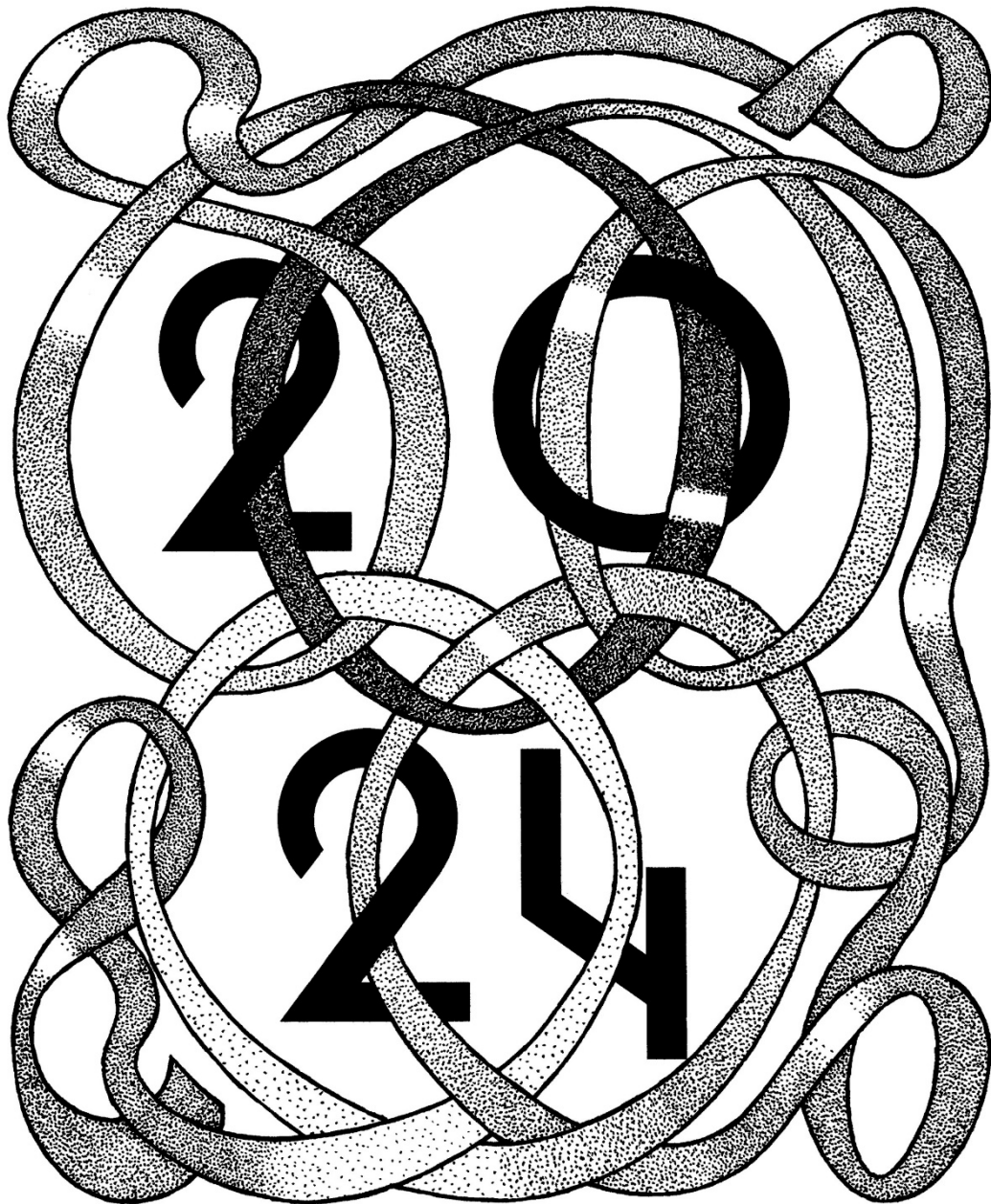


Parish Magazine

July/August 2024

30p



St. John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens
(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

