

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this at the very beginning of May, just before I go away on holiday – I will think about you all every day!

As most of you know, Tiger Aspect Productions are busy filming another series of *An Island Parish* (or should it be *Circuit?*), due to be broadcast either in the autumn, or after Christmas. This next series will feature more of my work and that of the Methodist Church on the Islands. I know that some people have mixed feelings about the previous series and the good, or otherwise, that it did for Scilly, even though the photography was fantastic – the sun always shone!

I think that many people regard 'the media' as a bit of a mixed blessing and would be reluctant to take part in any filming. The way I look at it is that, although there are inevitable compromises and the influence of the programmes' editors makes itself felt, it is far better for the work of the Church – and, indeed, the life of the Islands – to get time on national television (and the viewing figures for *An Island Parish* were outstanding for BBC 2) than none at all. For many people who never attend church, or know very little about it, this may be an opportunity to get some positive impression of what the Church is up to, even if it doesn't always go into the details that we might have included ourselves. Let's face it, most people in Britain don't go to Church. *An Island Parish* is one small way in which the Church may go to them. I have been amazed, even after my two brief appearances at the end of the previous series, how many people have written to me from across the country, so it is obviously reaching a wide audience.

The only downside, as far as I am concerned is that the filming takes quite a bit of time – I'm sure the bulk of it must end up on the cutting room floor – and that the producer, Nigel Farrell, bless his heart, tends to expect me to be able to make comments, observations, profound remarks and hold interviews at a moment's notice. So, if over the next few months you ever see me with a film camera stuck in my face, you might offer up a quick prayer that I will have something useful to say, rather than a lot of banal chatter.

Nevertheless I do regard my involvement in the programme as a very real opportunity for our circuit and one which I would not have had elsewhere. The questions which Nigel is constantly asking have made me think about my role and that of the Church on these Islands and has helped me look at all of these things through fresh eyes, and that can be no bad thing. Every blessing

David



News from St.Martins

Although it was a while back, we would once again like to thank William, Trish, Mary and Val for leading worship on March 30th. It was good to see Dr.Prebble and his wife at this service, as we haven't seen them for some time. They used to be regular visitors to St. Martin's, and Dr. Prebble took the Palm Sunday service for many years. As soon as William learnt this he invited him to give the Blessing.

We all enjoyed Barbara's celebration lunch at Polreath, following morning worship at the end of April. It was a much appreciated gesture Barbara. We hope that you and your fellow local preachers will continue to share your witness on St. Martin's in the years ahead.

Finally we wish Rev. Dr. Chris Blake success and fulfillment in his new role as Principal of Cliff College. We trust that he will have prayerful support from those whose lives he has touched as Chairman of the Cornish District. I think we will all remember his inspiring preaching and the prayer chain that linked churches across the county and islands.

After his last service at St. Martin's Chapel, he enjoyed some refreshment and a look at the exhibition of photographs, before being presented with a piece of Island pottery, as a small token of thanks for his ministry here.

Heather

U.C.D.F.

Recently, the Church AGM agreed that UDCF should be one of the charities that we will support starting from September. This is a brief summary of the work that UDCF does.

UCDF is a small Christian charity which was started over 21 years ago by Kate Rees who still plays a leading role in the organisation. Currently UCDF looks after 65 young people and, if necessary, their widowed mothers who are often very sick with AIDS.

The day-to-day running of the charity is done by Ugandans, one of whom, Peter Ssegawa, was cared for by UCDF after he lost his parents to AIDS when he was 13. He is now in charge of the house in Kampala called 'The Fold' where the children who have no safe relations with whom they can stay are cared for.

The charity pays for the children's care and education and their training for a career – often having their own businesses like hairdressing or carpentry.

In recent years the charity has also started helping a local pastor who has rescued over 100 orphans and 12 widows and has set up a village for them to live in. UCDF has helped to provide a source of clean water, a security fence, and, in the last year, has taken on the task of providing food because the children were very malnourished. All the residents in the village are now healthy and happy in a secure environment but the need to provide help for them still continues.

The funds that UCDF needs for its work come from people sponsoring individual children, in which case the sponsors receive updates on their child's progress, or by giving donations for the general work of the charity. Almost every penny that the charity raises is used for the work in Uganda, as all those involved in the UK are volunteers and any air fares to Uganda are paid for out of people's own pockets.

