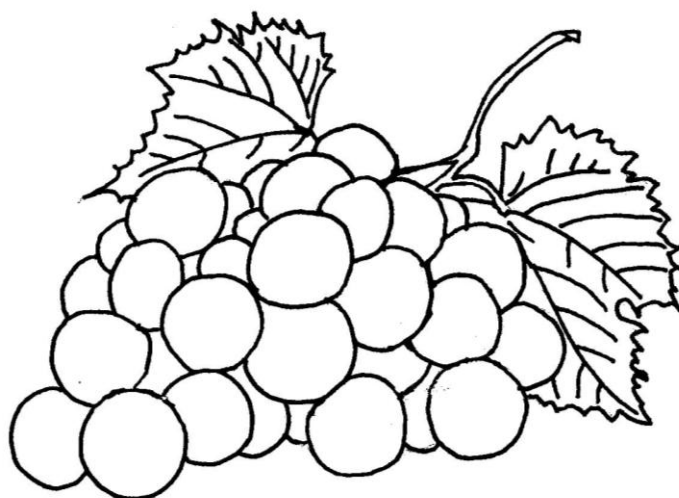


GROVE VINE

Online Edition

**The Magazine of
Grove Methodist Church
Horsforth, Leeds**

November 2020



**The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the
Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its
discipleship in worship, service and mission**

Minister – Rev Mark Godfrey

Phone: 0113 258 2678 or email: revmgodfrey@gmail.com

Minister's letter

Dear Friends,

Some years ago Trevor Beeson stood at the high altar of Westminster Abbey to celebrate the marriage of his daughter, Catharine, to Anthony, aged twenty-three. Nine months later he stood before the same altar for Anthony's funeral. He was killed when his car ran into a wall in East London. Four months later, Beeson returned to the altar beside the coffin of his friend and hero Earl Mountbatten, who had died when his fishing boat was blown to pieces by Irish terrorists. Reflecting on the experience, he said he could not blame God for these senseless tragedies. He wrote:

"I should find it impossible to believe in, and worship, a God who arranged for the great servants of the community to be blown up on their holidays and who deliberately turned a young man's car into a brick wall.....This is not the God of love whose ways are revealed in the Bible and supremely in the life of Jesus Christ."

Beeson found two insights that helped him to cope with this tragedy and to look beyond it: "The first is that, although God is not responsible for causing tragedy, he is not a detached observer of our suffering. On the contrary, he is immersed in it with us, sharing to the full our particular grief and pain. This is the fundamental significance of the cross."

Second, although we naturally ask, "Why did it happen?" Beeson discovered that the more important question is "What are we going to make of it?" "Every tragedy contains within it the seeds of resurrection." This is, after all the whole point of our pilgrimage through Lent to Good Friday and Easter morning.

Are those who experience suffering worse than anyone else? Of course not. It can happen to any of us. But is there a connection between innocent suffering and human action? Very often there is, too frequently the root cause of suffering is human selfishness or sinfulness. But we know there are many other occasions when no such simple explanation can be offered.

So what does Jesus offer us when we face up to tragedy and suffering? He offers us the power of God to hold us firm, to give us strength, and to see us through.

With best wishes,

Mark

Thought for the month

Creative forgiveness can have a life-changing impact on all the actors in the tragedies of humanity.

Being unable to forgive can end up dominating a whole life or a life of a whole people. We can see this in international affairs as well as in the individual lives of victims.

Tim Newell, former Governor of Grendon Prison



A lively fresh and adventurous approach!

If you have never used Bible reading notes, here's your chance. Many people at the Grove use 'FRESH from the WORD' produced by the International Bible Reading Association, and the order for next year is being compiled over the next few weeks. Just contact Jean Orton (2589093) if you'd like more information or would like to try them.

Church Family News.....

Please remember in your prayers all those known to us who face a variety of difficulties; bereavement; health problems; anxiety about loved ones and loneliness.

John Sully

It isn't every day that I open my daily national paper and see a photo of someone I knew well. He was cheerfully riding his bike, above a tribute to him after an eventful life. It was John Sully.

John's name may stir memories in some, as his father, George, was minister at the Grove from 1968 – 74 and though John had flown the nest by then, he knew the Grove well, being involved through local preaching and, in my time, appearing with the Methodist District orchestra, to which he and his family made a big contribution.