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PCC Secretary:	Mrs Chrissy Gregory
Rainbows:	Mrs Nicola Macdonald Tel: 233580
Brownies:	Mrs Lynn Harrison Tel: 07595 423734
Guides:	Mrs Tracy Boden Tel: 228189
Mumford Room Bookings:	Mr Andrew Boden Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion	7 th July, 4 th August, 18 th August, 1 st September
Morning Prayer	14 th July, 21 st July, 28 th July, 11 th August, 25 th August

Wednesday (10am)

Holy Communion	17 th July, 31 st July, 14 th August
NO SERVICE ON 28 th AUGUST	
Morning Prayer	3 rd July, 10 th July, 24 th July, 7 th August, 21 st August

The Rev Les Thomas asks.....

Is Seeing Believing?

We live in a visual age. Television, computers, smart phones all bring images to our conscious minds – many helpful and life-enriching, others dangerous and morally corrupting. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words.



Whenever the opportunity is given in my preaching or teaching, I will seek out a picture to illustrate the point. If you are a regular viewer of our Team Ministry's YouTube Channel, which I produce, you will know what I mean. I suppose it stems from my twenty-five years of ministry sharing Jesus with people who have learning disabilities. These folk more easily grasp the point if they can see it pictorially illustrated, rather than being told in abstract concepts or words.

But then I believe this principle applies to all of us, not least of all to young people in this visual age. The blackboard and chalk were ditched some years ago, with most classrooms now equipped with screens and digital projectors. If I add here that I look on the church as a classroom, you can see where my crusade is taking me! Last year we visited two beautiful and ornate cathedrals on the continent, and both had these two pieces of visual technology as standard.

For so many people in this materialistic and scientific age, seeing is believing. They need tangible proof that what is being told to them can be shown to be true. Such a stance as that, of course, presents difficulties when people are confronted with what the Christian gospel tells them.

In this June's edition of our on-line Team Magazine, one of our Readers, Janet Yardley, helped us to think about faith. Faith, of course, is that step of accepting something we cannot tangibly see or prove.

I find the acronym F-A-I-T-H really helpful.....Forsaking All I Trust Him.

In a strange, paradoxical and wonderful way, it is when we put our trust in Him – in Jesus - that we begin to experience those tangible moments when we know for sure that He is at work in our lives. Faith has become real. Seeing is believing.....Believing is seeing.

The Easter Story has within it a juxtaposition between the two. You will recall how the disciple Thomas is not with the other disciples when they first meet the risen Jesus. They are

excited to tell him the amazing news that Jesus is alive, but when they share the news with him, he refuses to accept that it's true. Thomas needs proof, and he will only believe it if he can see and touch the wounds of the crucifixion on Jesus' body.

A week passes and the disciples are together when Jesus appears to them again, and this time Thomas is with them. Jesus invites Thomas to touch his wounds. Now Thomas is so convinced that Jesus is alive, that he makes a great affirmation of faith as he exclaims "My Lord and my God". Having seen Jesus for himself, Thomas believes.

It is what Jesus says in response to Thomas' deep expression of faith that has spoken to generations since then. Jesus says to Thomas, "*Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*". [John 20:29-31]

If you haven't already, "*touch and see the greatness of the Lord*".
And having seen, can you fail to believe?

Enjoy your summer.
Les



This Quarter's Team On-Line Magazine is now available for viewing on our
YouTube Channel

[NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT]

This edition includes:

*Two Hidden Windows - Persecuted Christians - Personal Poems -
Living by Faith - St. Stephen's CE School - St. John's Brass Band Evening*



Sanctuary Flowers

7 th July	Mrs Jenny Topping
14 th July	_____
21 st July	_____
28 th July	_____

4 th August	Mrs G Johnson
11 th August	_____
18 th August	Mrs Brenda Brown
25 th August	_____

Thank you to all who support our Flower Fund. ECB.

