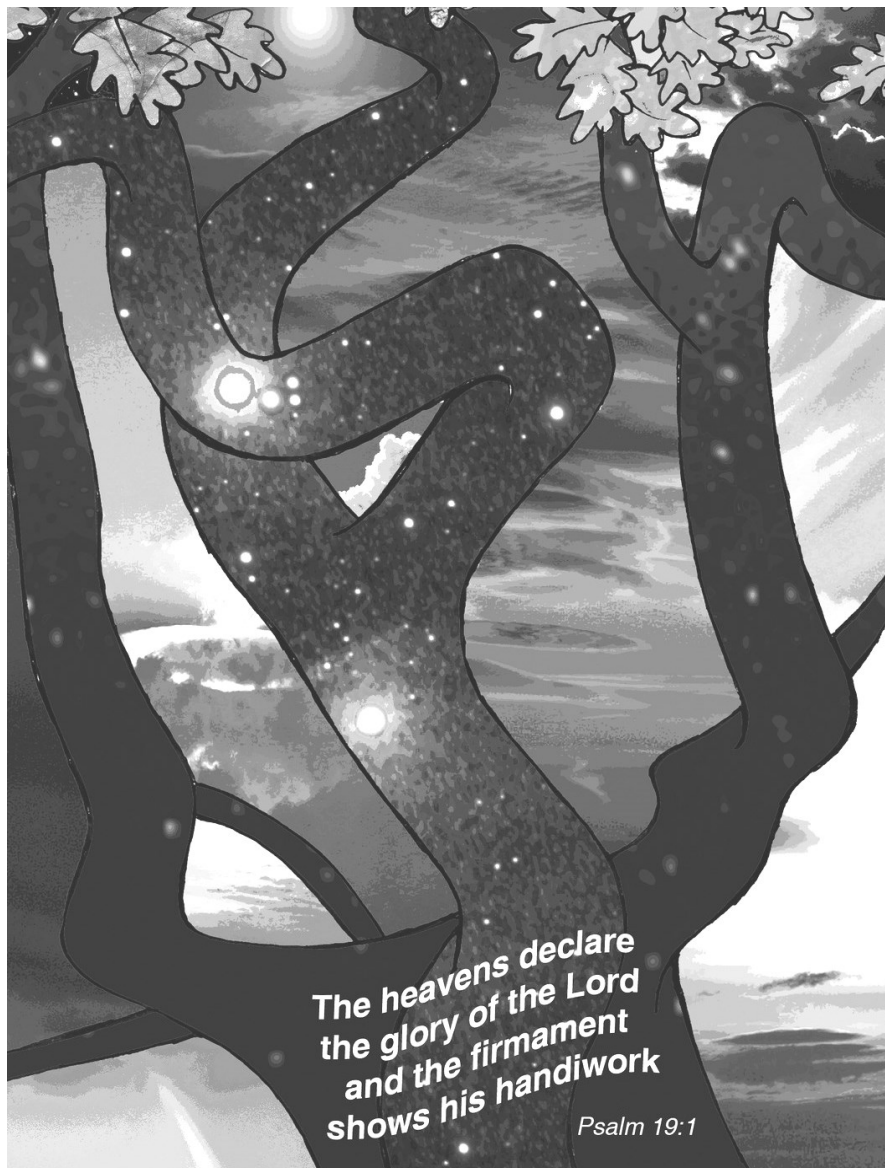


St. Machan's News



September 2016



From the Editor

It's that time again. "Summer!" is over and we head into Autumn.

How can you tell? Well all the schools are back, parents are relieved, church organisations are starting back, the leaves are turning brown and the Autumn Magazine has just arrived.

Unfortunately due to holidays and ill health there is no View from the Manse this magazine.

I hope that you will take up the invitations issued here by the Guild, Men's Club, Friendship Circle, Pancake Morning and especially by Genesis Youth Group.

Once again, I am indebted to all those who faithfully submit articles, prayers and stories. Without your contributions there would be no magazine.

Yours in Christ

Fay Allan

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‘I didn’t know I was lost!’

“Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep” (Luke 15:6)

Some readers may remember the media report one August, of a young secretary who went missing for some days, through a con-trick perpetrated by a deceiving businessman.

Eventually she was found, in a somewhat confused state, at Basingstoke railway station. Evidently she had been completely unaware of the TV news – and of the public concern. In her own words, at the resulting press conference, she confessed, “I didn’t know I was lost until I was found!”



In this famous fifteenth chapter of Luke, Jesus’ parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost prodigal son, was basically making a single point – the steadfast determination of the eternal Father to do everything possible to find and recover every stray individual – even if they were taken by surprise at His seeking love.

Years ago I was leading a hospital ward service one Sunday morning, with a little team around me. It was still politically okay to do so in those days! All I could see of one patient was a newspaper, firmly held up –

and a thin spiral of cigarette smoke that drifted up from behind the paper. Yes, back then it was still permitted to smoke in a hospital ward!

Two days later I went visiting in the same ward, bed to bed. And there was the patient – a woman in her early thirties.

“So *you’re* the one who was speaking on Sunday morning!” she exclaimed. “I never looked in your direction once; I was determined to hide behind my paper and my cigarette. But I was listening all the time. And every word you said was for *me*. I want now to follow what you

were talking about. How do I get started?”

This is the wonder of God’s ways with us. Jesus Christ is the Shepherd; out on the hills looking, working, seeking for that one sheep that is missing from the safety of God’s fold. And when, by the message of His sacrificial love, that single ‘lost’ one is reclaimed, the angels are aglow with joy. *Jesus said so.*



What happened to the other patients that Sunday morning? Who can tell? But Heaven itself was lit up that day over just one.