But his particular forte was in political life. He was elected in 1977 to the West Yorkshire County Council, representing Osmondthorpe and then became chair of its recreation and arts committee. Because of his interest in canals and cycling, he was involved in the restoration of the Rochdale and Huddersfield Narrow Canals, and the development of walks, such as the Leeds Country Way and the Bronte Ways. His committee gave a grant to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, larger than had been requested. It was during his time that the West Yorkshire Playhouse was established, and on John's initiative given that name, as a facility for the whole county.

The important feature to me was that he did this as part of his Christian

commitment. It was said, jokingly, in the Headingley Circuit that his favourite hymn was: They who tread the path of labour. (A hymn most of us haven't sung for nearly 40 years). But whether one agrees with everything someone does, or not, there is no doubt that the nation needs the contribution of practising Christians to its political life. There are still MPs with strong convictions but our British press tends to hammer them if their faith is exposed too much. We need more at all levels of our national life. And John was one of them. We pay tribute to him for that.

Peter Reasbeck

Footnote. A small world. I worked with John Sully at a firm of Chartered Accountants for a number of years in my teens. Then when he showed me his wedding photographs, I realised that I had spent a week's walking holiday with his wife Cynthia in Porlock a few years before. And, a further coincidence was when Gordon and I bumped into them in 1965 - at the bottom of an Austrian Glacier - as you do!

Mary Mellor

Dates for your diary

Saturday November 7th: 10am to 12noon

Church open for prayer (Remembrance Day theme)

Wednesday November 11th; 10.30 - 11.30am

Church open for prayer (11am silence will be observed)

Saturday November 28th: 10am to 12noon

Children's toys/games/books can be brought to the church drive (Town St.)

Phil Maud

New to the Circuit

Phil Maud has obtained pen pictures of two new additions to the Circuit.

Deacon Guy Austin-Bride

I was born on New Year's Eve some time in the 70s, to much celebration, and each year at this time the whole world continues the tradition of parties and fireworks to mark my birth.

I grew up on a council estate in Sheffield and I am what is sometimes called a cradle Methodist. I was in the Boys Brigade and have the honour of being the Boys Brigade Welly throwing champion for 2 years running, in fact I retired undefeated in 1983.

On leaving school I joined the glorious Royal Air Force. I served 19 years as a communicator, and am highly skilled in making a vast array of hot beverages.

I served in the Gulf, and the Falkland Islands amongst other places. As most of my time was spent underground in bunkers I am hopeless with directions and spend a lot of time getting lost. My last 3 years in the RAF I was an instructor for frontline tactical communications - which is why I am highly skilled at making

a vast array of hot beverages whilst sitting in a field.

I was accepted into the Methodist Diaconal Order in 2010, studied for 2 years at Wesley House Theological College in Cambridge and was ordained in 2014 at Coventry Cathedral. My first posting was to Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham Circuit in West London where I predominantly worked with the Homeless for 8 years.

This was a challenging but richly rewarding time, and I learned more about Jesus from the homeless and the poor than I ever did at Theological College.

In Matthew 25:31-46, I am inspired by the words of Jesus telling us that He comes to us in the poor and the needy and by serving their needs we are serving Our Lord and Saviour. I believe that God accepts and loves all people, and I believe that all people deserve to enjoy a full relationship with their Father God. My prayer is that I may be enabled to help them achieve this through loving service, this is what drives me.

I have been married to Sara for 23 years. Sara is a Midwife at Leeds General Infirmary, and I am especially proud of the way she has worked through the whole of this Covid-19 crisis.

My son Oscar is 18 and serves in the Royal Logistics Corps in the British Army and my daughter Charlotte (Lottie) is in year 11 at school and next summer will sit her GCSEs.

In my spare time, I can be found cruising around the countryside on my beloved Vespa GTS 300 (the big Vespa). Or more realistically, stopped by the side of the road scratching my head wondering how I got lost again.

I am incredibly happy to be back in Yorkshire, and excited to be serving with you all in the Leeds South and West Methodist Circuit.

Rev Pete Brazier

Hi, I'm Rev Pete Brazier and I have moved to the Leeds South and West Circuit all the way from Dorset with my wife Debs. We are enjoying living in Middleton and are excited about getting to know Yorkshire, a new environment for both of us.

