

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



...by faith we might
receive the
promise of the Spirit

Galatians 3:14



May 2021 No 698

From the Minister ...

Dear friends, welcome to the May Edition of The Messenger! Spring has well and truly sprung and I hope like us, you've been able to enjoy seeing loved ones in your outdoor locations!



It was brilliant to be able to gather together in the church garden for Easter Sunday and amazingly the weather despite early reports was hot and sunny. I hope those of you who attended enjoyed spending time together and if you didn't, that you managed to engage with the brilliant act of worship put together for us by Jo and our Children and Young People – they did a fabulous job and it is great that we could offer worship in a number of different ways on that day.

This is something we WILL continue. We have learnt a huge amount over the past twelve months about the importance of providing worship in a number of different ways, people who haven't been able to come to church physically have still been able to connect with their local church and we have no desire to stop this from continuing! We recognise as we have all along, that people will have very different ideas about when it is sensible to re-open our buildings and resume public worship in the accustomed way. We, as a leadership team met recently and I am pleased to inform you that this month, public worship will resume at College Street. To begin with this will take place in the garden as this is undoubtedly the safest place to meet together (and we can sing together in that environment!) Plus, our garden is beautiful and what better way to praise God than surrounded by the splendour of His creation?! If the weather does happen to turn on us, we will be able to relocate into the CFC as the airflow possibilities in there are much better than in the sanctuary itself, we also want our return to the sanctuary to be something planned out and celebratory, not just because the weather was looking a bit iffy! Peter Jolly will lead our first garden service on Sunday May 2nd at 10.30am. Places will need to be limited and I'll be releasing details on how to book for any of these services in due course. Fear not though if you miss out on booking, there will still be some sort of digital offering each week although I'm still working through how that will look at the moment! All will become clear...!

As I've said all along, we will all be comfortable with different situations and there will be absolutely no pressure on anyone to worship in any specific way, it

is all about how you encounter God! If there is anything at all which might help you in worship, do let me know.

I look forward to the day when all restrictions are lifted and we can once again meet freely together, but this feels like a positive step forward in resuming our worshiping life together.

I wish you all every blessing,

Josh.



Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise: The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power: 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose: The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).



Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

What a joy it was to see lots of you at the Easter services. And we were so blessed with wonderful weather!

Elders met on April 6th and going forwards, decided that, after the success of the garden services at Easter, we will hold garden services from May 2nd. We will hope and pray that the weather is kind to us for these. If you are not feeling confident or are unable to come to these services, there will still be a recorded service for you to follow. All details will be in the weekly newsletter. We are really hoping that we will be able to start having services in the Sanctuary towards the end of May but, as before, we will be guided by advice from the URC and by the government statistics.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking Josh for all the services he has led online. What a lot of skills he has to be able to put these together as well as lead us in thoughtful, challenging and encouraging ways. Thank you also to Josh and Hannah for the fun Socially Distanced Pub Quizzes that lots of us have enjoyed over the last year. These have brightened up many a Saturday evening. There will be one more quiz online on May 15th, which will be in aid of Christian Aid. We hope as many people can join in and, if able, make a contribution to Christian Aid. Details of everything will be in the newsletters.

In March and April, I usually gather reports from all the different groups and activities that happen throughout the year for the Church Annual report which is then presented to the May Church meeting. Well I don't think it is going to be a very lengthy report this year but if you have anything that you would like to be included, please let me know by May 7th. I will write a resume so that we still have a report of this extraordinary year!

Looking forward to seeing you all more and more over the coming months.

God bless you all,

Carol

Dates for your diaries

May 2nd Sunday worship at 10.30am in the garden led by Peter Jolly

May 9th Sunday worship at 10.30am in the garden led by our minister

May 15th Socially Distanced Pub Quiz in aid of Christian Aid on zoom

May 16th Sunday worship at 10.30am in the garden led by our minister, which will include Holy Communion

May 6th, 20th, Thursdays at 8.00pm – Prayers for the NHS, our nation and the world, on zoom.



Prayer for the nation and the world

Urgent prayer is needed for our hospitals, our nation, our government, our society, the various efforts to mitigate the pandemic and for the wider world which has many difficulties, exacerbated by the pandemic.

Individual prayer is of course important, but praying together can be such an encouragement, and we are taught that praying together is especially powerful.

A couple of the verses that might give inspiration to us would be Matt 18:20 and Psalm 100:4-5.

Do think of joining us in a time of prayer on Zoom (limited to 40 minutes) 8pm on Thursdays, fortnightly, **6th and 20th May** (interleaving with Keith and Mary's house group).

As Carol says "Prayer is definitely needed more than ever at the moment".

Carol is kindly setting up the Zoom, details as below... Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77047121736?pwd=ZUxqM3YrRm>

owL09lZUtiUkJzMndDQT09

Meeting ID: 770 4712 1736

Passcode: Kk386c

Telephone access by calling any one of these numbers 02034815240, 01314601196, 02030512874, 02034815237.

