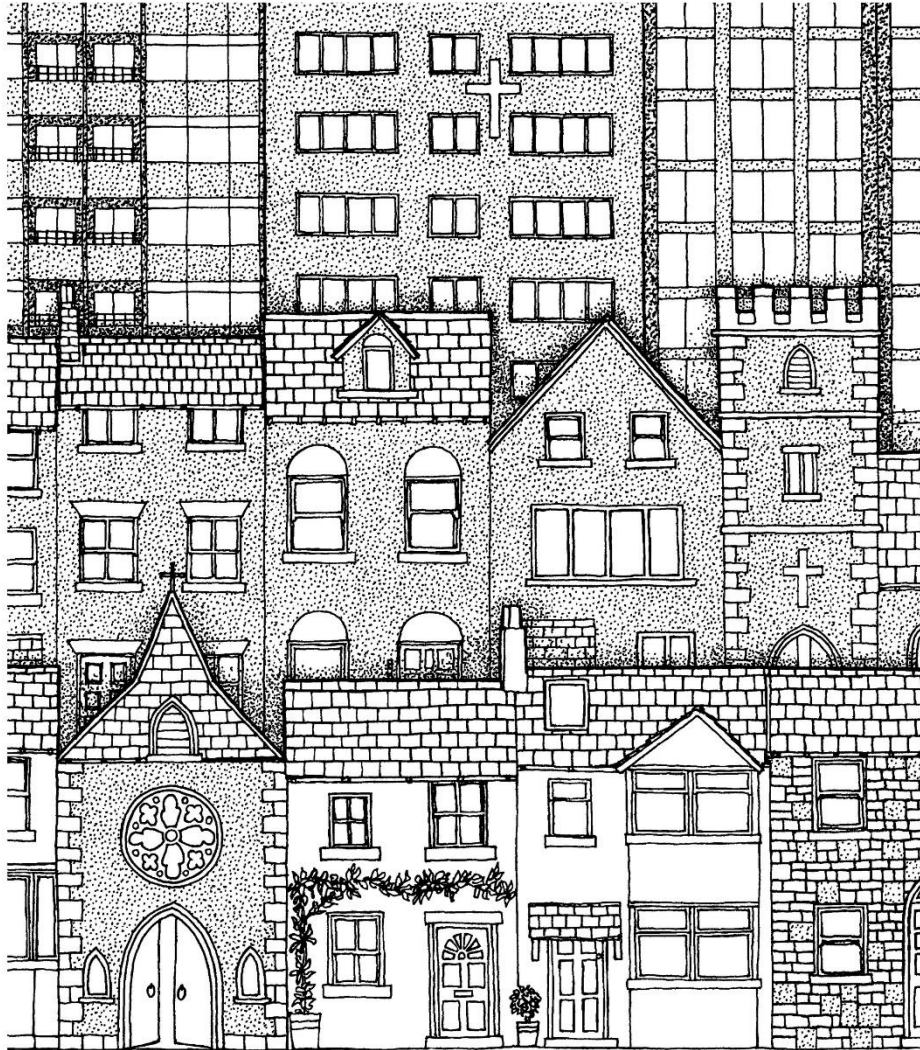


Parish Magazine

May 2025

30p



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:44-47, Phil 2:3-5

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

Brownies: TBC

Guides: Mrs Tracy Boden Tel: 228189

Mumford Room Bookings:
Mr Andrew Boden Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion 4th May, 25th May
Morning Prayer 11th May, 18th May

Wednesday (10am)

Holy Communion 28th May
Morning Prayer 7th May, 14th May, 21st May

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

Karen Corbett writes.....

Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed how some traditions fade away over time? For instance, there used to be Royal Oak Day which was celebrated on the 29th May to commemorate the restoration of the English monarchy. There was also the Rushbearing Festival which was an old English ecclesiastical festival in which rushes were collected and put on the floor of the parish church. Yes, over the years traditions have died out. This month, May, sees a church festival which, too, is sadly dying out. The Festival of the Ascension of Jesus.

In many countries of the world Ascension Day is a public holiday with shops, schools and banks being closed. Here there is no such national observance and, in fact, the numbers attending our Ascension Day service seem to dwindle every year.

