

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ALDFORD & ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BRUERA

Parish Newsletter

February 2021

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

## Thinking about Lent and Easter

In only a matter of a couple of weeks we move from the Christmas/Epiphany season to Lent, and then on to Easter. It's a good time to pause and ask:

### What is Lent?

Lent is period of forty days, starting with Ash Wednesday, and leading up to Easter. It is a period of reflection and repentance. It is a time when Christians seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

### What is Easter?

Easter Sunday is the time when Christians remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death following his crucifixion on Good Friday. Easter is a happy celebration, not just because Jesus rose from death, but because his resurrection was a sign of God's grace. It was a promise that all those who seek God's mercy and forgiveness (as we do in Lent) will receive it.

### How does the resurrection assure us of God's mercy and forgiveness?

In spite of the historical account recording that the crucifixion was a result of the schemes of the religious

leaders and ruling authorities of the day, the Bible makes it clear that it was actually God's perfect plan. When Jesus died on the cross he suffered the consequence of human sin. He took that sin to the cross with him, and presented himself as a sin offering. The fact that Jesus rose from the dead is a sign that his offering was accepted, that God was satisfied, and that the sin of all who would approach God in repentance and faith would be forgiven.

### How can I best make use of the time in Lent?

Take some time to reflect upon your life. What are your strengths and weaknesses? What in your life are you rightly proud of, and what makes you feel ashamed? Where do you feel you don't live up to your own expectations, and where may you be falling short of God's standard in your life?

### Won't that be a bit depressing?

No, that's where Easter comes in. It's true that we all fall short of God's desires for our life. We all sin. It is true that we all deserve God's judgement and



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condemnation. The joy of Easter is, however, that no matter how much we have fallen short, the death of Jesus Christ assures us of God's acceptance, forgiveness and love.

### **How can I best make use of Easter?**

By thanking God for his kindness, and for his provision for us. Two thousand years ago, God enacted a plan, a plan to save each one of us from our sins and give us the opportunity to enter into a new life of faith, with God, through Jesus Christ.

Easter is the time to celebrate and thank God for his kindness. In the midst of much on-going uncertainty in the world, take time this Lent to reflect of God and great love.

*God bless, Karl*

### **Shrove Tuesday**

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid

she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

### **All You Need is Love**

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others - without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity - of great strength. But it can also be one of pride - we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem - we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger - we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs - whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual - you will not last the distance.

If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker and accept God's love, given to you through other people.

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## Chester's Space Pioneer

We shall shortly see the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the death of John Wilkins, who was Bishop of Chester from 1668 until his death in 1672. Born in 1614, he was an extraordinarily influential figure in the formative years of British science and, indeed, if any one person could be called the founder (in 1660) of the Royal Society in London, then it would be he, as the initial meetings of the group which was to become that body took place in his rooms at Wadham College, Oxford when he was Warden there from 1648 to 1659. He was subsequently one of the two Secretaries of the Society (and unofficial Vice President) from 1663 until 1668, in which year he moved to Chester. He was, additionally, Oliver Cromwell's brother-in-law and the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge from 1659 to 1660 - thus making him one of only two persons in the last four hundred years to have been the Head of both an Oxford and a Cambridge College (the other was the theologian Henry Chadwick, who was first Dean of Christ Church, Oxford [1969-79] and afterwards Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge [1987-93]). As Robert Hooke put it in 1665: "...scarce any one Invention....in our Age....but it has some way or other been set forward by his assistance."

In 1638 he published a curiously pioneering book (which ran to several editions) advocating space travel – *The Discovery of a New World in the Moone*. An excerpt from it speaks for itself:

"In the first Ages of the World the Islanders thought themselves to be the only dwellers upon Earth, or else if there

were any other, they could not possibly conceive how they might have any Commerce with them, being sever'd by the deep and broad Sea. But after times found out the invention of Ships, in which notwithstanding, none but some bold, daring Men durst venture. And yet now, how easie a thing is this even to a timorous and cowardly nature? And questionless, the Invention of some other means for our Conveyance to the Moon, cannot seem more incredible to us, than did this at first to them, and therefore we have no just reason to be discouraged in our hopes of the like success. 'Tis the Opinion of Kepler, that as soon as the art of Flying is Found out, some of their Nation will make one of the first Colonies, that shall transplant into that other World."