Thank you!

Fiona and David Darling.

A Message from our Church and Community Worker...



LOVE is the best thing ever.... God loved us so much he gave his one and only son to take our sins. Jesus loved us and his Father so much that he laid down his sinless body for all mankind then, today and beyond until God comes again. All done in Love. I hope you know God's love for you. For me it is everywhere in the beauty of nature, in his people, in prayer and in his 'Love letters' to us, the Bible. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers of Love and healing for me, your Love is helping me through my wilderness but unlike so many people who do not know God, I am not alone. I have been overwhelmed by your acts of Love, it has been very humbling and I thank you and Love you all. I miss the physical contact but knowing you're all praying for me means everything. Prays of Love have gone up to heaven and I know God hears them.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. - 1 John 4:16-18

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. - John 15:12-13
Praise be to God and bless you all.

Love **Jo Hopkins**



From the editors ...

As we enter May, we think about the Ascension and Pentecost, both important events in our Christian calendar. This year we are also starting to enjoy the easing of the Covid restrictions and the opportunity to worship together in person. We are very grateful to Josh for all he's done during the long months of lockdown in arranging our services to be transmitted by Zoom and YouTube as well as arranging quizzes on a regular basis and countless other things that he's done that we may not have even been aware of. We are also very grateful to the office team for all they have done to keep in contact with us all.

Keith and Mary

Easter celebrations

For the first time in several months, we are pleased to be able to include an account with photos of a live church event.

Despite the lockdown restrictions, we were able to enjoy a range of services to commemorate the Easter period. On Maundy Thursday, Josh led a live service from the College Street sanctuary, relayed by Zoom, where readings, reflections and songs reminded us of the events of that night of betrayal. Similarly, on Good Friday, Rev Stephen Wright, for Petersfield Methodist Church, led a service of readings, meditations and songs to remind us of the sufferings of Christ at the crucifixion. On Easter Sunday, we were blessed with beautiful sunny weather and were delighted to be able to worship in the church garden. Josh led two services, both on the theme of the hope of Easter, the first service being a communion service. The later service included sowing seeds with the hope of plants to come and an Easter egg hunt, which was much enjoyed by the children. The Easter cross was decorated with small posies of flowers brought in from people's gardens. In addition, for those unable to attend the live services, Jo and some of the JFC had recorded a special Easter service that we could watch via YouTube, and this was another opportunity to rejoice in the hope of Easter.



Clockwise from above: Josh leading worship, seeds of hope, the Easter cross, the congregation in the sunshine



A message from Emsworth ...

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22: verse 19

I have always felt it is rather strange to celebrate the last supper on Easter Day. For me the last supper has always been a sombre, thoughtful occasion whereas Easter Day is such an exuberantly joyful time, being sombre just doesn't seem right. Always that is until Easter Day this year.

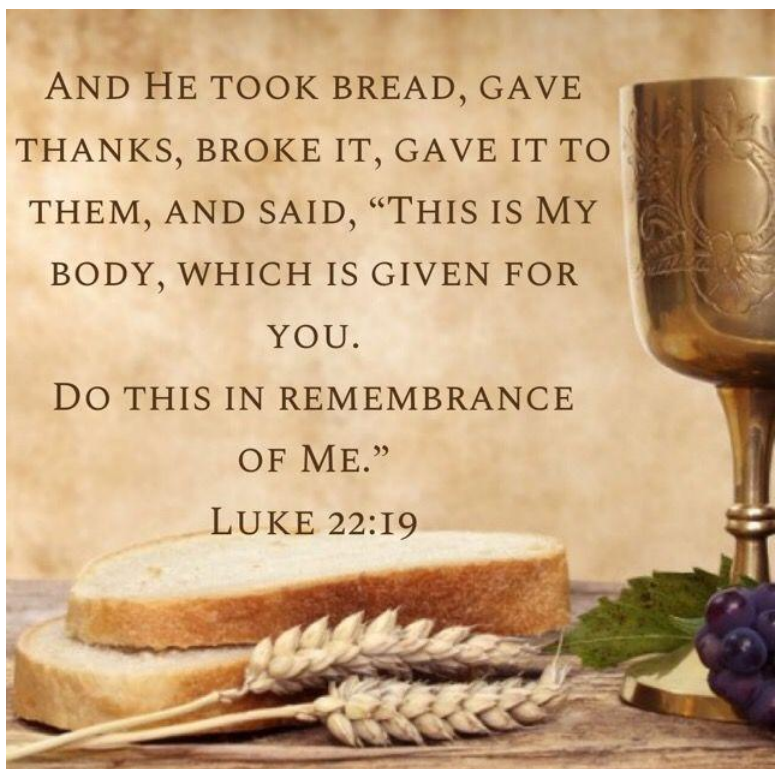
Many, many years ago now our previous Minister; Peter Norris gave me the "Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland" which contained the basis of the Sacraments celebrated in the United Reformed Church. Although I had received training through the Wessex Synod of our Church to conduct Communion Services, this book gave me examples of the form of words I should use not only for Communion Services but a whole host of other special services as Peter said "Just in case!" I had not realised when he gave me this book that it would not only prove invaluable in conducting Communion Services, but greatly assist me in Weddings, baptisms, funerals and even the interment of Ashes.

