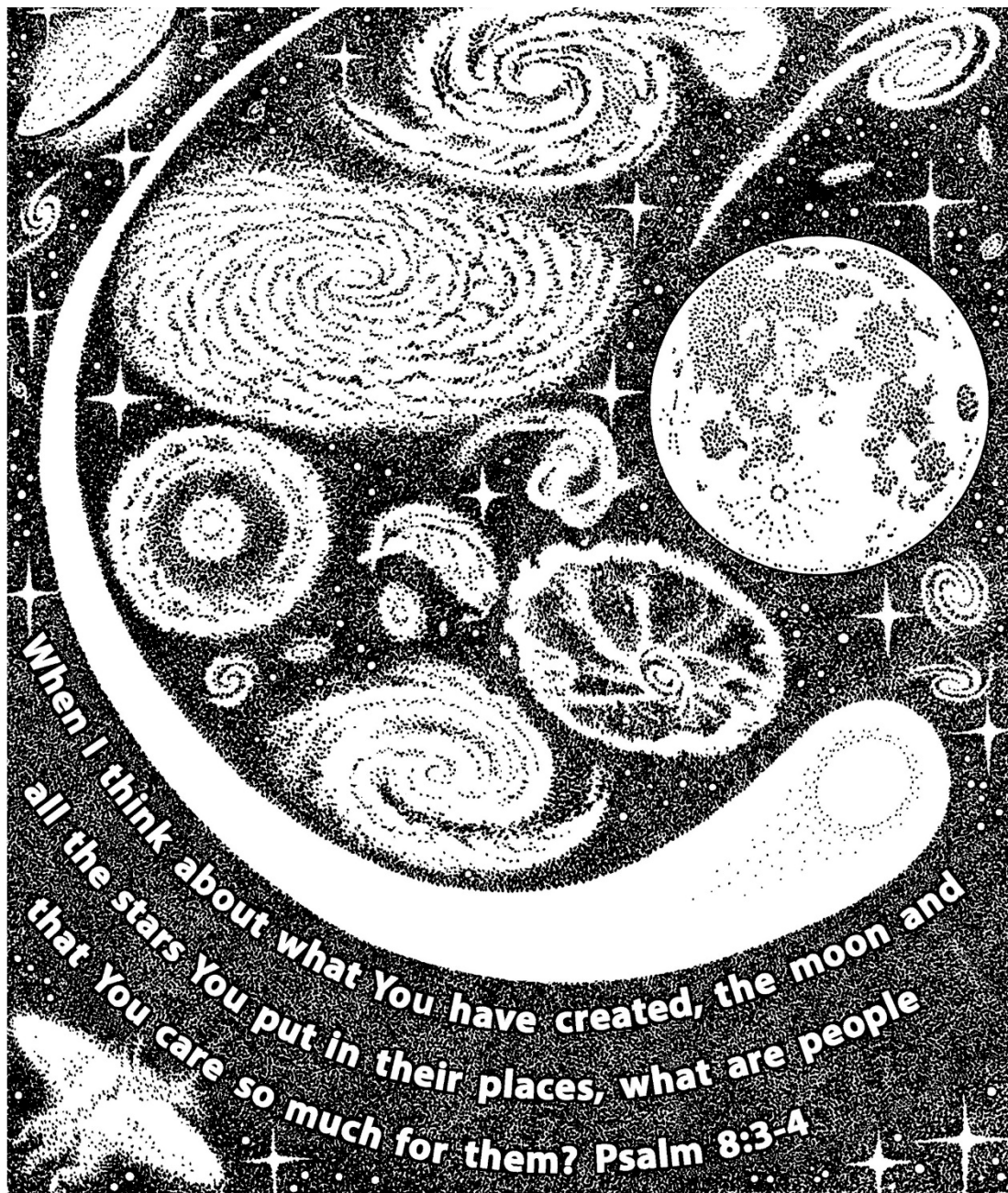


Parish Magazine

November 2022

30p



St. John's Parish Church

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

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Rainbows:	Mrs Nicola Macdonald Tel: 233580
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Guides:	Mrs Tracy Boden Tel: 228189
Mumford Room Bookings:	Mr Andrew Boden Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday:	10am	Holy Communion
Wednesday:	10am	Morning Prayer and occasional Holy Communion

A letter from Rev Les Thomas...



ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY

I have been reading a book about the First World War entitled: "The Quick and the Dead". Most books which recount the people and events of any war, tell the stories of the famous – the generals and the national leaders and of their planning and exploits. However, this book recounts the stories of the ordinary soldier, of their loved ones back home and the state of life during those hard years of World War One.

It is a detailed account of what we could rightly describe as the 'Ordinary' – the life and death situations of ordinary people. Hence the book's title "The Quick and the Dead".

The book provides insights into the sentiments and harsh realities that the soldiers were writing about in their letters home. In many cases, their letters were phrased in such a way that they were preparing their families for their likely death or injury. As their letters were censored, the soldiers had to hold back in being too descriptive about how they really felt.

Back home, wives, children, parents, girl friends had to make the best of life without their 'man'. For some families there was the unwelcome telegram telling them that their loved one was missing, with all the uncertainty that that created. And for some the telegram brought the news that their loved one had been "killed in action". Shattering though this news was, it did bring a sense of closure. It might even have brought a sense of pride, for with such news maybe also would come a letter from the Commanding Officer describing the circumstances in which their loved one lost their life.

In our three villages of Churchtown, Crossens and Banks every family was affected in some way by the War. As our war memorials show us, many local families had to endure the loss of a loved one.

When we stand before those War Memorials on Remembrance Sunday, and remember those individual men of our three communities who gave their lives in the two World Wars and other more recent conflicts, for the most part they were ordinary men, and yet in giving of their lives they were doing something extraordinary.

These individuals we honour and remember might have been the village postman, or a worker in the Vulcan Car Factory, or one of the servants at Meols Hall or Greaves Hall. They might have been a clerk at Southport Corporation, or the young son of the Bank Manager, or a labourer on one of the local farms. If we had lived in those times, these would have been people we knew – serving soldiers whose families lived down our road or whose children were scholars in our village schools. We would have grieved with them in their loss and tried to offer support at a difficult time.

Someone once wrote that God has a special regard for the ordinary person because He made so many of them. Jesus in his own way acknowledged that special regard that God has by saying something a bit bizarre, but wonderful – “even the hairs of your head are numbered” (Matthew 10:30) Perhaps nowhere is that more exemplified than in the vast war cemeteries across Europe. There an epitaph is often seen on the headstone of a fallen, but unknown soldier: “Known only to God”.

Sacrifice is at the very centre of our Christian faith. It is at the Cross of Christ that we see God’s own Son giving his life that we might live. No wonder that so many War Memorials are in the form of a cross, for that relates so meaningfully to the sacrifice of many thousands of ordinary people, who gave their lives that others might live in freedom.

We remember and give thanks for these ordinary people, men and women, who probably being unaware of their actions and sacrifice, were doing something truly extraordinary for other people.

Rev Les Thomas

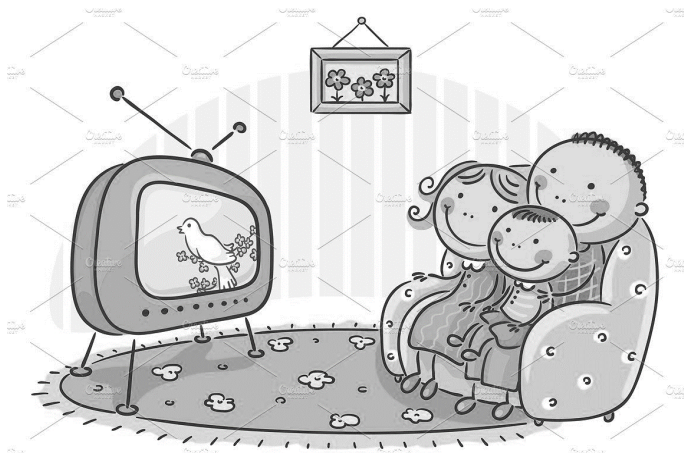
Toy, Gift and Chocolate Service Sunday

HELP MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS
Please bring a new toy
and a small bar of chocolate
to Church on Sunday 4th December

**All donations will be distributed to
families in need.**



Our Team Ministry's
On-Line
Monthly Magazine



Check out the latest magazine
on our YouTube Channel
& the St. John's Web Site
(www.stjohncrossens.co.uk)

Church events...Local
history...Interviews
Christian reflections
and Christian Action...Diocesan
News...
Topical and Local Interest Items
and much more

YouTube Channel:
"North Meols Team Ministry Southport"



Christmas Brunch



St John's Church

Saturday 26th

November

Starts at 11am



Cakes & Raffle

Christian Basics: How Does God Guide Us?

