

St. Luke's Formby October 2023

Parish Magazine

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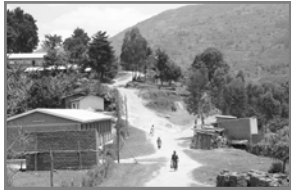
Cheaper by annual subscription

£10.00 for 10 issues a year



**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is faithful.** *Hebrews 10:23*





Shyira Trust

Registered Charity Number 1118979

Hon President: Prof Allan Hobson MBE

Serving the people of Rwanda, Africa



relieving poverty

advancing education

preserving and protecting good health

Kivu Diocese

Aim: To support Bishop Augustin's 5 point programme

- Palliative care in the community
- Church leadership courses
- Development of job creation (entrepreneurship) among youth and women
- Fighting malnutrition and stunting
- Supporting home and family life



Shyira District Hospital

Mothers' Union

Aim: To support MU members in serving their communities

Achieved:

- Members supported with bedding and kitchen utensils
- Training of 25 MU trainers from all over the Diocese
- Successful Revolving Goat Loan project

Challenges:

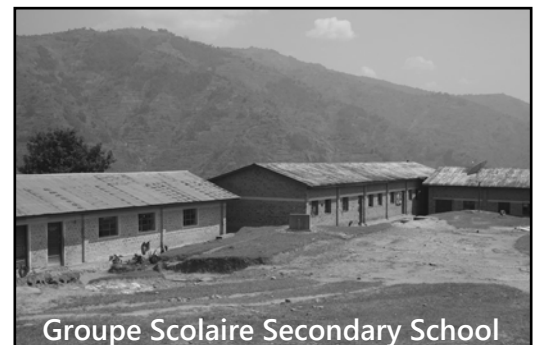
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



Lake Kivu

Primary Schools

Aim: To support school ministry by providing equipment, school materials and evangelistic outreach



Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

Aim: To support needy students in Shyira

How YOU can help

See our website: <http://www.shyiratrust.org.uk>

Email us for further information: shyira-06@shyiratrust.org.uk

Donations may be sent to: Shyira Trust, Secretary: Ken Davies
53 Stapleton Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 2YT

Donate online: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/shyiratrust>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shyiratrust>

Vicar – Revd Dr Matt Davis

From the Vicarage



As I write this, I'm starting to pack for a trip to Rwanda (Passport? *Check!* Mosquito net? *Check!* Vaccinations? *Check!*). Eight people from St Luke's Formby are heading to Shyira in northwest Rwanda to visit the congregation of St Mark's Church. As regular readers of this magazine will know, we have links with Shyira going back over two decades. It was from this link that the Shyira Trust developed under the oversight of Prof. Allan Hobson.

Partly due to the pandemic, it's been a few years since anyone from St Luke's has visited Shyira. Many of us didn't want our link to fade away and we decided that the best way to re-establish our partnership was to plan a visit. After announcing it in church services and inviting others to join us, the current team of eight came together. We've been slowly planning and arranging what we need and what we're going to do.

A few of us have been to East Africa before, but only one of us has been to Shyira before. We've asked Allan lots of questions and sought his advice, so we're probably as prepared as we can be. There are things we know ahead of our journey: flight times, accommodation locations. There are also things we don't yet know: who will we meet, how will we react to a different culture, and how will our tummies react to different food?! These things we can plan for, to a certain extent (Imodium? *Check!*). But to quote a previous American politician, there are also unknown unknowns: things we don't know that we don't know. What surprises await us near the equator?!

Like our upcoming trip to Rwanda, uncertainties are all around us. Life can take many unexpected turns, and nothing is guaranteed. That job might be offered to someone else. The house sale might fall through. This illness might turn out to be serious. How can we deal with all the uncertainties life throws at us? The possibilities can be frightening. So, how can we avoid turning into quivering worrying wrecks?

Jesus gives us some life-changing advice in Matthew 6:33. When we're tempted to worry about all life's uncertainties, he says:

"But seek first God's kingdom, and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Jesus doesn't tell us our concerns are silly, or even wrong. Instead, he tells us the two most important things to concern ourselves with: God's kingdom and God's righteousness. When we're focussed on our relationship with God and living in a way that pleases him and makes him known, everything else tends to fall into place.

(Continued on page 2)

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Joint Editors: Margaret Cooke (e-mail: macooke29@gmail.com) and Ken Davies (e-mail: kendavies1989@gmail.com)

Illustrator: Joan MacDonald

St. Luke's Web Site: <http://www.stlukesformby.org.uk>

St. Luke's Facebook Page: [facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby](https://www.facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby)

So, as I continue to prepare and pack for the upcoming trip, Jesus encourages me to desire God's kingdom and his righteousness. Yes, it's good to pray the flights won't be delayed, that there won't be any stressful surprises, and that we'll have an encouraging time. But it is even better—in fact, crucial—to be praying that God would be at work during our whole trip: that together with the people we meet in Rwanda, we would all deepen in our relationship with Jesus and that we'd encourage one another to live for him. If that's our biggest desire, then it doesn't matter if the trip doesn't go according to plan, or even if our lives don't go according to plan, because God can work through even the biggest of surprises.

