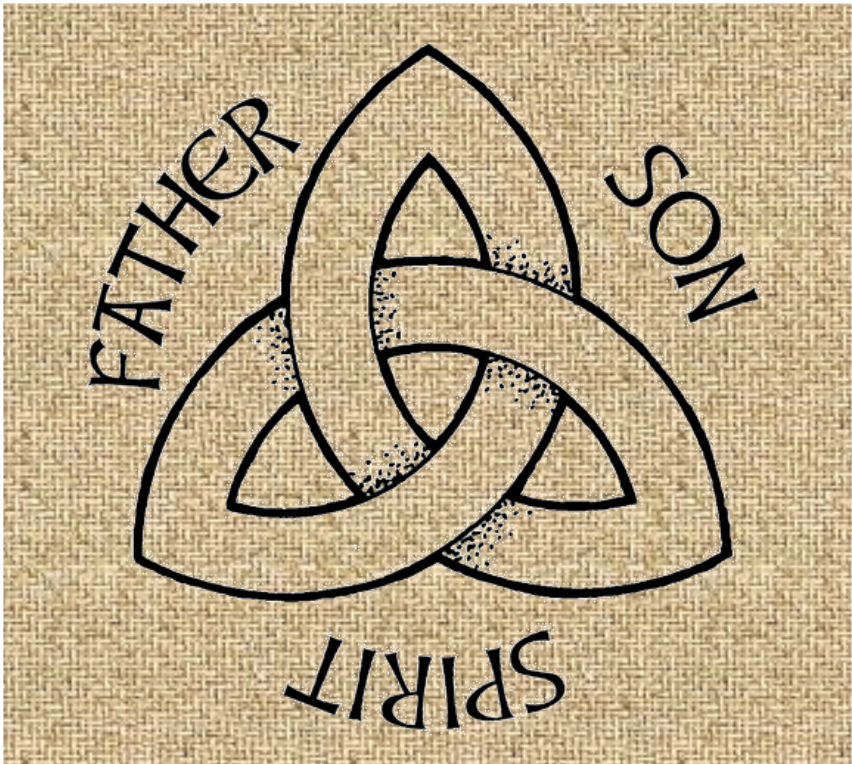




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 140 ~ June 2020



Trinity Sunday ~ 7th June 2020

Letter from the vicarage...



The total minutes spent on landline calls grew 49 per cent in March and 51 per cent in April. So reports one UK telephone supplier. Zoom, an online video conference call provider, received a world-wide daily use of 200 million people in March, up from a previous maximum of 10 million people. Royal Mail has revealed nearly half of UK adults have been receiving

more parcel deliveries since measures began, and more than a third claiming receiving a parcel is the highlight of their day.

Keeping in touch has been vital to us in lockdown. As we have been separated from each other physically, having contact has been all the more important.

Because relationships matter. We knew that before coronavirus cast its long shadow, but we have been learning that afresh in these past months.

It has been why there has been heartache for many cut off from family and friends. It is why there has been real joy for some with the slight easing of restrictions enabling limited (socially distanced) contact with other people. It has been why thousands have been helped by neighbours sticking notes through doors, or picking up the telephone for a chat. It is why, while this has sadly not been the case for all, many families have reported more quality time together. Relationships matter.

Why? The Bible goes beyond biology or sociology to give the answer. It is because of the God who is there. This month (Sunday 7th June) we mark Trinity Sunday. The Bible unashamedly and repeatedly asserts that the God who is, is a triune God. One God – supreme and unique. But who is at the same time three persons – Father, Son and Spirit – each fully divine. This is often a truth which puzzles, confuses, or is felt best left for the keen Christians.

But God being trinity is at the very heart of our faith. It is a reason for worship and joy, not embarrassment. It explains why relationships matter. Because at the heart of our universe, is a God who is in relationship. From eternity past, a God who is a divine family of three – loving each other perfectly.



Locked down, but not locked out...