ROTAS

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

7 th July	Chris D & Bill
14 th July	Bill & Chris J
21 st July	Kath & Jane
28 th July	Nicola & Andrew
4 th August	Brenda & Mavis
11 th August	Chris D & Bill
18 th August	Chris J & Bill
25 th August	Kath & Jane
1 st Sept	Nicola & Andrew



Help is urgently needed to maintain a weekly rota. If you are willing to volunteer, please see me. Chris Jowett

WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

3 rd July	Brenda & June
10 th July	Chris & Janet
17 th July	Eileen & Trish
24 th July	Jean & Mavis
31 st July	Brenda & June
7 th August	Chris & Janet
14 th August	Eileen & Trish
21 st August	Jean & Mavis
4 th Sept	Chris & Janet

Readings rota

July 7 th	Simon	6 th after Trinity	2 Corinthians 12.2-10
July 14 th	Louise J	7 th after Trinity	Ephesians 1.3-14
July 21 st	Joey	8 th after Trinity	Ephesians 2.11-end
July 28 th	Eileen	9 th after Trinity	Ephesians 3.14-end
Aug 4 th	Maggie	10 th after Trinity	Ephesians 4.1-16
Aug 11 th	Joan	11 th after Trinity	Ephesians 4.25-5.2
Aug 18 th	Louise J	12 th after Trinity	Ephesians 5.15-20
Aug 25 th	Chris J	13 th after Trinity	Ephesians 6.10-20

PUZZLES - SUDOKU

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

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

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Easy

Medium

"SCHOOL - RESCUE ME!"

As part of their work to support charities, school are supporting an animal rescue centre called "Rescue Me". The children have been asked to collect postage stamps from envelopes, unwanted foreign currency and any pre-decimal or pre-euro currency people may have hidden in old socks!!!

If you have any such items, please can you pass them to Karen Corbett and she will take them into school.

An Invitation to an Art Exhibition

Many of you in the past have supported Pam Thomas' "Open Studio Days" in her home studio raising cash for the Children's Society.

Now she is staging a solo exhibition entitled "Our Fragile World" at The Arthouse, 65 Eastbank Street, Southport.

Her exhibition runs from 16th July to 4th August – Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm and Saturday 11am to 4pm.

The work includes Ceramic – Textile and Paint.

.....

Prayer for July 2024

Father,

Thank you for summertime, when thoughts turn to holidays and relaxation.

July is a month of endings for many; the ending of the school or college year and for some a moving on to the next stage of education or work. Often, there is uncertainty or trepidation about the future. Whatever stage of life we are at, whatever season of the year it is, we can feel uncertain and concerned in a world which seems increasingly secular and confusing.

Remind us Lord, of Your promise to be with us always, every step of every way, when we put our trust in You, through Jesus.

Thank you that in the ups and downs of life, You never change. You are the rock on which we stand securely, eternally. Help us to move forward confidently, trusting in that truth.

Thank you, Lord.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Nexus
**Churches
Together**

(in North Meols)

Tuesday, 9th July 2024

7.30 p.m.

at Cornerstone Methodist Church

**Everyone is very
welcome!**

The meeting will be led by:

Cornerstone Methodist Church

"Be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose."

[1 Corinthians 1: 106]

Our Vision

At Cornerstone, we have a vision for a re-energised Church and Community Hub that serves the needs of this end of Southport.

We hope to partner with other local agencies to support the needs of people from the youngest to the oldest. From parents and tots, to elderly and infirm.

From special needs youngsters to dementia sufferers and their carers.

As a Christian community here, we know that we cannot do this without God's blessing. We recognize that God doesn't call the equipped, but equips the called. It's in His strength, we're praying that we might realize the vision.

Prayer Week Programme 7th - 14th July 2024

Sunday 7th	3pm	Launch at Café Worship - Rev. Marie-Anne
Monday 8th	7pm	Prayer (up to 30 minutes) Vision focus) [In Primary Room]
Tuesday 9th	7pm	Prayer (up to 30 minutes) [in Primary Room - Joint with Prayer Group] Focus - ecumenical links and mission 7.30 pm Nexus meeting in lounge
Wednesday 10th	2pm	Open Bible Study in Lounge—Strawberries and Cream
	7pm	Prayer (up to 30 minutes) focus families and Young People
Thursday 11th	11am	Thought for the Day - in Lounge - Focus Community
Friday 12th	7pm	Prayer (up to 30 minutes) in Primary Room Focus - Process / Planning etc
Saturday 13th		10 - 12 Lounge and Prayer Room open 10.30 11.00 Prayer Walk
Sunday 14th	10.30	"Sea Sunday." Morning Worship - Worship Leaders

Please, as you are able, also pray at 7pm at home finishing with the prayer on the bookmarks.