Words I have often used at the commencement of Services of Holy Communion are; "This is the table of the Lord. He invites all who love Him to sit with Him and share in this JOYFUL feast." Yes we are sombre for Paul reminds us in the institution of the Lord's Supper that 'Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.' (1 Corinthians 11 verse 26) In a few week's time though we shall be celebrating Pentecost, hopefully together but always with the Holy Spirit by our side. The Lord's Supper is never a funeral wake but ALWAYS a feast of JOY. It is not so much Christ's absence but His real presence that makes our hearts long for His coming again. The bread and wine which we take are not the last rites of a lost cause but the first Sacraments of a living Church. Yes, the disciples would remember, as they were asked to, the upper room on that dark and dreadful night, but they would also recall those breakfasts and suppers eaten with Christ after He rose from the dead. They learned, as we do, that breaking bread with Him is not an act of commiseration but of communion with the once crucified but risen and returning Lord. Memorials are for those who have died. Christ is still alive today, still our life, still present and acting in us.

I have two NIV Bibles at home; both are quite worn but the first is dated June 1978 and the second, my Cora bought for me, dated September 2010. There are slight differences in the text and headings. Whilst considering what to write this

month I looked up the various passages recording the Last Supper in the gospels. In my 2010 Bible this supper is recorded as the Last Supper in Matthew, Mark and Luke. In the 1978 Bible the same passages are recorded as The Lord's Supper in Matthew and Mark but still as the Last Supper in Luke. I wonder why the headings were changed? The resurrection of Jesus changed the Last Supper into the Lord's supper. But for the resurrection, the last supper would have literally been His last. Even in that upper room, the eyes of Jesus were turned towards the future when He would drink of the fruit of the vine anew with His disciples in His Father's Kingdom. Because He died and rose again, everything has been made new: we have a new covenant, new life, and become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5: 17). We rejoice now in the life He gives and relish our hope of sharing in the final marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19: 7-9) The Lord's Supper is a joyful feast even though we may be sombre.

This is the difference between pleasure and joy. Superficially they may seem the same but only a slight digging under the surface reveals huge differences. Pleasure often relies on circumstances. It requires ideal conditions such as good health or at least kindness. Pleasure can be stolen quite easily by a simple thing such as a headache. Joy, the deep seated peace that Jesus gives, is independent of health or circumstances. It still bubbles up in Christians even when strength and health and friends are gone, even when circumstances are not just unkind but desperate. You can have too much pleasure, when the point satiety is passed, loathing sets in. The thing for which the heart craved for it no longer craves. Joy, on the other hand, never satiates. The Christian feels they have enough joy but not too much not to long for more. Pleasure is always superficial ignoring the difficulties and unanswered problems of life. It is like the merriment of Christmas in a home where Christ is not believed in. There may be fun and excitement but underneath is an empty, aching heart and a party without purpose. In the breaking of bread we experience the pure joy of knowing Jesus. Joy is bliss, sheer unadulterated bliss and it comes only from Jesus.



Love, Cora and Alan

Christian Aid



Due to Coronavirus restrictions, there will be no Town Street Collection this year. Instead, there will be a Virtual Pub Quiz, hosted by Josh on Saturday May 15th at 8pm. He will post the details in his weekly newsletter. Any donations can be made to the JustGiving page below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/petersfieldandlissurcor240893>

Alternatively, donations may be made by dropping them, in an envelope marked Christian Aid, into the URC letterbox. If you wish to Gift Aid, please add the appropriate details.

Any of you who are fit and love walking could also join in with the 300,000 steps challenge in May. You can sign up at caweeek.org/steps.

For further information please contact me on 01730 265884 or on carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

Many Thanks

Carolyn

See also article on pages 12-13



Be kind to each other

‘And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.’ (Matthew 10:42)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk.

The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society.

Disaster Emergency Committee(DEC)– Breaking Point

In late March I attended an online session led by Saleh Saeed, the chief executive of DEC, along with guest speakers from South Sudan, Somalia, and NW Syria. Each of the speakers are involved in humanitarian organisations in their countries and are recipients of money from the DEC pandemic appeal. The appeal has raised £38,000,000 so far but they have no target and are keeping the fund open. (unlike other DEC appeals for specific incidents such as floods and earthquakes) Each speaker explained the dire situations that their countries are in, with the most pressing need being food. I have been profoundly moved by listening to each of these speakers and hearing first-hand the situations their countries are suffering. Our media has been so focussed on “us” recently that the rest of the world seems to have been forgotten.

If anyone would like to watch a recording of the live session that I attended, then I am able to send an email with the link. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Carol Tubbs



Pandemic Prayer

Each week through the Daily Devotions from the URC they are publishing a “pandemic prayer”. Here is one of them.