Pray that God would be at work? *Check!*

Matt

(See page 8 also)

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CHURCH REGISTER FOR SEPTEMBER

Funerals:

4th September – Marion Beatrice Hobson (Marie)

8th September – Roy (David) Baker

21st September – Gill Head

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DATES AND NOTES

SERVICES – The wearing of face coverings and social distancing are no longer necessary in church. However, it is totally acceptable for those who wish to wear face coverings and socially distance to continue doing so. Zoom is no longer in operation. Services for Oct on page 10.

PRAYER CHAIN – Please contact **Philip Lowe** if you know of someone who would appreciate prayer support (p.h.lowe50@btinternet.com).

PASTORAL SUPPORT – If you, or someone you know would appreciate a visit from our pastoral team please telephone Hillary Griffin (871846) or Jean Watts (877662) (Pastoral Care Co-Ordinators). Jean is also Vulnerable Adults Officer.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – If you would like to financially support the work of St Luke's, offerings may be placed on the plate near the back of church. There is also a card reader by the entrance or if you would prefer to donate from your bank account there are various ways including the Parish Giving Scheme (parishgiving.org.uk) or ask Matt or the wardens if you need any further information.

SOUTHPORT SOUP KITCHEN / FOOD BANK – non-perishable items may be left in the church porch; ongoing.

SHOEBOX APPEAL – boxes available in church. Further details from David Moore email: davjoy3@talktalk.net or tel: 01704 875101. David is happy to deliver in the Formby area. Please return to church at the start of November and not before due to lack of storage space.

ST LUKE'S DAY – Wednesday 18th Oct. (See Wordsearch page 22).

PCC MEETING – none in Oct. Next is scheduled for Wed 22nd Nov in the Meeting Room 7.30pm.

SHYIRA TRUST AGM – Sunday 29th Oct 12.30/12.45pm in the Meeting Room.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS – Sunday 29th Oct. Clocks back one hour.

NEWS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FORMBY, ALT CAR & HIGHTOWN (CTiFAH)

Fiona Grieveson (Joint Warden at St Luke's) has just completed a successful year as Chair of CTiFAH representing St Luke's Church. Each of the member churches appoints a Chair annually on a rota basis. The baton has now been passed on to John Ryan of St Peter's. We wish him all the best for the coming year.



Fiona says: "During my time as Chair of Churches Together, I was able to meet many people from all the different churches involved in this network. Everyone works so hard to support the communities that the churches serve. It was a privilege and pleasure to be part of a large community whose purpose is to reach out and share God's love across Formby, Altcar and Hightown."

CTiFAH play a key role in supporting the organisation of the Holiday at Home programme which ran 14-25 August 2023. This was the 4th year the event has been held. Their volunteer work, along with that of many others, is greatly valued by the elderly folk in our local community - see page 16.

TUESDAY LUNCH, OPEN DOOR SATURDAYS & CRAFTY FOLK

Tuesday Lunch – soup, sandwiches, cake & company from 12 – 2 on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month, 3rd & 17th October. Donations for lunch welcome.

Open Door Saturdays – coffee, tea, cake, and a chat from 10 – 12 on 7th and 21st October, 4th and 18th November and 2nd December. Why not drop in and say 'hello' – you will be made very welcome.

Crafty Folk - Do you like your crafting? Is it hard to find time to sit down and enjoy your craft? We are a small group who like to meet up once a month to knit, sew etc. How about joining us? We meet during an Open Doors coffee morning so there are always refreshments! If you fancy a couple of hours to yourself, time to craft, time to chat, speak to Anne, Gwyneth, or Jean.

CHURCH VISIT TO SHYIRA (RWANDA)

8 members from St Luke's, including Matt our Vicar, will be visiting Shyira from 2nd to 12th October. As most of our readers will know, St Luke's is linked with St Mark's parish in Shyira. This will be the first visit since before the pandemic. We pray they have a safe and rewarding visit in God's name and that new relationships between our two church communities are established. See pages 1 & 8.

CAFÉ @ ST LUKE'S

June McGibbon (PCC) writes: "The last Café@StLuke's of the summer on the afternoon of Saturday 26th August was a very happy occasion. SOS provided the entertainment. It was very well attended. Every chair we could find was brought outside and everyone enjoyed the refreshments and music in the sunshine."

Well done to all at St Luke's who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to make the new Café a success!



MARION BEATRICE HOBSON (MARIE)

9th OCTOBER 1932 - 19TH AUGUST 2023

Marie



“Will you have this dance with me please?” I asked the young woman that I felt strangely attracted to. She replied “Yes!” and that was the first of several dances we enjoyed together that evening of 1st November 1958. We were in the West End ballroom in Birmingham and when the time came for her to go home, I walked with her and her cousin to New Street Station for their train to Wolverhampton and arranged to see her the next day. The dance was going to continue.

Over the next few weeks, we met regularly at weekends, and then her family invited me to stay with them to avoid the travelling. It was then that I started to learn more about Marion, or Marie as she was known to her family, with Marion reserved for when they were displeased with her. She was the youngest of seven children with five living when she was born, but the family was devastated by TB. Before Marie’s 5th birthday two of her sisters and her father had died. There were now just three children left: Marie and an older brother and sister, Danny and Ivy. Through the war years Marie lived with her mother in Wolverhampton with Danny and Ivy away in the army.