'We are locked down, but God is not' James Lawrence

In line with that wonderful truth, we have sought to find different ways of meeting over lockdown. Three things have taken place in particular:



Online Prayer Meeting

Each Wednesday night, people from St Paul's have met 'online' to be praying together. There have been around 12-14 people each week (with others who are not able to join, praying at home). Kyle and Amy Mulholland were even able to join us! Kyle will be curate at St Paul's from this summer. Personally, it has been a thrill for a group to be meeting regularly, especially during this time of need, to be praying. Part of our church identity is to be a people shaped *'By God's Grace'* – this is one way to express it! It will definitely be something to build into our 'new normal'.

Online Youth Group

Each week between 4-7 young people, plus two leaders have been meeting online for youth group. There have been games, Bible study, times of prayer and opportunity to catch up. This has been especially important with our young people disconnected from each other and their friends. Here is what some of them have said about it:

'It's nice to keep in touch with people and still be able to do youth group'

'It's never going to be as good as the real thing, but it's still pretty good.'

'It is fun thinking of creative activities to do online.'

The Case of the Christ and Letters from Lockdown

With Sunday Club and Thursday Service suspended, material has been produced each week of lockdown to help families study the Bible together at home. In the run up to Easter it was 'The Case of the Christ', looking at the Easter account in Luke's Gospel. Presently, it is working through some of Paul's prison letters – 'Letters from Lockdown'. Each week has video, activities and crafts for families to do.



Who's Who

Mike and Michele Briers



Can you tell us a little bit about yourselves?

Michele was born in St Annes Hospital and christened in St Annes Parish Church. She went to St Annes College and St Annes Tech before training as a Beauty Therapist and going to work in Yorkshire at a Health Farm.

Mike was born in Blackburn but spent most of his young life at Lea, where he went to Sunday School at St Christopher's with the late Rev Bob Wells. In 1964, while attending Kirkham Grammar School, his family moved to Lytham. Mike worshipped at St Cuthbert's, where he joined the Church Choir and Youth Groups; and St Paul's Mission.

We met around 1967 on a blind date, got engaged in 1969 and were married in St Annes Parish Church in 1971. We lived in Ansdell and have 2 children, Sarah and Daniel.

In the 1980s, Mike, who was an Aerodynamicist at BAe Warton, welcomed the opportunity to live and work in Munich for 3 years. During that time, the children experienced International Schooling; and the family enjoyed touring all over Europe in the caravan. On our return, as both children went off to university, Michele went to college at Myerscough and developed a new career in horticulture; and Mike returned to new challenges at BAe. Both of us retired early in around 2000, and are blessed to have 3 grandchildren aged 17, 15 and 9, with whom we are closely involved.

Apart from your time at St Paul's, what do you like to do in your spare time?

We love camping, caravanning, sailing and walking. Mike was a keen racing sailor, initially in dinghies with the family, then in bigger cruisers with friends but remembers fondly a great cruise on the Atlantic to The Azores. Together we enjoy walking and have a Lodge in the Lakes which gives us great peace and access to the South Lakes with its gentle rolling hills. Nowadays, Mike prefers cycling both here; and in the Lakes doing about 50 miles a week.

He has sung in Choirs since a boy and particularly enjoys singing Madrigals. He now sings at St Paul's and with The Lidun Singers.

Michele's hobbies included Fly Fishing with her brother and friends, travelling around the UK and Ireland for the best trout. She now spends her time mostly in her garden and walking but also enjoys cooking and specially sharing recipes with the grandchildren having taught all 3 to bake.

How long have you been at St Paul's and what first brought you here?

Michele first joined St Paul's as a teenager helping out with Sunday School in the Mission Rooms in Ansdell. Later, she re-joined with the children but sadly in the mid 80's and 90's work and family life took us away from Christ. *(Editor: She has also worked with our Brownie Pack!)*

Sarah's decision to get married in St Paul's in 2000 brought us back; to Graham Rouse's leadership; and we are thankful for both.

Mike has worshipped here since 2000, while Michele re-joined St Paul's more fully in 2013 after our return from living in Wrea Green for some 13 years.