I am passionate about sharing the gospel message through words and actions, and through art in its many forms. I am a singer/songwriter and play a variety of instruments and I have a great love of hymns and songs that describe God's love and our response to it, through words and music. I love exploring how God can be found in TV and films and everywhere we look, even the shapes and patterns found in nature.

Another of my passions is social justice and standing up for truth. I enjoy discussions that go on long into the night, putting the world to rights, though it usually seems to be back to where it was by the next morning. Debs and I regularly attend Greenbelt Festival and love its mix of music, art and talks.

Both Debs, who is a local preacher, and I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming months.

2020 The Centenary of the Cenotaph in London.

A Monument to the Fallen in the First World War.



Last year, 2019, we remembered the end of the First World War 1914-1919, by recognition of the Peace Treaty, signed in Paris and shown on the Grove Memorial Window and board, commemorating those who had died. This year, we shall see again the annual service at the Whitehall memorial, performed for the nation and people throughout the world. The monument replaced a temporary one made of wood and plaster, as the people wanted something permanent.

The architect responsible for the temporary structure was Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944). He was chosen to continue his work, making a structure that would last. Born in London he studied at the Royal College of Art. His speciality was country mansions for the aristocracy and upper classes, together with a renaissance of buildings in New Delhi, India, then part of the British Empire. For his work he was knighted in 1918.

His work for a cenotaph was not something new. In 1917 he had joined the War Graves Commission to design headstones for soldiers' graves in European cemeteries and in Britain. His work was of classical style, originating in Greek and Roman times, a style with dignity, simplicity and nobility. These ideas were transferred to the plan for the Cenotaph.

The word 'cenotaph' is of Greek origin as 'kenotaphion' and is formed by the two words 'kenos' = empty and 'taphos' = tomb. So the memorial would be a sepulchral monument to honour the dead.

I understand that the rectangular structure of the Cenotaph is not as simple as it looks. The ancient world architects knew that tall structures needed not straight sides, but a bulge, to accommodate the human eye. Such is the case here. The Prime Minister, Lloyd George, asked for a catafalque or bier on the top, to represent the death of each of the fallen. The simple and significant inscription 'Our Glorious Dead' together with a permanent laurel leaf wreath, also a feature of victory in classical times, are placed at the end of the structure, visibly high up to be easily seen.

This Cenotaph was unveiled on Armistice Day, 11th November 1920, by King George V who had led the country before and during the war. 1.25 million people visited the Cenotaph to pay their respects in the following weeks and months. Other cities, towns and villages took up the idea and built their own local cenotaphs, which later added remembrance of those killed in the Second World War and further battles. Likewise the British Empire and then the Commonwealth copied the idea.

Sir Edwin Lutyens is thought to be the last classical architect in the country. Modernism replaced style. We are grateful for his achievement, still bringing with it the ceremony which still attracts national attention. This year the ceremony, because of Covid 19, will be reduced and restrained in nature. But

we still retain the commemorative idea that brought it about and the ability to pray for peace in this troubled world. *Christine Mathers*

Behind the Scenes.....and keeping the wheels turning

Throughout the Pandemic, Mark, the Stewards and several key people, have met as a Steering Group on Zoom every week. The purpose was to plan and discuss how best to deal with the current situation. The Stewards' role changed in that we were no longer seen to be helping with Services, but we were still trying to offer alternatives to help people to remain connected, and receive resources, in their own homes.

It was decided that a Minister's letter, a Reflection and Service should be sent out each week. These were sent electronically, or by hand, and latterly by post. They were well received and will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Stewards have been helped in many ways during this time. We are so grateful to Alan Firth, who has worked tirelessly with the Stewards, to make it possible to safely open the Centre to groups and open the Church for Sunday Worship. A tremendous amount of planning was involved. Alan had also spent a long time with the Stewards deciphering the Covid-19 instructions and procedures sent down by the Government, the District and the Circuit, in order to allow us to move forward. The Stewards are also really grateful to those who have volunteered to help us to open for worship. Without their help, giving guidance to the congregation, and keeping worshippers safe, it would have been much more difficult to open the Church.

As Harvest could not be celebrated in the usual way, a beetle drive was arranged on Zoom for the Saturday evening. The Stewards were aware that the Food Banks were struggling, so they and volunteers held a Food Collection Point at the bottom of the Drive one Saturday morning. Those attending worship also contributed.

