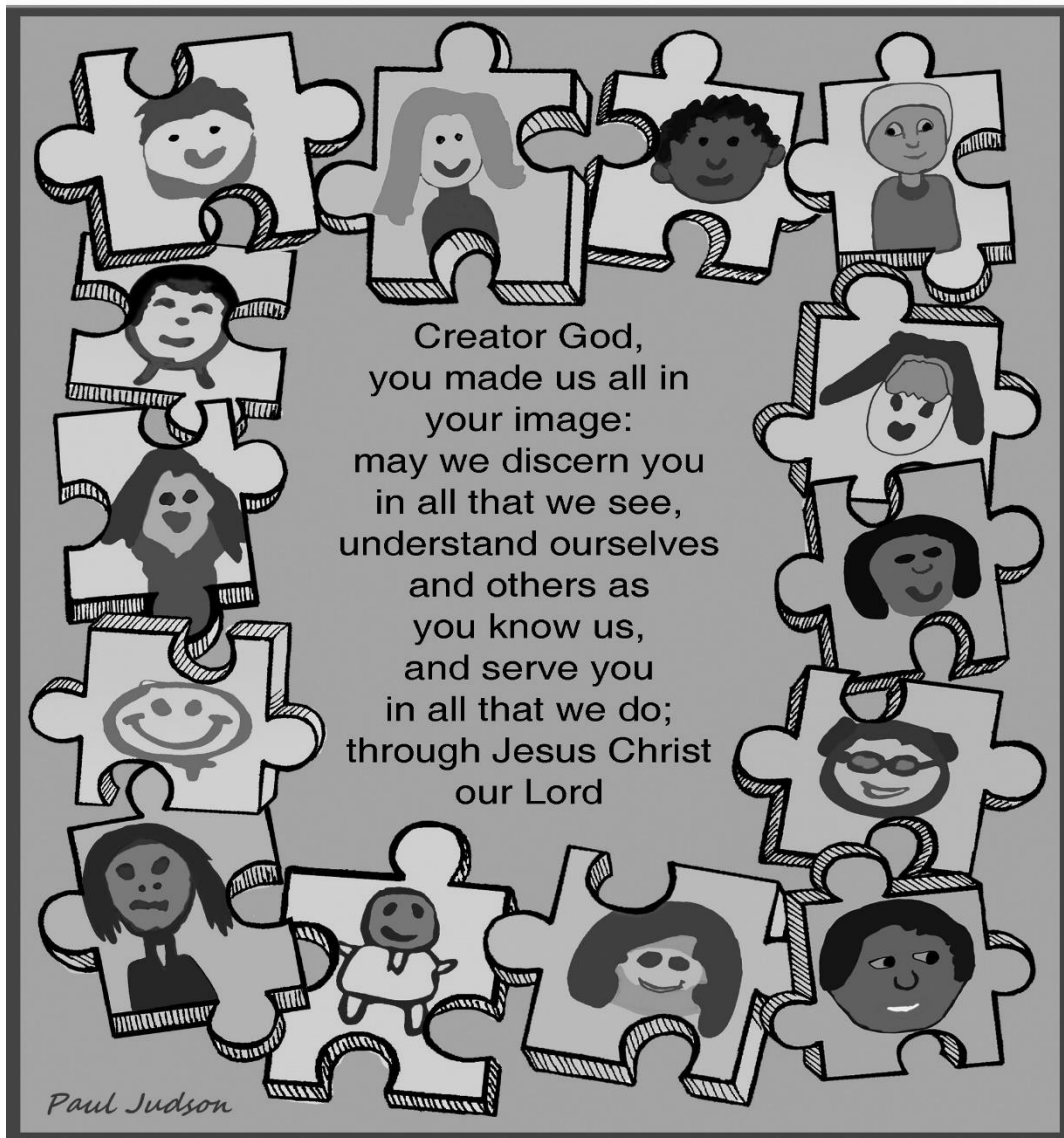


Parish Magazine

July / August 2025

30p



St. John's Parish Church

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

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Church contacts:

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Dr Andrew Macdonald, 7 The Causeway, Crossens
Treasurer: Mrs Louise James
PCC Secretary: Mrs Chrissy Gregory

Rainbows: Mrs Nicola Macdonald
Brownies: Mrs Natalie Flynn
Guides: Mrs Tracy Boden. Tel: 228189

Mumford Room bookings:
Mr Andrew Boden. Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion 6th July, 20th July, 3rd August, 17th August
Morning Prayer 13th July, 27th July, 10th August
******Team Service at St Cuthbert's 24th August******

Wednesday (10am, unless otherwise stated)

Holy Communion 6th August (9:30am), 20th August (9:30am)
Morning Prayer 2nd July, 9th July, 6th July, 23rd July, 30th July, 13th August
******No service on 27th August******

For later dates, please check the website: www.stjohnncrossens.co.uk

Anne Wallbank writes...

With holidays in mind....

I'm sure that many of us are looking forward to some well-deserved time off during the next couple of months. We all need to take a break from the routine, switch off, relax and recharge our batteries before the onset of autumn and the months ahead.

Did you know though, that God invented holidays? Genesis 2:2 tells us that after God had completed his work of creation on the seventh day, "He rested from all His work and blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done." God did this, not because He was tired and needed a rest (He is God after all!), but because He knew that one day, we would. "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath!" (Mark 2: 27).

If we are to continue at our optimum strength, mental and physical fitness, we need to rest our minds and bodies, which is why so many of us, me included, count the days to our annual holiday when we can relax by the pool or on the beach, pound the streets of a new city, walk through beautiful countryside, climb a mountain, or do whatever "getting away from it all" means to you.

But is once a year enough to keep that balanced equilibrium that we need to be effective at work, in the home or at school and in the service of Christ? God thinks not, which is why He blessed the seventh day for our rest. Just think of that - one day a week where we can step away from the daily routine of work and find rest for our souls and bodies in His presence as we read his word, sing His praise and join in sweet fellowship with brothers and sisters in Jesus. What a marvellous idea!

You may wonder which day is the Sabbath, well it is undoubtedly Saturday, but that Sabbath rest which is so vital for our physical and spiritual well-being is not confined to that particular day. In the early days of the Church, believers adopted the practice of meeting together on the first day of the week - our Sunday, which they termed "The Lord's Day." It was the day of Christ's resurrection (Mark 16:2), the day the Holy Spirit empowered the Disciples (Acts 2:1) and it was the day that the risen Jesus appeared to St John on the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:10). In Acts 20:7 it was the day the disciples were meeting to break bread together, and in 1 Corinthians 16:2 it was the day the church was to bring their weekly offering. In Colossians 2:16 Paul wrote "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day..." The keeping of the Sabbath in a holy and God honouring fashion is far more important than the actual day on which it is kept.

Hebrews 4:9 tells us "There remains then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God" suggesting that this is a permanent arrangement and will never be changed - so great is our need for it.

This concept of Sabbath rest is written in to the fabric of creation and we ignore it to our detriment.

Growing up in the 60s and 70s, I remember the days when Sunday had a very different feel to it. The shops were all closed, there were no football fixtures, little work was done, only what was absolutely essential. Families spent time together and there was an air of gentle peace that was also reflected in the television schedules. They were truly wonderful days that I remember with gratitude and joy. But the real difference, is that God was very much at the centre, it was our day to honour Him.

Although the world has changed forever, we can still do that - set aside time in the weekly schedule to give God the place he deserves. We can meet for fellowship, we can praise and worship the God

of our salvation, we can take the time to read His Word and be assured of forgiveness for our faults and failings. Thus renewed, we are able to face the week ahead with new fortitude.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to rediscover this precious gift once again?

Whatever you do and wherever you go this Summer, may it be a time of renewal and refreshing and may it point you to the peace and rest for your souls that Jesus promised (Matthew 11:28-29), Rest in God's grace and salvation and in this world of stress and frenetic activity, may it help you anticipate the perfect peace and rest that awaits us in Heaven.



See you in September
Anne



Tune in this month to our Team's quarterly online magazine.

