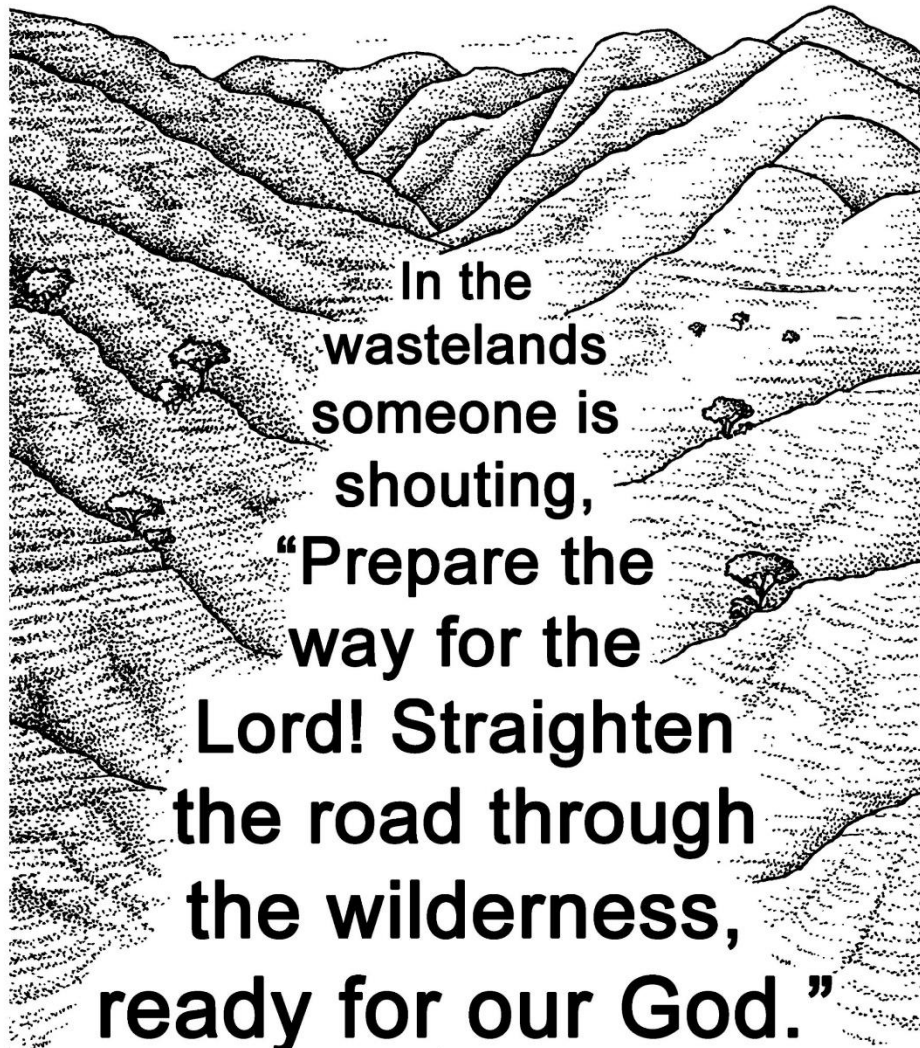


Parish Magazine

February 2025

30p



Is 40:2, Mt 3:3, Mk 1:3 Lk 3:4, Jn 1:23

St. John's Parish Church

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

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Church Contacts:

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Reader:	Mrs Karen Corbett, 40 New Lane, Crossens. Tel: 220192
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PCC Secretary:	Mrs Chrissy Gregory
Rainbows:	Mrs Nicola Macdonald Tel: 233580
Brownies:	TBC
Guides:	Mrs Tracy Boden Tel: 228189
Mumford Room Bookings:	Mr Andrew Boden Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion	2 nd Feb, 16 th Feb, 2 nd March
Morning Prayer	9 th Feb, 23 rd Feb

Wednesday (10am)

Holy Communion	5 th Feb, 19 th Feb
Morning Prayer	12 th Feb, 26 th Feb

*****Team service at St Cuthbert's 12th Feb at 10:30am*****

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

A letter from Paul Jones, organist at St Cuthbert's.....

