

The magazine of Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Messenger



Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

God commanded the earth to sprout all kinds of vegetation - seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees, and it was so... and God saw that it was good.



Gen 1:11-12

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October 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
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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>

Editorial: Stephen Newhouse - stephen.newhouse@sky.com 01706 412637

Copy to can be handed to Stephen Newhouse, or sent by email to stephen.newhouse@sky.com or can be handed in at any service by the 15th of the month prior to publication, we can not guarantee insertion after this date.

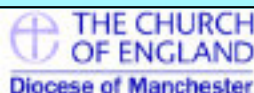
Notes: The editor would be grateful for copy by email, but typed or hand written contributions are always welcome.



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

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.



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Association for Church Editors

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'.



This month's letter follows the theme of 'creation' in Robert's letter of last month. All Christians believe that God created the universe, the world we inhabit and, in particular, mankind. We say so when we repeat the creed, 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth'.

Christians are concerned about truth and integrity. They believe that the Bible is God's revelation to mankind, the witness to Jesus, and the final authority in matters of faith and conduct. What happens, then, when scientific research and biblical revelation appear to be at odds, as the theory of evolution and the first chapters of Genesis?

Prior to the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859), the Genesis account of creation was generally accepted. But thereafter Darwin's theory was widely received as fact. Mankind had evolved from a single cell over millions of years. Fossils showed that this was the case. Natural selection, not God, explained the development of all life on earth.

Christian response to Darwin was mixed. On the one hand many Christians adopted Darwinism, seeing Genesis 1-3 as figurative, with the 'days' of Genesis being long periods of time and evolution under the control of God – 'theistic evolution'. But theistic evolution, in making no distinction between any organisms, is theologically incompatible with the Genesis record that ascribes to humanity a special nature. Also, there is no logical place in theistic evolution for 'the fall', leaving God, rather than mankind, responsible for the evil and suffering in the world.

In recent years there has been a growing rejection of evolution within the scientific community. An accessible book on this is Norman C Nevin (editor), *Should Christians Embrace Evolution?* (2009), giving the answer as a resounding 'No'. This raises the key question of how should these apparent

contradictions between the Bible and science be viewed?

J C Whitcomb and H M Morris, in their book *The Genesis Flood*, (1961) see the answer in the Noahic flood, bringing catastrophic changes which indicate a 'young earth'. They might be right.

More recently some have put forward 'Intelligent Design', or ID, arguing that some aspects of life (such as the complexity of DNA, the intricacy of cellular machinery, or the fine-tuning of the universe) show evidence of being designed, because they are too specified to have arisen through chance and natural selection alone. This does not answer all the questions but may provide a useful step forward.

The retired neurosurgeon and journalist, James Le Fanu, who has a cultural Catholic background but does not specifically identify as a Christian, in reviewing the scientific consequences of the Human Genome Project and brain imaging in *Why Us?: How Science Rediscovered the Mystery of Ourselves* (2010) argues that we stand on the brink of a tectonic shift in our understanding of ourselves that will witness the eclipse of Darwin's materialist evolutionary theory. He writes that the doctrine of Darwinism 'is not merely flawed or incomplete but its proposed mechanisms of natural selection as the "cause" of the diversity of living things is contradicted at every turn by the empirical evidence of science itself'. Again, this does not answer all the questions, but it may provide another step forward.

This area of science and theology is one of fascinating fluidity at the present time, but for Christians the gigantic truth remains, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'.

Richard Byrom

This month's venue for our
Lunch Outing

was the Red Lion at Hawkshaw on Tuesday 8th September. There was an excellent choice on the fixed price menu and good camaraderie took place.

Our next outing is
Wednesday 18th November
at the
Hare and Hounds.

Everyone is welcome. Let Jo Venn know if you want to join the party.

Thank you to Brian Warrington who ran an excellent **Whist Drive** on Tuesday 15th September for novices and people who had played before. All three worship centres were represented and we all had a lot of fun as well as making money for our Golden Jubilee Fund.

By popular request the Games
afternoons will continue over the
winter months. Look out for the next
one

31st October
an evening with
The Strummers
7 to 9pm
£5 includes
glass of fizz

Remembering
Loved Ones'
Sunday 8th November
2-3pm
Emmanuel Church Centre

THANK YOU

Derian House Children's Hospice would like to thank all those who have donated used postage stamps for their fundraising . It was good to pass over the last bag full and with Christmas not that far away ask your friends family and neighbours to save them and bring them to church and give them to Jo Venn.

We had a lovely card and generous gift for the Golden Jubilee Fund from the Lofthouse family with the following note

**"To Mum's most beloved fellowship
and her favourite church
Please accept this for your funds
Lots of love and Thanks
All the Lofthouse Clan "**
Thank you

Prayer Breakfast



September's prayer breakfast was held at the Church Centre on Saturday 12th for the Ramsbottom Group of Churches Together . We had a good gathering representing 4 of the local churches. After our bacon butties, cereal, pain au chocolat and croissants we had half an hour of prayer for our community and the world. Why not join us on the second Saturday of every month at a different venue. Look out for the notices in church or emails or ask Julie Smale.

13th October

Edward the Confessor

— helping to found Westminster Abbey

If you approve of giving money to help cathedrals survive, then Edward the Confessor (1003 – 66) is the saint for you. This early King of England was the virtual founder of Westminster Abbey. And never mind entrance charges - at one point in his life, Edward was giving a full tenth of his income to Westminster Abbey.

Edward was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his second, Norman wife, Emma. After various ups and downs which included a brief exile in Normandy, Edward was made King of England in 1042.

As King, Edward had a tricky time of it – trying to keep the peace for over 20 years while various Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power (which eventually led to the Norman Conquest). Scholars have argued over how much of a success he was as a king.

As a Christian, there is no doubt: Edward's holiness was evident to all. He made himself accessible to his people, he was generous to the poor, and chaste. He was also reputed to have seen visions and even achieved miraculous cures for people through prayer.