Having identified a potential seventeenth-century Space Race between Britain and Germany, he went on to propose that King Charles I should formally annex the Moon and declare it part of the nascent British Empire. It would probably have amused him to learn that the first men to walk on the Moon were from a former British colony, but that the rocket scientist (Wernher von Braun) who put them there was German.

Wilkins died in London almost exactly three hundred years before the last (Apollo 17) Moon walk and was buried in the Guildhall Church of St. Lawrence Jewry. Sadly, his monument was destroyed in a German air raid on December 29th, 1940. Also sad is the fact that he has no memorial in Chester.

*Michael Spencer*

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## Trekking in Northern Thailand

In common with most Long term visitors to Thailand one of the "musts" is to go jungle trekking in northern Thailand staying with the different hill tribes that populate that region.

The usual starting point is either Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai, I started from Chiang Mai. It's an organised tour as you are accompanied by two experienced guides which are very necessary. The party of about eight including the guides is made up of different nationalities usually young back packers.

As the common language spoken is English I was surprised when an Australian lady said she found me the most difficult to understand. Must have been my (semi-scouse accent!!)

You're driven by a off road vehicle a distance of about thirty miles into the mountains to start the trek which can last for three to five days; it's up to you.

The first day is the shortest trek a distance of about three of four miles to help you become acclimatised to the jungle surroundings. At night you sleep in a long hut (on the floor,) covered by a flimsy blanket, but you do have a small pillow to rest your head on.

The Golden Rule is "don't eat the same food as the the hill tribe people as it will make you ill." This I don't doubt for a moment, having seen some of their food!

This is where the guides become invaluable as they not only carry our provisions (decent food) but also cook it for us, all on a open wood fire; very

appetising it is - more so after a hard days trekking in the heat.

It was while trekking that I really experienced the two extremes of cold and heat. Once while trekking in the midday sun we came to an open plain, the only shelter was an open cover with a tin roof. We stopped for lunch usually for about an hour, and all got into the cover to shield us for the relentless sun. It's not uncommon to fall asleep because it's so hot, this along with a few others I duly did. Trouble was when it was time to restart I wanted to carry on sleeping. In fact, because it was so hot the guides allowed us an extra hour to rest which was more than welcome. Not sure what the temperature was - well over forty celsius.

Thailand is hot with an average daytime temperature of around thirty three celsius. That was the hottest I have ever experienced. (contrast that to our present weather!!)

The treks take you high into the mountains towards Mae Hong Son and it was here I experienced the coldest I've felt.

Thailand, goes chilly at night time being high in the mountains. It's not unheard of to have an over-night frost. Fortunately that didn't happen while I was there, but it was chilly all the same.

*Brian Newton*

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## Open Doors welcomes Fiona Bruce

Open Doors welcomes Fiona Bruce as PM's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton, has recently been appointed as the new Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB).

Bruce has long been a supporter of the work of Open Doors, including attending the World Watch List parliamentary launch, visiting an Open Doors exhibition highlighting the plight of Yzidi women in Iraq, and regularly raising the issue of persecuted believers to the House of Commons.

She said: "My post will be placed at the service of some of the most vulnerable people across the world." She listed just some of the "continuing large scale horrors taking place" – such as those against Uighur Muslims in China,

Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Yazidis in Iraq. She agreed with "the late and much respected former Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks" when he had stated: 'the persecution of Christians throughout much of the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and elsewhere, is one of the crimes against humanity of our time'.

Fiona Bruce said: "These are some of the most deeply concerning issues of our generation, on which it will be a privilege to engage as Special Envoy, both nationally and internationally."