Dear Friends,

The ancient office of Compline is a Christian act of worship which, like the Eucharist, Matins and Vespers, came into real proper public consciousness from the fourth/fifth centuries AD when Christianity became a State religion under the Roman Emperor Constantine. As it grew in self-assuredness, Christianity ceased from being the persecuted movement of a religion that professed the worship of a peace-loving carpenter's son who was put to death next to two criminals, and became more a faith subsumed under the auspices of the Roman Empire. Part of the Greater Hours of the Christian Church, Compline is still recited today by monks and nuns in monastic foundations and convents before they retire to bed, although in our contemporary world it is rarely offered in Parish Churches.

The opening recitation of Compline begins with the following words from 1 Peter in the New Testament:

“Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist, steadfast in the faith”.

Although people nowadays, those with faith or those with none, are less likely to accept the devil as a figure with a tail, horns and a red fork, they more readily accept the reality of human wickedness, ill will and what the apostle Paul would traditionally identify as powers and principalities. All of us, at times, are caught up within sinful structures and patterns of behaviour that make reaching an ideal seem impossible.

In August of last year we saw some of the exact fulfilment of what 1 Peter talks about. A few people whipped up human fear and anxiety to exploit what was a terrible and tragic event here in our mostly peaceful town of Southport. The explanations for such events are always invariably complicated and frequently do not satisfy the appetite of simplistic communicative media outlets.

Some years ago I purchased a small self awareness examen card from Mirfield Community of the Resurrection, an Anglican Theological centre in West Yorkshire that I visit semi regularly. It encourages the Christian, at the end of each day, to reflect on the past events of the day, examining thoughts, feelings and actions. Doing such things is, hopefully, good in terms of one's relationship with God, even if it's not entirely British! The Old and New Testaments are, of course, full of helpful verses that can be repetitively prayed in times of difficulty: take for instance the opening of Psalm 37 *“Fret not thyself because of the ungodly”* or Psalm 12 *“Help me Lord for no one godly is left”*. Other people find using the simple repetitive chants of Taize like *“Wait for the Lord”*, another means of quietening the spirit. If you want something from the Gospels think, and possibly visualise, the dialogues between our Lord and his disciples, especially the ones like Peter, Simon Zealot, James, John and Judas Iscariot who come into the Gospel narrative for all the wrong reasons.

May I wish you all well as you continue in your Christian journey.

Paul.



This Quarter's online Team Ministry Magazine is now available to view on our
Team's Youtube Channel
NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT

The Programme includes the following items:
The Eagle Comic and Churchtown.....Our New Lay Reader.....Thinking of
others at Harvest Festival.....
The Meaning of Christmas - our Rector's Reflection.....Services through
Advent and Christmas

Sanctuary Flowers

2 nd February	Mrs J Navin
9 th February	_____
16 th February	Mrs E Baldwin
23 rd February	_____



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

ROTAS

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

2 nd Feb	Louise J
9 th Feb	Kath & Jane
16 th Feb	Nicola & Andrew
23 rd Feb	Brenda & Chris J
2 nd March	Louise J



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

WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

5 th Feb	School
12 th Feb	Eileen & Trish
19 th Feb	Brenda & June
26 th Feb	Jean & Mavis
5 th March	No Morning Service (Ash Wednesday)
15 th March	Chris & Janet

Readings rota

02/02/2025	Andrew	Candlemas	Hebrews 2.14-end
09/02/2025	Louise J	4th before Lent	1 Corinthians 15.1-11
16/02/2025	Joey	3rd before Lent	1 Corinthians 15.12-20
23/02/2025	Eileen	2nd before Lent	Revelations 4
02/03/2025	Joan	Sunday before Lent	2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2
09/03/2025	Simon	1st of Lent	Romans 10.8b-13
16/03/2025	Nicola	2nd of Lent	Philippians 3.17-4.1
23/03/2025	Chris J	3rd of Lent	1 Corinthians 10.1-13
30/03/2025	Maggie	Mothering Sunday	2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17

Child's car seat available. (Not a baby's seat). Hardly used
Stair gate, free
Child's play kitchen in very good condition
If interested in any of the above, please contact Chris Jowett

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!



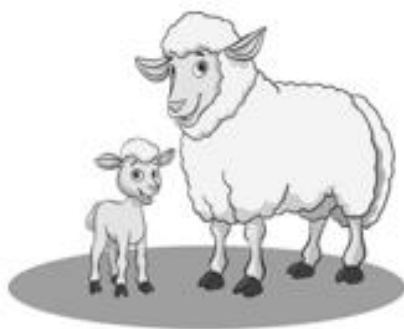
They now feel that it is time to stop, and they would be grateful to hand over to someone else.