God,
we never thought it would be like this,
we can't think straight.
Yet blinded by your radiance
we know that
you alone make all things new,
God,
in our loneliness and hunger of heart,
you restore us to new life
in Christ Jesus,
and we bless you.
May his risen power be strong within us
and bless us with his peace,
that we may face adversity with courage
and grow in love for you and for each other.
Amen.

***he Revd Fleur Houston, retired minister and member of Macclesfield &
Bollington URC***

Mission News

For your information and prayers, there will be news from one or more Missions each month. If you support a mission that has any information and prayer updates, please send these to the editors so that they can be included



Give Thanks appeal raises funds for vulnerable people

Christian Aid's latest appeal, which enables people to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world, has raised

£130,000.

Many people in the UK are feeling a sense of relief as loved ones receive their vaccines. Christian Aid's Give Thanks appeal encourages people to pass the blessing on, by helping others who have little protection from the pandemic.

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information as Covid-19 continues to destroy lives and livelihoods. Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries.

A [donation page](#) has been set up where people can give to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal.

New book helps mark Christian Aid's 75th anniversary

Christian leaders, activists, writers and theologians world-wide have written prayers for a new book to celebrate Christian Aid's 75th anniversary.

Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World includes prayers on climate injustice, Black Lives Matter, violence against women, discrimination against Dalits in India, the coronavirus pandemic, from extreme poverty in Burundi, and inequality in Myanmar.

Christian Aid's work began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Since then, it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support, while speaking out against injustice.

Christian Aid helped during the Biafra war, advised Martin Luther King during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, campaigned to make poverty history in the 2000s, and is now fighting climate injustice in countries around the world.

Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World from:

<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope>

The focus of this year's Christian Aid Week Appeal is climate Change

Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we STOP this climate crisis.

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Together we STOP this climate crisis.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.



For local arrangements for Christian Aid Week, see article on page ?



Books of the Bible

This is a series outlining all the books of the Bible, the word of God, which is central to our Christian faith. This month we are focusing on ... **1 and 2 Timothy**



- *What type of books are they?* Teaching
- *Who wrote them?* Paul
- *When were they written?* 64-67 AD

Unlike the previous letters of Paul which were addressed to various churches, these letters are addressed specifically to an individual. Timothy was converted during one of Paul's missionary journeys, and after that, joined Paul in some of his travels. Paul nurtured Timothy and eventually left Timothy in Ephesus to oversee the church there. These letters are full of encouragement and guidance to Timothy as leader of that church, and have been relevant and helpful to Christians down the centuries.

Helping Hand - A helping hand for neighbours in need

If you're in a tight spot at the moment, or you know somebody else who is, the Liss, Greatham and Hawkley Friendship Fund may be able to help. It's a small charity dedicated to supporting local residents and run by trustees from the three villages. They provide one-off grants of up to £250 to those who need help covering immediate costs.

Life is full of unexpected costs. Perhaps it's a broken down boiler or washing machine. It might be a delay to benefits payments when the rent bill is due. Maybe there's a school trip coming up that's just a little bit beyond your usual budget. The government can't help with these kinds of one-off costs, and payday loans or credit cards can be an expensive short term fix. The Friendship Fund is there for these sorts of problems.

There are a handful of restrictions: the grants are only for residents of **Liss, Greatham** and **Hawkley**. They can only be given once, and to a maximum of about £250. They can't be used to cover any kind of taxation. Otherwise, there are no strict criteria. It's there for those who need it, at the discretion of the trustees and with full confidentiality. All forms of crisis are considered, each case on its merits.

Applications can be made by the person who needs the grant, or you can apply on somebody else's behalf. Either way, you will need to fill in an application form. (If you need help with that, volunteers are available who can assist you.)

To apply or to find out more, contact Elizabeth Cartwright on 01730 892311 / elizabethcartwright01@gmail.com or Bill Briggs 01730 892297 / woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk.

Frequently asked questions

Who can apply?

The grant is open to all residents of Liss, Greatham and Hawkley.

As a one-off donation, grants can only be made once.

You can apply on behalf of somebody else.

What can I apply for?

The grants are for any situation where you need money to cover an immediate cost.

For example, help with bills or rent, buying furniture or appliances, or a care need.

We're not allowed to make grants to cover any kind of tax, including council tax.

How to apply?

You will need to fill in an application form.

Applications can be made at any time.

Volunteers can help you with an application form – just ask!

To get started, contact Mrs E A Cartwright: 01730 892 311

elizabethcartwright01@gmail.com

What's the catch?

There isn't one. The fund is a small local charity and we are here for you.

We do not share any information about you.

You do not need to repay the grant.

Submitted by Heather Dolman

Thanks to Val Torrance for submitting this article which may be helpful to those living in Liss.



How long, O Lord?

How long until life gets really back to normal, and the pandemic is brought under control?

If you feel like asking God that, you're in good company. This past year has taken its toll on our relationships, our economy, and on our collective mental health.