Fiona Bruce has been a friend of Open Doors for many years, and is "a real champion for freedom of religion and belief," says Henrietta Blyth, CEO of Open Doors UK and Ireland.

*The Parish Pump*

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## World Day of Prayer - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

This year's World Day of prayer service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu .

We are not having a Church service on 5th March due the current pandemic. However we want to share with Christians around the world as we pray with the women of Vanuatu. There will be online worship with a 'Zoom' service at 2pm. All attending will need a small pebble/stone.

'Zoom' can be accessed from your pc/

laptop/tablet but if you do not have online access the service can be heard on the telephone.

The code for the Zoom access can be obtained from Jayne Bunn

Contact

[jayne.unitymc@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.unitymc@gmail.com)

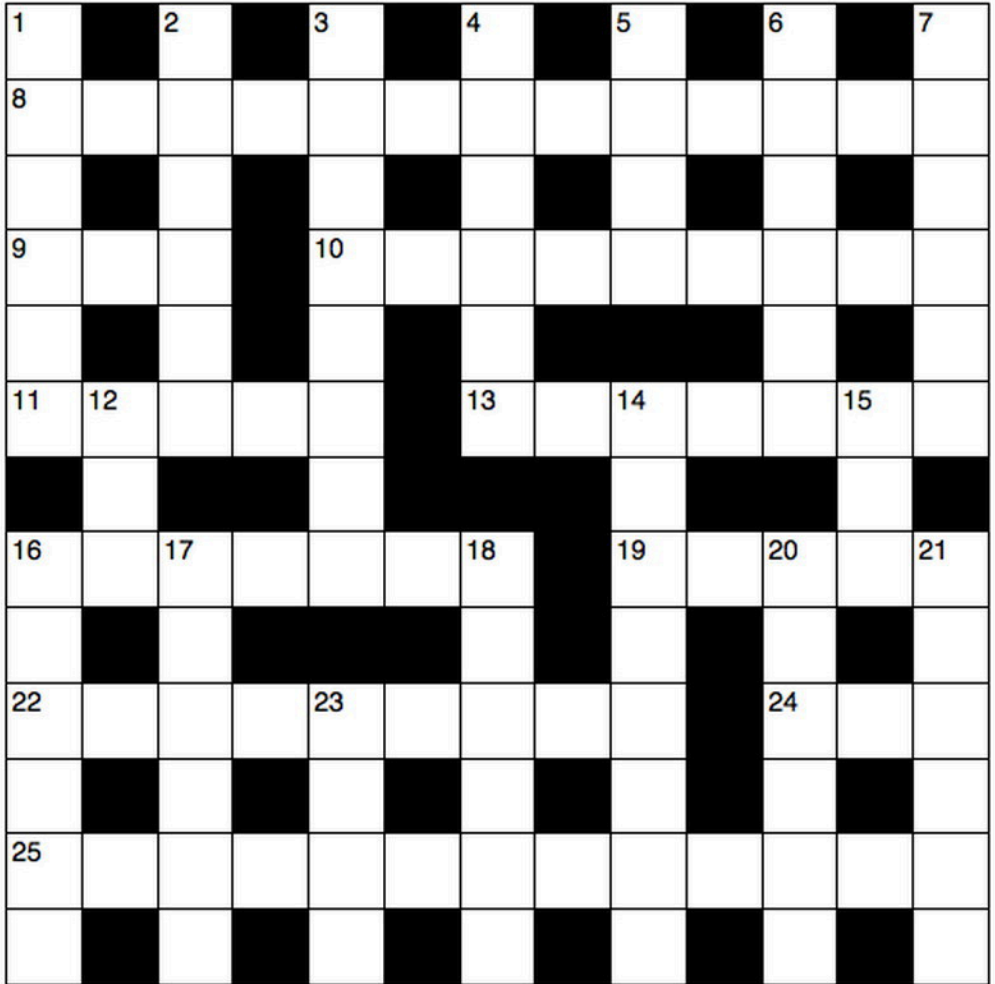
or 07791478313

or 01270 763747

by 1st March latest. The service booklet will be delivered to those who register with a postal address, please indicate if you need a large print copy.