A huge 'thank you' to Phil and Allison, who have done an amazing job with the Notice Board. This has kept local people aware that, even though the building was closed for a long time, the Church was still very much alive! We also thank Mark for sending out Grove Vine and Jenny Godfrey for the children's material.

Our thoughts are now turning to Christmas. We hope to plan in such a way that we can really connect the Church to the local community. We all look forward to a time when we can worship together in the normal way. Until then we as Stewards will do our best to find ways to encourage and keep us all strong in our Faith, united in Christ and with one another.

Kath Ashby on behalf of the Stewards

Not The End of The Road - just a chance to change gear and explore in a different way!

Some of our friends at the Grove will be aware that Judy and I have had a motor home for some years - to be exact, twenty-nine. However, all things change and when our combined ages reached one hundred and fifty, we decided to sell the "van" thus leaving a hole in our hearts and a yawning gap on our drive.



For the record we have had 3 vans over the years, all called, thanks to a local sign writer, "Helvellyn Dawn". We chose the name to mark one of our first adventures, which was to climb Helvellyn to watch the sunrise on the longest day - an unforgettable experience. We bought the first van on impulse, having noticed one pitched up on the moorside near Arncliffe, whilst walking early one summer morning. It seemed to us to be an idyllic scenario.

Our first away was a settling-in trip to Norfolk followed by, in the same year, a tour of Normandy and Brittany, which confirmed that we had made an excellent decision. Since then we have, according to our logbooks: notched up one hundred and twenty-five thousand miles; visited every country in "old Europe" including the Czech Republic but excluding Portugal. We would have gone to Portugal, but on leaving a ferry in Bilbao we turned left instead of right and headed for the Pyrenees rather than the Pecos Mountains. We have comprehensively toured the British Isles - pitching up at one hundred and ninety-five different camp sites.



There have been many highlights - one being woken by a shaking sensation, when pitched up near Penyghent - to find a bull with its harem attempting to push the van off the road. Another, when driving to Prague just after the end of Communism, when it was still a very dour place, as was the rest of that country. We felt we were escaping when we drove through the forests, still complete with Iron Curtain watch towers - and over the frontier into Austria. This was like driving through a rainbow, the buildings appeared freshly painted and the fields



were a more verdant shade of green. Another was watching the sunset from Bundoran on the West Coast of Ireland and having an early evening Guinness, whilst listening to local music. Again, when entering a site in the Basque country of Northern Spain, where we could not understand a word of what was written or said, only then to pull down the cable that two families had strung across the roadway, so that they could save on electricity. To say that this caused a hiatus is an understatement.

One of our favourites is attending the Burton Agnes Jazz Festival, on seven occasions, with our friends Pete and Mag, in our respective homes sited in the Festival's adjacent camping field. Good music all weekend, tasty food, nice wines and beers, great company and - on most occasions - good weather!

I could go on but I fear I have already exceeded my word count!

Happy Days, gone but never to be forgotten.

Mike Depledge

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?

submitted by Kath Ashby

So, what's new?

There has been much debate about keeping schools open and ensuring that children receive a proper education. Some parents had felt that their children would be safer at home during the pandemic. However, I have been reading a series of booklets by John Cole which show that there were the same issues 120 years ago. The booklets centre on life in Cookridge, Eccup, Adel and the area around. In particular one booklet picks up on difficulties encountered in the education of the children and attendance at school.

Illness was a cause of absence then as now. It is sad to read of the number of deaths from diphtheria and scarlet fever. On one occasion the Adel school was closed for two weeks because of a measles outbreak.

More tellingly were the reasons for absences quoted in the registers

1877 *"Some boys absent planting potatoes."*

"A few girls kept at home to keep cows in the lanes" (apparently cattle were allowed to graze grass in the lanes).

"Haymaking has commenced - only 31 present in school."

"Only 12 present, corn harvest not finished."

"Most of the children, girls as well as boys, are in the fields gathering potatoes before the frost sets in."

"Father is using him to load manure." (the exasperated teacher added "it is not right that so young a child should be compelled to do such laborious work").