Edward did much to help the Church in many ways. His lasting contribution was the



original Westminster Abbey - a huge Romanesque church, 300 feet long, with a nave of 12 bays. Westminster Abbey became the place of coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. It was finished and consecrated just before his death. Edward was buried there, and his relics are undisturbed to this day.

During the Middle Ages, Edward was a very popular saint: along with Edmund of East Anglia he was widely considered to be England's patron saint for a time.

Fairtrade

We need your help. On Wednesday 21 October we're part of a coalition of supporters and organisations gathering in Westminster to call on the government to pass a new law to protect people and planet from abuse.

Join people from across the UK as we come together to meet our MPs on the same day, showing the strength of public support for legislation to protect communities, workers and nature from irresponsible businesses



House Groups

**Wednesday 7th October,
7:30 p.m
at Richard and
Sue Byrom's.**

We are starting a new course,
'Growing on the Front Line'.

The course uses materials from
The London Institute for
Contemporary Christianity, (LICC).

**Wednesday's
7:30 p.m
at Jane and Vic's .**

More details: see weekly email.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON
PILGRIM GROUP
Emmanuel Church Centre
@ 2.00p.m.**

**A Christian Look at the
Environment
("The John Ray Initiative")**

13th October
"The earth is the Lord's and
everything in it" (Psalm 24:1)

20th October
"What are humans that you are
mindful of them?" (Psalm 8:4)

3rd November
"Love your neighbour as yourself"
(Matthew 22:39)

10th November
"Jesus is the image of the invisible
God" (Colossians 1:15)

17th November
"Blessed are the meek for they will
inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5)

ALL WELCOME

More information from Jo Venn
(07921 517063)
or Linda Jackson (07927 692127)

**Monday
26th October**

WARMSPACE



Warm Spaces

recommences at Emmanuel Church
Centre, immediately following Drop In.

If you are able to help by providing soup or
serving, please contact
Jean Houghton, 07834468870

We have had some wonderful events as part of our Golden Jubilee Year and they have been so well supported. They just seem to be getting better and better and this was so true of our 'Hymns and Pimms' event on 6 th September. Nearly 70 people came together to sing our favourite hymns with a glass of Pimms in our hands. The choices of hymns were rich and varied including traditional ones such as Praise My Soul and a variety of songs choruses and hymns that have become popular over the last 50 years. Interspersed with prayers of joy and two readings 1 about the wedding at Cana and I am the Vine and You are the Branches we heard personal reflections and testimonies regarding the reason for choosing the hymn. Emmanuel Choir sang a beautiful piece about Grace which enhanced the event.

After 'You shall go out with joy' when Robert encouraged everyone to dance to it linking arms around the room John Small made a plea that the joy we had experienced that afternoon should be shared with everyone we meet this week.

We were delighted to welcome members of the parish and friends from local

churches in Greenmount and Ramsbottom .

As has become customary we finished with the blessing sung to the tune of Edelweiss.

The afternoon ended with continued fellowship over Pimms, hot drinks and delicious scones cream jam and strawberries made as always by Annette.

A huge thank you to Sheila who coordinated every hymn , liaised with people over the Summer and played beautifully as always.

Thank you to everyone who attended and sang so well making it a really memorable and special event

Look out for the next get together sharing faith fun and fellowship.



Brian recited the 39 articles as he did up each button

Nearly at the end of our jubilee year we look forward to January when we celebrate 30 years of our worship centre. We will be having a special service on 10th



January and we hope to be able to give out a booklet of our favourite prayers. In our jubilee prayer we asked God to increase our prayer life and what better way than having our own booklet of Prayers for Each Day. There will be at least 31 prayers representing our 30 years in the centre and one for each day of the month.

If you have a favourite prayer or one that you have written please let Jo have it by 1st December which will give us time to produce it.

A New School Year

Both St Mary's Hawkshaw and Emmanuel Holcombe have made a superb start to the new academic year! The two schools are working extremely well together, with strong relationships continuing to develop across our school communities. It is wonderful to see colleagues sharing their expertise, knowledge and experience and supporting one another so effectively.

Pre-School

We are delighted to have introduced a Pre-School at St Mary's this year, meaning that both schools now welcome children from the age of three.

We are almost full for this academic year, with just one place remaining at each school. Furthermore, we have two full Reception classes! This is fantastic news for our small church schools, particularly as maintaining pupil numbers continues to be an ever-growing challenge for small schools.

Worship

Both schools enjoy daily collective worship, where we explore our core and branching values and consider how these can be lived out in our everyday lives.

Our Christian values for this half term are Compassion and Friendship, and we are enjoying exploring what these values mean to us and how we can demonstrate them through our words and actions.

Faith Ambassadors

Our classes have now elected their new Faith Ambassadors at both schools.

Our Faith Ambassadors will work alongside Liz Webber and Mrs Longstaff to help shape the spiritual life and direction of our schools.

They will also have opportunities to lead worship, attend interfaith days and contribute to our worship floor book, helping to celebrate and record the spiritual journey of our school communities.

School Council

Both schools have now elected their School Councils, with children voting for their representatives. The councils will begin meeting together shortly.

Our School Councillors play an important role in giving children a voice in school life.

They are also involved in organising charity events and supporting fundraising throughout the year. Our schools raise money for a range of in-school projects, as well as local, national and international charities.

Eco Club

The Eco Clubs at St Mary's and Emmanuel are looking forward to another year of campaigning, fundraising and raising awareness of important environmental issues.

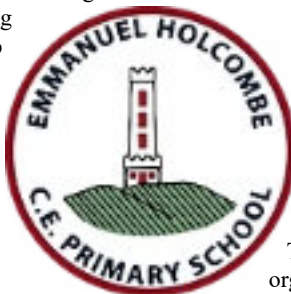
The children will continue to explore issues such as recycling, water conservation and climate change, while looking at practical ways in which we can all make a positive difference to our world.

Prefects and 'Buddies'

Completing our team of young leaders are our Year 6 Prefects and Year 6 Buddies.