Words from Scripture that have inspired us.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future. Then you will come and pray to me and I will answer you."



Our Prayer

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give

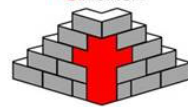
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions
and power to our witness.

Help our Church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you

And in service to our local community.

Through Jesus Christ
Our Lord.
Amen

CORNERSTONE CHURCH



Jesus, our foundation

Prayers
For
Crossens



Churchtown
and
Marshside

Sunday
7th—14th July

WORDSEARCH

Erasmus, patron saint of sailors

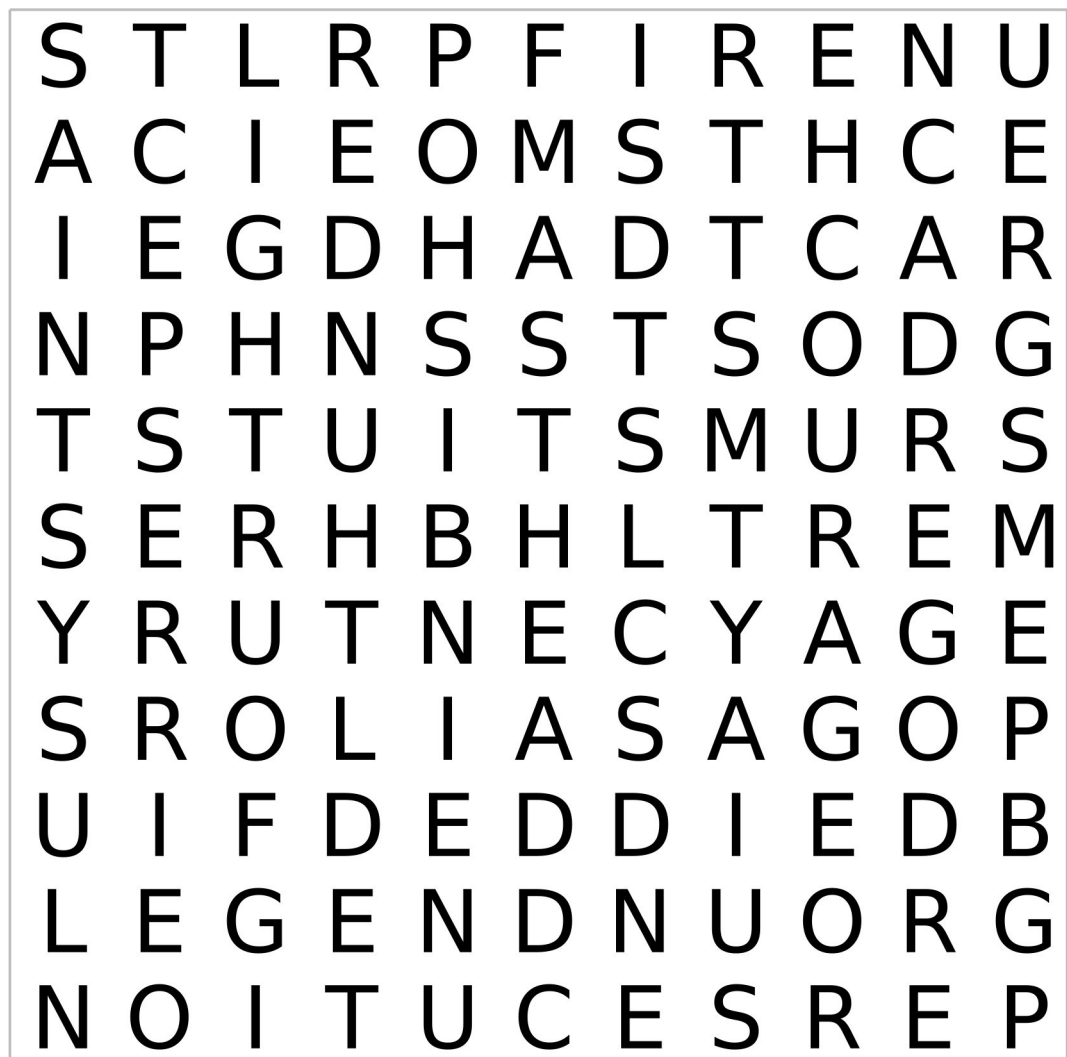
Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea. St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms. Legend has it that one day when Erasmus was preaching outside, a thunderbolt hit the ground right beside him. That might have distracted modern bishops, but not Erasmus – he just kept on preaching. His courage won him the respect of sailors, who made him their patron saint. Erasmus finally died during the Diocletian persecutions in 300AD, and his feast day is 2nd June.