'How long, O Lord?' is a question that has been commonly asked by the Bible's poets, as well as many saints down the centuries.

Mother Julian of Norwich, whose feast day we remember this month, asked the question back in the 14th century. She was no stranger to pandemics herself, having suffered from the plague in 1372.

After much prayer and meditation, she was given an answer that has echoed down the centuries. In her 'Revelations of Divine Love' she wrote that God had revealed to her that:

"All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

"He said not 'Thou shalt not be tempest, thou shalt not be travailed, thou shalt not be diseased'; but He said, 'Thou shalt not be overcome.'"

That is a promise that we can hang on to: all shall be well in the end. But it is also necessary to add: if it is not well with you today, then it is not yet the end.

This is a perspective on life that is full of faith, of hope, of trust in the goodness and victory of God. The psalms are full of it, and always trust in God for the final outcome.

We can have this perspective, too, and perhaps share it with our neighbours.

For our younger readers ...

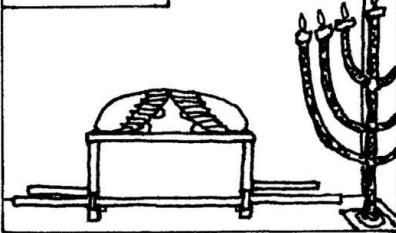
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

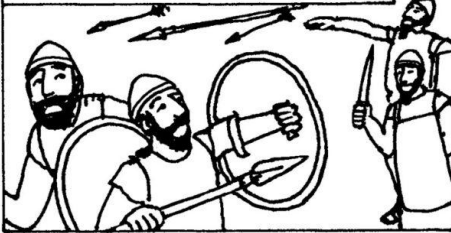
It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them

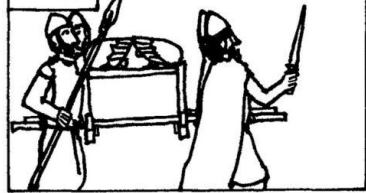
When the Jews got to Israel, the Ark was kept at Shiloh.



The Jews did not keep God's laws so He let the Philistines attack and defeat them.



The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.



But the Philistines won. They took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their god Dagon.



The next day they found Dagon's statue face down.



The next day it was over again and its head and hands had broken off.



Then the people became covered in sores.



They moved the Ark to the city of Gath.

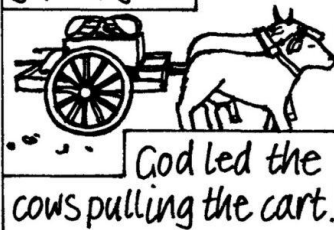


People began to have sores there too.

They were going to move the Ark to Ekron, but the people there wouldn't let them.



So they put the Ark on a new cart with a gift of gold.



God led the cows pulling the cart.

At Bethshemesh, people harvesting saw the Ark.

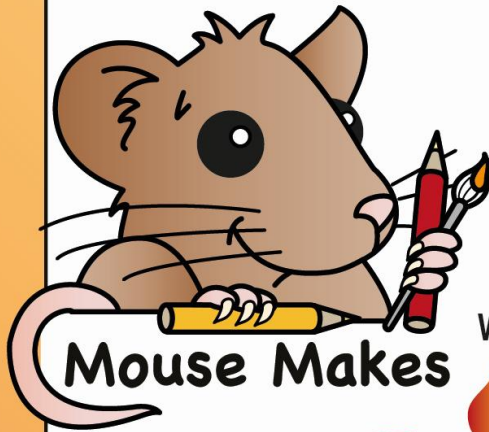


They celebrated its return.

But some treated it without respect and died.



So it was moved to Keriath Jearim for safe-keeping.



Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

 The Holy Spirit
V S E I L
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
W K N O
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
H C T S E E A
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
K P E S S A
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
P H L S E
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
A Y P R



On the day of PENTECOST
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?
Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?
What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?
Acts 2:41



Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the **Holy Spirit**
produces in us:

KPZ
IVNJMJUZ
TFMG DPOUSPM
GBJUIGVMOFTT
LJOEOFTT
QBUJFODF
QFBDF
MPWF
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?
Fill in the missing letters.


TEAC _ ES
COMF _ RTS
REVEA _ S

IN _ OU
  
TRAN _ FORMS
HEL _ S

 GU _ DES 

 ENEWS
CONV _ CTS
SANC _ IFIES

Crossword

Across

1 Sense of right and wrong
(1 *Corinthians* 8:7) (10)

7 Coming (*John* 11:17) (7)

8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (*John* 17:10)
(5)

10 Smarten (*Acts* 9:34) (4)

11 Hold back (*Job* 9:13) (8)

13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)

15 At ague (anag.) (6)

17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)

18 So be it (*Galatians* 6:18)
(4)

21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)

22 Empowers (*Philippians* 3:21) (7)

23 Imposing (1 *Samuel* 9:2) (10)

Down

1 Healed (*Luke* 7:21) (5)

2 Central space in a church (4)

3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)