All in all, UCDF has given hope to many young Ugandans who otherwise would have had a very desperate future. Anne Gurr

Passion Flower

As many of you know, I recently had a holiday in South America. Whilst there I saw Passion Flowers growing wild and was reminded that the early missionaries to Central and South America used the Passion flower as a visual aid to teach the native peoples about Christianity and Christ's passion.

In the three pistils they saw the nails that held Christ to the cross; the five stamens represented the wounds that He suffered. The circle of purple and white fibres in the flower represented the crown of thorns and the ten petals represented the ten disciples who did not betray Him.

The leaves are shaped like a three-fingered hand thus symbolizing the Trinity. The egg-shaped fruit suggested rebirth or renewal. The colour of the flowers – purple representing royalty or majesty and white representing purity - was also symbolic of Christ.

Anne Gurr

Slide Shows

We welcomed Dr. Chris Blake to his last service on the Island and presented him with a picture, painted by June, to remind him of our appreciation of him as Chairman of the District. He began the special service for Pentecost by quoting "The uncontrollable grace of God" which gives us both power and purpose to live and reach out to others.

Some times we do not know how to reach out to others but one way we **can** do this is to offer to present one of the slideshows. These are on Monday and Friday evenings throughout the season. June arranges the rota and I know she needs more help on both evenings. ***These summer shows help us to maintain the Chapel's ministry and buildings so it is vital that help is forthcoming.*** Many visitors regularly come to the shows and this gives us an opportunity to show God's love to them, June's number is 422404.

Rainbow Intercession

This prayer was sent to us by Kathryn Hare who is part of a team at St Budeaux Methodist Church in Plymouth . Thank you Kathleen.

As we sit in this quiet place, I'd like you to close your eyes and picture in your mind the sky after a storm. The clouds are parting, the sun shines through and a rainbow forms above you. Focus on the colours within the rainbow's arch.

Red. The colour of Christ's blood shed for all on Calvary.

Lord, we pray today for all those suffering in hospital or at home, due to illness, accident or injury.

We pray too for hospital staff, paramedics and all who work in the fields of medicine and health in our local community.

Orange. The colour of the sunset on a peaceful summer evening.

Lord, we pray today for those parts of your world which are not at peace, where people fight because of race, colour, religion or political instability.

Yellow. The colour of a candle flame, a symbol of your light reaching out to your people.

We pray today for Ministers and Local Preachers who week by week seek to share the light and warmth of your love and the promise of your word.

Green. The colour of new shoots symbolizing the new life of the growth of plant and crop.

Lord, we pray today for areas of your planet which are arid, where little grows and people are hungry.

Blue. The colour of the vast seas and oceans of your planet – a reminder of the vastness of your love for us.

Lord, we pray today for all those whose work is connected to the sea, for fishermen, Her Majesty's Navy, coastguards, and the RNLI.

Purple. The colour of royalty, a reminder that Jesus should be King of our lives.

Lord, we pray for ourselves. Help us each to remember to put you at the centre of our lives, and to be visible signs of your love in all we do, just as your rainbow was to Noah and still is a sign of your love for us.

Action By Christians Against Torture

Several of us in the Anglican and Methodist churches here in St Mary's belong to a registered charitable organization called ACAT for short, of which there are many groups throughout the country.

With aims similar to and co-operation with the much larger organization Amnesty International there are Christians supporting their local ACATS worldwide.

Sadly there are very few countries on the planet in which unacceptable techniques for extracting information or meteing out punishment or revenge is not utilized, in spite of their supposed support of the UN Convention on Human Rights. We are especially concerned that since 9/11 the USA has redefined their reading of the convention, so that activity in Guantanamo Bay particularly, comes under scrutiny.

Every two months our group receives the ACAT newsletter with updates on earlier appeals and details of new incidents in countries worldwide for these we are given suggestions of letters which we can, and do send, to the heads of government, responsible bodies and usually one to the ambassador based in London. Each letter is signed by all of us and helps to ensure that victims will not be completely forgotten. The small group of us here are all females – we would welcome more friends to join us and it would be a blessing if we were to have some male members!
G.J Clarkson

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You experienced in prison the suffering and death of a prisoner of conscience.