Richard Bewes Parish Pump

A vicar entered a Christian bookshop to buy a popular book title.

“Do you have ‘Time to Embrace’ please?” he asked.

The astonished elderly lady assistant responded by slapping him across the face.



Wednesday Morning Prayer and Worship Services

Prayer Service 10.15 am

Worship Service 11am

Tea and fellowship after Prayer Service

All Welcome



DREAMS OF SUMMER



During the day and all through the night
Remember our Saviour never lets us out of his sight
Everlasting is his love and he hears our every plea
Although at times we are too busy to spend time with Thee
Master you supply us with your mercy, love and grace
Strengthening us in our time of strife with your gentle embrace

Only you can guide us and keep us safe and strong
Forgive us for our sins and when we get things wrong

Sometimes in silent wonder we stand truly amazed
Upon looking at the earth around us that
our God has made
Majestic is the beauty when we see the sun
arise



May we gasp at the splendour as it dips into the skies
Embrace this joyous season and may new memories unfold
Rejoice that these in your head and heart you can always hold

Susan Mackenzie

Last words

The Seven Last Words of the Church: 'We never did it like that before.'

The Guild



A warm welcome awaits old and new members alike.
Here is a taster of what's on the syllabus!

On the 3rd September we have our Autumn outing to Traquair House. Let's hope that we are blessed by good weather.



Our opening meeting is on Tuesday 4th October when our guest speaker will be Rev Andrea Boyes, minister of Chalmers Church.

This is followed on Tuesday 18th October with an evening having fun making greeting cards with Dierdre Watt.



Then on Sunday 23rd October, we have our main fundraising event when we provide soup and crusty bread after the morning service.

Moving into November, we learn about one of the guild projects– Christian Aid work in Bolivia- from Diane Cameron.



Sunday 6th November is our Guild Dedication Service.

Ann Tennent will speak about her varied nursing career on Tuesday 15th November.

As you can see from our syllabus we are going to have an interesting session. So please come and join us, bring a friend, you will be sure to find fun and fellowship.

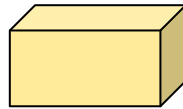
Elsbeth May

God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes,
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black box,
And all your joys in the gold."

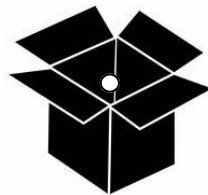


I heeded His words, and in the two boxes,
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,
But though the gold became heavier each
day,
The black was as light as before.



With curiosity, I opened the black,
I wanted to find out why,
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole,
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

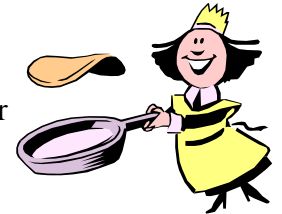
I showed the hole to God, and mused,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be!"
He smiled a gentle smile and said,
"My child, they're all here with me.."



I asked God, why He gave me the boxes,
Why the gold and the black with the hole?
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings,
The black is for you to let go."

Friday Morning Coffee Group

We have a very loyal group of helpers, to whom we are indebted, but because of illness and advancing years some are having to hang up their aprons. So I would like to hear from anyone who could give a helping hand.



The hours are 9.30 till 12 noon and if sufficient helpers are on the rota it would only be once every 4 or 5 weeks. We don't pay the minimum wage, in fact we don't pay a wage at all but there are a few perks- Free Tea, Coffee or Juice and a Pancake with some good fun and laughter thrown in.

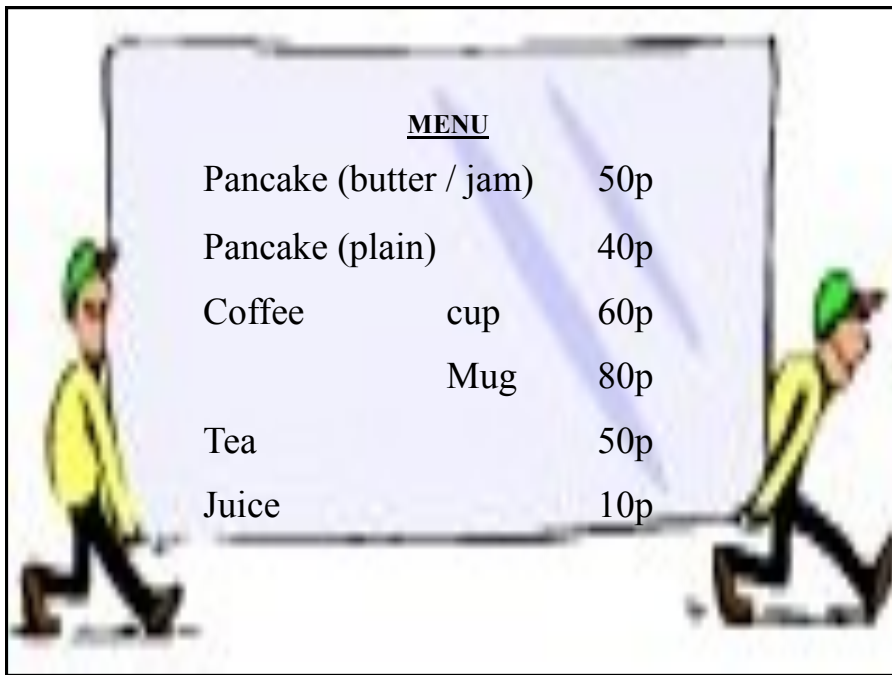
We are an equal opportunities organisation and certainly don't practice sex discrimination as we have 4 very hard working men on the rota.

Gentlemen and ladies if you are interested and have a few hours to spare please contact Anne Hynd on a Friday morning or by phone on 885552. You can also speak to any of the members.