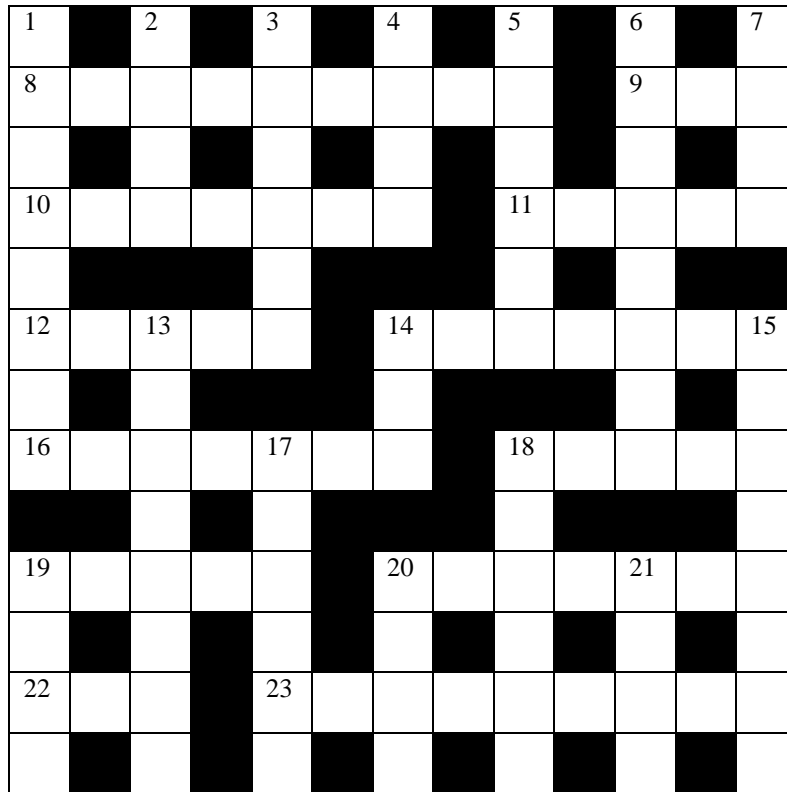
1884 *"Harvest has commenced and most of the children are away. The holidays have therefore begun."*

1886 *"Several children into the fields to harvest, so we have broken up."*

And my favourite quote: "punished 2 boys for stupidity at the arithmetic lesson."

Gordon Mellor

Small Crossword 5



Across:

- 8 Aiming to promote Christian unity (9)
- 9 Objective termination (3)
- 10 A Christian symbol (7)
- 11 Members of an Indian religious group (5)
- 12 Religious images (5)
- 14 Deity (7)
- 16 Flavour from a crocus (7)
- 18 Ancient Hebrew prophet (5)
- 19 'For those in ---- on the sea' (5)
- 20 Briskly (in music) (7)
- 22 'Hail, the --- of righteousness' (3)
- 23 Advocate, counsellor, spirit (9)

Down:

- 1 Truths (8)
- 2 OT book about loyalty and romance (4)
- 3 Peter (6)
- 4 Wrongdoings (4)
- 5 Being humorously entertained (6)
- 6 Acquiescence, docility, mildness (8)
- 7 Lyric poems (4)
- 13 Contribution, donation, gift (8)
- 14 Information (7)
- 15 Status of being ordained but not a minister, or collection such people (8)
- 17 Old objects sometimes venerated (6)
- 18 Sanctify, but sounds like a greeting (6)
- 19 Bygone, but sounds like success (4)
- 20 Charity, but sounds like body parts (4)
- 21 Attendance or barrier (4)

Tony Orton

For all the saints who from their labours rest

This is probably the most obvious hymn for this time of the year.

- 1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest: Alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness still their one true light: Alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold! Alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine: Alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong: Alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest: Alleluia, alleluia!
- 7 But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of Glory passes on his way! Alleluia, alleluia!
- 8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia, alleluia!

The words were written by William Walsham How (1823–1867), one time Bishop of Wakefield, and it originally had eleven verses. So it's old enough to be copyright free. The music was composed in 1906 by Vaughan Williams, and is named SINE NOMINE - Latin for 'without a name'! Vaughan Williams was, of course, a renowned English composer who wrote many hymn tunes, and edited several hymn and carol books. Tony Orton

Rita Grainger's Backwards and Forwards

It didn't go backwards! For those of you who read my Vine piece written at the start of lockdown earlier this year, you will know that I am talking about my bubble car. Now, here we are at the start of another lockdown.....so to continue the story, here is what happened next.

The year is 1966 and "matters of the heart" caused me to request a transfer from the office in Staines of the British United Provident Association (long since only known as BUPA) to their Leeds Office. This was situated in Vicar Lane (in front of the old West Yorkshire Bus Station) derelict now but still with Provident House over the doorway.