4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (*Exodus* 2:12) (8)

5 Bravery (*Acts* 4:13) (7)

6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (*Acts* 16:26) (10)

9 Transgression (*Psalms* 36:1) (10)

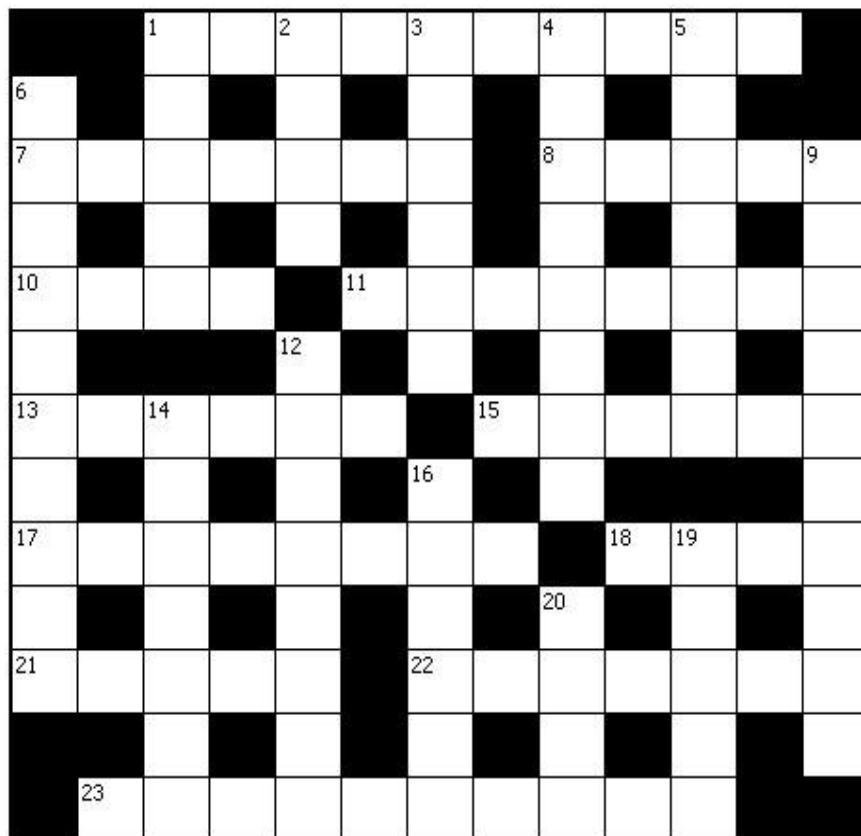
12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)

14 Same hit (anag.) (7)

16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (*Genesis* 1:2) (6)

19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)

20 Cab (4)



Solution on page 23

Wordsearch - Rogation Sunday

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

| | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| Sunday | Seed | Storm |
| May | Land | Prayer |
| Rogation | Romans | Cross |
| Beat | Processed | Boundaries |
| Bounds | Cornfields | Crops |
| Asking | Spring | Harvest |
| Blessing | Earthquake | maps |

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

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Medium



News from the United Reformed Church

items from the April edition of the Synod Newsletter

Zoom to Zimbabwe – 11th May

Commitment for Life in partnership with Christian Aid are organising during Christian Aid week, on Tuesday, 11th May at 2pm 'Zoom to Zimbabwe'.

We do hope that you are able to join us for an afternoon of updates, music, and fellowship.

Constance Coltman – a pioneer of women's ordination Join the online launch of Constance Pioneer, Pastor, Preacher 18th May 2021 at 7pm-8pm

[Flier available here](#)

Praise from the heart –Easter to Trinity -Psalms resource

The latest Psalms resource written by Revd Duncan Wilson is available on the Synod Website: [Psalms for worship: Easter to Trinity: Year B](#)

The United Reformed Church - Fifty years on!

Revd Charles Meachin has written a piece which he makes available for all to read at the following link: [URC Fifty Years On!](#)

Christ Church URC in Marlow coordinates the local response to Christian Aid Week. This year the Marlow team are planning an online sponsored Psalmathon - reading their way through the entire book of Psalms, on Zoom! As you may guess, this is going to need a lot of readers, so they are inviting any church or individual in Wessex Synod to join in with them. All you have to do is read, which you must be able to do if you can read this! And, of course, find a few friends who will help Christian Aid by sponsoring you in your effort. The Great Christian Aid Psalmathon takes place on Sunday May 16th from 12pm to approximately 7pm - but you can choose a one-hour slot in which you will be allocated your reading. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/psalmathon>. There is a £5 sign-up fee which also goes to Christian Aid.

Good News Story

What a wonderful blessing technology has proven for uniting so many people for the World Day of Prayer, Friday 5 March. Salisbury, Andover, Poole and Devizes joined forces and hosted a Zoom service with 198 screens joining, several with 2 people. There were 22 people involved as readers, 3 pre-recorded musicians, and 5 on the IT team (all from Salisbury & Andover United Reformed Churches including two men who took the day off work for the service and the rehearsal the week before). Folks joined us from all over the UK and one on the telephone from South Africa! As one person commented, she'd never been to such a large WDP service.