## Puzzle Page



### Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

## Puzzle Page

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

### Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)  
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)  
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)  
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)  
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)  
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)  
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)  
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)  
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)  
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)  
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with

- whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)  
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

### ANSWERS

DOWN: 1, Oceans. 2, Hopht. 3, Islamist. 4, Sovereign Lord. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, Exhort. 13, Typical. 14, Vantsh. 15, Ave. 16, Vantsh. 17, CBI. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 22, Offer. 23, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Ash. 10, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visted. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25,

### Easy SUDOKU

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



## Children's Page

Can you find solve the word square? Look very carefully to see if you can find the word listed below. Good luck!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| t | r | i | c | k | e | d | l | a | n | d | s | j |
| s | g | q | u | s | a | u | l | n | v | z | s | o |
| s | b | x | o | e | n | e | m | i | e | s | h | a |
| n | r | i | s | h | b | o | s | h | e | t | h | b |
| e | o | t | c | o | m | m | a | n | d | e | r | t |
| a | t | r | p | a | u | e | i | s | r | a | e | l |
| k | h | i | t | i | b | t | e | q | s | r | w | a |
| e | e | b | j | h | s | n | h | t | c | s | a | n |
| d | r | e | e | i | e | p | e | e | i | l | r | g |
| n | c | s | l | j | i | r | s | r | r | n | d | r |
| j | f | i | g | h | t | i | n | g | m | n | g | y |
| k | h | a | r | m | i | e | s | k | i | n | g | q |
| p | r | o | m | i | s | e | d | a | v | i | d | j |

fighting  
David  
Abner  
king  
land  
tribes

brother  
Philistines  
meeting  
Ishbosheth  
sneaked  
Israel

commander  
Saul  
secret  
angry  
promised  
reward

northern  
tricked  
armies  
Joab  
southern  
enemies



# The parable of the Shrewd Manager

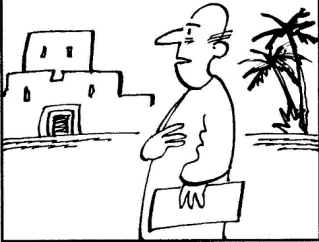


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



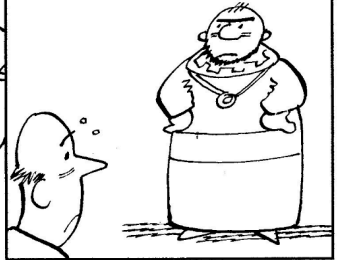
ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

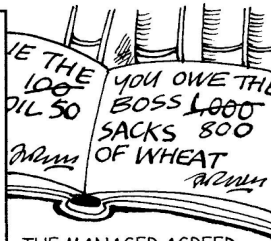


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

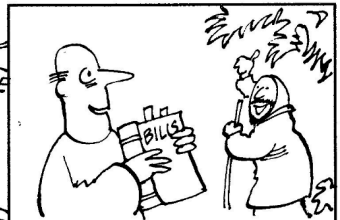
SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