We are all faced with daily decisions about our jobs, future, money, relationships etc. Yet God promises to guide those who listen to Him: *'My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.'* (John 10:27). There are five key aspects of hearing God's voice.

1. Scripture:

The primary way God guides us is through the Bible: *'Your word is lamp for my feet, and a light on my path'* (Psalm 119: 105). The Scriptures give us general guidance for life eg whether to pay taxes, give or forgive others, as well as what to do in particular situations.

2. Holy Spirit:

'And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem' (Acts 20:22). The Holy Spirit helps us to hear God's voice through Scripture, prayer or pictures, and also by prompting us in particular situations.

3. Common Sense:

We must not abandon common sense: *'Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this'* (2 Tim. 2:7). In making most decisions, God uses our thinking about what to do. *'God's promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking'* (John Stott).

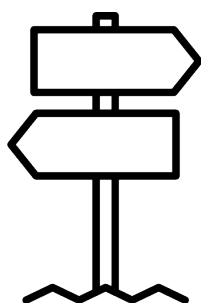
4. Wise Advice:

'Make plans by seeking advice' (Proverbs 20:18). Although we're responsible for decision making, it's good to talk to others about the choices we are making.

5. Circumstances:

God also guides us through circumstances, *'In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps'* (Proverbs 16:9). He will open or close doors in particular circumstances.

We won't always get it right, but God can include our mistakes in his bigger plan: *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him'* (Romans 8:28).



ROTAS

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

6 th November	Kath & Jane
13 th November	Nicola & Chrissy
20 th November	Chris D & Eileen
27 th November	Chris / Bill
4 th December	Kath & Jane



WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

2 nd November	Jean & Mavis
9 th November	Chris & Janet
16 th November	Brenda & June
23 rd November	Jean & Mavis
30 th November	Chris & Janet
6 th December	Brenda & June

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

Sanctuary Flowers

November 6 th	-----
November 13 th	Remembrance Day poppies
November 20 th	-----
November 27 th	Advent. No flowers.
November 30 th	All Saints



Thank you to all who have contributed to our flower fund via our collecting box. ECB.

PUZZLES - SUDOKU

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

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Easy

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

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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.

Churches Together

(in North Meols)

Tuesday, 8th November 2022

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]

WORDSEARCH

November is a wistful month, tinged with sadness and good-byes. The last of the leaves are falling, as the trees go to sleep for winter. It is a month of remembrance, of poppies, of remembering lost loved ones, and of letting go. It is a month of bonfires for the 'Guy', and Thanksgiving for Americans. It is a month of remembering Saints and looking forward to triumph - the church year ends with the joyful Sunday of Christ the King. And then Advent begins...looking forward to a very special Baby!