How are you involved at St Paul's?

Mike joined the Choir in 2000 and joined PCC later as Deanery Synod Representative. He now serves as Deanery Secretary and has also been elected onto the Diocesan Synod. These are roles Mike enjoys, the combination of helping manage both the 'Church Ministry' and the business side of Church and Diocese.

Michele also joined the PCC; and got involved with looking after the church garden alongside other helpers until about 2 years ago. Some 3 years ago, she became a Churchwarden with Pam. She thoroughly enjoys this service to the Church, the companionship it brings and the challenges it presents.

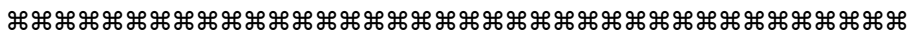
What is the best thing about being a Christian for you?

For Michele it is knowing the love of God and feeling the security that He is with her; and will guide and support her. She was strongly influenced by a loving Nanna who guided her, through her 'quiet but absolute faith', which she has inherited.

For Mike, Christianity has always been a corner stone of his life, his upbringing, how to deal with others and how he is inside.

For both of us, Paul's ministry here at St Paul's and his patient mentoring and teaching has undoubtedly brought us firmly back to God and Jesus. We both really enjoy the peace of our Church and the Church Family.

St. Paul's PCC 'Zoom' Meeting



Our church building may be closed but our church family finds new ways to share in worship & prayer.

Services, Resources, Prayers

Online recordings and different resources are available at:

<https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/>.

Please don't feel left out, if you are not online! The weekly service order and sermon transcript are posted out each week.

If you would like one, please call 734562.

Prayer Groups

Would you like to pray with others – online or by telephone? If so get in touch with Paul on 734562, or email vicar.stpaulsaf@gmail.com.

Are you in need?

If you are in need, or know someone in need, please call 734562 and we will seek to help you as we are able.

PCC Update ~ May 2020

With our current situation, the PCC has not met physically since March. However, that does not mean it has not been working behind the scenes. It has discussed and made decisions by phone and email, and met via video conferencing call in May. Please be praying for wisdom for the Standing Committee, Shop Oversight Committee and PCC as they seek to make wise decisions at this time. If you wish to know more about any of these things, please contact Alan Curtis, the PCC Secretary. Key headlines are:

- ◆ Our treasurer produced cash flow projections regarding possible scenarios to enable to PCC to make informed decisions.
- ◆ Different members of the PCC have accessed webinars from the organisation, Stewardship.
- ◆ A Fylde Borough Council grant was applied for, for which we were unsuccessful. A new grant is available and will be applied for.
- ◆ The PCC took the decision to furlough our two paid staff at the Fundraising Shop under the Government's 'Job Retention Scheme.' They were un-furloughed for one week at the end of May, to work from home. This was to help in the planning of a potential re-opening of the Shop in due time.
- ◆ A Hardship Fund has been formed. The purpose of the Fund is to help meet people's basic needs on a short term, interim basis during times of hardship. If you know someone in church (and potentially outside of church, in our parish) experiencing hardship and unable to meet basic needs, please be in contact.
- ◆ The PCC decided to put on hold all non-urgent budgeted works. Our Quinquennial Inspection due in April has been postponed.
- ◆ The PCC has begun discussing and planning for potential reopening of the Fundraising Shop in due time, including initial risk assessments. Further work to work out the implications of new government guidance, and that of the Charity Retailers Association, for our specific situation, is ongoing.
- ◆ We have made an initial gift of £250 each to Christians Against Poverty and The Bridge Project from the Outside Support Fund as they are directly working to bring relief at this difficult time.

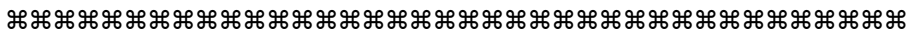
Terry Waite

~ on coping with lockdown

Terry Waite spent four years in solitary confinement in Beirut. He says: "In isolation, it is easy to become introspective and depressed. All of us, when we are honest and examine ourselves critically, will discover things about ourselves of which we are not especially proud. I had to learn how to grow a greater acceptance of myself and work towards a deeper inner harmony."