Of course we are always on the lookout for new customers as well so why not come and join us any Friday between 10 and 12 and enjoy the fellowship along with the best and cheapest coffee and pancakes in Larkhall.

The new session starts on Friday 2nd September 2016.





If you want to get the most from life,
You must put something in it,
And strive to help your fellow man
Each day, each hour, each minute.

An act of kindness done by you
Can cheer the heart that's sad,
And when you cause someone to smile,
It makes your own heart glad!

Be friendly with your brothers
And extend a helping hand,
And each of them will grasp it
In a way you'll understand.

Then as you travel down life's road
And round the distant bend,
There'll be a host of people who
Will say, "There goes my friend!"



© Fotbsearch

Shoebbox Appeal

Donate a gift to someone in need

It's not difficult to choose gifts for people who have so little. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. By filling a shoebox with simple gifts you can bring some joy and laughter to someone this Christmas.



The shoeboxes received in 2015 were delivered to, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Leaflets are now available around the Church exits.

The latest date for returning boxes this year is **Monday 31st October**

If you would like a leaflet delivered or a box uplifted, please give me a call.

Many Thanks in advance,

John Gilroy

Tel: 886935 or 07710 679889

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle meet in the Church Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm from October to March. The meeting is normally finished by 3.30 and the object of the Friendship Circle is to promote the interests and leisure pursuits of our members and encourage fellowship with the aim of improving life within the community. Membership is open to all residents of Larkhall and District. The Friendship Circle will have its first meeting of the new Session on Tuesday 11th October and we look forward to welcoming members old and new.



The programme for 2016/2017 is as follows:

11/10/2016	John Krapot,
25/10/2016	Margaret Tooth, Blythswood Care
08/11/2016	Re-dedication Service Rev Alastair McKillop
22/11/2016	Phyllis Brophy, Favourite Hymns
13/12/2016	Afternoon Tea with the Jolly Beggars
10/01/2017	Jim Reid
24/01/2017	Christmas Meal with George Downie
14/02/2017	CHAS
28/02/2017	Quiz and singalong
14/03/2017	Guide Dogs
28/03/2017	Final meeting with the Salvation Army Band
25/04/2017	Outing

Fiona Sandeman

It's Strange Isn't It ???

1. Isn't it strange how a 1 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?
2. Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?
3. Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?
4. Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel or ZANE GREY book?
5. Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games, but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in Church?
6. Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events at the last minute?
7. Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others, but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?
8. Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bible?
9. Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?
10. Isn't it strange how we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away, but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others?

IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT?

Christian Aid



Our 'Cup and Cake' coffee morning is being held in Trinity Church hall on Saturday 20th August and once again we are hoping for another successful fund raiser.

As you know the Rev. Lindsay Schluter who was the Christian Aid co-ordinator for Larkhall has moved to Barra and we have been truly fortunate to have Moira Bruce take over this role. Moira has many demands on her time so we thank her and will support her in any way we can.

In the Global Progress Review published by Christian Aid for 2014/15 with the heading 'The Hard Road out of Darkness' they reported that yet again humanity undermines its own desire for progress, how so often we choose to remain in the darkness rather than emerge into the light.

They also stated that poverty persists because we continue to make that choice. It is not a natural and inevitable state of affairs. It is a consequence of what we do, or fail to do.



POVERTY
LET'S END IT



Millions of people around the world are united in the shared belief that it does not have to be this way. That positive change is possible.

Christian Aid with its partners and supporters is part of that movement. We stand alongside poor communities who work

tirelessly to lift themselves out of poverty. Together in 2014/15 we: reached millions of people caught up in the Ebola crises and conflict in the Middle East

- came together in our tens of thousands to demand urgent action on climate change
- played a key role in bringing about ground-breaking legislation that makes it harder for big corporations to avoid **paying tax**
- helped hundreds of thousands of people get access to better services and prepare for climate extremes and disasters
- tackled discrimination against women and marginalised groups
- strived to make markets work for poor communities so they can become financially self sufficient



Violence, perhaps more than any other aspect of the human experience can fatally undermine poor communities as they struggle to survive and thrive. Until we end violence we cannot end poverty.

Thought provoking words, thankfully showing that our small efforts really can make a difference to peoples lives.

Thank you for all the support you give and for rallying round to each appeal.

Grace McGhee

Reward

A father of five children came home with a toy. "This is a reward for being good," he said. "Who is the most obedient one here? Who never talks back to Mum and does everything that Mum says to do?"

There were a few seconds of silence, and then all of the children said: "You play with it Daddy!"



THE BOY WHO WANTED TO MEET GOD

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies (sweets) and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman, she was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase, he was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry so he offered her a Twinkie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer.



Once again, she smiled at him, the boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realised how tired he was and he got up to leave but before he had gone more than a few steps; he turned around, ran back to the old woman and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God". But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I have ever *seen!*"



Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." But before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.

Author unknown

ST MACHAN'S PARISH CHURCH UNITARY CONSTITUTION

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEES

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The co-ordination of the work of the other committees, ensuring they report regularly to the Kirk Session, making arrangements for Kirk Session meetings and conference sessions including dealing with matters referred to Kirk Sessions by Presbytery or the General Assembly.

VISION AND MISSION COMMITTEE

Promoting the Vision for St Machan's and devising a programme of events for Church members and the wider community which develops worship, fellowship and social events other than on a Sunday morning.

WORSHIP, COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA COMMITTEE

Assist in overseeing the practical aspects of Sunday morning worship matters and responsible for all aspects of media, communication and website opportunities.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Responsibility for relationships with all church organisations, Christian education and participation of all members in Church life.