poppies
remembrance
courage
bravery
flanders

dead
guns
war
peace
afghanistan

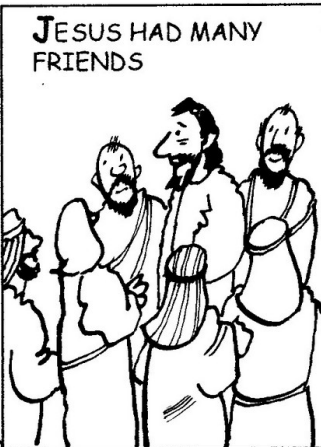
iraq
thanksgiving
turkey
all
saints

advent
leaves
sadness
angel
mary

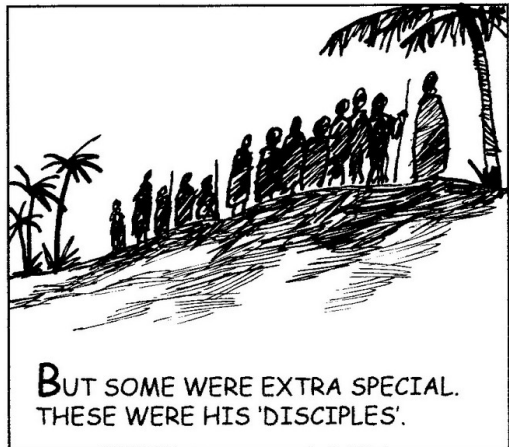
elizabeth
bonfire
gunpowder
guy



The Doctor and the Patient



JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS



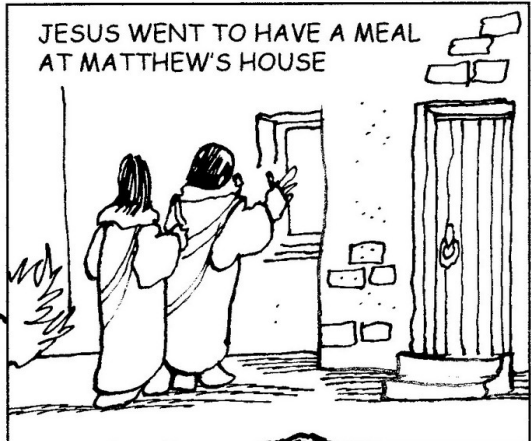
BUT SOME WERE EXTRA SPECIAL. THESE WERE HIS 'DISCIPLES'.



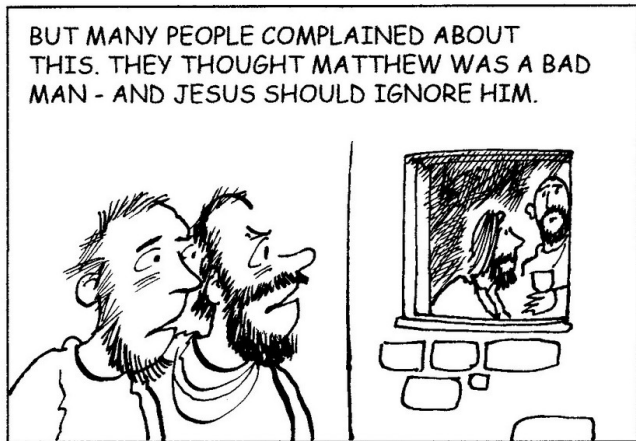
JESUS ONCE ASKED A TAX-COLLECTOR CALLED 'MATTHEW' TO BE ONE OF HIS TEAM



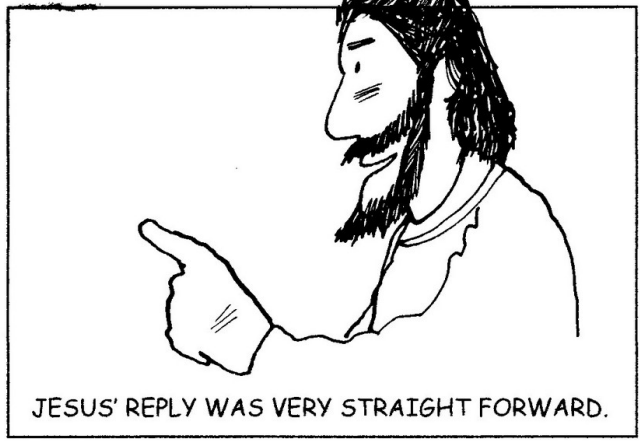
MATTHEW AGREED TO FOLLOW JESUS



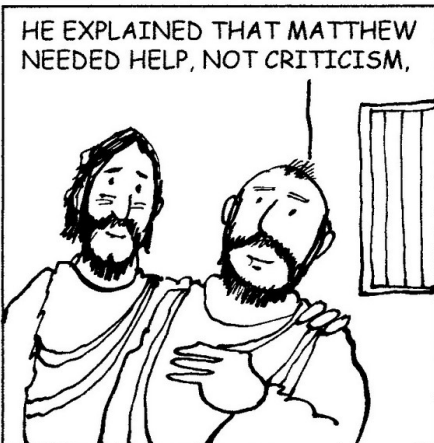
JESUS WENT TO HAVE A MEAL AT MATTHEW'S HOUSE



BUT MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. THEY THOUGHT MATTHEW WAS A BAD MAN - AND JESUS SHOULD IGNORE HIM.