Our Buddies are paired with children in Reception and provide friendship, encouragement and support as our youngest pupils settle into school life. Our Prefects also have a range of responsibilities and help to set a positive example for others.

All of our children are taking their new leadership roles very seriously and are already proving to be wonderful ambassadors for St Mary's and Emmanuel Holcombe.



Open Evenings

Both schools have held Open Evenings and 'Meet the Teacher' drop-ins, including a presentation to parents from Mrs Longstaff.

The events were very well attended, and it was lovely to welcome so many families into school. We have received lots of positive feedback, which was wonderful to hear.

If you know of anyone looking for a school place, please encourage them to phone either school to request a tour.

Harvest Service

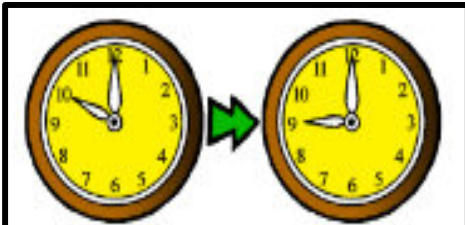
This year's Harvest Services will both be held on Friday 16th October.

We are looking forward to this special event in our school and parish calendar, when we come together to celebrate the harvest and give thanks for all that we have.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations of food. These will be greatly appreciated and will help us to support those in need across our local community and parish.

***Challenges and
hard work
reveal
the true
character of
people.***

***Some turn up
their sleeves,
Some turn up
their noses,
And some don't
turn up at all.***



Every year, the clocks go back an hour at 2am on the last Sunday of October. When this occurs, the UK will switch from British Summer Time (BST) to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

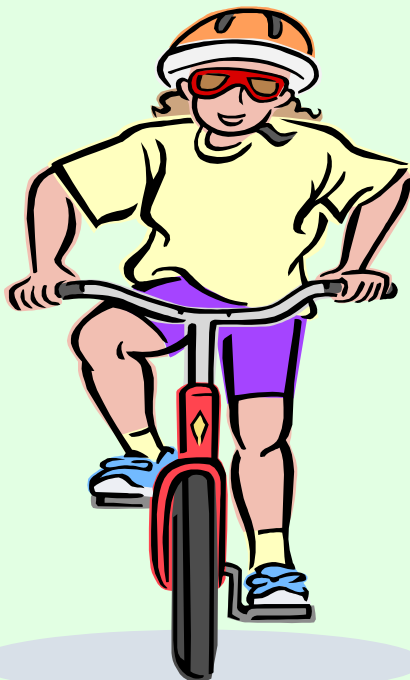
So remember to put back your clock one hour on

**Sunday
25th October
(at 2am.).**

Shampoo



Why I didn't realise this sooner? It's the shampoo I use in the shower that is my problem. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning: 'FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY.' No wonder I have been gaining weight.



Sunday 11th October

**Lancashire Road Club Hill
Climb on The Rake.**

Once again the Rake will be busy from
late morning.

**Emmanuel Church
Service time
changed: 10.00am.**

Note: The church will be open after the
service providing drinks and somewhere
quiet for spectators and competitors.

**Cakes required please,
Let Stephen know if you
need them collecting.**

Sunday 1st November

There will be only ONE SERVICE in the parish.

***11am Holy Communion and
Jubilee Celebration Service
at Emmanuel Church Centre.***

***Service taken by Robert Airey and Paul Sumsion.
Shared Lunch to follow.***

*An opportunity to catch up with Paul and
bring the Hall's Jubilee celebrations to a close.*

*The 29th October is the actual date, but we are going for the nearest
Sunday. We will all be dancing and singing to the Strummers the evening
before in the Hall. Put the date in your diary now so that you do not double
book yourself. It should be a wonderful celebration.*

Memories of Elizabeth Lofthouse

to



On 4th September we bade a final fond farewell to Elizabeth Lofthouse who passed away in August, and who was a significant and much-loved member of the Canon Lewis Hall / Emmanuel Church Centre community for many years.

Some 40+ years ago Elizabeth was invited by the then Rector, Rev. Dick Haigh to set up a social group for mainly retired people. Thanks to her dedication and wonderful organisational skills, the Afternoon Fellowship was established and became a thriving and much appreciated gathering, drawing its membership from not only our own church but from the much wider area. Elizabeth coordinated lifts to the meetings, sourced speakers and arranged special events. The annual trips were legendary with everything planned and run with military precision: coach travel, often to National Trust properties, with full day excursions for the more active members and half-days for the less mobile. These were opened up to the wider congregation, and many of us have happy memories of these very special outings.

As well as taking part in regular worship, Elizabeth was a member of the ECC Management Team for a while, and attended the small Bible study and faith-sharing groups which met over the years at the rectory and in members' homes.

Elizabeth played a vital role in the small group set up in the early 2000s which introduced reflective and contemplative worship at ECC, being closely involved especially in the monthly Quiet Mornings. She was a valuable asset to the team, introducing us to the material of some inspirational Christian writers and her beautiful speaking voice gave a special resonance to what we offered.

Sadly, 10 years ago, changing circumstances meant she and her husband Joe left their beloved home in Summerseat to move

Edenfield to be closer to family, but we continued to consider her part of our church family here, and she will always remain so. She received a warm welcome at Edenfield Parish Church, but it was always a pleasure to see her when she returned for special occasions or was brought occasionally to the Quiet Mornings. ECC continued to be her spiritual home and it was therefore appropriate that her Memorial Service and the Reception which followed were held there.

As a church community we owe a great debt of gratitude to Elizabeth for her hard work and dedication, and we continue to build on the foundations she helped to lay down.

And as individuals we remember her as a dear friend who enriched our lives in so many ways. A gifted organiser, capable and dependable, Elizabeth was a person of principle and integrity, and above all, a kind and caring lady, who lived out her life in the light of her faith, and she will be greatly missed.

May God bless her and give her eternal rest and peace after a long life well lived.