Luke is the Gospel writer who puts great emphasis on this event. In fact, it is so important to Luke that he ends his Gospel with it and then goes on to open his second book - Acts - with a more vivid description of this important occasion in the life of Jesus and His disciples.

The Ascension was a watershed moment for the disciples when they fully realised for the first time the magnitude of who Jesus was.

To the disciples it was an ending. It was the moment when they had to come to terms with the fact that their days when their faith was in a flesh and blood person were at an end. But it was also a beginning; the beginning of a relationship that was beyond physical presence. It was the start of a relationship which could never be severed. The disciples knew that they had a master and a friend from whom nothing could separate them any more.

The Ascension gave the disciples the certainty that they had a friend not only on earth but in heaven and surely that applies to us too?

The disciples had enough experience to know that what Jesus said He would do, He would do. There was absolutely no doubt in their minds that Jesus would keep His word when he said he would send the Holy Spirit. This aspect of the Ascension and its implications worth thinking about is that it was and is a test of faith. The disciples had to have the faith that the Holy Spirit would not only come but give them the power, the energy and bravery they would need.

The disciples passed this test with flying colours. The question for us to think about is would we pass the test with the same credit? In a way the test for us is even greater because we have never had the privilege of walking beside Jesus in a physical sense but that should not deter us from having the same faith as the disciples if we believe in a risen, ascended Jesus.

As Paul says, "Nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" .

So on this Ascension Day let us recognise Jesus as our risen Lord and live lives in the faith of those early disciples and just as their faith changed the world, let our faith change our corner of the world too.

Yours in Christ

Karen



This Quarter's on line Team Ministry Magazine will be available to view on our Team's Youtube Channel

NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT

The Programme includes the following items:

A New Look at Numbers with Year 6 at St. Stephen's School.....Exercising Patience as a Christian.....

Is it the End of The Pier for Southport?.....Making the Most of Lent and Easter.....

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

4 th May	Louise J & Heather
11 th May	Kath & Jane
18 th May	Nicola & Andrew
25 th May	Brenda & Chris
1 st June	Louise J & Heather
8 th June	Kath & Jane



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

WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

7 th May	School
14 th May	Jean & Mavis
21 st May	Chris & Janet
28 th May	Eileen & Trish
4 th June	Brenda & June
11 th June	Jean & Mavis

Readings rota

04/05/2025	Joan	3rd of Easter	Acts 9.1-6 (7-20)
11/05/2025	Eileen	4th of Easter	Acts 9.36-end
18/05/2025	Simon	5th of Easter	Acts 111-18
25/05/2025	Nicola	6th of Easter	Acts 16.9-15
01/06/2025	Chris J	7th of Easter	Acts 16.16-34
08/06/2025	Maggie	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21
15/06/2025	Louise J	Trinity Sunday	Romans 5.1-15
22/06/2025	Sylvia	1st after Trinity	Galatians 3.23-end
29/06/2025	Joey	2nd after Trinity	Galatians 5.1, 13-25

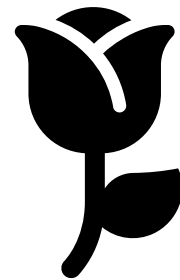
SAVE THE DATE!!

SATURDAY 12TH JULY SUMMER COFFEE MORNING! MAKE SURE THIS IS IN YOUR DIARIES.

DETAILS TO BE GIVEN NEARER THE TIME.

Flowers for May

4th May Mr & Mrs J Sutton
11th May In memory of Audrey Stanley
18th May In memory of Rev Chris Gregory
25th May In memory of Betty Empson



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

Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy- turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall ultimately bow - and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

PUZZLES - SUDOKU

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

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

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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 13th May
At St Patrick's RC Church
7:30pm

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."