Moving myself and small baggage was no problem but what about my bubble car? "Motorway of the North" was the slogan franked on every letter I received from Leeds, but there was a snag. I couldn't just drive it up the M1. For one thing it wasn't allowed on a motorbike licence and another, my Dad said it would never make it! Hence it came up on a low-loader. Big smiles - happy to have it back for weekend jaunts. What I didn't reckon on were the hills. It was parked behind my bedsit on Morris Lane, Kirkstall, and that was the first hint that this was not going to be easy, as Hesketh Mount is a bit steep. I came to dread having to stop on a slope at any traffic lights. With foot flat down on the brake, the handbrake full on, it was very hairy accelerating to set off again without rolling backwards. The crunch finally came when it broke down in Liversedge and we summoned Anthony's Dad to give us a tow back to Leeds. This was a terrifying experience. He arrived in the 7 ton Trebor Sweets' lorry he worked in, tied a rope to the front of the car and we set off. I couldn't see a thing and by the time we reached the Beulah Pub at the top of Tong, I arranged to be let off the tow rope to free-wheel down that long slope - so fearful was I that I might go underneath the lorry if my brakes were not strong enough to slow me down. After that final adventure I had to say "Goodbye" to it and actually paid £10 to have it towed away. Years later it occurred to me that it would have been a good idea to have kept it under wraps - especially in later life when we saw one being sold for £5,000!

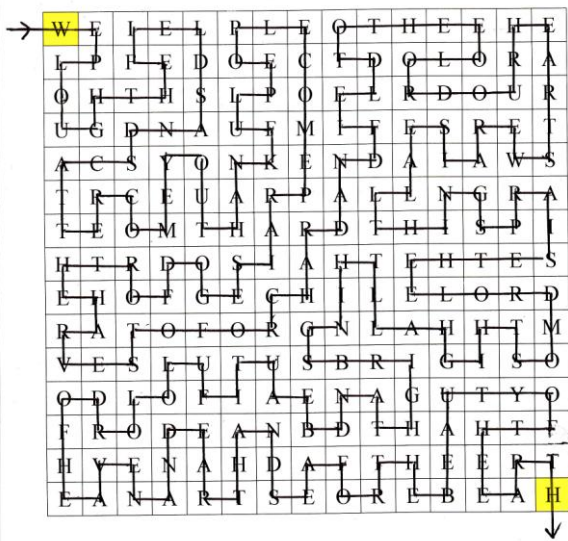
Since March we have all had to say "Goodbye" to lots, ranging from "things we have taken for granted" to "things very dear to our hearts". And here we are going backwards again with the latest restrictions, but one thing that cannot be taken away from us is our faith. Keep hold of it and we will go forward again..... eventually.

Rita Grainger



Solutions to the October Puzzles

Pathfinder



Add a letter: Moses, Naomi, Aaron, Jesse, Hosea, Uriah.

Crossword - Across: 1 Lydia, 4 Prelude, 8 Outpour, 9 Elder, 10 Ides, 12 Nineveh, 15 Extant, 16 Sermon, 18 Ambrose, 19 Idle, 22 Crown, 23 Lattice, 25 Shekels, 26 Bless.
Down: 1 Laodicia, 2 Dot, 3 Amos, 4 Persia, 5 Exegeses, 6 Undreamed, 7 Ezra, 11 Extempore, 13 Entrance, 14 Kneelers, 17 Psalms, 20 Acts, 21 Stub, 24 Ire.

Puzzle Page: For All The Saints Wordsearch

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

The names of thirty-six saints, all connected in some way with Britain and Ireland, are hidden within the grid.

Can you find them all?

The names may go L ↔ R, up ↔ down or diagonally.

The names you are looking for are: Aidan, Alban, Anselm, Asaph, Augustine, Bede, Caedmon, Cedd, Chad, Columba, Cuthbert, David, Dunstan, Ethelburga, Finan, George, Godric, Helen, Hilda, Hugh, Ives, John, Magnus, Margaret, Mawes, More, Morwenna, Neot, Newlyn, Ninian, Offa, Oswald, Owen, Pancras, Senan, Thomas.