On leaving school at age 14 Marie went to work for Britool. A few years later she moved to Boulton Paul Aircraft where she had a clerical job within the factory, and that was where she worked when I met her and until our marriage.

Marie was a member of St. George’s church in central Wolverhampton. It was High Anglican – Anglo Catholic is how it would be described. It had the full works of smells and bells and would make many Roman Catholic churches seem quite ordinary, I thought. Strangely I enjoyed the worship there. Never before had I come across ideas like the reading of the Last Gospel, John 1:1-14, each week as the last act of a Holy Communion service, or Mass as they called it. The church supported many town-centre activities and Marie’s chosen role was as Akela to a pack of Cub Scouts.

Marie’s brother Danny never married, but her sister Ivy was married to John. They had a son called Philip that Marie adored, and he spent many summer holidays with us. Ivy and John are buried in a grave in a municipal cemetery in Bushbury, north Wolverhampton, and Marie is now in a new section of that same cemetery.

I was honoured that Marie agreed to marry me and so it was that on 8th July 1961 she became my wife. Naturally she was late for the ceremony blaming the Wolverhampton traffic, but we had an amazing service including Nuptial Mass. Some aspects of that service were reflected in Marion’s final service at St. Luke’s – a celebration of her life.

I had one more year to do to complete a degree course at Aston, so we lived in Birmingham for a year. Marie got a job working for EMI records. In those days she was well into pop music and followed TV programmes like Name That Tune. She would often beat the contestants but refused to apply to go on the programme.

At the end of my degree course my job with British Rail took me to London where we lived in flats until we were able to buy a house in Reading. Marie worked for an insurance company until Matthew, our first son, was born. She then gave up paid work, devoting her time to the children. Looking at them and their families now I think she did a pretty good job.

We were soon on the move again, this time to Derby. It was there that our second son, Russell was born. It was becoming clear that the kind of job I had with British Rail was totally disruptive to family life, so I returned to Aston for a post-graduate year and then came to what is now John Moores University (Liverpool). We moved to Formby on 22nd December 1968 and started attending St. Luke's, the church just around the corner from our home. It was while we were here in Formby that Melanie was born.

As the children grew Marie became increasingly active in the church, hosting a Bible study group, pastoral visiting and attending Meeting Point for example. She also undertook voluntary work, cooking for Meals on Wheels and then the Luncheon Club. She was a committee member for Age Concern in Formby where she helped in arranging outings, games, and other activities. She was also a member of U3A, particularly enjoying flower arranging and local history.

I did quite a lot of travelling for work and on occasion Marie was able to join me. To do that she had to overcome a serious fear of flying. She did get to some interesting places but always told people it was only because I had to go for work. I was particularly grateful for her joining me on some St. Luke's visits to Rwanda. In the early days following the genocide the visits could be quite challenging.

The last couple of years have seen a decline in Marie's health. Her mobility was very much reduced because of quite serious knee problems, and her memory was declining. However, the stroke that killed her came as a big shock.

To me Marie was the most wonderful wife. She was the mother of our children, a great homemaker, an excellent cook, and a constant companion. At a particularly challenging time when I had choices to make about work, with one option a secure future but the more attractive option lacking security she simply said, "Whatever you want to do I will be with you". She regularly hosted guests from various parts of the world. We have at different times had three Rwandan Bishops and their wives in our spare room, and an Archbishop. Yes, a most wonderful wife and companion. That is why, in my book about the work of St Luke's in Rwanda I wrote: 'This work is dedicated to Marion, my wife. Her support and encouragement made everything possible'. That's another way of saying, I think, that the dance went on throughout our 62-year marriage. The dance is paused for now, but at some time in the future I pray that it may resume.

Prof Allan Hobson MBE

(Donations in memory of Marie to the Southport and Ormskirk hospital charity, c/o Dean's Funeral Services)

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NOTICE –

The Rev Roy David Baker's funeral took place on Friday 8th September at St Luke's. He died on 21st August age 87. Roy/David celebrated 60 years since his ordination at Liverpool Cathedral in 1963 at St Luke's on Sunday 18th June last.

Roy wrote interesting and acclaimed articles for many years in our magazine.

He will be remembered and celebrated fully by his family in our November magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH FROM THE BIBLE, PARISH PUMP & ELSEWHERE

The following quote on FAITH was sent in by church member Linda Trollope:

'Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase' – *Dr Martin Luther King Jnr (1929-1968)*.

Searching for a single definition of the word FAITH has yielded multiple examples of its usage in given contexts (scriptural or otherwise) and which generally relate to 'trust in somebody or something not seen'. Prayer plays a significant hand in the religious context.

Taking the scriptural path, here are a few 'quotes' unearthed which readers may or may not have come across:

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see' – *Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)*.