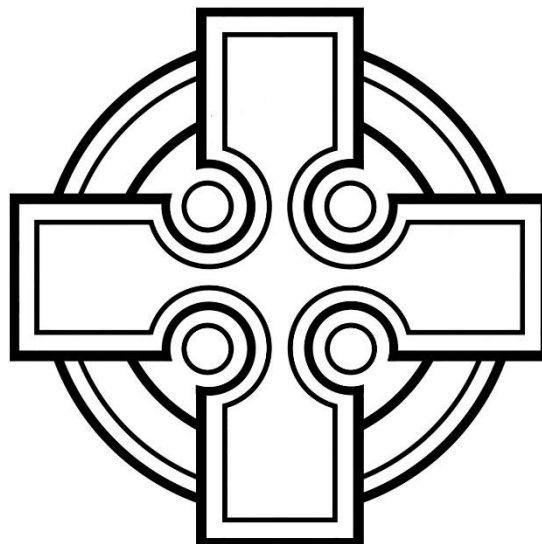
[John 13: 34,35]

Holy Days

25th May: The Venerable Bede – great historian

The Venerable Bede was an outstanding scholar who accomplished several ‘firsts’. He was the first historian to date events from the birth of Christ. He was the first person to write scholarly works in the English language. And, of course, his world-famous, magisterial *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, completed in 731, is still in print today.

Bede was born in about 673, and sent as a child to Wearmouth monastery, and then later transferred to the monastery at Jarrow. His was a quiet life: he probably never travelled further than Lindisfarne to the north, and York to the south. In about 692 Bede was ordained deacon, and then, in about 703, he was priested.



Bede once described his own life: “I have devoted my energies to a study of the Scriptures, observing monastic discipline, and singing the daily services in church: study, teaching and writing have always been my delight.” It sounds unremarkable, but Bede’s fruitfulness has been extravagant: his writings have informed and influenced millions of people over 14 centuries.

As a theologian, Bede translated the Gospel of John into Old English, completing it on the very day that he died. He also wrote commentaries on various books of the Bible.

But Bede’s outstanding gift was as an historian. His *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* is one of the most important sources that we have for understanding early English history. Bede was scrupulous in his use of sources, clearly identifying them. He also was careful to distinguish between fact, hearsay and legend. He had a healthy scepticism, and certainly did not believe that everything he was told was necessarily true.

His *Ecclesiastical History* tells the history of Britain up to the year 729. It starts with the story of the Celtic peoples, who converted to Christianity in the first three centuries after the death of Christ. Bede then moves on to the invasion of Britain by the pagan Anglo-Saxons, in the 5th and 6th centuries. They themselves were in turn converted by Celtic missionaries from the north and the west, and by Roman missionaries coming up from the south and the east.

Bede himself lived during the time of the Anglo-Saxon church, of which he was a wise observer of its various problems. He urged that episcopal visitations, confirmations, and Holy Communions should be held more frequently – for the good of the Church.

Prove it

‘Prove it!’ they cried, ‘that You’re the Messiah
Wouldn’t He come as a conquering king?
Not as a poor man riding a donkey
How do you think we’d believe such a thing?’

Wherever He went large crowds would follow,
He calmed the storm and turned water to wine,
The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear,
Fully a man and yet also divine.

His teaching had never been heard before,
He fed the five thousand with fish and bread
Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed,
He cast out demons and raised the dead.

He died on a cross to take away sin
Rose up from the grave, what more could He do?
To prove of His love for all of mankind
Believe it or not, it’s all up to you.

By Megan Carter



WORDSEARCH

This year is the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Athanasius is the theologian behind that creed, and his feast day falls on 2nd May.

Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, and entered the ministry. He was 29 years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first great ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. There he saw the Council debate the Person of Christ. How was He the Son of God and also Man? Did He really exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

When the heresy of Arius, which taught that Christ was not divine, and not eternal, later threatened the church, Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding.

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism (lessening of the Person of Christ.)

Athanasius
 Nicene
 Creed
 Theologian
 Egypt
 Council
 Bishop
 Debate
 Christ
 Person
 Worship
 Divine
 Eternal
 Begotten
 God
 From
 Light
 True
 One
 Substance
 Devotion
 Scholarship
 Church
 State
 Exiled
 Flight
 Hiding
 Triumph

Christology
 Alexandria



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.