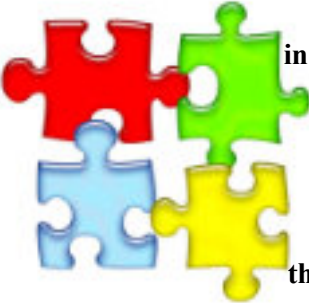
‘Fit me in Somewhere’ by Gerard Kelly



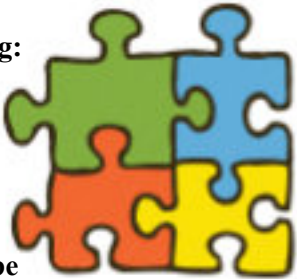
Fit me in somewhere in this giant jigsaw, God,
somewhere in this work of art
you're working,
select a space my space can fill
and with a puzzle maker's skill
let my contours find their fit without contortion.

Teach me which patch I am, God,
in the cosmic quilt you're quilting.
Show me where my square of selfhood is of use.
Let the colourful complexities'
of the pattern that is me
find their purpose, in the placement that you choose.

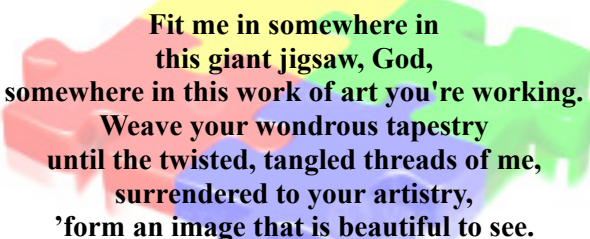
Show me my position, God,
in this group photograph.
Stand me where you want me to stand.
Put me next to whom you will.
Make me stand, for good or ill,
precisely in the place your plan demands.



Tell me what I am, God,
in this; body you are building:
a tongue to taste,
a nerve to serve,
an ear to hear.



Give me grace
to not be, gracefully,
the parts I am not called to be
and to play with elegance
the roles I'm given.



Fit me in somewhere in
this giant jigsaw, God,
somewhere in this work of art you're working.
Weave your wondrous tapestry
until the twisted, tangled threads of me,
surrendered to your artistry,
'form an image that is beautiful to see.

*(From spoken worship - living words for personal and public worship - 2007
Zondervan, Michigan)*

Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.



Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

Sides

It was my wedding day, and no one was happier than my mother. But as she approached the church doors, an usher asked, "Which side are you on?"

"Oh, no," she said, dismayed. "Are they fighting already?"



Children & Families Update

It's great to be back up and running after the school summer break! There is already lots happening across our churches, schools and youth groups and it has been lovely to see children and young people returning with so much enthusiasm.

Our two link schools are exploring the value of Friendship this half term so I have been busy planning **Collective Worship and Class Worship** sessions around this theme. These sessions are a great opportunity for the children to hear Bible stories and then think about what they might mean in their own lives, particularly what being a good friend actually looks like in the everyday ups and downs of school life.

Sunday Club and Sunday Cellar are also back, and both were full of joy and energy at our first meetings of the new school year. We continue to follow the same Bible readings as the congregation at St Mary's wherever possible. I really value this approach as it means that, although we may explore the passage in very different ways, children and adults are essentially learning about the same thing. Hopefully this also gives families opportunities to carry on some of those conversations at home.

Campfire Church also had a great first gathering back, with plenty of hot chocolate, games and time together as they began exploring the theme of creation. New families are always very welcome to come along and see what Campfire Church is all about.

Our **Cellar** youth team recently received some fantastic training from Lucy, our Diocesan Youth Officer. We spent time thinking about just how different the world our young people are growing up in is from the one many of us experienced as teenagers. We considered some of the pressures and influences they face and, importantly, what



that means for the way we listen to, support and share faith with them. It gave us lots to think about as a team. We are really excited to see what God has in store for Cellar this year, particularly as we have lots of very keen Year 7s who can't wait to come along!

We are also taking another step forward with **Cellar Plus**, our new group for young people in Year 10 and above, which will meet for the first time on Monday 21st September. We don't yet know exactly what Cellar Plus

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

will look like and that is quite deliberate. We want to take some time to listen to the young people, see what works and allow the group to grow in the right direction rather than deciding everything for them. Please pray for us as we begin, particularly as we look to build the right team of people to help lead and support it.

Another exciting development is the launch of a new ecumenical youth space at **Ramsbottom Community Church**. This will take place on the first Sunday evening of each month and will be open to young people in Years 7–9. The hope is to bring together Christian young people from churches across our local area, giving them an opportunity to make friendships, worship together and delve a little deeper into the Bible. It is really encouraging to be working together across churches to create something that none of us needs to do alone.

And, as ever, there is plenty more coming up! Over the next few weeks we are looking forward to our annual **Glow** event at ECC, as well as a **Coffee Afternoon at Emmanuel Church** which will be hosted by Emmanuel School's Faith Ambassadors. It is always wonderful to see the children taking such an active role in the life of the church and community.

After the quieter pace of the summer holidays, it certainly feels as though everything is well and truly back in full swing and we're looking forward to seeing where this new school year takes us.

Please continue to follow our social media pages to keep up to date with everything happening across Young Life.

liz@holcombehawkshaw.org

07541 168474

Facebook:

[Young Life at Holcombe & Hawkshaw](#)

Instagram:

[younglifeholcombeandhawkshaw](#)

With thanks and blessings,

Liz Webber
Children & Families Lead





As some of you may know, 2026 marks the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union. Our founder, Mary Sumner, prayer that "All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live." Over the next 150 years the Mothers' Union has touched many lives, both in this country and many other countries through many different projects and appeals.



As a reminder of this anniversary, Barbara Newhouse very kindly found and planted a bush in the Church Centre garden and on 1st September some of our branch members gathered to dedicate this bush for our 150th Anniversary. We would like to thank all our friends in the Parish for their support of our branch's work and we hope to continue that work for years to come.

Aid workers in need of more protection

One thousand aid workers have been killed in the past three years, caught up in various global conflicts.

So reports the Christian relief charity, World Vision. It is calling for stronger protection of humanitarian workers, independent investigations, accountability,

and consequences for attacks on humanitarian workers, healthcare facilities, and other civilian infrastructure.