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.



St John's Church, Crossens

Spring Time



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 22nd February

10am-12.00



Cakes, Raffle, etc!

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



PUZZLES - 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	

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

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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.

Nexus
Churches
Together

(in North Meols)

Tuesday 11th February

At St Patrick's RC Church

7:30pm

Speaker: Pam Morris (CofE reader)

**Everyone is very
welcome!**

"A new command I give 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]

WORDSEARCH

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

Naming
Christ
Candlemas
Simeon

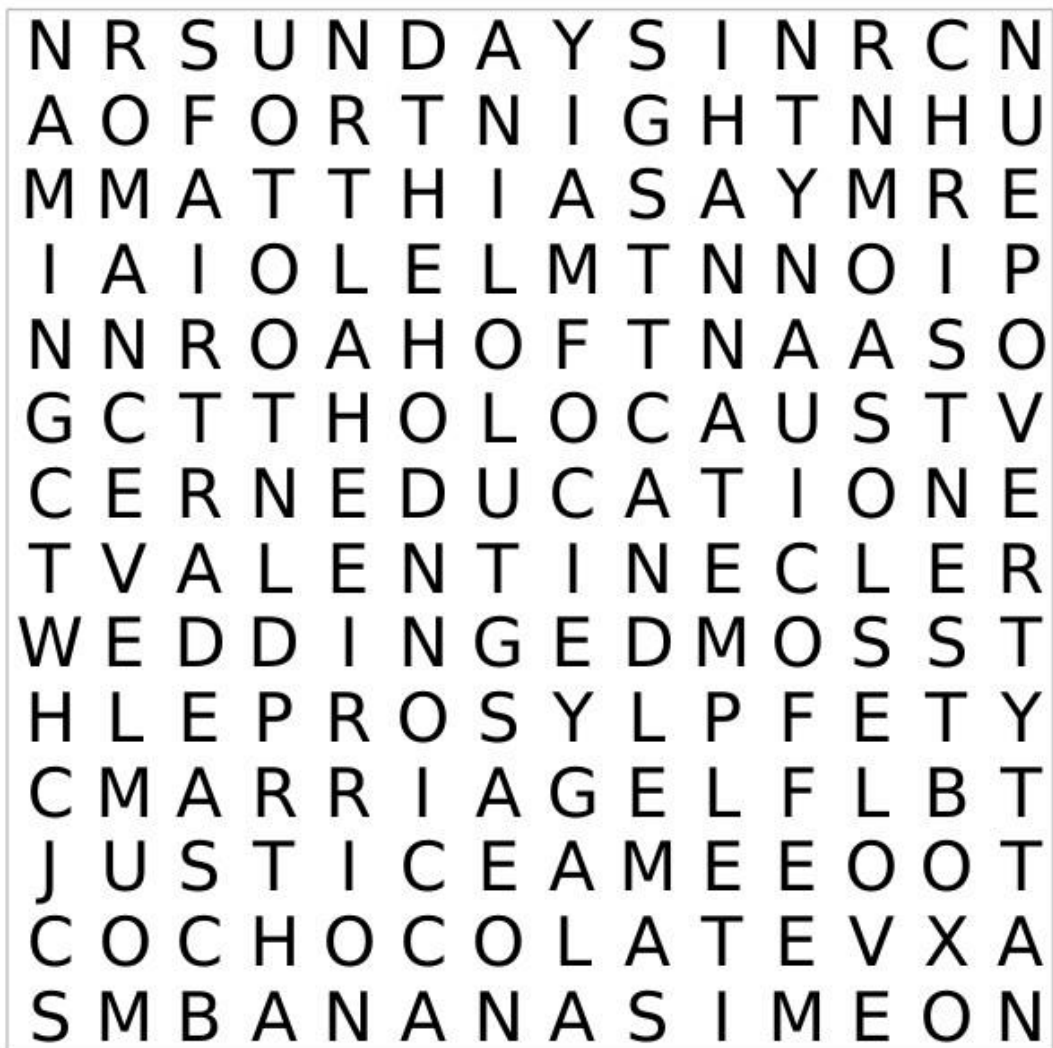
Anna
Temple
Love
Valentine

Romance
Matthias
Fairtrade
Fortnight

Coffee
Bananas
Chocolate
Justice

Poverty
Nest Box
Marriage
Wedding

Holocaust
Leprosy
Education
Sunday



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

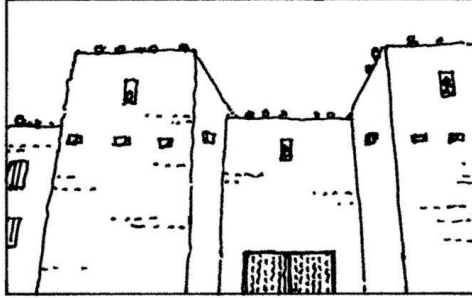
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