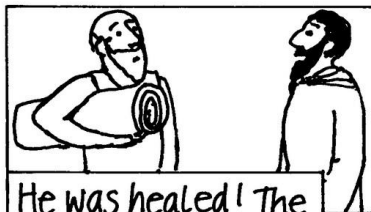


Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the Law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex 20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



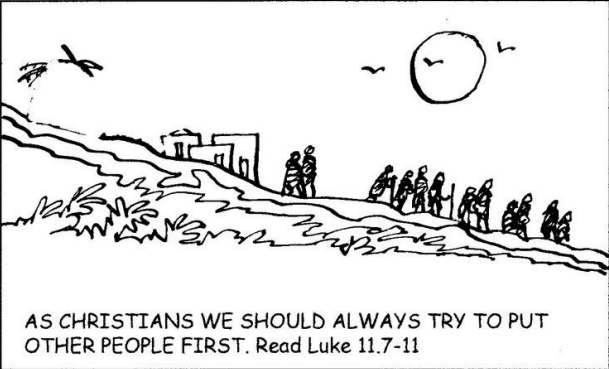
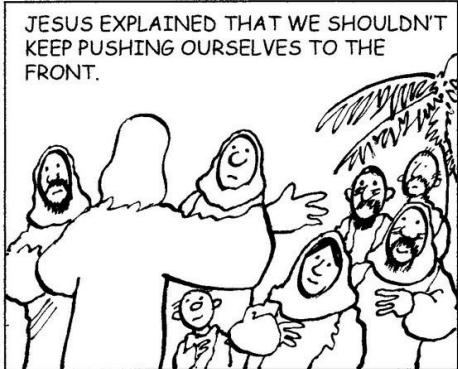
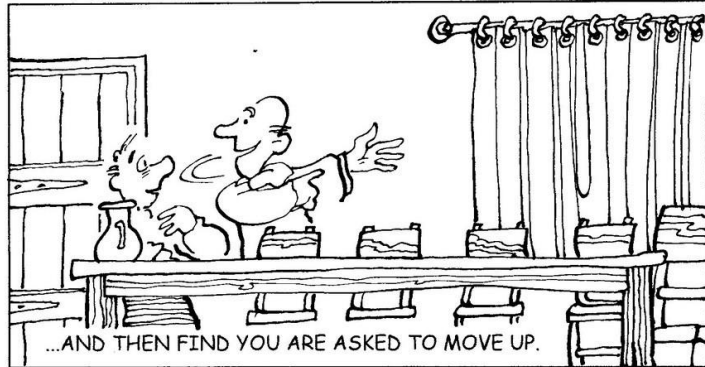
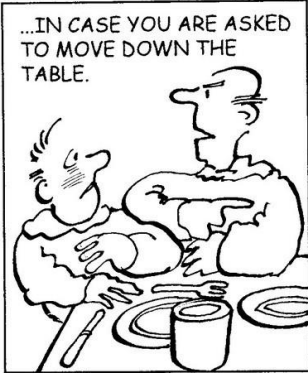
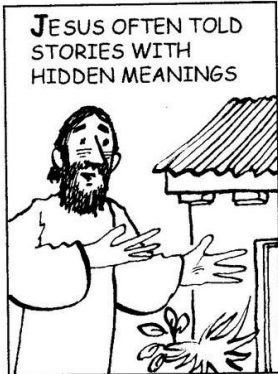
You were working on the Sabbath!

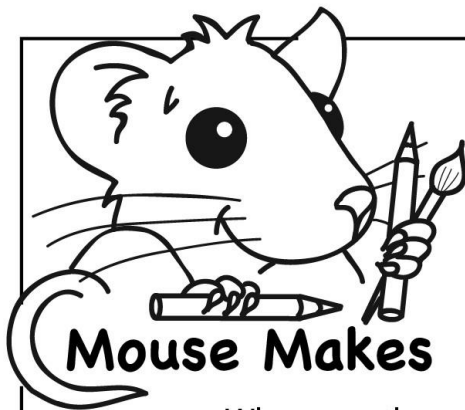
My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well.

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.





MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

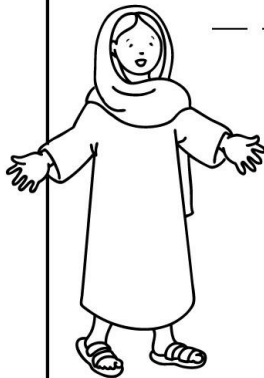
How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

----- years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the -----

Acts 9:36-42



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

"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**

PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE



Find the words from the questions too!

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Some colouring for all ages....



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