You were plotted against, betrayed by a friend, and arrested under cover of darkness by men who came with clubs and swords.

You were tortured, beaten and humiliated, and sentenced to an agonizing death though you had done no wrong.

Be now with prisoners throughout the world.

Be with them in the darkness of the dungeon, in the loneliness of separation from those they love;

Be with them in their fear of what may come to them, in the agony of their torture and in the face of execution and death.

Stretch out your hands in power to break their chains and open the gates of freedom, so that your kingdom of justice may be established now among them.

God in All

He inspires all,
 He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
 He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
 He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
 He is the God of heaven and earth,
 of sea and rivers,
 of sun, moon and stars,
 of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
 and in heaven,
 and under heaven.

St Patrick

A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

St Francis of Assisi

River and Sky

Move our hearts with the calm, smooth flow of your grace. Let the river of your love run through our souls. May my soul be carried by the current of your love, towards the wide, infinite ocean of heaven.

Stretch out my heart with your strength, as you stretch out the sky above the earth. Smooth out any wrinkles of hatred or resentment. Enlarge my soul that it may know more fully your truth.

A prayer of Gilbert of Hoyland, (died c.1170, Abbot of the Cistercian monastery of Swineshead in Lincolnshire)

MERCY SHIPS – MY STORY PART 3 – WE START WORK

As the Mercy Ship 'Anastasis' had only just recently arrived at the port of Cotonou on the coast of the Republic of Benin in Africa, we had no patients to treat, so our first task was to hold clinics in the town to meet the local people that wanted help. We set off around 8am and headed for one of the local schools that had been allocated for us to use. There were three surgeons who saw the potential patients, two anaesthetists and nurses to conduct relevant pre-operative tests on those selected as suitable, and several other helpers to generally organise everything and to talk to the people we had to refuse help. I was chosen to be one of the last group.

It is difficult to give an idea of the expectations of the local people who had come to the clinic at Cotonou. Although many were local, many more had travelled from all parts of the country to be seen, and this meant they had walked – anything up to four days. The arrival of the Anastasis had been heralded by much government-led publicity, and it soon became clear that for many the “great white ship of hope”, was seen as the answer to every ill. Unfortunately, the help we could offer was very specific and certainly could not even begin to address the shortcomings of the local health care services, let alone the endemic health problems for which there was equally no quick answer. We therefore had to decline the majority of the people we saw, and most could not understand why. Quite apart from the language difficulties (despite the provision of a willing team of endlessly patient local interpreters, all of whom spoke at least four languages), it was difficult to explain why the great white ship with all its doctors and medical technology, sent by the Good Lord, said no.

I personally found my job of “counselling” these people very difficult. Most were victims of simply being born in a poor country in an unequal world, and I found it hard with my white middle-class values and comfortable good health to offer comfort before they started their four-day walk back home. It reminds me of the passage in Somerset Maugham’s novel “The razor’s edge” when Larry talks of the Lord’s Prayer, and how he wondered how the monks with whom he had spent time reflecting “could continue to pray, without misgiving, to their heavenly father to give them their daily bread. ... we have only

blame for a man who brings children into the world that he can't or won't provide for.if an omnipotent creator was not prepared to provide his creatures with the necessities of existence, material and spiritual, then he'd have done better not to create them." Of course, God also provided us with the opportunity to have free choice, hence Adam and Eve and the apple, and Pandora's box, and I guess that much of the inequality in our world is arguably an expression or the consequence of this decision of His. If we weren't so selfish and had learned to share then the wretchedly poor people of Benin would have a better lot. As such it is the "responsibility" of the fortunate to care for those who have less, and it was in this spirit that I had gone to Africa.

But the "free will" argument still troubled me, and still does. I cannot see how it can explain or "justify" the suffering mankind endures that could not be avoided however charitable and loving we are towards each other. With particular pertinence to the tiny bit of Africa that I was experiencing, a recent article by Sir David Attenborough* struck a chord. "...People write to me and say: 'You show us birds and orchids and wonderful, beautiful things - don't you feel you should give credit to He who created those things?' My reply says: what about a parasitic worm that's boring through the eye of a four-year-old child on the bank of an African river? It confuses me that I should believe in a god who cares individually for each and every one of us and could allow that to happen". Whilst I was in Benin, we removed a number of eyes from children such as the one described above, and gave them glass ones. We also corrected numerous cleft lips and palates, which are congenital defects and which I therefore similarly find difficult to ascribe to man's inhumanity to man.