You will find it on our YouTube channel:

NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT

This quarter's edition includes:

- "Threads through the bible" at Liverpool Cathedral
 - A special presentation sent by King Charles
 - Banks Brass Band celebrates 150 years

Shining Brass

Once a month, if you would ever have the need to go into our vestry, then you would have found Brenda and Mavis rubbing and cleaning our brass and silver furnishings. They have regularly kept this work going for several years and we thank them most sincerely for it!



They now feel that it is time to stop, and they would be grateful to hand over to someone else.

If you feel that you would like to continue this work, then they would be very grateful. Please contact Chris Jowett if you would like to help in keeping our church well cared for.

ROTAS

Sunday Coffee Rota

6th July	Kath & Jane
13th July	Nicola & Andrew
20th July	Brenda & Chris
27th July	Louise J & Heather
3rd August	Kath & Jane
10th August	Nicola & Andrew
17th August	Brenda & Chris
24th August	Louise J & Heather
31st August	Kath & Jane
7th September	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

2nd July	Brenda & June
9th July	Karen – School are in church
16th July	Jean & Mavis
23rd July	Chris & Janet
30th July	Eileen & Trish
6th August	Brenda & June
13th August	Chris & Janet
20th August	Eileen & Trish
27th August	No Service
3rd September	Brenda & June

Readings Rota

06/07/2025	Sylvia	3rd after Trinity	Galatians 6.(1-6) 7-16
13/07/2025	Joan	4th after Trinity	Colossians 1.1-14
20/07/2025	Eileen	5th after Trinity	Colossians 1.15-28
27/07/2025	Simon	6th after Trinity	Colossians 2.6-15 (16-19)
03/08/2025	Nicola	7th after Trinity	Colossians 3.1-11
10/08/2025	Chris J	8th after Trinity	Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16
17/08/2025	Maggie	9th after Trinity	Hebrews 11.29-12.2
24/08/2025	Andrew	10th after Trinity	Hebrews 12.18-end
	or	Bartholomew the Apostle	Acts 5.12-16 or 1 Corinthians 4.9-15
31/08/2025	Louise J	11th after Trinity	Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16

Flowers for June

6th July Mrs J Topping
13th July _____
20th July _____
26th July _____
6th August Mrs G Johnson
13th August _____
20th August Mrs Brenda Brown
27th August _____



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

Are you a native of Crossens? Were you or your family here in 1940's?

Remembrance Sunday is on November 9th. As this year is the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, we will be having a coffee morning on November 8th, and hopefully a display of WWII memorabilia..

If you were brought up in Crossens and hopefully attended St. John's School between 1939 and 1945, we would like to have your memories of that time. Have you any photos of the V.E. Day street parties that we could borrow? What did you parents, grandparents or older siblings do?

Written accounts of your memories, photos, ration cards etc. would be very welcome. If you lend us photos, please write your name on the back, so that they can be returned.

All funds raised will be going to the British Legion.

*Thank you
Chris Jowett*

THANK YOU

Pam and I want to say "Thank You" for your kindness and words of appreciation shown to us on the Sunday I drew a line under my Retirement Ministry.

As I have said on other occasions, these past fifteen years of ministry within our Team Ministry have been fulfilling and a privilege. Thank you.

Les and Pam Thomas.

Puzzles – Sudoku

EASY

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

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MEDIUM

							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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"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.

Nexus

Churches Together

(in North Meols)

Tuesday 8th July

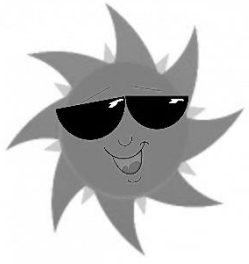
At St Patrick's RC Church

7:30pm

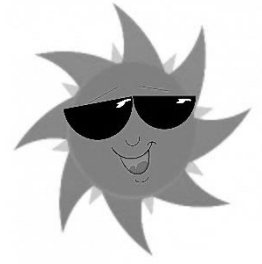
Everyone is very welcome!