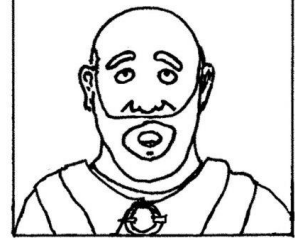
The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



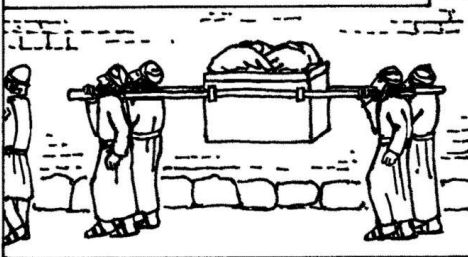
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



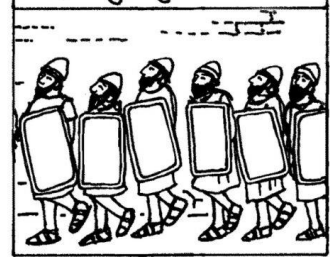
On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



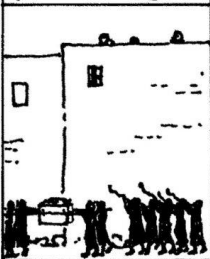
they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



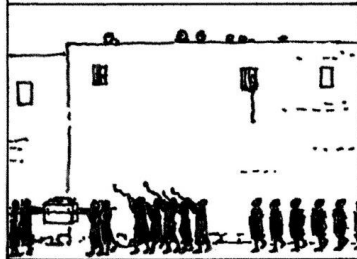
The army followed not saying a word.



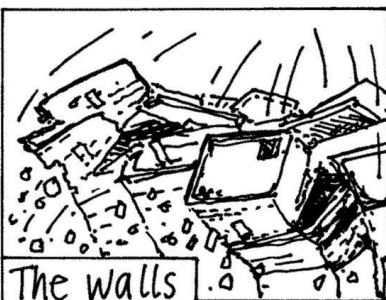
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.

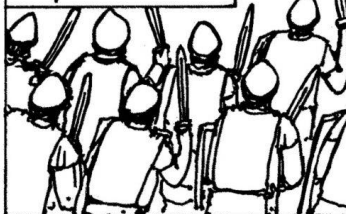


The army gave a victory shout!



The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

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.

YOUR MANAGE IS A CHEAT!

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!

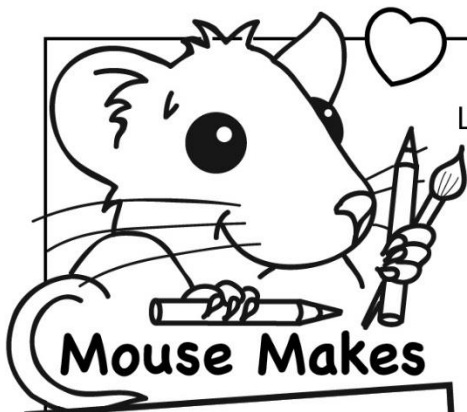
OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

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!



Mouse Makes

"Love is _____,
love is _____.
 It does not, _____,
 it does not _____,
 it is not _____,
 it does not _____.

_____ others, it is not self-

 it is not easily _____,
 it keeps no record of _____.

Love delights in _____,
 _____ it always _____,
 _____,
 _____,

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;
 His _____ never come to an end;
 they are new every _____.

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand...
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,
 how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.

Ephesians 3:18-19



God is **love**.
 whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____
 in them.

1 John 4:16



Give _____
 to the Lord, for He is _____,
 his steadfast **love**
 endures _____.