As we prayed together aboard ship before each operation to ask God to guide our hands and give us the skill to do His work, I couldn't help wondering what His purpose was. Surely, He could have sorted it Himself so much more easily.

Martin Parker

*http://observer.guardian.co.uk/magazine/story/0,,2242262,00.html#article_continue

The Editors are always looking for new items to use in the magazine, here is a recipe for you, maybe next month you could contribute one that can be eaten!

Home Happiness Cake

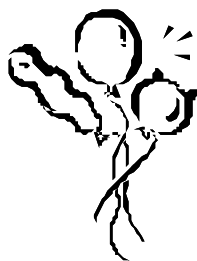
Take 1 cup of commonsense

½ cup of justice

1½ cup of love, well sifted with 1½ tbsps of wit and nonsense

Bake in a moderate oven with warm approval.

Lace well with generous appreciation; serve this every day of the week.



Birthday Greetings this month to Rose Didlick; Tianna Rose; Janice and Tony Nightingale; Kenneth Cocking; Tricia Thomas; Anne Elgawad; June and Philip Lethbridge; Pam Manning; Gillian Trenear; Sam Grossett; Christopher Savill and last, but not least, Jackie Perkins.

Gwen is still collecting birthdays so if we haven't included your name, and you have a birthday in June, please feel included in our best wishes and prayers.

THANKS BARBARA

Our thanks to Barbara for giving us such a splendid feast in celebration of 20 years as a local preacher. It was much enjoyed by us all.

Smile Line from the Parish pump

Fish Bar Caller to Directory Enquiries: 'I'd like the number of the Argoed Fish Bar in Cardiff.'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, there's no listing. Is the spelling correct?'

Caller: 'Well, it used to be called the Bargoed Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off'.

Father's Day

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. Ever wonder how the idea of Father's Day came about? Well...It all started way back in 1909 because of a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather wide-spread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Lousie the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Father's Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Father's Day in America than on any other day of the year!

Good Morning! Welcome - To God's Word!

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 66:2b

"This is the one I esteem:

he who is humble and contrite in spirit,
and trembles at my word. (NIV)

Comment:

Our memory verse from Isaiah occurs near the very end of this hugely significant book of the Old Testament. In the surrounding passage the Lord describes the kind of behaviour that 'impresses' him and the kind that does not.

Alec Motyer provides some helpful explanations concerning the key terms in this verse.

'Humble' in this context means "those who willingly take the lowest place before God".

'Contrite' refers to "one who is aware of the damage wrought by sin, of personal inability to stand upright before God."

'Trembles' evokes the idea of "a sensitive, concerned longing to please."

Finally, he summarises:

"This, then, is what looms large before the Lord's gaze: our lowliness before him in worship, our self-awareness and our painstaking sensitivity to his word."

Are there particular aspects of this that strike a chord with you - ways in which you need to change and grow? Let's bring them to the Lord this morning.

Prayer:

**Father God, I want my life to be characterised by what you value.
Work in me to grow in these things. Amen.**

Memorise today's verse and bring it to mind throughout the day.