Ana Gobledale, Andover & Salisbury URC's

"Crossing Borders in 2021: A Faith-Based Response" The URC-Waldensian Fellowship invites you to an online meeting, looking at 'Mediterranean Hope'. This project is a courageous and imaginative response by the Protestant Churches in Italy to the crisis in managing migration in the Mediterranean. It seeks to help the most vulnerable, who arrive on European shores often in desperate need. We shall be joined by Fiona Kendall, a Scots lawyer working with the project in Rome, and Marta Bernardini, who heads up the front line response. The meeting, on Wednesday, May 5th, will start at 2.30 p.m.

Topic: Waldensian Fellowship webinar Time: May 5, 2021 14:30 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3123755704?pwd=MnRYb1BJWEx6YlhJSFBWUjIxT2txQT09>

Meeting ID: 312 375 5704 Passcode: 5647839 One tap mobile

+442034815237,,3123755704#,,,,*5647839# United Kingdom

+442034815240,,3123755704#,,,,*5647839# United Kingdom

John S. Bremner B.D., M.Th., Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Officer,
United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland

Elders Development on Zoom

Mission, Functions of Eldership and Trusteeship; Pastoral Care and Boundaries
Worship, Prayer and Spirituality; The current dates filled up quickly so the sessions will be repeated. We already have enough people on the waiting list to fill the next course, nevertheless, if you would like to have your name added to the waiting list, please get in touch.

Mental Health First Aid training dates

Mental Health First Aid Training courses. Wessex Synod covers the cost for members of URCs and LEPs in Wessex Synod. Upcoming dates

Mental Health Awareness. This course is one session on Zoom, 9am – 1pm.

26 May 2021(book by 17 May)

21 July 2021(book by 12 July)

Become a certified Mental Health First Aider. Choose the adult focus or youth focus course. These courses are delivered online across four sessions with some self-learning exercises to complete in preparation for each of the live Zoom sessions with the trainer. Upcoming dates.

Become a Certified Mental Health First Aider - Adult focus

- 17 May – 27 May 2021, Monday and Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon. (Book by 7 May).
- 15 June – 25 June 2021, Tuesday and Friday mornings 9am to 12 noon. (Book by 7 June).
- 12 July – 22 July 2021, Monday and Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon. (Book by 1st July).

Become a certified Youth Mental Health First Aider 17 May – 27 May 2021, Monday and Thursday afternoons 1pm to 4pm. (Book by 7 May 2021).

Mentality for Students can be accessed here www.mentality.work

This course is aimed at University Students who would like to gain a base knowledge training so they can better support their friends, housemates and themselves. A one minute preview can be viewed at [Mentality for Students | Peter Larkum](#). Wessex Synod will cover the cost for University Students from member churches in Wessex Synod, even if they are studying out of the Synod area. Booking for all mental health first aid courses is essential.

Please email: bookings@urcwessex.org.uk to register for a course.

Mentality at Work can be accessed here www.mentality.work

This course gives anyone the need-to-know essentials to spot the signs of poor mental health and take action. Delivered online as a one hour video, the cost is £15 + VAT (£18). Wessex Synod does not cover the cost of this mentality course.



Being brave?

Some time ago I was helping my grandson George into his car seat in the back of my car, when I accidentally banged his head. He started to cry. ‘Come on, George, be brave,’ I said.

‘But I don’t *want* to be brave,’ he objected.

I guess we all know that feeling. Sometimes life is hard, and we know we have a need for courage, but somehow, we just don’t want to be brave. We would rather give in, surrender to the difficulties, and wallow in self-pity.

The Bible seems to constantly exhort us to be brave, to be strong, to take heart, to be courageous. And life during a pandemic certainly calls for us to make a courageous response. But occasionally we may feel overwhelmed and ready to give in or give up.

Perhaps you are reading this at just such a moment. Maybe this comes as a message to you from God so that you do not lose heart. He knows you, and He sees your situation. And He speaks to encourage you, as He did to the church at Philadelphia: ‘I know that you have little strength’ (Revelation 3:8).

He is the compassionate and understanding God who draws alongside us, to give strength to the weary and power to the weak (Isaiah 40:29). You don’t have to do anything, simply turn to Him in your need and ask for help.

You will discover, as the apostle Paul did, that when you are weak, then you are strong. His power will be demonstrated through your weakness. You can do whatever is required of you because He will give you strength.



Lectionary Bible Readings for May

| | |
|--------|---|
| May 2 | Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8 |
| May 9 | Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17; |
| May 16 | Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19 |
| May 23 | Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 |
| May 30 | Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17 |

Important - Sensitive issues

As the Messenger is included in the Church Website, it is important that all the content is suitable for public exposure. When composing an article, if there is anything at all that you consider should be removed before publishing on the website, please inform the editors, Keith and Mary Evans.