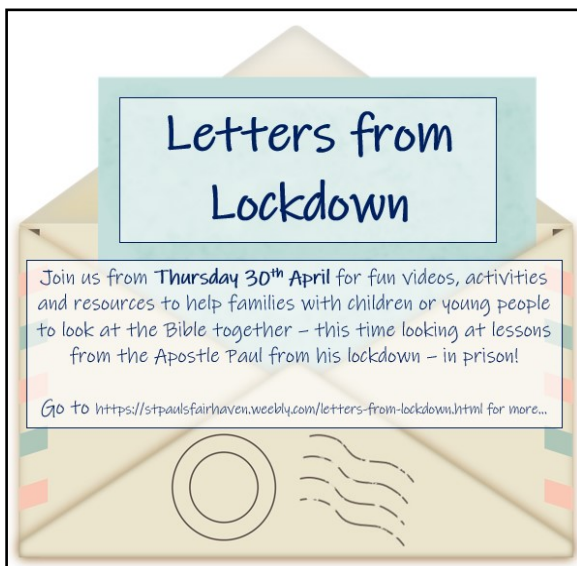
"... Today in lockdown, it's important to keep yourself well. Don't slob around all day in pyjamas and a dressing gown. Dress properly and develop a routine. It's important to have a structure – get up at a certain time, eat regular meals and so on."

"If you have faith, then that will give you resources to draw on", especially if you know some hymns, psalms and prayers by heart. "When I was captured, they were there to call on."



Welcoming more people

Many churches across the country have reported that more people are visiting their services streamed live online, than have ever come to their church buildings in normal times. We thank God for this opportunity to welcome them as we express and share our faith in Sunday worship. It is clear that this is a time of great challenge but also an unprecedented opportunity.



FYLDE FOODBANK



Thank you so much everyone for your generous donations and regularly giving to the local Foodbank. The team says it has been hectic as you can imagine, people queuing across the car park to receive food and toiletries, similar to people queuing to buy food at the supermarkets.

In the last financial year from 01 April 2019, ending 31 March 2020, 3343 adults and children were given food and toiletries, compared with 2495 the previous year. There is on-going demand for this service and those figures do not include the heightened demand during these difficult times.

Please continue to donate to Fylde Foodbank through supermarket drop of points (Sainsbury's, Booths, Ansdell Co-op, Tesco Blackpool), standing order with gift aid, one off donations by cheque- made payable to Fylde Foodbank or donate regularly/one off online at Virgin Money Giving page on the Foodbank website(fylde.foodbank.org.uk).

The Foodbank urgently needs long life full fat milk, cereal, tinned potatoes & tomatoes, tea & coffee.

Whilst churches and doctors surgeries are closed at present for donations, you are able to drop off donations, at **St Paul's Church Hall, Lake Road, Fairhaven (car park entrance door) – MONDAY & FRIDAY – 9-12 NOON, also at St Annes United Reformed Church Hall, St Annes – WEDNESDAY– 11-1 PM.**

The St Annes food bank is open **TUESDAY - 11-1 PM & THURSDAY – 10- 1 PM.** At this time, if you would benefit from a food parcel, although it can be hard to ask, please do ask, the service is for everyone in the community, anyone who asks, will receive. **St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham & St Paul's Church, Ansdell and Fairhaven** are registered to distribute food vouchers for people wishing to access the Foodbank, contact numbers are on their websites (St Paul's - 01253 734562, stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com). **Foodbank contact number is 01253 727455. If you are isolating or vulnerable please phone the Community Support line – 01253 658448 and a parcel will be delivered to you.**

For debt advice phone CAB advice line, contact Citizens Advice Fylde 03003301166 or Moneyplan project also at this service on 0784783461.