'They stand best who kneel most' – *Anon.*

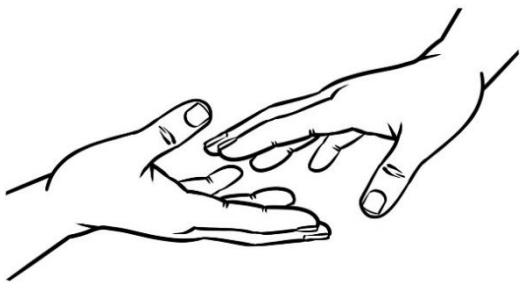
'You are a Child of God. Please phone home!' – *Anon.*

'What we know of God encourages us to trust Him in all we don't know' – *Anon.*

'Who can imagine by stretch of fancy the feelings of those who, having died in faith, wake up to enjoyment!' - *John Henry Newman.*

'The Kingdom of God is simply God's power enthroned in our hearts. Faith in the Kingdom of God is what makes us light of heart and what Christian joy is all about' - *John Main.*

'And without faith it is impossible to please God' – *Hebrews 11:6.*



'Prayer moves the hand which moves the world' – *Anon.*

'Sometimes your only available transportation is A LEAP OF FAITH' – *Margaret Shepard.*

'Faith in God includes Faith in His timing' – *Habakkuk 2:3.*

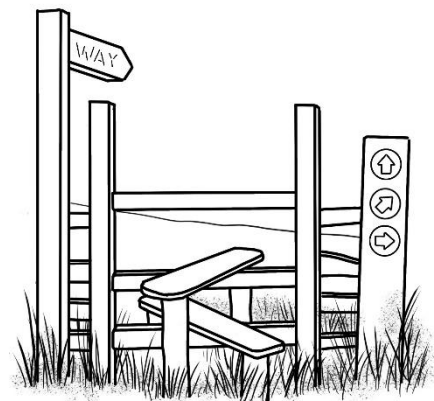
'Have faith in God; God has faith in you' – *Edwin Louis Cole.*

'Faith can move mountains' – *Matthew 17:20.*

'I will walk by faith even when I cannot see' – *2 Corinthians 5:7.*

'That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God' – *1 Corinthians 2:5.*

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart; don't rely on your own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight' – *Proverbs 3:5-6.*



KD

POEMS AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PARISH PUMP

Falling Leaves by Emily Bronte (1818-48)

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.



The Crumbs beneath the Table & A Funny Old Lady by Hilda (present day)

The crumbs beneath the table
May feed the dogs as well.
As golden children able
With those above to dwell.

We see their radiant smiles.
We gaze upon each face.
But we are lowly gentiles –
Just pleading for God's grace.

He tells us we're not worthy
To eat the children's bread.
Our hunger makes us nervy –
We plead the more instead.

Yet Jesus came from Heaven.
For Gentile as for Jew.
Persistent faiths like leaven,
We'll rise to life anew!

I look in the mirror.
And who do I see?
A funny old lady
Looking at me.

I don't know her.
Who can she be?
That funny lady.
She isn't me.

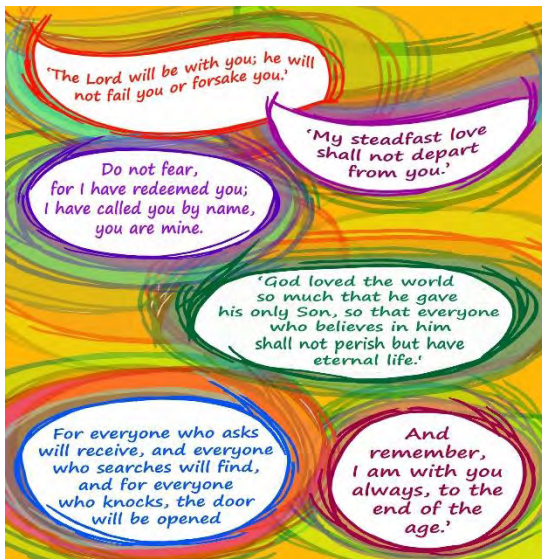
A little like my Nan,
A lot like my Mum.
A face that shows
A life well run.

Lines and wrinkles
Are all to see.
That tired old face
Can't be me.

I am young
With a life to live,
Full of hope
And love to give.

I can skip.
And dance and run.
The life ahead
Has just begun.
The joys, the pain
Are yet to come.

I look in the mirror.
And who do I see?
I see the young woman
I used to be.



OFF TO SHYIRA - RWANDA 2ND-12TH OCTOBER 2023

Well, after months of planning, the date for our forthcoming trip to Rwanda is now just around the corner.

Before we depart, our visiting group of eight have managed to do important things like: book flights, sort out accommodation for when we initially get there, and check out what injections we need. So, in some respects we feel prepared!

You really wouldn't expect anything less if you have in your group a Vicar, a Church Warden, two Beavers' Leaders, and others who were Boy Scouts in their youth!



Whilst we are not expecting anything untoward - *'I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road'* (Luke 10: 3-4) - there is inevitably a sense of the unknown and a feeling that we are very much in God's hands.



Whilst thinking about such it perhaps reminds us of the time when, *'The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go'* (Luke 10: 1).