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES
 GOD LOVE ME?
God sent me a saviour:
 He sent His one and only
 Son into the world so
 that we might have
 eternal life through Him.
 1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:
 He has given you the
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
 with His **love**.
 Romans 5:5

God called me His child:
 See what great **love** the
 Father has for us that He
 would call us His children.
 1 John 1:3

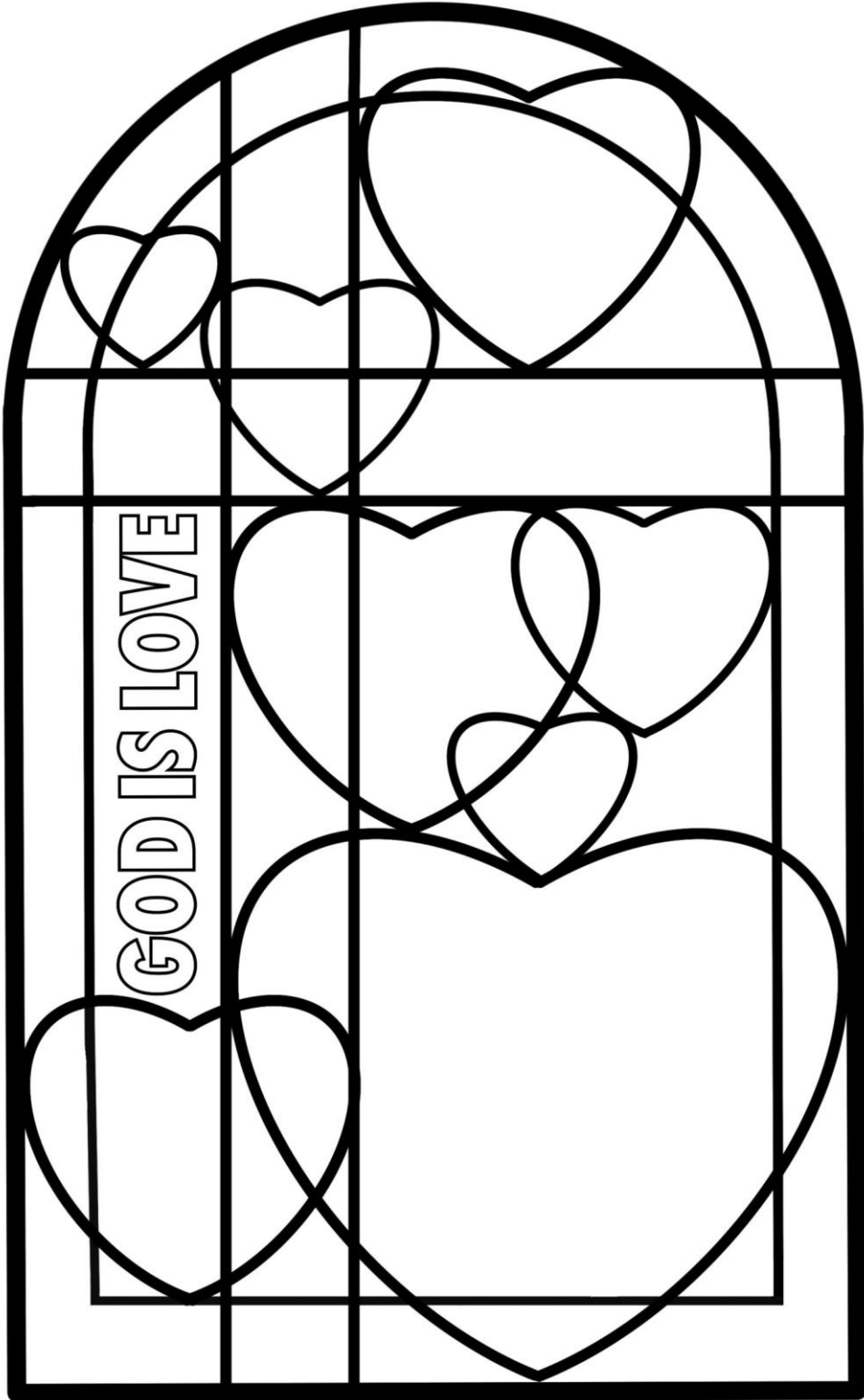
DID YOU KNOW?
 Jesus told us to:
LOVE the Lord your God with
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**
 and with all your **mind**.
 Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the
 same as you **love** yourself.
 Matthew 22:39

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

GOD • LOVE
 PATIENT • KIND
 GRACIOUS • PEACE
 JUST • TRUTHFUL
 TRUSTING • LOYAL
 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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