JESUS' REPLY WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD.



HE EXPLAINED THAT MATTHEW NEEDED HELP, NOT CRITICISM,



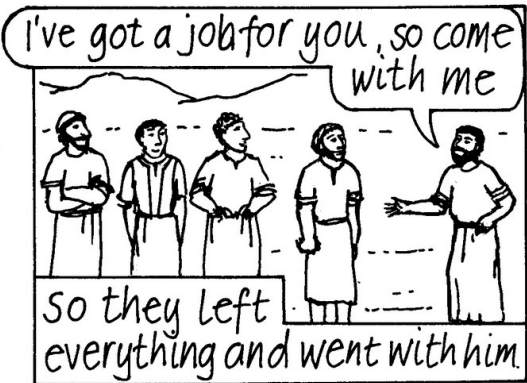
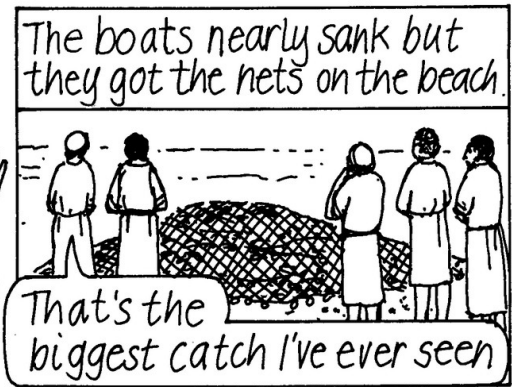
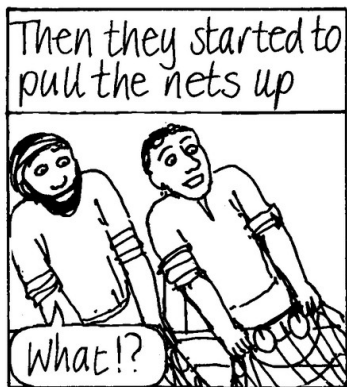
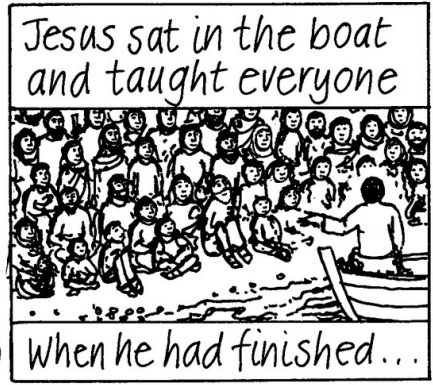
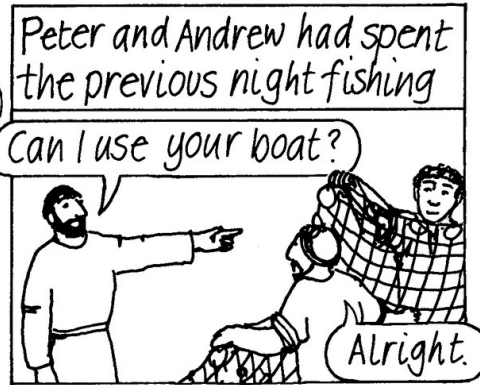
"IT'S NOT THE WELL THAT NEED A DOCTOR - BUT THE SICK!"
see Luke 5:27-32

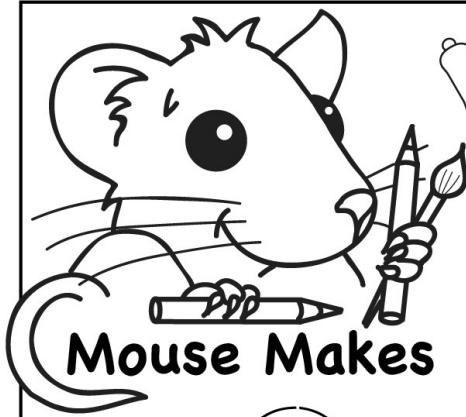
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 5:1-11, Mt. 4:18-22, Mk 1:16-20

On the shore of Lake Galilee, Jesus was trying to teach people but there were so many that he couldn't be heard.