And as those chosen disciples did so long ago, what we have is our faith and by that faith we know that whilst, *'the workers are few'... 'The harvest is plentiful'* (Luke 10: 2).

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us whilst we are there; we pray that he will sustain our family members who are remaining at home in Formby as well as our brothers and sisters in Christ here at St Luke's; and pray that we may return having formed many fruitful relationships and sown many seeds for the forthcoming year's harvests for us all to share in celebrating the glory of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Every blessing – Team Rwanda 2023

SHYIRA TRUST

The Trustees received the following email from Bishop Augustin of Kivu Diocese in mid-August:



“A three-day youth retreat is going on as planned since yesterday, August 10, 2023. Over one hundred and fifty young people showed up from all over the diocese. Bigogwe is an ideal venue that hosts our participants in big numbers, due to the presence of a relevant conference room and a boarding school to host them during holidays. The facilitators are blessing the youth with teachings that include: (1) Christian youth in post modern times. (2)

Role of youth in Kingdom building. (3) Fighting poverty among youth. (4) Power of united youth. The attached photo was taken today after my teaching (2) above. The retreat ends tomorrow after my teaching (4) above”.

The retreat covers many aspects of the five projects the Trust is currently supporting (reference inside front cover of magazine).

(The Shyira Trust AGM will be held on Sunday 29th October at 12.30/12.45pm in the Church Meeting Room).

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LENT PROJECT MONEY GETS SCHOOL ROOF REPAIRED IN PERU

I have just heard that Isabel will use the £1,424 which we sent her from the Lent project to repair the leaking school roof. Knowing the situation in Lima, where Isabel struggles to make ends meet for the running costs of the school she runs for the children from the shanty town, I'm really pleased that the roof is going to be repaired. In the past it's fallen down, and then the costs and upheaval are even worse!

But, quite rightly, for Isabel the standard of teaching always comes before the fixtures and fittings. And feeding the children a decent meal – the only one they will get in the day - is a close second. However, repairing the school roof before it falls down is a very worthwhile use of our gift.

For the children living in the shanty town, education is the passport out of the poverty trap they are born into. I have lots of photos showing a smiling Isabel surrounded by lots of happy children enjoying the school life which we in England take for granted.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Lent Project.

Joyce Eddlestone

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2023

Sunday 1st October – HARVEST

8.30am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am PARADE

Thursday 5th October

11.00 Holy Communion CW

Sunday 8th October – Trinity 18

8.30am Holy Communion CW
10.30am Morning Service
with Children's Church*

Sunday 15th October – Trinity 19

8.30am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Holy Communion
with Children's Church*

Sunday 22nd September – Trinity 20

8.30am Holy Communion CW
10.30am Morning Service
with Children's Church*

Sunday 29th October – Trinity 21

8.30am Holy Communion CW
10.30am Morning Service
With Children's Church*



(*Term time only – Kids@StLuke's)

**Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.
(Hebrews 10:23 NIV)**

PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

Dear Lord and Creator of all things,

In this fast-moving and high-tech world, help us to slow down – just occasionally – to notice the rhythms of Your creation; the beauty of the colours of autumn; the annual ritual of falling leaves and darkening evenings. All part of Your cycle of the year that we often take for granted.

And yet Lord, there is evidence of changes in our climate – extremes of temperature, droughts, floods, and wildfires. There is evidence that our behaviour might be responsible for damaging Your world.

Lord, we thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness and grace to us. We are sorry when we get things wrong. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us the way to be in a right relationship with You. Help us to put our trust in Him and as part of living Christian lives, to accept our responsibility for caring for the world You created.

In Jesus' name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching – from Parish Pump website

WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Prof. Allan Hobson Mrs Jean Watts Mr Chris Mulford
Reader emeritus	
Churchwardens	Mr Steve Ginn Mrs Fiona Grieveson
Deputy Churchwardens	Mr John McGibbon Mrs Sheila Rodger
Treasurer	Mr Hugh Dixon
Deputy Treasurer	Mrs Gwyneth Croft
PCC Secretary	Dr David Hogben
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Jean Cox
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Andrew Cox Mr John Gelder Mrs Hillary Griffin Dr David Hogben
Gift Aid Officer	Mrs Rachel Patterson
Legacy Officer	Mr John McGibbon
Parish Hall Secretary	Mr Steve Ginn
Meeting Room Secretary	Mrs Fiona Grieveson
Newsletter Editor	Mrs Irene Powell
Magazine Editors	Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr Ken Davies (Contributions by 10th of the month – preferably by email – see page 1)
Magazine Distribution	Mr Colin Cooke
Magazine Collation	Mr David Moore
Magazine Adverts	Mrs Margaret Cooke
Church and Churchyard Maintenance	Mr Allan Worthington
Safeguarding Officer	Dr Peter Griffin
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Joyce Eddlestone
Pastoral Care Co-ordinators	Mrs Hillary Griffin Mrs Jean watts
Vulnerable Adults Officer	Mrs Jean Watts
Health & Safety Officer	Dr David Hogben
Woodland Workshop Co-ordinator	Dr Peter Griffin
Cathedral Representative	Mrs Elizabeth Lowe
Church & Mid-African Mission	Mrs June McGibbon
Church Administrator	Mrs Valerie Hogben

WHAT'S ON

Monthly Prayer Meetings – See weekly news sheet for details. Monday or Tuesday evenings likely days, 7.30pm in MEETING ROOM.

