was mentioned and the Bishop took umbrage, designating his offer as simoniacal (= trying to buy an appointment) and refused to appoint.

Repeated letters and deputations failed to change his mind until eventually, in December, he relented. So Hawkshaw had a Vicar – and one that had been worth fighting for! It seems he worked without salary until March 1892 when the building was complete and the Elton bequest kicked in. At the first Annual Meeting in April 1892 William Rigg and Frederick Whowell were elected churchwardens, to be replaced by William Rigg Jr. in 1913 and Walter Pilling - Frederick's nephew – in 1911, both of whom served as churchwardens for fifty years.

You are invited to  
St. Mary, Hawkshaw

# “Sizzling Seniors” Thursday

**4<sup>th</sup> June**  
10am - 12noon

Usually every first  
Thursday of the month.,  
Contact: Jane Fletcher  
for details or if you  
need transport.

# The Soup Company

A simple meal of bread and soup  
in good company!

12.30pm to 2pm

Why not come along and share  
good company and heart warming  
soup and gorgeous puddings .

**Thursday**  
**11<sup>th</sup> June**

Canon Lewis Hall,  
Longsight Road, BL8 4DB

Note: at 2pm there is a  
Holy Communion Service

**Canon Lewis Hall  
Playgroup**  
(Formerly “Travellers”)  
Adult and Toddler Group  
Wednesdays 1.30pm to 3pm  
during Term Time  
Canon Lewis Hall.

# Drop IN

10am until 12 noon  
**every Monday,**  
at Canon Lewis Hall,  
Longsight Road, BL8 4DB  
welcomes anyone and everyone,  
who wants a “bit of company, a  
cup of coffee and a chat”.

# Quiet Morning

**16<sup>th</sup> June**  
**10am to 12noon**

**Emmanuel Church Centre**



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
June @ 3pm**

Campfire Carols is a relaxed, family-friendly outdoor Christmas gathering at Emmanuel Church Central. Join us around the fire for festive hot chocolate, Christmas games, joyful carol singing, the nativity story, and plenty of cosy seasonal fun together.

**Everyone is welcome**

Emmanuel Church Centre,  
Holcombe Brook, BL8 4DB



Parish of  
Holcombe &  
Hawkshaw

[www.holcombehawkshaw.org](http://www.holcombehawkshaw.org)

Greenmount Village Community

**D-CaFF** 

**12<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Strummers**

Look forward to seeing you all!

**1pm-3pm at**  
Canon Lewis Hall,  
Longsight Road .  
BL8 4EQ

**Mothers' UNION** 

Christian care for families

**Tuesday 2nd June**  
**Richard Hall**  
2.00pm  
Emmanuel Church Centre.

His theme will be  
**"A Feast is Spread Before Ye"**  
about food inn the music of Gilbert and Sullivan.  
Tickets will be £3 payable at the door and there will be a raffle.

Any help is welcome.

**Working Party**

Emmanuel Church Centre  
Garden

**Wednesday**  
**10<sup>th</sup> June**  
**1.30pm to 4pm**  
Your help would be much appreciated.

Any help is welcome.

**Working Party**

Emmanuel Church Holcombe

**Wednesday**  
**17<sup>th</sup> June**  
**1.30pm to 4pm**  
Your help would be much appreciated.



Thursday evenings 7.30-9

**THE CELLAR**  
St Mary's Youth Club

School years 7-9

# The Seven Deadly Sins: Gluttony

*'They're called deadly because they lead to the death of the soul.'* (Richard Newhauser).

**This month** we are looking at Gluttony. Which food do we find hardest to resist?

It is reported that 66% of adults in the UK are overweight or obese. Gluttony is indulgence to excess, usually involving food, but can also include drinking, screen time, shopping etc.

Paul warns us about the dangers of gluttony when he refers to those whose minds are set on earthly things: 'their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.' (Philippians 3:19). Our struggle with gluttony is often the outward sign of a spiritual hunger for acceptance, love, or self-worth. This desire for satisfaction cannot be satisfied by food alone.

## How can we overcome gluttony?

Glorify God with your body: 'Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy



Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?' (1 Corinthians 6:19). Paul reminds us that our bodies belong to God; as temples of the Holy Spirit, we should use them to glorify God.

While we have freedom in the things we consume, we are also called to honour God in our actions.

Exercise self-control: 'live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.' (Galatians 5:16). Paul goes on to list self-control as one of the Fruit of the Spirit (5:23). As we examine ourselves and identify those areas where we lack self-control, we can entrust them to God, asking for the strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome gluttony.

We recognise that true satisfaction is only found in a desire for God alone: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).



**Do you have problems getting to church?**

**Do you need a lift?**

**Want to reduce car usage?**

**Can you offer a lift?**

**Contact:**

**[stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org](mailto:stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org)**

## On the struggle for life in a rectory

The Rectory,  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat in. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in an 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums



without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

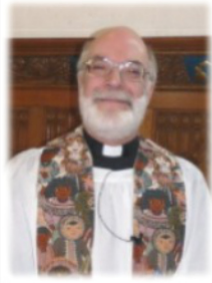
Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

**Rector:  
Position Vacant**

The Vicarage,  
Bolton Road ,  
Hawkshaw, Bury ,  
BL8 4JN

**Contact Wardens**



Minister with  
permission to officiate:  
Rev. Robert Airey  
01706 224743.