This daily Bible reading can be found here -

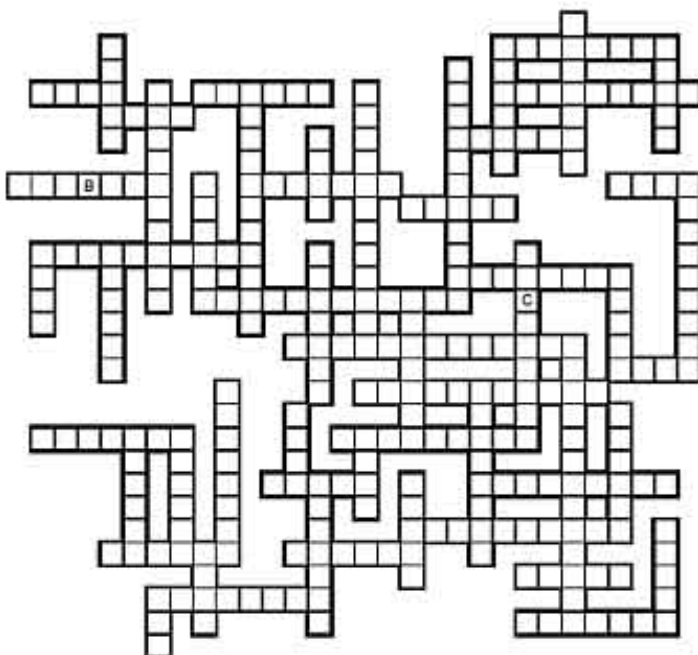
www.standrewsbookshop.co.uk

Books of the Bible Fill-In Puzzle

by Philologus

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Place all the books of the Bible into their correct places in this grid. We've given you a couple of letters to get you started.