Weekly Home Bible Groups – If you would like to join a group, please speak to Matt. The groups will be looking at Romans this autumn. The course will be video inter-active in nature.

Next What If? Course – courses throughout the year – email: revmattdavis@gmail.com for details.

St Luke's Youth Group for Y6 children and above from 7.45-9.00pm each Sun during term time. It is led by Liz & Matt in the MEETING ROOM. There are pizzas/snacks; games; and a chance to explore and grow our faith in Jesus. Runs during school term time.

Creche - a creche is available at all 10.30am services.

(Toilet facilities available in the Meeting Room throughout all services).

Confirmation classes for juniors and adults are held annually.

Home Communion – The Wardens welcome the names and addresses of the sick and elderly who would like Holy Communion at home.

Baptisms & Weddings – Contact the Wardens after the 10.30 service.

Woodland Workshop – contact Peter Griffin (871846) for details.

Uniformed Organisations in the Church Hall unless otherwise stated –

Rainbows	Contact District Commissioner		Sheila Kirk	875393
Brownie Guides				
4 th Formby	Monday (In Meeting Room)	6.00pm	Julie Maher	07811 907003
8 th Formby	Wednesday	6.00pm	Jenette Rowlands	
Guides				
4 th Formby	Wednesday	7.30pm	Julie Clark	833757
Beavers	Thursday (In Meeting Room)	5.45pm	John Gelder (Beavers8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com)	876456
Cub Scouts	Thursday (In Meeting Room)	6.45pm	Bob Ford Cubs8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com	873026
Group Scout Leader			Gordon Hilbert	874167

PCC – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, **the Standing Committee Members** are Rev Dr Matt Davis (Vicar), Mr Hugh Dixon (Treasurer), Mr Steve Ginn (Warden), Mrs Fiona Grieveson (Warden), Dr David Hogben (Secretary).

Other PCC Members are Mr Andrew Cox, Miss Debbie Davies, Mr Ken Davies, Mrs Ann Dennison, Mrs Anne Dixon, Mr John Gelder, Mrs Hillary Griffin, Dr Peter Griffin, Prof Allan Hobson, Mrs June McGibbon, Mrs Chris Payne, Mrs Sheila Rodger, Mrs Jean Watts.

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SMILE LINES

From medical records....





- ~ On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.
- ~ The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 2022.
- ~ Alive, but without permission.
- ~ She slipped on wet leaves in late September, and her legs went in separate directions.
- ~ The patient was released to the Outpatient department without dressing.
- ~ She is numb from the toes down.



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WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN OCTOBER

St Luke's Church – Refer to pages 2 & 3; page 10 Services; page 12 What's On; & Weekly News Sheets for details.

St Peter's Church and Parish Hall (Paradise Lane) – 01704 871171

- Bingo for the elderly every Sun 8.00-9.30pm and Mon 2.00-4.00pm.
- Bacon Barm & Banter – Monday 2nd Oct, 10.30-12noon (1st Monday of the month except Bank Holidays) in the Bier House (on church site). Free admission, breakfast butties and hot drinks with vegetarian options available. Especially suitable for carers and their loved ones.
- Singing Thursdays! (except for 1st Thurs of the month). Thursdays continue to be full of singing in the parish hall. All groups will meet at 2pm (doors open 1.45pm) and finish approx. 3.30pm. Free entry and refreshments. Everyone welcome, regardless of ability (or none), so join us for light-hearted singing. Carers and their loved ones especially welcome.
 - 2nd Thursday 12th Oct – Singing for Fun.
 - 3rd Thursday 19th Oct – Singing is Good for Your Brain!
 - 4th Thursday 26th Oct – Singalong with Ian & Geraldine.

Formby Methodists

- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (3rd Oct) 2-4pm – see FBS below.
- The Carers' Support Group meets every Fri afternoon 2.00-4.00pm at the Methodist Church. The group is open not only to all carers and the person/s they care for, but also to anyone who needs some additional company or support. Contact Irene for further information on Tel: 876219 or Email: info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk

Formby Library (01704 874177) – Mon to Fri 10.00-4.30pm and Sat 10.00-1.30pm

- Limited delivery service on offer; enquire at Library for details.
- Open for browsing and computer use.
- Family History Help Desk – once a month on a Tuesday. Contact Library for details and booking in advance. Started Sept.
- Monthly talks – contact Library for updates. Booking a place in advance is always advisable.
- Regular Coffee Mornings (every Thursday 10.30-12noon).
- Creative Writing and Formby Hub drop-in are still happening - enquire at Library for details.
- Community Garden project for all ages is likely to be continuing throughout October, but with less work to do. Contact the Library if interested. These sessions are usually announced at short notice.

Formby Befriending Scheme - FBS will be holding their Open Coffee Club on the first Tues of each month (3rd Oct) 2-4pm at the Methodist Church. It is open to older adults who would like to make new friends or just to have some company. For more information, ring: 07437 479 417 or email: info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk

Sefton Dementia Action Alliance – contact Jan Campbell: jan.campbell@seftoncvcs.org.uk for information.