World Vision also wants the humanitarian consequences of drones and other emerging military technologies to be addressed.

World Vision says: "When aid workers are attacked or blocked from reaching people in need, children are left waiting for food, medicine, and protection that may never come. Too often those risking their lives to help are local people and members of the very communities caught in the conflict."

For Reflection



If you received the July/ August edition of “The Messenger”, you will have read, on the front cover, the famous words written by St. Paul to the early Church in Philippi:

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:6) These words really spoke to me and I felt quite challenged by them.

On the face of it, it is obviously good to see the positive in people and situations, but in practice that can be difficult. We have only to look at the news media to see that there is much going on in the world to disturb and dismay us, and sometimes our own personal circumstances may seem so dire that discerning anything positive can feel impossible.

Dreams don’t always come true, we don’t always achieve what we desire, miracles do happen, but so do tragedies. Life is a complex mix of joy, wonder and delight, grief, anxiety and despair. It is unrealistic and naive to believe otherwise.

Toxic optimism doesn’t help anyone. But neither does cynicism. There are those who would appear to revel in peddling “doom and gloom”, encouraging us to believe that everything is negative; they engender fear and a fatalistic attitude towards life. We may come to think that the evils which blight our world can never be remedied, that things can never get any better so there’s no point in trying.

And this negativity can extend to the way we look at people, cynically asserting that humankind is basically bad and beyond redemption. It’s so easy to pass judgement on others and find reasons to criticise them. We can all be guilty of drawing conclusions about people by focusing on the labels we put on them rather than delving deeper to discover the real person inside. The Christian writer Eddie Askew observes: “Whatever the outward condition, however unappealing the appearance, God’s likeness is present in all of us. It may be hidden, it may struggle in vain to get out from under the layers of distortion, but deep down it is part of our nature.”

How timely – and necessary - then are St. Paul’s words, encouraging us to focus on what is life-giving. It is indeed possible to strike the balance between realism and a belief that nothing is impossible with God. This is the hope we have through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Hope is so much more than blind optimism. It changes the way we see life and other human beings. It sustains us and gives us purpose and direction.

As writer Margaret Silf says: “May we recognise the glimpses of goodness all around us as little pebbles of encouragement scattered along our way to guide us closer to the best we can be.”

Perhaps you can make this prayer by Joyce Rupp your own:-

“In our journeying, we need a strong conviction about the beauty and goodness of life, a vision of hope that endures the pain and struggle, and a thread of love that weaves through all our dreams. When we try to hold on to what gives our life purpose, draw near, O God, draw near.”

Linda Jackson

October Services

4th October - Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am Harvest Service <i>Luke 17: 11-19</i> <i>Rev Richard Moffat</i>	11.00am Morning Worship Common Worship <i>Matthew 21: 33-46</i> <i>Robert Airey</i>	10.45am All Age Worship with Harvest <i>Luke 17: 11-19</i> <i>Rev Vic Fletcher & Richard Byrom</i>
		6.30pm Evening Worship 3 Hawkshaw Lane

8th October - 2.00pm - Holy Communion Emmanuel Church Centre - Rev. Vic Fletcher.

11th October- Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity *Exodus 32 1 - 14; Matthew 22 1 - 14*

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am Morning Worship Common Worship <i>Jo Venn & Rev Vic Fletcher or (Rev Ian Fleming)</i>	10.00am Holy Communion Common Worship <i>Note time, (Rake Hill Climb)</i> <i>Rev Robert Airey</i>	10.45am Morning Worship with Groups <i>Rev Vic Fletcher (& Rev Ian Fleming)</i>
3pm Campfire Church		6.30pm Evening Worship 3 Hawkshaw Lane

18th October - The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity *Exodus 33 12 - 23; Matthew 22 15 - 22*

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am Holy Communion Common Worship <i>Rev. Robert Airey & Dick Gorst</i>	11.00am Harvest <i>Luke 17: 11-19</i> <i>Michael Burton</i>	10.45am Holy Communion with Groups <i>Rev. Robert Airey & Dick Gorst</i>
	6.30pm Choral Evensong 1662 <i>Rev Robert Airey</i>	6.30pm Evening Worship 3 Hawkshaw Lane

Passage and Prayer

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

Keep these pages for the two 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

5th – 11th October

Prayer for the week:

Creator God, for daily bread and all who work to bring your harvest home, we bring our thanks today. Forgive our ingratitude; we who have so much yet waste what you have given, not appreciating how fortunate we are. For those whose harvest is poor, whose crops have withered, water tainted, children starve, help those who bring relief and bestow on us an unaccustomed generosity, that all might share from your garden and all might sing your praise. Creator God, provider of all, we bring our thanks today.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

All those who work on the land and in the preparation factories and bakeries who bring our daily food to us.

Readings for this week:

Genesis 2: 4 – 19.

Sunday Reading:

Matthew 22: 1 – 14.

Passage & Prayer

12th – 18th October

Prayer for the week:

Dear Lord, bless those who are peacemakers, from all creeds and cultures, all who bring no other agenda than to see a neighbour and stranger live together as one community. Bless those who are comforters, shoulders to cry upon, a willing ear to listen, a present help in times of despair and hopelessness. Bless those who are healers of physical injury, and deeper hurts, whose touch brings relief from trauma and pain. Be with all those who bring love and compassion to others.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

All those who deliver to our shops and those shop staff who help us with our daily needs.

Readings for this week:

Genesis 8: 12 – 22.

Sunday Reading:

Matthew 22: 15 – 22.

Passage & Prayer **19th – 25th October**

Prayer for the week:

God our Father, from the moment your spirit hovered over the waters of this earth we were part of a vision held lovingly within your heart. From the moment you spoke and separated darkness from light you created space where we might one day walk. From the moment your joy spilled out into green and living things your beauty was revealed for us to taste and see. Creator God, for this world, beauty and majesty, passion and artistry, a green and pleasant place, we praise your mighty name.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

All those who this coming week will need to visit food banks because they cannot afford the prices in shops and supermarkets.