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Establishing a system of home visitation of all members, identifying those members in need of special pastoral care and responsibility for follow-up visits in relation to weddings, baptisms and funerals.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Responsible for the care and maintenance of all Church property, including health and safety matters and liaising with users of the premises.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Responsible for all matters of Church finance, fundraising and accounting with a special emphasis on promoting all forms of stewardship and Christian giving.

Convenors and committee members (others yet to be appointed or co-opted).

Ann Tennent	Fiona Sandeman	John Kaprot
Vision & Mission	Worship, Media & Communication	Nurture
Myra Dunlop Laura Reid Irene Mitchell Heather Roy	Robert Hamilton Anne Kean Fay Allan Madge Laird	Janette McDonald Anne Hynd Joanne Blackwood Adam Morrice

Jim Hynd	John Gilroy	Bob Allan
Pastoral Care	Property	Stewardship & Finance
Marion Woodley Isobel Ogston Holly Taylor Margaret Gibb Steve Cork Etta Davidson Joe Williamson	Donald McDonald John McLean Jim Reid	Ramsay Gibb Alison Murray Mavis Law Isobel Begley

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

On Sunday 14th August, we were delighted to welcome three young women as they professed their faith and made their commitment to God and the Church.



They were Sharon McCallum, Gerry Neil and Alexis McDonald .

After the Service, there was a celebration lunch where the three young women cut a celebration cake.



We wish them well as they begin this journey of faith.

Fabric Convenor's Report

Hello everyone! Well, summer (if you can call it that) is now coming to an end. Kids back at school and yet we still await some prolonged sunshine.

Never mind, we still managed to carry out our annual spring clean while the weather was dry. This year we concentrated on the kitchen cupboards and contents which were all successfully cleaned. We also cleaned all the tables and chairs in the hall.



Ground work included weeding and laying of new kerb stones at the top of the garden. Due to the record turnout (29 helpers) we also managed to carry out some DIY jobs around the buildings.

As we still have a short fall in the roof costs, we have deliberately slowed down on the repairs and concentrated on essential work only.

Up at the Manse, we have identified the problem with the front door which will now be replaced under guarantee.

Up at 2 Marshall street , we await the roofer to remove the asbestos roof to the rear and replace with a tiled roof. On completion of this, we will clean and paint the back gutters and windows.



The gutters to the front of the cottage have all been cleaned and painted. The windows and door have also been painted.

A new door handle and nameplate have been fitted too. Due to signs of dampness, the door frame has been resealed (all DIY).



The redecoration of the hall and main front office is now complete. This included fitting a new ceiling and upgraded lighting in the hall. This was all done on a D.I.Y. basis.

This means that the cottage has now been decorated throughout .

And so to the Church.

Further to my last report on the water ingress at the vestibule area, we have now almost completed our remedial work to the outside walls. This included re-pointing the stonework and applying water repellent.



Graham Duncan is now arranging a de-humidifier in order to dry out the internal walls. This will allow the vestibule decoration to be completed,

Graham will now arrange to survey the upper vestibule and steeple area in order to identify any outstanding problem areas requiring attention. This should prevent any further water penetration in the vestibule area.



The heating system has now settled down and we have managed to set the temperatures to suit everyone, although it has been off for the “summer” period.

The Church security / fire alarm system has again been upgraded by the installation of a fire call point at the rear hall exit.

South Lanarkshire payback team have now completed the painting of

all the back and front railings and gates. Our great thanks to Donald McDonald who donated all the paint for this project.

We have re-arranged the notice boards in the hall in order to free up some space for Church notices. There is now ample space and so can we request that no notices are put on walls and doors outwith the notice board areas as the sellotape is damaging the paintwork.



Due to a fault in the gallery camera, which sends a live video link to the halls, we have arranged a visit from RAK engineering to repair and this is now up and running again.

A faulty lock on a door in the gents toilet has now been repaired.

Our annual PAT testing will be due again shortly and during this maintenance visit, we will arrange to replace the two faulty lights in the hall and one in the sanctuary.



We still have one new notice board to replace and this should be completed shortly. We intend to use this to highlight all activities throughout the week

The fabric committee are currently preparing a talk with relation to health, safety and security which we will present to all organisations shortly.

Due to ongoing problems with the roof windows in the main hall, we are still investigating how we can solve the problem of continual drips on a permanent basis.

With our new constitution under way, this is the last time I will refer to us as the fabric committee. We will now be known as the property committee, with our responsibilities changing slightly.



From the feedback in your Stewardship response forms, we now have a few additional members, and we hope to recruit a few more shortly. Full details will be provided in

the next edition of the magazine.

Please remember, if you notice anything around the Church which needs attention, please contact one of the fabric committee a.s.a.p.. and we will attend to it.

Following our stewardship campaign you will no doubt be aware that our fabric fund is running low, and so, in an effort to plan for future major repairs, we are arranging for a professional survey to be carried out on all Church buildings and grounds, as well as the cottage and manse.

This will allow us to investigate the potential for local grants.

In the meantime, can I ask you to keep dropping a white fabric envelope in to the plate as this helps to maintain our fabric fund balance. You will find these envelopes scattered around the Church. If you can't see one. Please ask me for one



My thanks again to my fabric team for all their help as well as volunteers from the congregation who never seem to let us down.

God's vision for St. Machan's continues to drive us forward.

John Gilroy

Tel: 886935 Mobile: 07956 107883

St Machan's Book Club

The Book Club will have their first meeting on Monday 12th September. We meet at 14 Saltire Crescent for an hour or so of discussion and a cup of tea or coffee. The book which we have been reading over the summer and we will be discussing is 'Wolf Hall' by Hilary Mantel.