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SMILE LINES – The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir rehearse.

HOLIDAY AT HOME 2023

The Holiday at Home Team for 2023 would like to express their sincere thanks for the support provided by Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown. Thank you for the use of your premises and thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to deliver such a varied programme.

This is the 4th year Holiday at Home has taken place in our area and we had over 250 people attending 24 different events - one extra added to try to cope with demand! Although we were initially overwhelmed by the numbers, and many people were unable to attend all their chosen activities, the feedback has been very positive.

The following was written by one lady who participated:

“Where did you go for a holiday this year? Many people are starting to enjoy travel once more, perhaps now taking those postponed trips or celebrating an occasion or staying with friends. But if, like me, you are not able to do this, or even ‘staycation’ in the UK, how can you still get out, meet new people, catch up with old friends or enjoy new experiences? All local, all with a lift if you cannot travel to venues by public transport.

I am one of the older persons who have been participating in the Holiday at Home Scheme for the Hightown, Ince Blundell and Formby area. I admit that I pick up brochures for coach trips and cruises as I’d love to do both. Circumstances do not allow but I like to dream a little.

However, the last fortnight in August 2023, I had such a lovely time doing new activities, meeting people – some I knew already, others I didn’t know until we came together in our chosen activities.

The activities were so popular, more people than ever took part showing there is a growing need for social inclusion through shared experiences and activities. Most of the scheduled events included refreshments to allow for coming together for chat and to forget any problems or loneliness for a time. I always think the volunteers who do the refreshments are a key part and it’s always welcomed. To me, no occasion is complete without my cups of tea, as those who know me will testify. Thank you to all the people who serve with a smile and offer a ‘top up’.

So, what have I done for my holiday? Physical exercise; singing, rhyme and poetry; learned a new game; more social life than usual. Wonderful benefits for mind, body, and wellbeing.

A huge thank you from myself and everyone attending, to all the organisers, volunteers, drivers, sponsors, companies, and businesses who made this all possible. I don’t know how you do it, but we are all so grateful you do.”

And a huge thank you from The Holiday at Home Team and Formby Befriending Scheme!

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SMILE LINES –

What would Jesus do?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for ‘What would Jesus do?’, and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.

The man pondered a moment, then replied, “I don’t think He’d pay £17.99 for that hat”.

BARNABAS AID: HOPE AND AID FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

(St Luke's PCC continue to donate 10% of the monies received through voluntary giving each year to ten different charities. This is one of an occasional series of articles highlighting the work of one of those charities.)

What is Barnabas Aid?

Barnabas Aid was founded thirty years ago, and its objective is specifically to support Christians who are persecuted for their faith. It works in countries where Christians are in a minority and suffer from at least discrimination and at worst imprisonment and torture for their faith. The charity's website refers specifically to Paul's letter to the Galatians where Paul writes:

"As we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

How does Barnabas Aid help?

- Monetary donations are sent to local partners to be used as they decide to build up churches in places where Christians are suffering discrimination, oppression, and persecution.
- Donations of food and medical supplies are sent into situations where financial assistance may not be possible. Recently food aid has been sent to African countries afflicted by the effects of drought and/or war such as South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Food, clothing, and medical supplies have been transported to Ukrainian Christians and Syrian Christian refugees in Jordan.
- Providing resources for prayer, based on reports back to supporters from those who have received aid; supporters can access prayer updates through the website or by signing up for email updates or the charity's magazine.
- Raising awareness about the plight of persecuted Christians which is largely unreported in our national media. Barnabas Aid has recently set up a streaming service Barnabas+ to share the good news stories about the impact of its work.

Why is this relevant now?

We are approaching a season of remembrance and in recent years, the first Sunday in November has been designated as the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. In 2023 this falls on November 5.

A challenge for all of us is to prepare for that date so that we as individuals can pray for a specific area. There is no shortage of places to pray for: North Korea, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Somalia, Columbia to name just a few across three continents.

The following websites contain more information:

- barnabasaid.org
- opendoorsuk.org

Hillary Griffin – PCC Member

THOUGHT FOR OCTOBER

October, and still no A. N. Other offering to write their thoughts for the month. No matter, I will crack on! Harvest quickens to its conclusion at this time of the year as nature settles itself for the coming winter. The cycle of life continues and how grateful we should be for it!

I have been recently reading The Book of Proverbs – Old Testament book written mainly by King Solomon. Bible readers will know that in The Book of Proverbs ‘wisdom’ comes to the fore, particularly through the Proverbs of Solomon! He asked God during his reign (970-931 BC hypothesised) for wisdom to rule God’s nation and was granted his request.

The theme of the book is to teach wisdom to God’s people. *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. He will make your paths straight.”* (3:5-6).