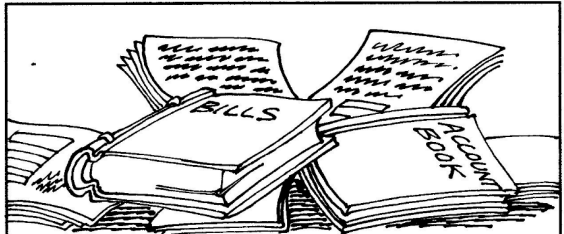


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



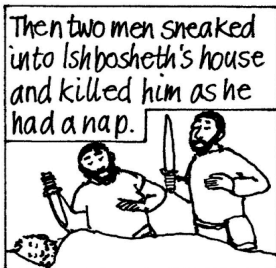
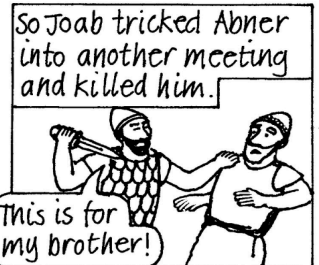
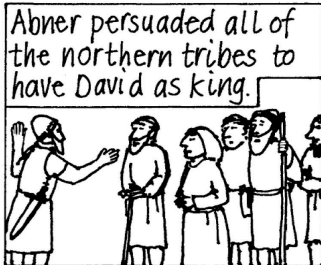
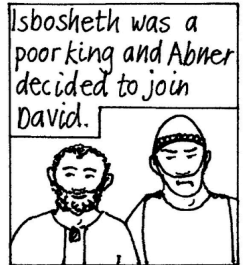
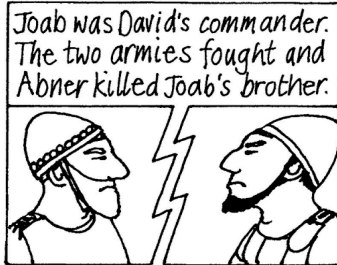
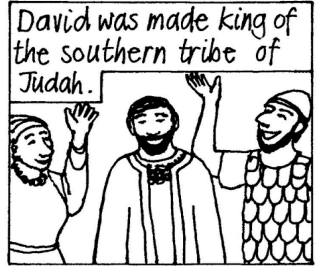
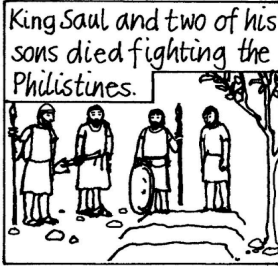
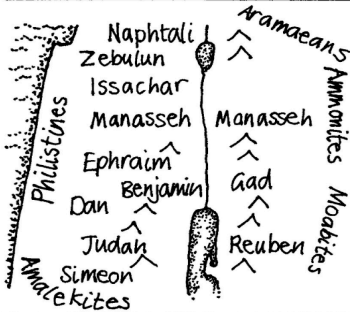
JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

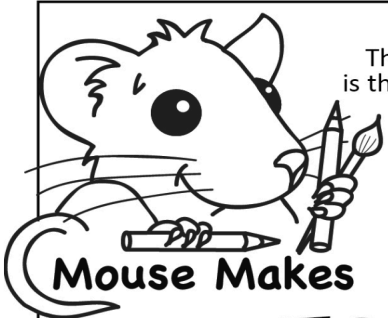
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh 13:8-20:48  
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4, 5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies.





**WHAT AM I?**

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next ....

|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| E |  |  |  | H |
|---|--|--|--|---|

- What two things did God create first? *Genesis 1:1*

|  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  | S |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|

- What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
- What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  | G |
|--|--|--|--|---|

- Who is the creator? *Genesis 1:1*

|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  | D |
|--|--|--|--|---|

- What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|

- Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
- Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  | H |
|--|--|--|--|---|

- Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|

|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| L |  |  |  | S |
|---|--|--|--|---|

By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.