We meet once a month on a Monday morning and books are chosen by our readers from a list of books compiled especially for Book Clubs by the Library. The first book of this new session is 'A Man Called Ove' by Frederick Bachmann. A list of upcoming books will be available in the next week or two and will be posted on a notice board in the church hall. Please do come along and join us for some lively, interesting discussion. And a cup of tea or coffee!!

Fiona Sandeman

Walking Group

For those who enjoy a walk but do not want the commitment or difficulty of an organised walking group.

We are a relaxed, friendly group who meet at 10.30am behind the church in Marshall Street for a walk, chat and some refreshment en route.

There is no charge or pressure to come every week.

All welcome, dogs included.

Come and enjoy a walk and some good company in our lovely countryside.



Men's Club



Summer for 2016 is now over because the Indoor Bowls Section of the Men's Club start their 2016/17 Session on Monday 5th Sept. We meet in the Main Hall at 1.30pm every Monday throughout September. Thereafter, we meet every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month.

We are looking forward to the new Session and a warm invitation is extended to all old and hopefully new members.

So, Gents, if you have an hour or so to spare on a Monday afternoon, do come along. This is a fun session and the bowls are not taken too seriously!!

Our opening meeting of the Men's Club takes place on Monday 10th October when the speaker will be the Rev. Andrea Boyes.

The club membership is declining and we really need new members to keep going. We have a number of men coming from both Chalmers and Trinity Churches as well as from Hamilton and Carlisle. We could do with more members from St Machan's.



The syllabus for 2016/17 has a wide range of speakers and topics. It is the intention of the Club to give a copy to all men attending church in the hope that at least one or two topics will prove of interest.

Again Gents, if you have a free hour or so to spare on a Monday afternoon, the club meets at 2pm in the Guild Room on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

The Club have arranged two concerts for this session. The first one being the St Andrew's Night Concert to be held in the church on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm. The entertainment will be provided by "The Dukes of Uke" ukulele band, more details at a later date.



The second concert will be held on Monday 6th March 2017 again at 7.30pm in the church. The proceeds from this concert will be given to the Fabric Fund.

Finally, just a reminder that there is no joining fee for either the Bowls Section or the Club. Only a small donation is asked to cover the cost of tea/coffee etc. So Gents, do come along and give the Bowls, Club or both a try.

Hope to see you there.

John Mclean (President)

Church Notices that didn't quite make it...

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

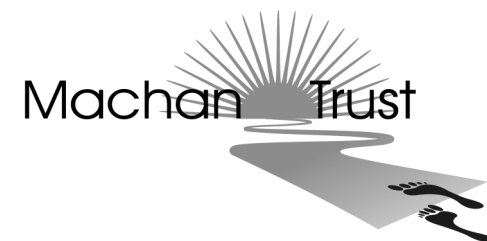
A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.



The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

Don't allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.



Over the summer holidays the Machan Trust ran 4 weeks of activities and 1 week of trips. In that period we served over 400 breakfasts and 900 lunches. Everyday had a new activity for example – Superhero Day, Splat, Princess & Pirates, Short 'n' Shades, Pizza and PJ's to name just a few.

Our last week was 'Trip' Week'.

For our P1 to P4 children we went to the Rainforest Adventure Soft Play area and Kitchside Farm. Our P5 and over attended a Bootcamp with paintball target practice. With



the help of Active Schools we also ran a Machan Trust mini Olympics with over 70 children bused to Chatelherault from Ashgill, Larkhall, Netherburn and Stonehouse. Our feedback from both children and parents was very positive

Help required - Breakfast and Lunch Groups

The Machan Trust serves over 300 breakfasts per week at 3 different primary schools. Our volunteers are really key to making this a success. As well as Breakfast groups we also run Lunch Groups

working with selected children who would benefit from extra support. If you would like to help at any of these groups, please call the office on 01698 305674 or by e-mail volunteerma-chantrust@gmail.com

October Week Holiday Activities

During the October School week we will have a programme for all children and young people. For more information please contact the office or look at our website. www.themachantrust.co.uk If you would like to volunteer for any of these activities or any of our weekly groups/activities then please call 01698 305674 or contact us through our website or by e-mail volunteerma-chantrust@gmail.com



Game Rules



During the local football game, the coach asked one of his young players:
"Do you understand what cooperation is?" The little boy nodded yes.

"Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes.

"Okay," the coach continued, "do you also understand that when the referee makes a decision, you don't argue or curse or threaten to attack him, right?"

Again, the boy nodded vigorously.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain all that to your mother."



Nehemiah's Call

Our news is regularly filled with reports of terrorism, famine and injustice. The danger is that the world's problems no longer impact us. The story of Nehemiah shows us that if we are close to God's heart, we will feel His pain over the state of the world.



The story begins in 445 BC, when Nehemiah was cupbearer to Artaxerxes, the Persian king in Susa. He received disturbing news from home: ***'The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire...For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.'*** (Nehemiah 1: 2,4).



God called Nehemiah to go beyond simply feeling sorrow over the walls of Jerusalem. While understanding the need, Nehemiah also appreciated that he had to do something about it. His story tells how he led the people to rebuild the broken-down walls in just 52 days. However, this was part of the longer process of rebuilding a broken-down people, to restore their identity and purpose as God's people.

It began with an extended period of prayer lasting 4 months (from December till March: 1:1 & 2:1). Nehemiah prayed for the king's help: ***'Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man.'*** (1:11). In the needs that

confront us, what is God asking us to do? Obviously we can't fix all the problems in our world, but we can be part of God's work of rebuilding and restoring broken lives and families, broken churches and communities.