"A new commandment I give unto you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"

John 13:34-35



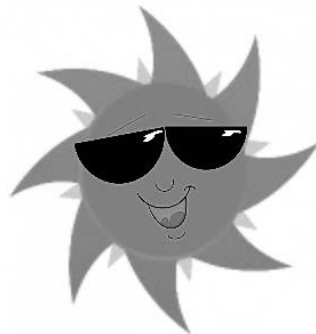
Summer



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12th July

10am – 12:00pm



CAKES & RAFFLE

Tuesday 29th July marks the anniversary of the attacks in
Southport.

The church will be open from 10am until 1pm for private prayer
and reflection.

Peace be with you

(Jn 20:24-31, 14:5, 11:16)

Through absence,
Through doubt,
Through questions
And fears,
Through locked doors
And longing

Jesus comes.

His risen presence
Bringing blessing,
Hope and healing,
Restoration
And His precious,
Faith-affirming

Gift of peace.

By Daphne Kitching

WORDSEARCH

If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month. St Thomas just could NOT believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and dead on the cross could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest sceptic, because he really wanted to know the truth. Jesus could help such a man. And so He appeared to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply showed him the wounds. Thomas's response was immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

Thomas
Doubt
Apostle
Cross
Dead

Truth
Sceptic
Wounds
Lord
God

Appeared
India
Patron
Martyred
Spear

Mylapore
Missionary
Showed
Saint
Madras



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Ruth chapters 1 and 2

When famine came to Bethlehem, Elimelech took his family to the nearby country of Moab. The two sons married local girls.

But Elimelech and his sons died, leaving Naomi, Orpah and Ruth as widows.



Naomi told her daughters-in-law she was returning to Bethlehem.

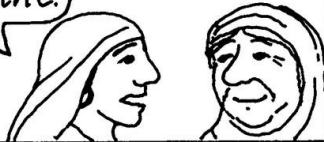


Go back to your parents' homes.

The girls cried, and Orpah left, but Ruth stayed.



I will stay with you. Your people and your God will be mine.



So Naomi and Ruth went back to Bethlehem.

Call me 'Mara' not 'Naomi' * because God has made my life bitter.

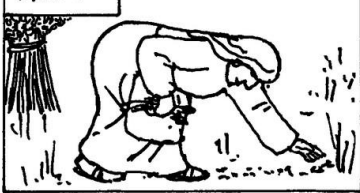


*'Naomi' means 'Pleasant' 'Mara' means 'Bitter'

It was the start of the barley harvest. Poor people were allowed to glean - to pick up the ears of grain that had been dropped. Ruth went out to glean.



She picked a field, asked if she could glean, then worked hard



The field's owner, Boaz, arrived.

Who's that girl?



That's Ruth, who came from Moab with Naomi.



Boaz told Ruth she was welcome to work in his fields.

He told her to join his workers at lunch-time, and made sure she had more than enough to eat.



Ruth worked hard and took home a huge bag of grain.

I worked in Boaz's field.