Keep an Eye Out for the Elderly

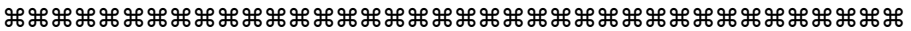
When did you last see your elderly neighbour? Seriously: are they okay?

During this time of social distancing, it is all too easy to assume that the elderly person you never see is simply safe indoors. But are they?

Isolation can be dangerous: it is too easy for them to have had an accident and be unable to call for help.

Why not arrange a system with them whereby you agree that you will give them a quick ring once a day, or even stand outside their house and wave? It only takes a few seconds to make sure they are still on their feet, and that all is well.

If you have several elderly neighbours, why not ask a few of your local friends to help you keep in brief touch with them each day?



In Danger from Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is soaring just now. Even as far back as early April, it was up by 30 per cent.

No wonder, then, that charities are urging us to keep an eye out for anyone in danger. The warning signs include bruising, repeated shouting and all types of controlling behaviour.

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police. If you dare not even speak, then use the silent solutions service by dialling 999 and press 55.

If there is no immediate danger, you can still contact the 24-hour confidential National Domestic Abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247.



Refuge, the national domestic abuse charity, estimates about 1.6 million women already experienced domestic abuse last year, and that “self-isolation has the potential to aggravate pre-existing abusive behaviours.”



Refugee Week - 15th-21st June

As the annual 'Refugee Week' approaches, various Christian relief agencies and campaign groups warn that coronavirus could have a catastrophic impact on the refugees whom they are trying to help.

First, the big picture: according to the UNHCR, "we are currently witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18."

Refugees are especially vulnerable, as their usual homes of makeshift tents or flimsy shelters are over-crowded and without clean water or sanitation, making social distancing and isolation impossible. Also, many refugees are already suffering under-lying health conditions and mental health issues.

As the head of the Humanitarian Division at Christian Aid, Nick Guttman, also points out: "Refugees are some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Access to medical facilities is limited and the destabilisation of the global economy is likely to have an impact on their livelihoods and the flow of humanitarian aid." He warns that it is only a "matter of time" before it reaches the countries with a high number of refugees: Bangladesh, Syria, Lebanon, Nigeria, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Tearfund has highlighted the problem of warning the one million Rohingya people, crowded in camps in Bangladesh. "There is no internet provision in the camps and the mobile network is currently suspended, so getting the message out about the dangers of the virus relies on word of mouth."

Meanwhile, Open Doors is concerned for the plight of the Pygmy people in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many fled their rainforest after persecution by Islamist rebels, and are now living in camps, where they are extremely vulnerable to the virus.

Leprosy Mission has warned that India "faces a human timebomb, waiting to explode." Communities affected by leprosy, malnutrition, overcrowded living conditions and poor sanitation, make "ideal breeding ground for the spread of coronavirus. Social distancing and isolation are impossible in the densely populated areas."

Ten little Christians

(Some of you may know this poem but its message never changes)



Ten little Christians went to church when fine,
but it started raining and then there were nine.
Nine little Christians stayed up very late,
one overslept, and then there were eight.
Eight little Christians on the road to Heaven,
one joined a rambling club, and then there were seven.
Seven little Christians heard of Sunday 'flicks',
one thought they'd like to go and then there were six.
Six little Christians kept the place alive,
till one bought a television then there were five.
Five little Christians seemed loyal to the core,
the minister upset one, and then there were four.
Four little Christians argued heatedly
over forms of worship and then there were three.
Three little Christians sang the service through,
got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two.
Two little Christians disputed who should run
the next coffee morning and then there was one.