Readings for this week:

Genesis 9: 8 – 17.

Sunday Reading:

Matthew 24: 30 - 36

Passage & Prayer **26th Oct. – 1st Nov.**

Prayer for the week:

Almighty God, we your servants give our thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

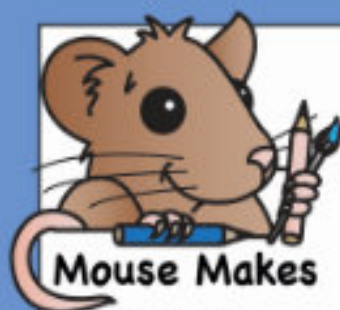
For all those who have lost homes and livelihoods through war and civil unrest around our world.

Readings for this week:

Hosea 2: 18 – 23.

Sunday Reading:

Matthew 5: 1 – 12.



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2



3

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like? A _____ and a _____ Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

5

6

7

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

9

10

11

12

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13

14

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the _____ of God. Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?



October Services

22nd October - 2.00pm - Holy Communion
Emmanuel Church Centre - Rev. Vic Fletcher.

25th October - The Last Sunday after Trinity
Bible Sunday
Nehemiah 8 1 - 4a(5-6), 8-12; Matthew 24 30 - 35

Note: Clocks go back

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am Morning Worship Common Worship <i>Rev Richard Moffat</i>	11.00am Holy Communion Common Prayer <i>Rev Richard Moffat</i>	10.45am Morning Worship <i>Tim Webber & Richard Byrom</i>
		6.30pm Evening Worship 3 Hawkshaw Lane

November Services

1st November - All Saints

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
11.00am Holy Communion with Jubilee Celebration. <i>Rev Robert Airey & Rev Paul Sumsion.</i>	NO SERVICE See page 10	NO SERVICE
		6.30pm Evening Worship 3 Hawkshaw Lane

Why did the lamp smile?

It had a bright idea.

Q: What has a neck but no head?

A: A bottle.

Q: What has a bed but never sleeps?

A: A river.

Q: What has a tongue but cannot talk?

A: A shoe.

Q: Why can't a pencil keep a secret?

A: It always leaves a mark.

Guess what happened when the teacher brought a ladder?

The lesson reached a new level.

Q: What did the barn say during the storm?

A: "Everyone stay calm. I'm stable."

I got my best friend a fridge for his birthday.

I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.

Why should you stay away from trees?

They can be a little shady.



Stoptober

Did you know that if you can stop smoking for 28 consecutive days, you are five times more likely to succeed in stopping for good? And that could give you years more of life to enjoy.

Along with the health benefits, cutting out smoking will save the average smoker more than £38 a week, or more than £2000 a year.

Since its launch in 2012, Public Health England's campaign 'Stoptober' has so far encouraged more than 2.5 million people to make a real attempt to quit, and thousands more are expected to take up the challenge this month.

The campaign breaks down the quitting process into manageable chunks, and presents it as a 28-day programme – offering a lot of support to smokers who want to stop. More details at: <https://campaignresources.dhsc.gov.uk/campaigns/stoptober-2026/>



WORD SEARCH

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

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke

Feast

Day

Written

Gospel

Acts

Greek

Physician

Travelling

Faithful

Paul

Compassion

Parables

Prodigal

Son

Good

Samaritan

Women

Poor

Lepers

Sinners

Jerusalem

Pagan

Rome

Early

Christians

Solution page 32

Why did

Sudoku

Medium

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

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

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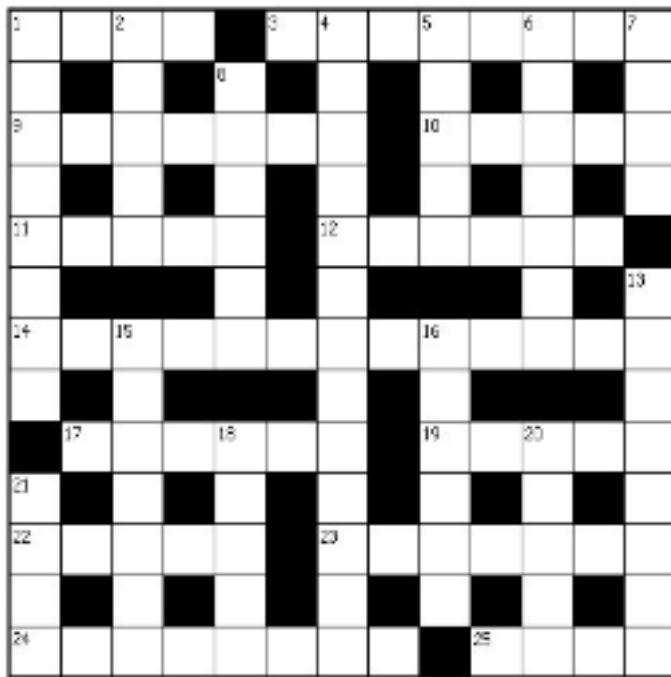
Solution page 32



"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"



Yet another of the vicar's money-raising wheezes, I see



preach a lot (4,3)
24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
6 The meek, the merciful and the

mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)

7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Across

1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
12 Listen (anag.) (6)
14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
23 Where John Wesley was forced to

Solution page 32



Trick or Treat?

By Alison Mitchell, The Good Book Company, 16p each

A 'treat' is a free gift – something we don't deserve. And this short Halloween tract introduces children to the greatest 'treat' of all, God's own Son, Jesus.

The tract is based on John 8 v 12, where Jesus tells us that He is 'the Light of the world'. It helps children to understand why Halloween isn't 'harmless fun', and that there's no need to be afraid because Jesus beat the devil.

The Wisdom of Jesus

Meditations on the Gospels in Words and Paintings

By Tom Wright, Lion Books, £13.99

For 2000 years, people have returned to the words of Jesus for wisdom, comfort, challenge, and hope. His teachings continue to shape lives, cultures, and communities across the world.