*Life is fragile
handle with Prayer*

Nehemiah shows us that a need becomes a call when the issue starts to matter to us, and we commit to pray about it. ***'What a man is on his knees before God - that is what he is and no more.'*** (Robert Murray M'Cheyne)

Paul Hardingham.

The Parish Pump

LONGEVITY

A man once advised his son that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his cornflakes every morning.

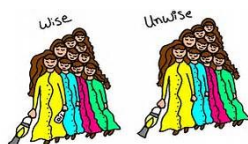


The son did this religiously and he lived to the age of ninety-three. When he died, he left fourteen children. Twenty-eight grandchildren, thirty-five great-grandchildren and a fifteen foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.



NOTICES

A preacher went to speak at a church. He was due to speak at both the morning and evening services on the Sunday. In the morning he took as his text the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. In the evening he chose to give a call to the mission field.



The local church, seeking to draw attention to the visit, produced a big poster advertising the coming Sunday meetings and put it on their notice-board. They combined the titles of the two messages without realising the effect of their combination.

The top poster read: **‘FIVE VIRGINS IN A CRISIS.’**

The bottom read: **‘WHAT CAN ONE MAN DO?’**

From A Box of Delights J. John & Mark Stibble, Monarch Books

GIRLS BRIGADE



The Girl's Brigade resumed on Wednesday 17th August after the Summer Holidays.

They meet every Wednesday at the following times:

Explorers	P1 –P3	6 – 7pm
Juniors	P4 – P5	6.30– 7.45 pm
Juniors	P6 –P7	7.30 – 8.45pm
Brigaders	S1—S6	7.30– 8.45pm



All young girls are welcome.

Visit

A bishop visited a primary school in his full episcopal attire – with his mitre, robes and bishop's crook or crozier. A little lad's mother asked him later what he had thought of the bishop's visit to his school.

The little boy replied: 'It was great – now I know what a *real* crook looks like!'



GENESIS YOUTH CLUB IS BACK!

(AND WE ARE STILL SIMPLY THE BEST)

If you're aged between 11 and 15 and want to join the best Youth Club in town then come along, enroll and see what all the fuss is about!

We have Games Nights, Guest Speakers, Quiz nights, Ten Pin Bowling, BBQ and Genesis Got Talent!

Enrollment is £5 then £2 nightly fee

Enrollment Night 23rd August 2016 at 7:30pm in the Main Hall of St Machan's Parish Church

We are on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from August till May

COME JOIN US!!



Youth Club

Parker Place

We had hoped to get the second half of our entertainment programme started with a sing-along with wee Nan in August, however, as the upgrading of the hall will not be completed on time, this night has now been postponed.

We will of course, try to slot it in somewhere.

We will now have Graham Duncan starting us off on the flute in September.

Holly will be back singing in October.

The women's guild will entertain in November and we will finish with a Christmas sing-along with wee Nan in December.

Tea and home baking will be served on each evening.



Anyone willing to assist in any way or to come along and assist with the teas would be most welcome.

We also hope to hold a praise / worship meeting soon with date to be arranged. Anyone willing to assist with this will also be most welcome.

Please contact John Gilroy for more information.

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is.

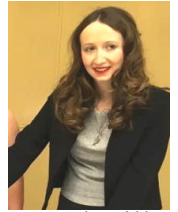
He wrote: 'A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble.'



<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
'It's impossible'	All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
'I'm too tired'	I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
'Nobody really loves me'	I love you	(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)
'I can't go on'	My grace is sufficient	(2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
'I can't figure things out'	I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5- 6)
'I can't do it'	You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
'I'm not able'	I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
'It's not worth it'	It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
'I. can't forgive my self'	I forgive you	(John 1:9 &-Romans 8:-1)
'I can't manage'	I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
'I'm afraid'	I have not given you a spirit of fear	Timothy 1:7)
'I'm always worried and frustrated'	Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
I'm not smart enough'	I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
I feel all alone'	I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

Letters

Sunday the 7th August, was a very special day for the McDonald family; it was the day of our daughter Alexis' Confirmation. As I watched this young woman stand in front of the Minister, I couldn't help remember her as an infant sitting on the steps, like numerous children have done before her and will do in the future.



It was lovely to hear members of the congregation say they too remembered her as a child; some even remembered her Christening.

Although Alexis has been a familiar face in our Church while growing up, soon she will be off to pastures new. At the beginning of September Alexis is going to Edinburgh Napier University to study Business Management and will be living in Edinburgh. Her brother Graeme is very proud and pleased for Alexis though he and his daughter Mollie will miss having her around.

Finally, a big thank you to Alastair for a lovely Service and to all the ladies & gentlemen who worked hard to provide an excellent lunch.

Donald & Janette McDonald

The choir was practising the anthem. The choirmaster said to the trebles: 'Now don't forget, when the tenors reach 'The Gates of Hell', you come in.'



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR SUNDAY FUN CLUB



SUNDAY FUN CLUB 11am SCHOOL TERM AGES 3 TO
11
SEE YOU THERE!

We can hardly believe that the 'Summer Holidays' are over, and the children are all heading back to school. I am sure they will all have had an amazing summer and are ready to come back to the 'Sunday Fun Club' and tell us all about their holidays.

We have a busy schedule planned for the 'Sunday Fun Club', at the start of our new session we will be looking at 'Creation' which we are sure they will find very interesting and lots of fun too. The children love all the craft activities we do along with the bible lessons. We have new songs and games for the children to learn.