[robert@holcombehawks  
haw.org](mailto:robert@holcombehawks<br/>haw.org)



Associate Minister:  
Rev. Vic. Fletcher  
01204 882750.

[vic@holcombehawks  
haw.org](mailto:vic@holcombehawks<br/>haw.org)

**Readers:** Mr. Michael Burton 01706 822664.  
Mr. Richard Byrom 01204 883110.  
Mrs. Ethel Houghton 01254 704758.  
Mrs. Jane Fletcher 01204 882750.

**Church Warden:** Mr. Peter Hardcastle 07780 313101  
Mr. Stephen Newhouse 01706 412657 [stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org](mailto:stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org)

**Children and Families' Lead: Liz Webber** 07541168474 [liz@holcombehawkshaw.org](mailto:liz@holcombehawkshaw.org)

**Deputy Wardens:**

Emmanuel: Susan Nuttall and Pat Lainton  
Emmanuel Church Centre: Julie Smale and Jo Venn.  
St. Mary, Hawkshaw: Jane Fletcher and Keith Jones.

**Hon. P.C.C. Secretary:** Penny Hanley, 07870 578632

**Treasurer:** Position Vacant  
**Assistants to Treasurer:** Judith Horrocks & Pam Jones

**Gift Aid Secretary:** Pam Jones.

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Sheila Partridge,

**Safeguarding Officer:** Liz Webber: [safeguarding@holcombehawkshaw.org](mailto:safeguarding@holcombehawkshaw.org)

Assistants: Rev. Robert Airey, Julie Ringer and Tim Webber.

**Standing Committee:** Rector, Churchwardens, P.C.C. Secretary and Treasurer.  
Other members to be decided by the P.C.C.

**Finance Team:** Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers and Gift Aid Secretary.

**Booking Secretary:** Emmanuel Church Centre & Canon Lewis Hall:  
Susan Holdway 07786077988.

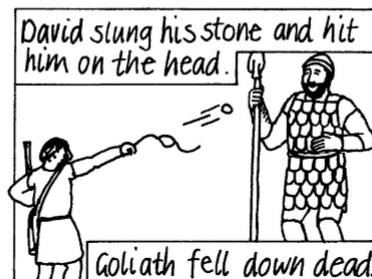
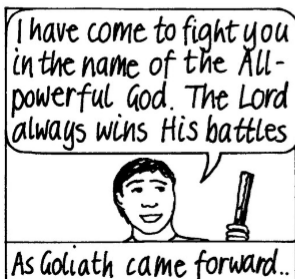
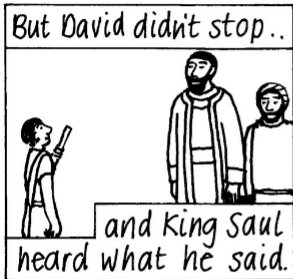
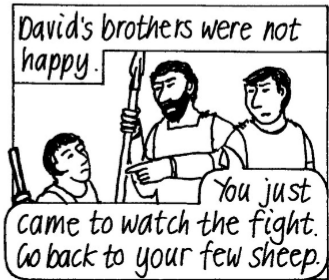
**Booking Secretary:** St. Mary, Hawkshaw Penny Hanley 07870 578632

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies  
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic  
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..



## Results of elections at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Those serving May 2026 to April 2027**

<b>2026/27</b>			
<b>Warden</b>	Peter Hardcastle		Stephen Newhouse
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Jo Venn		Keith Jones
	Jean Houghton		Stephen Newhouse
Each to serve for three years to May 2029)			
<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	Robert Airey (co-opted)		Sue Hignett
	Rosemary Artley		Judith Horrocks
	Claire Baggoley		Sheila Partridge
	Richard Byrom		Julie Ringer
	Claire Carsley		Julie Smale
	Jane Fletcher		Liz Webber
	Penny Hanley		
	<b>Emmanuel Church, Holcombe</b>	<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<b>Deputy Warden</b>	Pat Lainton		Keith Jones
	Susan Nuttall		Jane Fletcher
<b>Sidespeople</b>	Janice Chisholm	Cheryl Allen	Geraldine Booth
	Frankie Chisholm	Barbara Atkin	Jen Hardcastle
	Glad Cooper	Pauline Clare	Judith Horrocks
	Wendy Fell	Geoff Clare	Ray Houghton
	Pat Lainton	Elfie Greenhalgh	Jean Houghton
	Cath Lansdale	Sue Hignet	Anne Johnson
	Barbara Newhouse	Linda Jackson	Ross Manning
	Susan Nuttall	Sylvia Nicholson	Eric Shortt
	Judie Oliver	Elaine Small	Jule Side
	Barbara Settle	John Small	Edward Slattery
		Suzanne Riley-Clark	
		Dot Yardely	