Here the renowned theologian, Tom Wright, brings together some of Christ's most profound and memorable sayings, offering insightful commentary that reveals their enduring depth, beauty and relevance for modern life. From happiness and prayer to love, God, and the meaning of true wisdom, these teachings invite readers to see the world – and themselves – in a new light.

Ramsbottom & Tottington Probus Club.



The objectives of the Club are to support and encourage regular meetings of professional and business people and other people who appreciate and value association and social contact with other like-minded people.

We meet at Canon Lewis Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Members arrive from 10 a.m. for tea/coffee and a chat and the meeting starts at 10.30a.m. with a guest speaker and lasts for approximately one hour. Talks are given on a wide range of subjects.

Why not come along to one of our meetings to see what the Club has to offer and if the format and content appeals to you? You will be made most welcome.

NEXT MEETING: 1st October 2026

SPEAKER: Peter Watson

TOPIC: Charms & Talismen

For further information, please contact our Secretary, Philip Gibbons, on 01204 882918 or e-mail him at: plg35@tiscali.co.uk

Be thankful for grandparents

Everyone seems to have their 'special day' these days, and this month brings us Grandparents' Day, on the 4th October.

If your grandchildren are still young, why not keep at your house:

1. A dressing up box – of fairytale clothes, plastic crowns and cardboard swords. These will keep them busy for hours. Charity shops can be a great source of cheap costumes – and also tablecloths/sheets that can be turned into costumes. (Or you can help the church by getting to work on some early nativity costumes!).

2. A craft supply box – egg boxes, old magazines full of pictures, cardboard, cardboard tubes, a bit of glue, bits of ribbon and wool, some paper and scissors can work wonders.

3. Colouring supplies - crayons and any



kind of paper – even the back of envelopes – will do fine.

If all else fails, you can always sit down for a rest and let them play 'musical statues', where the only rule is that whenever the music stops, they must 'freeze' in position.

There are lots of resources you can download for the special day, and many others – just go to: <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/grandparents-day>

May God grant you courage - message of solidarity with the people of Ukraine

The Bishop of Worcester, Hugh Nelson, who is the C of E's Bishop to the Armed Forces, recently went to Kyiv to join Ukrainian church leaders, other religious leaders and government officials at the National Prayer Breakfast in Kyiv. Bishop Hugh also met with the leader of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany.

Bishop Hugh brought a message from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally. She promised that the Anglican Church would continue to "stand in prayerful solidarity" with Ukraine, and she acknowledged the "immense sacrifices" which the Ukrainians are making "in defence of your country, its people and the values of freedom and human dignity".

Archbishop Sarah also commended Ukraine's constitutional commitments to freedom of

religion and conscience. She rejected the language of "holy war" used to justify the attempts to occupy and subjugate Ukraine by the current regime in Moscow.



"We pray for those who have lost their lives, for those who mourn, for the wounded, the displaced, and all who live under the daily shadow of violence and fear. May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the days ahead."

Season of Creation

In the church year the Season of Creation (September 1st - October 4th) is an opportunity for us to reflect on our responsibility to care for the planet. As the season draws to an end for this year, have you considered:

The world is not ours:

‘The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it’ (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God’s! This means we have a responsibility of caring for God’s world: ‘The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.’ (Genesis 2:15). Clearly, we have not done the best job! The effects of global warming have been all too obvious this summer. And 2025 ranked as the third warmest year on record globally, 1.3°C to 1.44°C above pre-industrial levels. This follows the historic peak in 2024, driven by ongoing fossil fuel emissions and high ocean surface temperatures.

Our hope is found in Jesus:

Any hope for the future lies in Jesus Himself. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion: ‘all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.’ (Colossians 1:16,17).



SEASON OF CREATION

God’s plan is ‘to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.’ (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the climax of history when God through Christ will restore our broken world and make everything new.

In the present, we are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth. Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving, choosing reusable options, careful diet and a commitment to simple living can help the planet.

However difficult the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage it with faith and not fatalism!

Accident

As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald’s one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, “We should pray.”

From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: “Dear God, please don’t let those cars block the entrance to McDonald’s.”





Black History Month marks 100 years – and brings Barak Obama to the UK

This year Black History Month celebrates its first centenary, and Barak Obama is coming to speak at events in Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester.

It was back in 1926 that ‘Negro History Week’ was first founded by the American Black historian Carter G Woodson.

By 1976 it had grown and expanded into Black History Month, and it arrived in the UK in October 1987.

The theme for this year is ‘Honouring Black Britain 2026.’ It features a major new exhibition celebrating 54 British Blacks who have each made an outstanding contribution to British Life.

“I had no idea that history was being made. I was just tired of giving up.”- Rosa Parks, who became mother of the American civil rights movement in 1955 when she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery Alabama just because she was a Black.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” James Baldwin, American writer, civil rights activist, critic

President Obama, the 44th President of the USA, will visit Belfast, Glasgow and Manchester to make three arena appearances. His live conversations will explore the subject of leadership, democracy, resilience and challenges currently facing America and the wider world.

An Evening with President Barack Obama will begin at The O2 Belfast on Tuesday 13th October, before moving to Glasgow’s OVO Hydro on Wednesday 14th October, and finally Manchester’s Co-op Live on Thursday 15th October. Tickets for all three appearances are now on sale.

When Obama won the US presidential election in November 2008, he became the first African American elected President of the United States. He served two terms as America’s 44th president, from 2009 until 2017.

His live conversations will take place as the United States marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.

More details:

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org>

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”- Barack Obama, former US President.

Crossword solution

From page 27

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

Wordsearch solution

From page 25

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

Sudoku solutions

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

From page 26

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

From page 26

Hawkshaw's Christian Heritage

The Marxist historian Eric Hobsbawm said of Scotland that 'few if any areas of the world have contributed proportionately more to industrialism than Scotland'. It is 'difficult to deny', he continued, 'that the remarkable record of Scotsmen in the 19th century was connected with their Calvinism and the almost universal educational system it created'. That system produced a high degree of literacy, a strong sense of moral discipline, and personal initiative. In each Scottish parish, church and school - minister and schoolmaster - worked together. Both shared the same faith and both were engaged in the same mission. A local example of the fruits of the Scottish system were the Ramsbottom Grants.