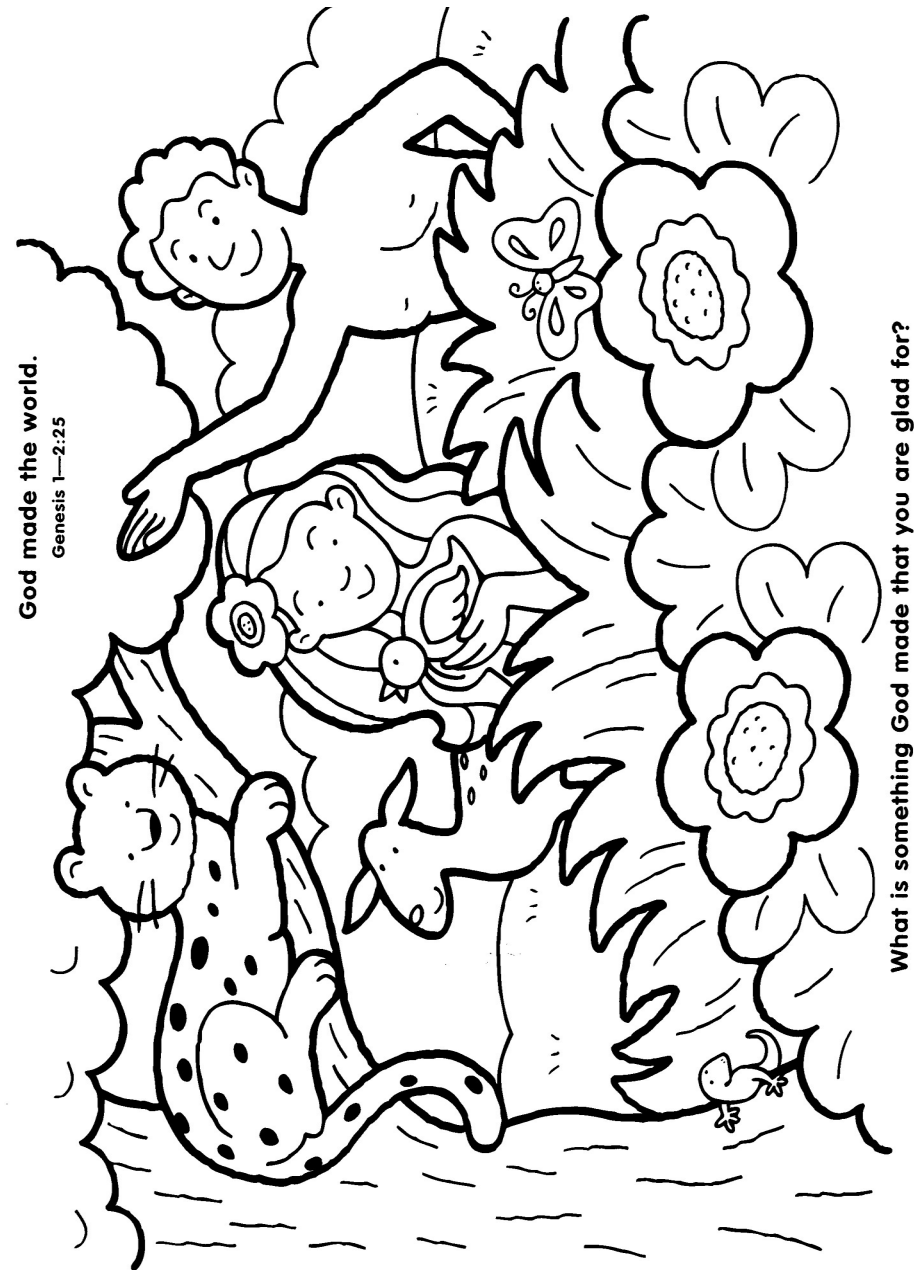
The Sunday Fun Club is for children aged three upwards and we arrange the crafts and topics to suit the different age groups and abilities. We have a dedicated group of leaders who come along to help the children learn about Jesus in a fun, safe environment. We are always happy to welcome anyone who feels they could lend hand. If this could be you please feel free to contact Fiona on 888958.

We also have a crèche for babies up to three years old, maybe you would like to volunteer to help out in our crèche.

The Sunday Fun Club Team

Children's Corner

Colour in the picture below.



God made the world.
Genesis 1—2:25

What is something God made that you are glad for?

WORDSEARCH

Michael and All Angels

The Church remembers angels this month, with the feast day of Michael and All Angels on the 29th. The Bible is full of angels, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In stained glass he's often seen with a sword, because in Revelation he leads the angelic host who fight and defeat Satan and his army.

In the Gospels angels make numerous appearances. Just two examples: Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce the coming of her baby, Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. Another angel was sent to sit in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Michael	Leader	Host	Mary
All	Stained	Defeat	Baby
Angels	Glass	Satan	Jesus
Key	Sword	Appearances	waiting
Crucial	Angelic	Gabriel	Angel

Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. 'Why does she do that?' whispered one. 'I expect she's studying for her final exams,' came the reply.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING



Lord God, you made the world;
You made the land we live on,
the air we breathe,
the water we drink,
the food we eat.

Thank you Lord for the harvest.



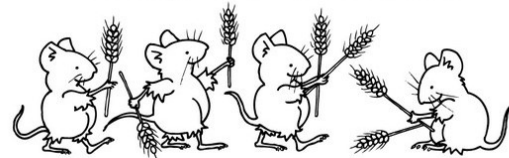
Lord God, you give us all that
we need each day to live.

Thank you Lord for the harvest.



Lord God, help us to share all that you give us.

Thank you Lord for the harvest.



"May the peoples praise you, O God,
may all the peoples praise you.

The land has yielded it's harvest and
God, our God, has blessed us."