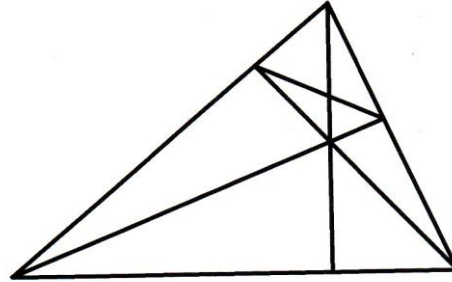
Countdown Numbers

Given numbers						Target	You need to combine the given numbers using +, −, ×, and ÷ (/). Each of the six numbers must be used just once.
50	6	1	9	4	2	595	
75	1	6	2	9	10	592	
100	6	3	4	3	10	623	
25	50	100	10	3	4	566	

Triangle Puzzle

How many triangles can you see in the diagram?

Warning: It isn't easy to remember what you've counted and what you haven't, so you'll need to use a systematic method!



Tony Orton

A Model for Our Times

The following model (or framework) has been borrowed from those who work with emergencies or disasters, such as floods and earthquakes.

Response: quick, urgent action is needed to meet primary needs e.g. food, shelter. Activists are needed to meet the needs of the moment. The need for a speedy response, over a timescale of a few weeks or months, can lead to the potential for aid workers to burn out.

Recovery: a time to look both forwards and backwards. Emotionally engaged people are needed ('people people'). Reflective thinking is needed to examine the anxiety, grief, trauma and mental health issues of the situation. A lack of confidence and living with uncertainty mean folks need looking after. A suggested time frame of 6 to 12 months is common.

Reconstruction: definitely a forward looking period of rebuilding and renewal. Creative ideas and strategic thinking is now needed. New values emerge e.g. health, family, fairness, justice, the appreciation of key workers.

The above framework is something to hang your thoughts on. I like the idea of a framework: a picture needs a frame, as do the panes of glass in your windows. The frame gives structure and support without which your picture is a crumpled canvas, your sheet of glass lies on the floor.

What is the 'picture' that you are looking at now.....the 'window' that you are looking through?

The 3 stages are not linear; they will not happen in a neat timeline. You would not experience one, and it be over with, before you move on to the next.

They may well be operating in a cycle, you may return to an earlier stage as a complex situation evolves.

Your experience will be different in comparisons with your family, friends and neighbours.

As a disciple of Jesus I wonder what God is saying to the Church at this time?

The last quarter of our bible contains letters to churches written by such as Paul, James, Timothy and Peter. John wrote to 7 churches in the book of Revelation. Words of encouragement, advice and correction.

In our changing and challenging times we ask God to draw us close to Him, as we are distanced from each other.

Isaiah prophesied 'For a child has been born - for us! The gift of a son - for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counsellor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness.' (Message version, wholeness = shalom).

We draw strength from Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever' (Hebrews 13 v 8)

His constancy stands against all our uncertainty.

On his deathbed John Wesley said 'The best of all is, God is with us'.

How have we known 'God is with us' recently, and how can we share this and encourage each other?

Phil Maud



A Thank You

Barbara Carter's daughter Gillian Thomas made an appeal on behalf of the RNLI, in the March Carboy. Gillian would like to say a 'big thank you' to the members of Grove Church who generously gave **£82.97**. Gillian is secretary of the Morecambe branch of the RNLI charity and she has given this sum to the Morecambe Appeal.

Christmas Greetings

The December Issue will contain the regular feature of your names and chosen charities, to exchange greetings with friends at the Grove. If you have any alterations - or if you wish to be added to the list, please let Kathryn Bussey know. Tel: 0113 2588803.

From the Editorial Group

Note that the Editorial Teams alternate..... n.b. the December/January issue will be prepared by Gill and you should send items to her - no later than 5pm on Wednesday 25th November. Please include details up to 7th February.

Gill Jewell	gillpj.63@gmail.com	278 9438
Gordon & Mary Mellor	igkm64@gmail.com	258 6199
Paul & Jenny Redfearn	home@paulandjen.co.uk	01423 530050

Email (or copy as an attachment) would be appreciated!

**Please note that Grove Vine is published online.
All Uniformed Organisations will receive only online or via the Grove Website.**

Premises Manager: Alan Firth
43 New Street, Horsforth, Tel: 258 2742 or 07985745525
grovebookings@gmail.com
Off duty from Saturday noon and all day Sunday

<http://www.grovemethodist.org.uk/>

Registered Charity No. 1129305