The opportunity provided to an Anglican parish by a church school is substantial. It can mirror that Scottish pattern, and produce similar results; but it will only do so if the teachers are themselves living out their own Christian faith and if they are active in a church – if they are fulfilling Jesus' commission to every Christian 'to make disciples'. (See Google: 'Church of England Weekly On-line Services 06.09.20 Recognising teachers and school staff as unsung heroes'.)

Children remained at Hawkshaw School from the age of three until they were thirteen or fourteen when they started work. This was the case until a secondary school was built in Tottington in 1934, for the eleven to fourteens. Only a very small number went to grammar school – one of those, from a church family, was Leonard Nolan who went to Bury Grammar (where he was a friend of my father, who grew up in Woolfold).

The Hawkshaw 'schoolmaster' who came nearest to the Scottish pattern was Thomas Beckett who was in charge for thirty years, from 1896 until 1926. He was a dedicated teacher who ran the school purposefully – 'a firm but fair regime'. Jonathan Ali wrote:

'In 1900 the estimated population of the parish was 800 people. They were helped by a



Thomas Beckett 1926

man whose life's work was dedicated to the people of Hawkshaw. It was Thomas Beckett who taught the children about the British Empire, who acted as an adviser to their parents, writing letters on their behalf if they were illiterate. The boys who grew up in the late 1890s and early 1900s all had a firm belief in Empire which was included in the school's curriculum.'

Doris Warburton, who was one of Mr Beckett's pupils wrote:

'He was a marvellous teacher. All the pupils he turned out seemed to get on well. I can remember doing parsing and analysis and I never did the equal of it in secondary school. ... We also had citizenship lessons and learned about the structure of local government. He taught us all the rudiments of life.'

'I can remember we would start each morning with chapter and verse from Mr. Beckett and we had to give the quotation. He taught at Sunday school both morning and afternoon ... At Sunday school we always had to learn the Collect for the day and he would hear each one of us say it. There was a prize for attendance and one for knowing the Collect.

'Mr Beckett had to pressure people to let the children go in for scholarships and to go on to further education if they had won one. ... He was a wonderful man for advanced education. He should be remembered more than anyone because of the influence he had on all of us.'

**You are invited to
St. Mary, Hawkshaw**

“Sizzling Seniors”

Thursday

1st October

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 8th October

**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
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

**Tuesday
20th October
10am to 12noon**

Emmanuel Church Centre



**Sunday 11th
October @
3pm**

Campfire Church 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 4JZ

 Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw

www.holcombehawkshaw.org

Greenmount Village Community

D-CaFF



A lovely place to meet... For people living with dementia, their carers, family and friends.

**Friday
9th October
Kirsty part 1
Musicals**

**Look forward to seeing
you all!**
**1pm-3pm at
Canon Lewis Hall,
Longsight Road .
BL8 4EQ**

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Mothers' Union invite you to an afternoon of music and fun at 2.00pm on Tuesday 6th October in the Emmanuel Church Centre when "The Strummers" will be coming to entertain us. Everyone is welcome and the admission will be £3.00, pay at the door, and there will be a raffle.

Any help is welcome.

Working Party

Emmanuel Church Centre
Garden

14th October

1.30pm to 4pm
Your help would be much appreciated.

Any help is welcome.

Working Party

Emmanuel Church Holcombe

**Wednesday
21st October
1.30 to 4pm**
Your help would be much appreciated.

You are welcome to come and pray for East Asia

Overseas Missionary Fellowship



Prayer Meeting

Thursday 1st October

2-3.15pm
**3, Hawkshaw Lane,
BL8 4JZ**
Followed by
tea/coffee and cake.

Shoebox Services

It is **never too early** to start putting together your shoebox for collection at Christmas.

Our services will enable me to deliver them to International Aid Trust the week of 8th December in Blackburn. They are looking forward to receiving them.

Lists of what they should contain will be issued and remember you can tailor make them for a boy or a girl and roughly the age. We have started collecting empty boxes if anyone needs one.

Jo

TOILETRIES

*Soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, face cloths are good.
No medicines, vitamins, matches or perishables.*

FOOD & SWEETS

*Just sweets with a long (6 month) BBE date please.
No chocolates*

TOYS

*Small clean toys, games and cuddly toys are welcome.
Please avoid war related toys etc.*

CLOTHES

*Socks, T-Shirts, hats, scarves,
gloves and underwear Babygrowers for little ones*

STATIONERY

*Crafts, colouring, notebooks, pencils, pens...
If scissors for children, rounded end type please.*



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

On how long a sermon should last

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All.

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute exposition on the theology of St Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you. But as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early?

Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say “and finally” is another.

Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon. But when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute proof that it is time to stop.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard



the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately, one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. And at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

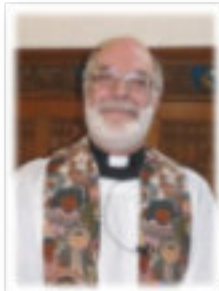
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

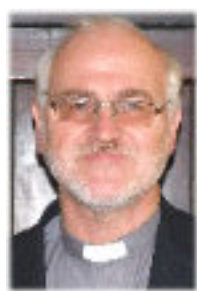
**Rector:
Position Vacant**

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
haw.org)



Associate Minister:
Rev. Vic. Fletcher
01204 882750.
[vic@holcombehawks
haw.org](mailto:vic@holcombehawks
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

Children and Families' Lead: Liz Webber 07541168474 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

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
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



He made sure everyone got their full amount every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said



Friday 13th November
7 for 7.30pm



£7 per person
includes supper, tea/coffee (BYOB)

Emmanuel Church Centre
Canon Lewis Hall,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
BL8 4DB

Teams:
two to six
(max.)

Tickets at each worship centre
or speak to Stephen Newhouse 01706 412657

stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org

Proceeds to Holcombe Building Fund