Psalm 67:6

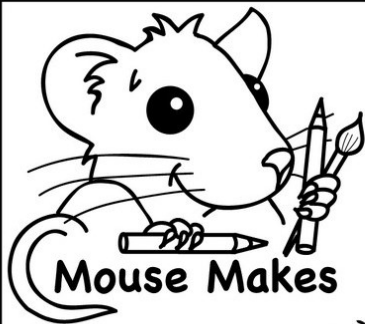


What foods can you think of to finish this acrostic?

H F
A E
Raspberries.. S
V T
E I
S V
T A
L



San16 @ dahnrah nobile • marichnuma co uk



Thank you
God for...





See how many words can you
make using the letters from
HARVEST THANKSGIVING

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

Could have been worse

A very long train with two engines was making its way across America. While crossing the Western mountains, one of the engines broke down. Slowly, the train chugged on. Farther along, the other engine broke down, and the train shuddered to a halt in the middle of nowhere.



Not to be discouraged, the train driver announced:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for a couple of days until the additional engines arrive. The good news is that you didn't take this trip in a plane."

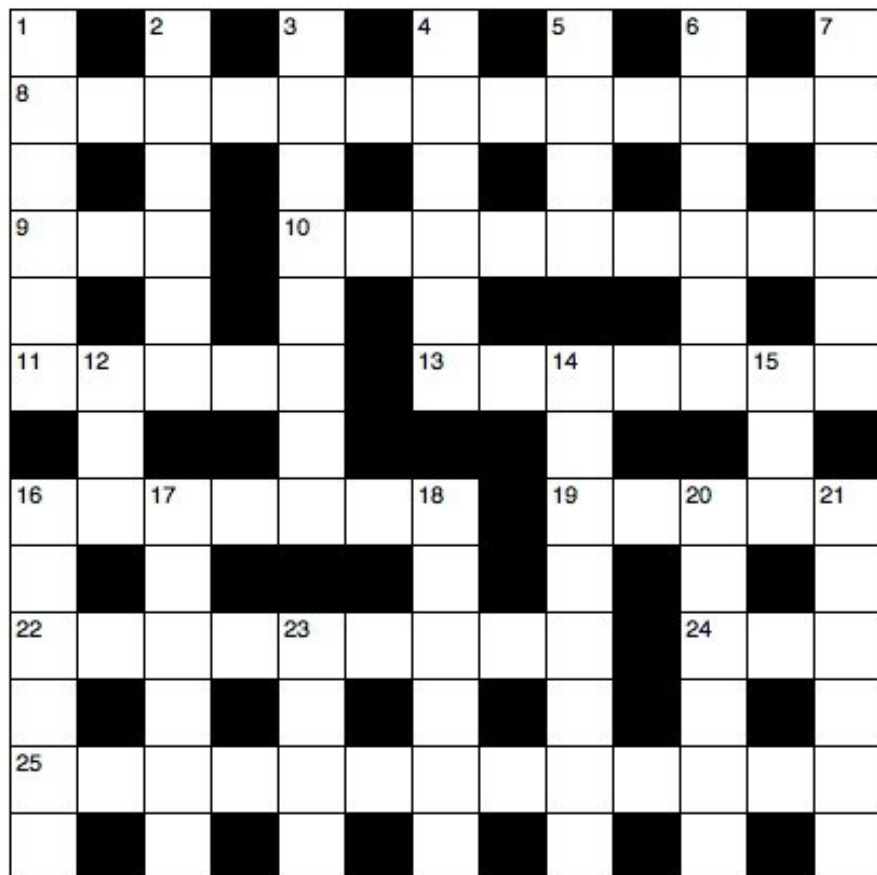
Across

- 8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from

- the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



Dear Minister: I know that God loves everyone but He has never met my sister.
Love Peter (aged 7)

Bible Sudoku

- Each puzzle begins with a blank 9 x 9 grid. A coordinate sytem—with the letters A through I across the top and the numbers 1 through 9 down the left side—will help you place the "givens," or starter numbers, generated by the Bible trivia questions.
- For each puzzle, trivia questions will be answered by the numbers 1 through 9. The coordinates with each question (for example, *A1, C9, H3*) indicate where you should insert that particular answer into the sudoku grid. If you don't know the answer and want to find out from the Bible, references are provided.
- Once you've inserted the givens into the grid, you can solve the sudoku puzzle. The goal of sudoku is to place the numbers 1 through 9 in each row, each column, and each of nine 3 x 3 minigrids (the shaded areas) within the larger puzzle. Numbers can never be duplicated in a row, column, or 3 x 3 grid—so use your skills of deduction to determine what numbers can or can't go into a particular box.

For I3, A4

"Let us not therefore judge — another any more."
(Romans 14:13)

For I6, D3, A5, B9, C2

How many chapters are in the book of Habakkuk?

For E1, G5, D8

Of the lots cast for temple duty, what number lot fell to Mattaniah? (1 Chronicles 25:16)

For F7, I4, B5, H8, C3, G2, D1

How many hundred years did Lamech live after he had Noah? (Genesis 5:30)

For C1, F3, H4, E9

How many measures of barley did Boaz give Ruth? (Ruth 3:15)

For B7, H1, G4

In John 1:35-37, how many disciples of John the Baptist went and followed Jesus?

For D2, A7

How many faces did each of the living creatures have? (Ezekiel 1:5-6)

For B1, E2, C5

How many days old was a man child to be when he was circumcised? (Genesis 17:12)

For D4, F9, C7

Which verse of Philippians 4 says that the peace of God passes all understanding?

Answers on back page

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									



"Standing up for the National Anthem in the middle of the sermon was a a bit of a giveaway that you were watching the Olympics on your iPhone!"

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

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

Sudoku numbers 1,3,9,5,6,2,4,8,7