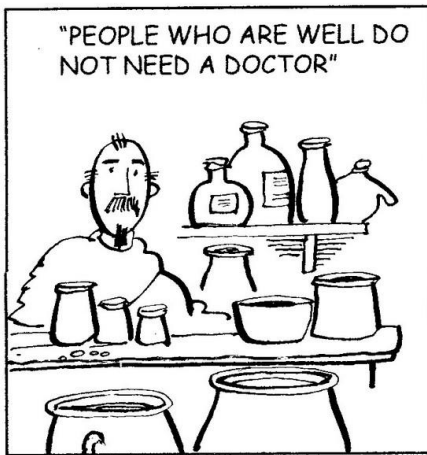
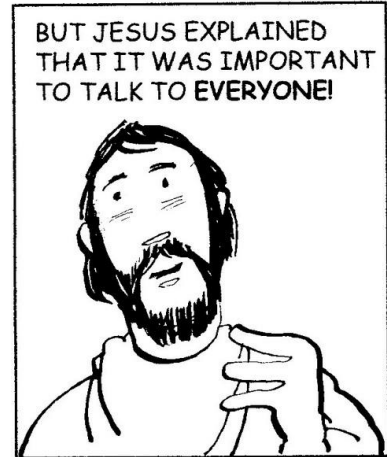
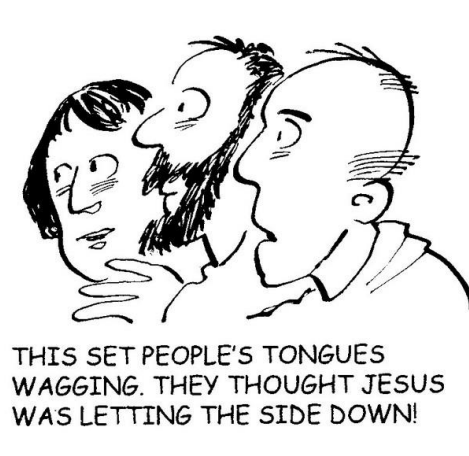
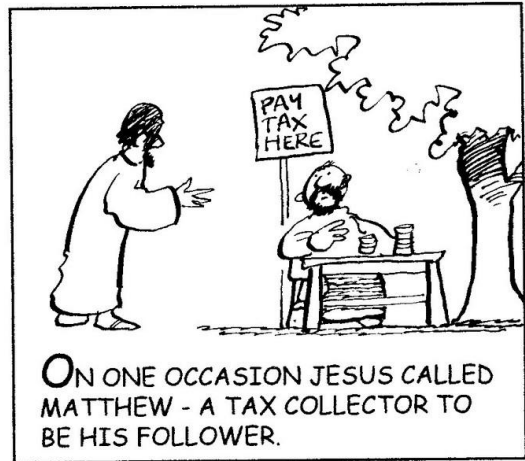
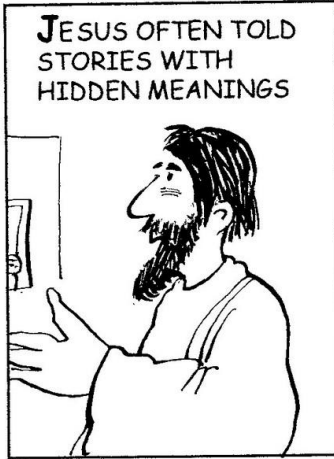


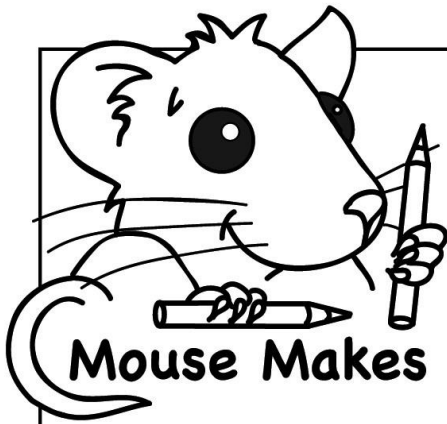
He is a near relative!

Ruth worked all through the barley and wheat harvests in Boaz's fields.

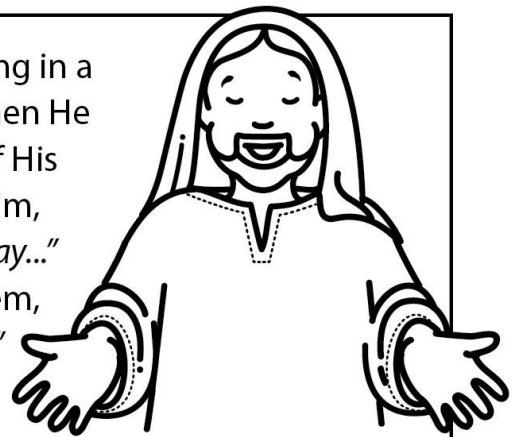


The doctor and the ill person





"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." And He said to them, "When you pray, say..."