3 letter word

JOB

4 letter words

ACTS
AMOS
EZRA
JOEL
JOHN
JUDE
LUKE
MARK
RUTH

5 letter words

HOSEA
JAMES
JONAH
KINGS
MICAH
NAHUM
PETER
TITUS

6 letter words

DANIEL
ESTHER
EXODUS
HAGGAI
ISAIAH
JOSHUA
JUDGES
PSALMS
ROMANS

SAMUEL

7 letter words

EZEKIEL
GENESIS
HEBREWS
MALACHI
MATTHEW
NUMBERS
OBADIAH
TIMOTHY

8 letter words

HABAKKUK
JEREMIAH
NEHEMIAH
PHILEMON
PROVERBS

9 letter words

EPHESIANS
GALATIANS
LEVITICUS
ZECHARIAH
ZEPHANIAH

10 letter words

CHRONICLES
COLOSSIANS
REVELATION

11 letter words

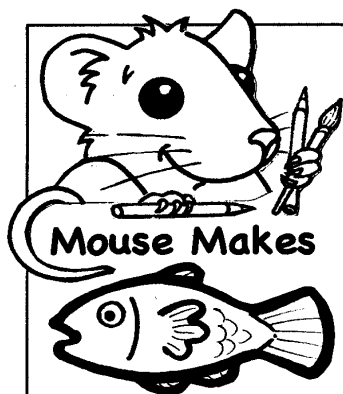
CORINTHIANS
DEUTERONOMY
PHILIPPIANS

12 letter words

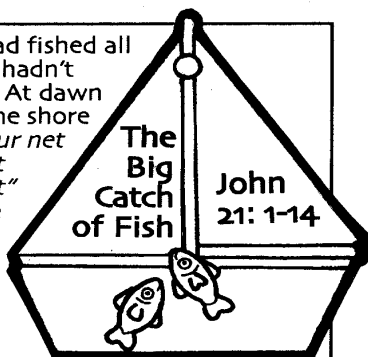
ECCLESIASTES
LAMENTATIONS

13 letter words

SONG OF SOLOMON
THESSALONIANS

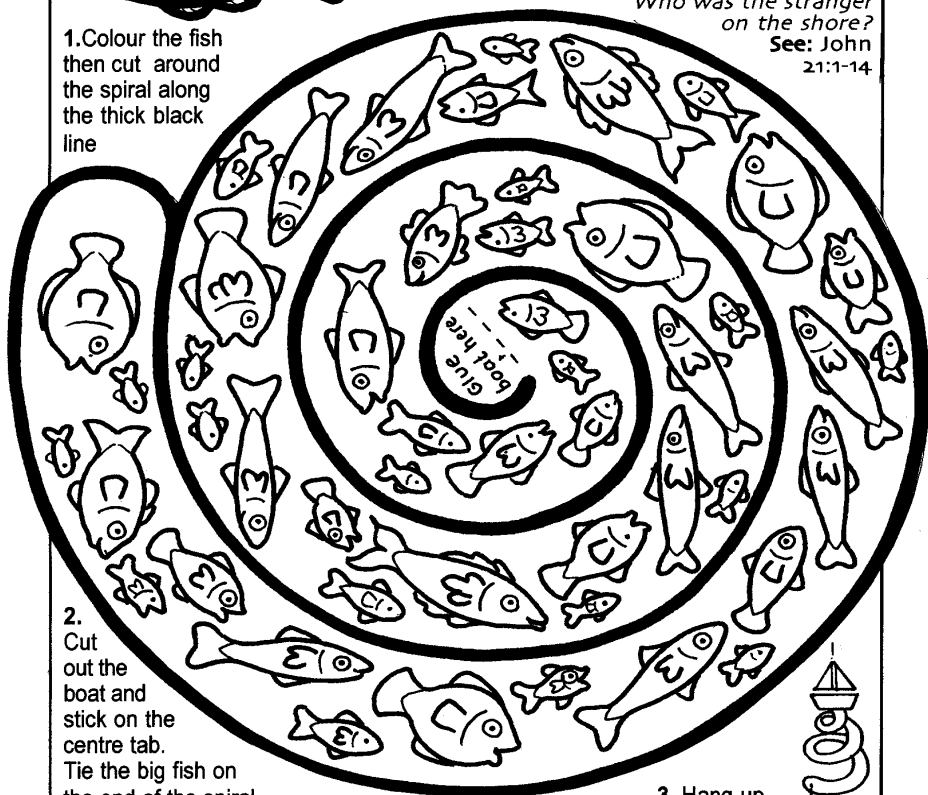


The disciples had fished all night, but they hadn't caught a thing. At dawn a stranger on the shore said "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat" They threw the net but could not pull it back in because it was so full of fish!



Who was the stranger on the shore?
See: John 21:1-14

1. Colour the fish then cut around the spiral along the thick black line



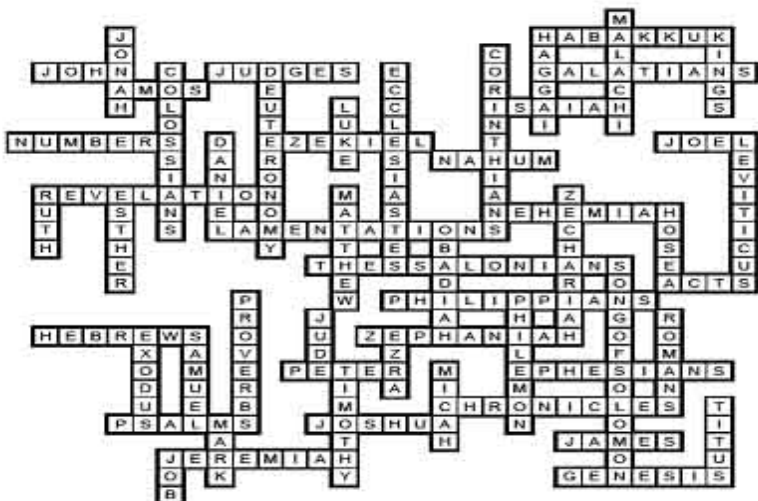
2. Cut out the boat and stick on the centre tab. Tie the big fish on the end of the spiral.

3. Hang up



Books of the Bible Fill-in Puzzle - Solution
by Philologus

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Diary Dates June

Each Monday 1.45 p.m. Joint Prayer Group*

Each Friday 7.30 p.m. Friday Fellowship at the Manse

Each Day of Month: Photographic Exhibition, St. Martin's Chapel

1st Baptism of Hallie Sophia Shave, St. Mary's 10.30am (Note: this will be an all-age service)

3rd Joint Social Action Group, 2.00pm, Wesley Room

9/10th Quinquennial Inspection of Chapels and Manse

10th Fusion, 7.00pm, St. Mary's

15th Circuit Service and Outing, St. Agnes

17th Fusion, 7.00pm, St. Mary's

21st Barbeque, Porth Mellon, St. Mary's

*Joint Prayer Group

It is good that the Monday Prayer group which met in the Wesley Room has grown into a joint time of prayer together with our friends from the Parish Church. We give thanksgiving and praise God for all his many blessings followed by prayer for the World, our Country, the Islands, the Churches, individuals and any other concerns. This month we have remembered and prayed for the people of Burma and China and for all aid agencies, including Christian Aid, Tear Fund, Shelter box and Oxfam, that their work may prosper and bring God's love to those in distress. Do join us for this regular time of prayer where the things that are laid on our hearts by the Holy Spirit can be brought before God through Jesus, our Lord. The venue will be on the news sheet. It is either in the Garden Pavilion or our Wesley Room.