Proverbs gives us literally hundreds of bits of advice through short and clever explanations on ‘healthy living’. In chapter 1, verse 7, we read that, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* Is ‘wisdom’ then something that can only be acquired through learning, education, and life’s practical experiences through a growing relationship with God? If so, wisdom can be thought of as a process – a ‘life’ process! This further helps to explain why the word is generally associated with elderly folk ‘who know best’ through sayings like ‘wise old owl’. Are younger people therefore completely exempt from wisdom? What about phrases like, ‘old heads on young shoulders’. Is true wisdom therefore only obtainable over time and through forming a strong relationship with God? What do you think? *“With age comes wisdom. But sometimes age comes alone”* (Oscar Wilde).

Have a quiet autumn!

“To Autumn” the *“season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”* (John Keats).

KD



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows



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For further information, or to make an appointment to view **Formby Manor** contact the team on 01704 339090 or email enquiries@newcarehomes.com

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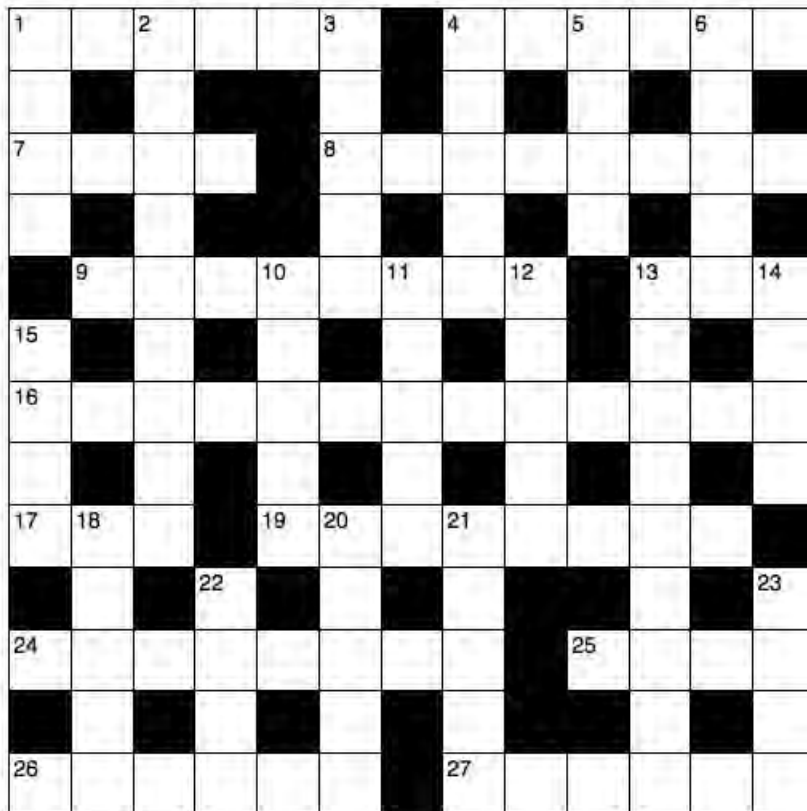
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Phone No: 07926 587776



CROSSWORD



Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)

4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)

7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

16 'He has sent me to bind up the —' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)

19 and 8 '— a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)

24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)

25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)

26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)

27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a —!' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born —' (John 3:3) (5)

5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5)

11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)

13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)

14 'This is my —, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)

15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)

20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)

21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)

22 Bats (anag.) (4)

23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 24)

SUDOKU

EASY

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

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MEDIUM

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

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WORDSEARCH

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

ST LUKE

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and

profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

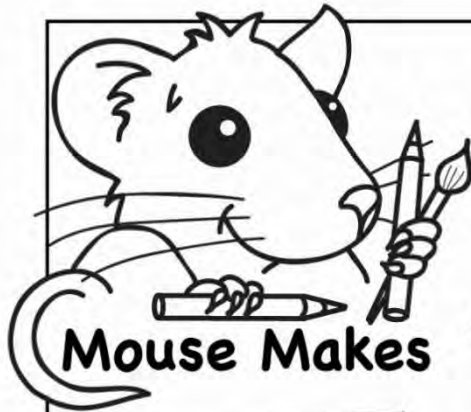
Luke
physician
companion
house
arrest

Paul
compassion
parables
Good
Samaritan

Prodigal
Son
women
Virgin
Birth

poor
lepers
sacred
profane
pagan

early
Christians
Jerusalem
Rome



What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

_____ and _____

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

_____ and _____



1 Kings 17:14



What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

_____ and _____

1 Kings 17:6



What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

_____ and _____

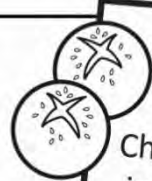
Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five _____

and two _____

John 6:9



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU
MJWF PO CSFBE
BMPOF, CVU PO
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU
DPNFT GSPN UIF
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4



CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

MANNA	HONEY
OIL	WINE
WATER	FISH
LOCUSTS	QUAIL
LOAVES	FLOUR



What drink ran out at the wedding?

_____ and what did Jesus use to make more?



John 2:3 and 7

DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.



READ Genesis 19 v15-26



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

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

- OLIVES • CHEESE
- FIGS • DATES
- MUSTARD
- RAISINS • WHEAT
- SALT • GRAIN
- FRUIT • GRAPES
- VEGETABLES

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

MEDIUM

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

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.



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Rwanda