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.
For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

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



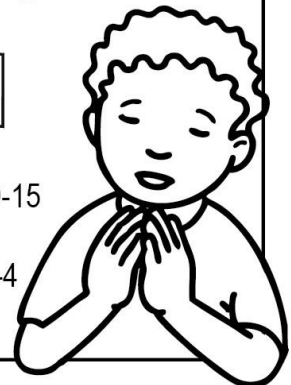
Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



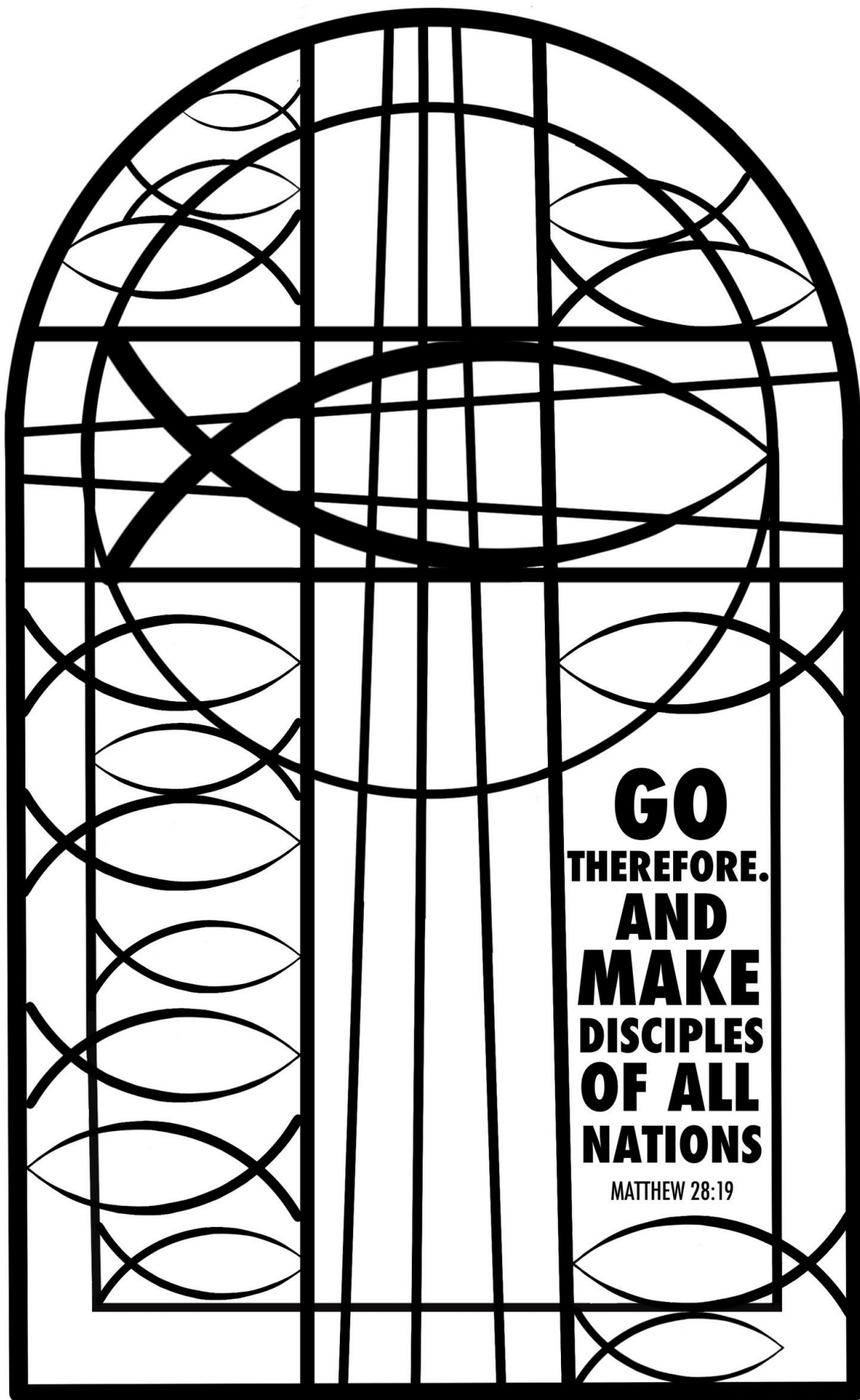
The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



Some colouring for all ages....



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