Boats
Elmo
Fire
Light
Masthead

Storm
Sea
Fourth
Century
Bishop

Legend
Preaching
Thunder
Ground
Respect

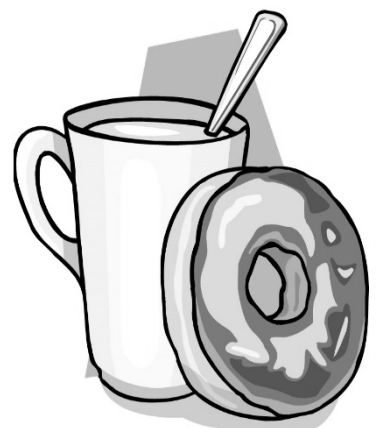
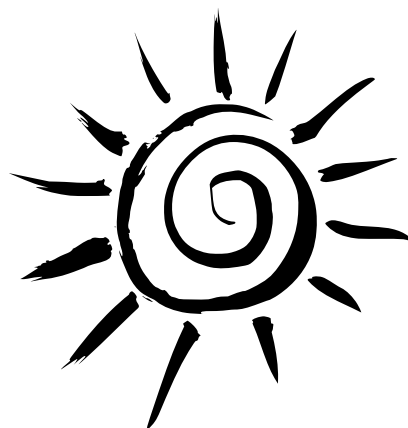
Courage
Sailors
Saints
Died
Persecution



Summer COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13th July

10am-12.00



CAKES & RAFFLE

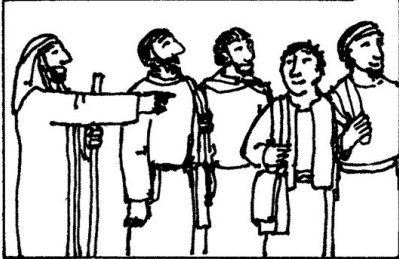
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Numbers chapters 13 and 14

God had rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to the border of the land He had promised them - Canaan. But it was not empty..

12 young leaders were chosen to check Canaan out.



They went north to where Abraham had been buried..



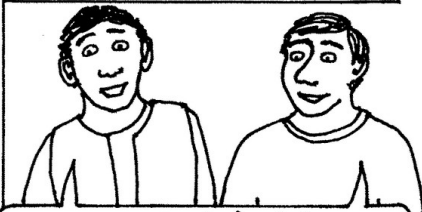
and they returned 40 days later with fruit, and their report...



10 said
The people there are like giants!
We can't beat them.



Caleb and Joshua said..



But our God is bigger than they are. We can win!

But the people said

No! We should have died in the desert!



We'll choose a new leader to take us back to Egypt.



But God said..

I have had enough of you not trusting Me. You will wander in the desert for 40 years before your children return here.



We were wrong to complain. Let's go into Canaan!



Don't attack! God will not help you win.



Not listening!

And the Canaanites chased them out of the country.