The articles contained in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Petersfield and Liss URC leadership.

The deadline for the **June** Messenger is **Sunday 16 May 2021**. Please send articles to Messenger Editors, Keith & Mary Evans, tel 01730 235922 e-mail keithnmary@talktalk.net

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar May

| | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Isle of Wight – Freshwater; Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury; Elstead |
| 9 | Fovant; Marsh Gibbon; Rowlands Castle |
| 16 | Reading: Caversham Park; Woking; Swanage |
| 23 | Aston Tirrold; Southampton: Avenue St Andrew's; Bournemouth: Trinity Church |
| 30 | Hungerford; Chandler's Ford |

Solution to Crossword on page 18

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| U | | T | | I | | W | | N | | | | L |
| A | T | H | E | N | I | A | N | | A | M | E | N |
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Church Contact Details

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Church | Petersfield : College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475 | Liss : Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX |
| Minister | Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 minister@petersfieldurc.com | |
| Church Office | Administrator Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays | |
| Church & Community Worker | Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 communityworker@petersfieldurc.com | |
| Telephone | Church Family Centre 01730 266475 | |
| Website | <u>www.petersfieldurc.com</u> | |
| E-mail | <u>admin@petersfieldurc.com</u> | |
| Sunday Services | Mornings at 10.30 am Services are relayed by Zoom during lockdown. They are also available on YouTube, but see also planned arrangements for holding services in the Church garden during May on pages 2 & 5 | |
| Secretary | Mrs Carol Tubbs 39 Rotherbank Farm Lane Liss Forest GU33 7BJ Tel 01730 893489 Mobile 07766 412160. | |
| Treasurer | Mr Jim Cleverly, 4 Crundles, Petersfield GU31 4PJ Tel 01730 300558 | |

Petersfield United Reformed Church Mission Statement

“As a congregation worshipping God: we seek to reach out with the love of Jesus; to worship God in our daily lives; to draw others into the knowledge and love of Christ; and to make disciples”

We Chose to Go to the Moon

On 25th May 1961, President John F Kennedy announced to Congress that the United States 'should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth.'

This reflected the United States' desire to catch up with the Soviet Union in the space race. Although an extremely challenging goal, it was finally achieved on 20th July 1969, when Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong stepped on to the Moon's surface.

Such a challenging mission required commitment and sacrifice from many people. What is our mandate, as the people of God in today's world? What challenge have we been entrusted with by God that requires our absolute commitment and sacrifice in these difficult days? When Jesus ascended into heaven, His last words to His disciples were significant: 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts 1:8).

Our mission is to be witnesses for Jesus, making Him known in our workplaces, to our families and friends, as well as the wider community. A credible witness speaks of what they know personally. What is my story of how Jesus has changed my life?

However, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower our witness: 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you' (1:8). The Spirit enables us to display the fruit of Jesus' character and gifts us to be effective witnesses.

'We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard' (JFK, 12th September, 1962 at Rice University).

**

Editor: The Ven John Barton agrees with Jordan Peterson that happiness isn't really our goal.

HAPPINESS?

The Canadian psychologist and best-selling author, Jordan Peterson, doesn't believe we should be pursuing happiness. That could be a disappointment to 328m Americans, who have been taught for nearly 250 years that the pursuit of happiness is their God-given right. The same pursuit might describe the quest of others who, despite being educated, well-fed, secure and sexually liberated, still feel deprived and unfulfilled.

Professor Peterson, who himself is finding his way towards God, has just published 'Beyond Order', which embodies his second list of '12 Rules for Life'*. He analyses various characters in ancient myths, modern literature and the Bible to demonstrate the direction we need to take if we want to make the most of our potential today. Happiness isn't on the agenda.

The Old Testament figure of Abraham, who abandoned all that was familiar in order to fulfil God's command to establish a new nation, is a model for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Was Abraham's divine commission pleasant? Peterson says it was,

"... no call to happiness . . . what calls you out into the world – to your destiny – is not ease. It is trouble and strife . . . That is where the life that is worth living is to be eternally found – and where you can find it, personally, if only you are willing."

The Bible has little to say about happiness and when we do encounter the word, as in Jesus' Beatitudes (Matthew 5, 3-12), we are disturbed to find it focuses on God's will rather than what we want and is more about giving than getting.

Men and women initially followed Christ because they felt He had got something they needed. Those who thought it would bring them a pain-free, trouble-free life were disappointed. At one point a number of His disciples left him. The first chapter of St John describes the mixed reaction to Jesus like this: "He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God ..."

In place of the interminable pursuit of happiness, Christ reveals an eternal destiny.

**Professor Peterson's earlier book, 'Twelve Rules for Life – An Antidote to Chaos' was first published in 2018 and is now available in a Penguin paperback @ £10.99. 'Beyond Order', has just been published by Allen Lane @ £25.*

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her Reflected Faith series on the freedom that May brings....

Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

**

Editor: Tony Horsfall considers what happens when you have no courage left.

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