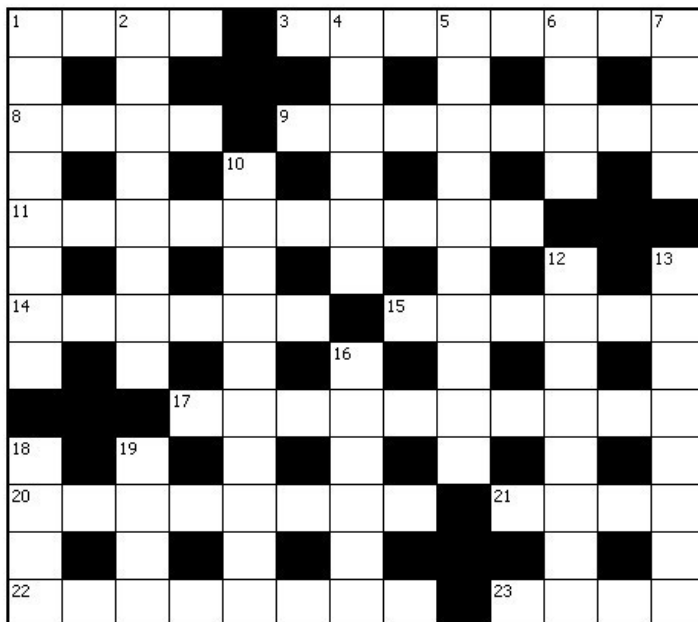
One faithful Christian knowing what to do
went and visited a friend and then there were two.
Two sincere Christians went out to seek two more,
so their numbers doubled and then there were four.
Four devoted Christians simply couldn't wait,
till they found four others and then there were eight.
Eight eager Christians searching round for souls,
praying, working, caring, drew others in by shoals,
Shoals and shoals at every service cramming every pew,

*Lord, supply this
grace and zeal right
here in our Church too.*



JUNE 2020 CROSSWORD

(The Bible version used in these crosswords is the NIV.)

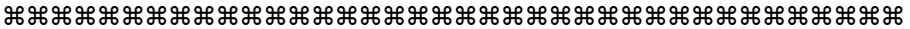


Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)





Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump Website and the Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum"



Crossword Solution ~ May 2020

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



Constant hand washing and 'social distancing' have become necessary routines of our 'lockdown' lives!



Time for a Smile

St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now
Since Covid came to stay
We don't dress up or do our hair
But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap
A Zoom with his IT
And so we sit down ev'ry week
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty
With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round
To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing
Yet it has helped us see
The church is NOT a building
But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton



Where was the social distancing?

An Actual Call Centre Conversation

Customer: "I've been ringing you on 0700 2300 for two days. Why didn't you answer?"

Travel Agent: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It's there on the door to your Travel Centre."

Travel Agent: "Sir, they are our opening hours."

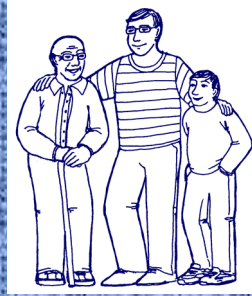


Sawn in Half

A new boy turned up at a Sunday Club and the leader asked him a few questions to break the ice and ended with asking him what his father did. He's a magician, sir," said the boy. "How interesting," said the leader, "What's his favourite trick - what is he is he really very good at doing?" The boy replied, "He's very good at sawing people in half." The leader was impressed. "Now tell me something more about yourself, do you have any brothers and sisters?" asked the teacher. "Yes sir," replied Johnny, I have one brother and two half sisters."

Book vs Film

A man running a little behind schedule arrived at a church film evening and, in the semi darkness, he managed to find a seat. As his eyes adjusted to the darkness, he was surprised to see a dog sitting beside its master in the row ahead, intently watching the film. It even seemed to be enjoying the film, wagging its tail in the happy bits, drooping its ears at the sad bits, and hiding its eyes with its paws at the scary bits. At the end the man approached the dog's owner, "Wow, I'm amazed at how your dog really seemed to enjoy the film" The owner replied, "Yes, I can't believe it myself, because he hated the book."



*Father's Day
Sunday 21st June*



Here are some excruciating one-liners...

What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?
He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
No — just an apple.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
Absolutely ruthless.

What's so funny about forbidden fruits?
They create many jams.

And finally



*'How much more will your Father in heaven
give good gifts to those who ask him!'
Matthew 7:11*