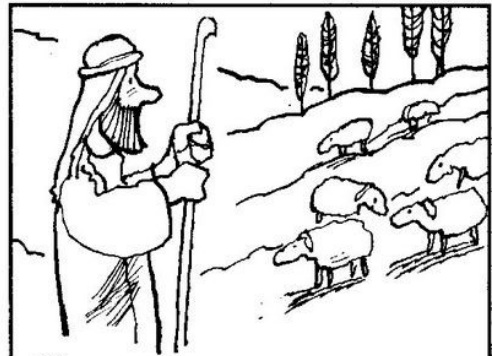


Run away!

The tale of the Lost Sheep



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ALL ABOUT A GOOD SHEPHERD.



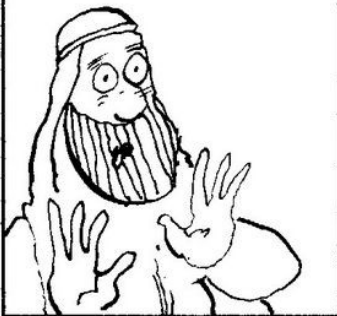
WHO TOOK GREAT CARE OF ALL HIS SHEEP

THE SHEPHERD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH SHEEP WAS SAFE.



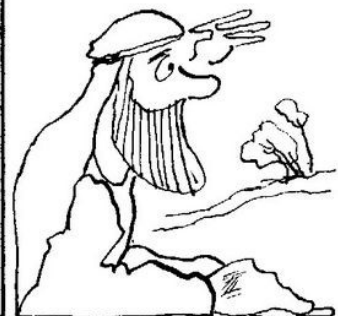
HE WOULD COUNT THEM AT THE END OF EVERY DAY

BUT ONE NIGHT HE REALIZED A SHEEP HAD GONE MISSING

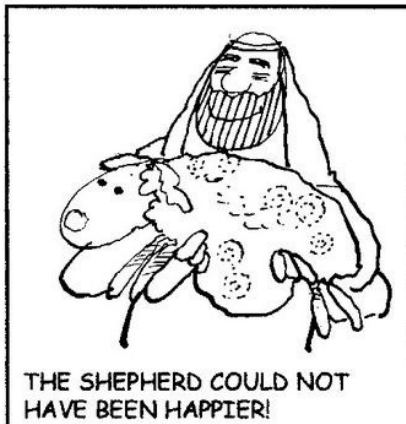


THE SHEPHERD SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST SHEEP

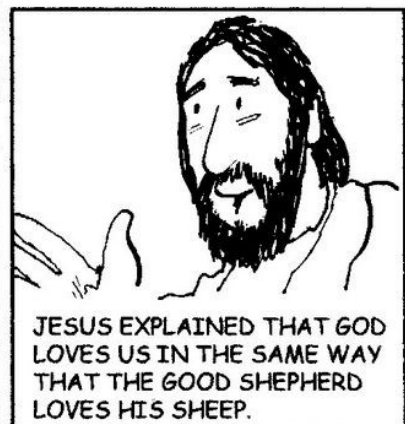
HE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW



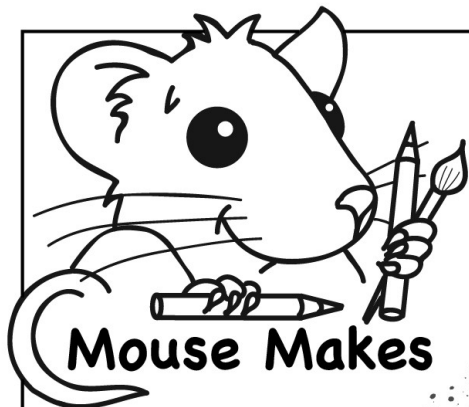
AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP WAS FOUND!



THE SHEPHERD COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT GOD LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD LOVES HIS SHEEP.



How many days did the Lord tell Joshua to march around the city of Jerico?

Joshua 6:3



What did the priests carry that were made from rams' horns?



What was carried along behind the priests?

The _____
Joshua 6:4

Joshua 6:4



On the seventh day how many times did they march around Jerico?

Joshua 6:6



Who was saved from Jerico along with her family?

Joshua 6:17

READ

the story in Joshua 5:13-6:27

Word search grid:

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

JERICO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD
CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND
DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

Find the question answers in the word search too!

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Some colouring for all ages....



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