THE COMING OF A KING

The birth of Jesus is fortold



God sent a messenger to Mary
What was the angel's name?

Luke 1:26-28

Mary was frightened,
what did the angel say?
Luke 1:30



READ
the story
in *Luke*
1:26-55



What was Mary to
name her child?

Luke 1:31

What is her son
going to be?
Luke 1:32-33

What does the angel
say about God?
Luke 1:37
(LEARN this verse)



What happened
to Elizabeth
when Mary
went to
visit her?
Luke 1:41



Mary praises God, what does
she say God has done?
Luke 1:46-55

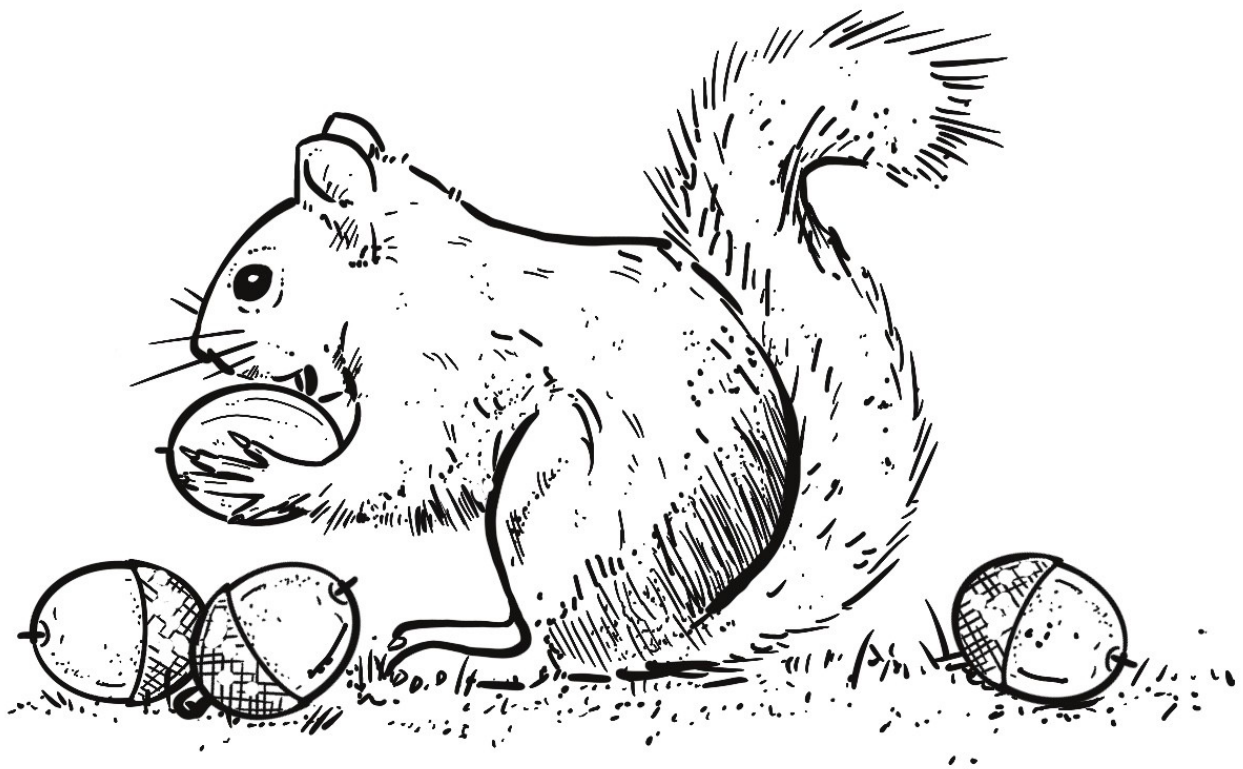


Find the words
in the word
search and
the ___
words too.

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

ANGEL • MESSAGE • GOD • JOSEPH • MARY • BABY • SON • BORN
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