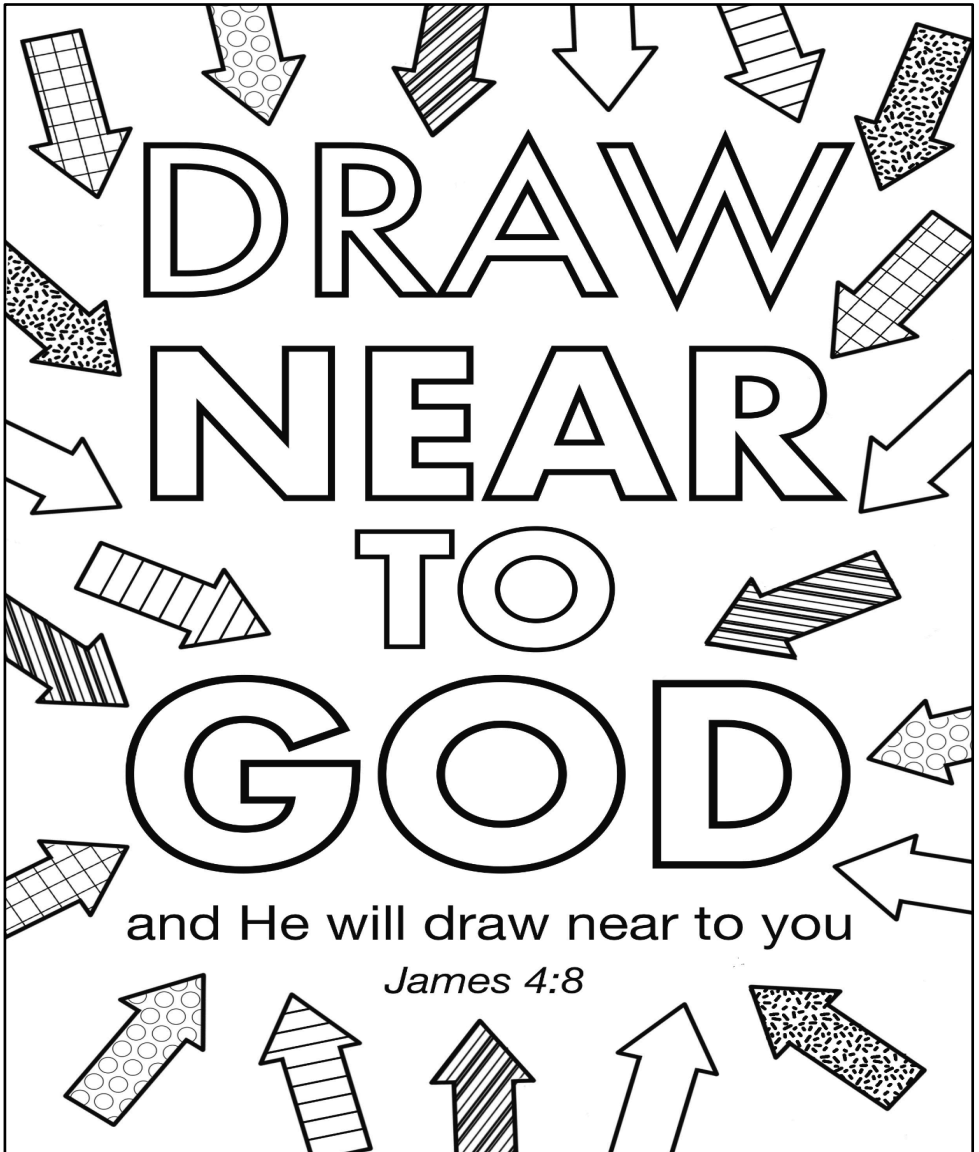
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*

**FIND THE CREATION PAIRS**  
from *Genesis 1 and 2*

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| EARTH   | MORNING |
| LIGHT   | FRUIT   |
| DAYS    | SEA     |
| TREES   | NIGHT   |
| LAND    | FISH    |
| EVENING | YEARS   |
| ADAM    | HEAVENS |
| DAY     | DARK    |
| BIRDS   | WATER   |
| SKY     | EVE     |

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

Can you find these words in the word search?  
 GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT  
 FLY • DEEP • EARTH  
 DARK • DAY • LIGHT  
 NIGHT • STARS • SKY  
 SEA • LAND • BIRD  
 CREATURE • HUMAN  
 TREE • PLANT • SEEDS  
 FRUIT • GOOD • TWO



Rector: Revd Julian Beauchamp, Waverton Tel: 01244 336668  
Associate Minister: Revd Karl Jones, Aldford Tel: 01244 620403

St John's and St Mary's Website:  
<https://aldfordandbruerachurches.wordpress.com>