

June 2024

FOCUS

Issue 285



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown

The heavens are telling
the glory of God
and the firmament
proclaims his handiwork



Psalm 19: 1

Editor's Note

In our June issue, gardening enthusiasts and members of The Hightown Gardening Club will enjoy reading about Cambo Gardens in Fife.

Those of us who are interested in history can read the second part of Graham Goodchild's fascinating article called, 'A King, A Castle and A Muddy Pool'.

In my article about Hightown in times past, I have combined my own memories with those of Miss Scott.

With a page of photographs from a recent coffee morning, the easiest ever chicken dish plus lots more, the 'Focus' is a great little magazine to look at whilst enjoying a morning break.

Enjoy!



A Taste of the 'Good Old Days' Afternoon Tea

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Sunday 23rd June 3pm

St Stephen's Church Hall

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Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to

Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Please submit before last day of month



Dear friends,

As I write we have just completed our Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

It was good to hear all that has been possible in our church, parish, and community over the last year.

We said Thank-you to Hazel Roberts, stepping down, after serving on the PCC for the last sixteen years and presented her with a large bunch of beautiful tulips as a small token of our appreciation.

It was wonderful to welcome two new members to our PCC in Jane Copeland and Diane Aldis. Thank you both for coming onto the team.

June will also see the anniversary of my licensing to St Stephen's as your Vicar. Where has that year gone? It certainly seems to have flown by! Last year I said that I was very much looking forward to living amongst you in Hightown and seeing how God will use us all to grow his church here.

We have achieved much in that time as we noted in our annual reports, and we are a growing congregation. Thanks are due to Judith our Church Warden, Beryl our Secretary, Keith our Treasurer, the PCC and all who help and serve at St. Stephen's in so many ways. We give thanks to God for his care, his love, and his provision. There is always more for us to do, but we trust in God, and we journey on together in faith and love.

This month, I would like to end with our Diocesan Prayer:

Loving Father, by your grace, we long to see more people knowing Jesus, and more justice in your world. Help us to live as your disciples in the power of the Spirit and to work to your praise and glory. Amen.

God Bless,
Keith

Please remember , in your prayers, Geoff Bailey and his family as they come to terms with the death of Val, who sadly died on Monday 6th May.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.



May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Amen



St Stephen's Church Services—June

SUNDAY 2ND	10:30	ALL- AGE EUCHARIST
SUNDAY 2ND	18:00	EVENING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY 5TH	10:30	EUCHARIST
FRIDAY 7TH	09:30	MORNING PRAYER
SUNDAY 9TH	10:30	EUCHARIST
SUNDAY 9TH	16:00	TODDLER CHURCH
SUNDAY 9TH	18:00	EVENING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY 12TH	10:30	EUCHARIST
FRIDAY 14TH	09:30	MORNING PRAYER
SUNDAY 16TH	10:30	EUCHARIST
SUNDAY 16TH	18:00	EVENING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY 19TH	10:30	EUCHARIST
FRIDAY 21ST	09:30	MORNING PRAYER
SUNDAY 23RD	10:30	EUCHARIST
SUNDAY 23RD	18:00	BCP HOLY COMMUNION
WEDNESDAY 26TH	10:30	EUCHARIST
FRIDAY 28TH	09:30	MORNING PRAYER
SUNDAY 30TH	10:30	EUCHARIST
SUNDAY 30TH	18:00	EVENING PRAYER

Sunday Coffee Rota

2nd Jane Croxton
9th Shirley Burns
16th Christine Grocott
23rd Di Aldis
30th Jayne Cudby



Brass Rota



June
Colette Hudson
July
Beth Cresswell

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Revd Keith Thornborough
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celebration of the
Eucharist

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the Eucharist at the heart

St Stephen's Church Hall

Toddler Group

Term time

Every Friday 09.15 to 11.15

Prayer Prompts For June



- 1st. We give thanks for so much beauty and colour in our gardens and the countryside.
For the people of Rathbone Road.
- 2nd. **Trinity 1** .That we can become closer to the mystery of God.
For the people of Wignalls Meadow and Moorhouses.
- 3rd. For the lonely and for the housebound.
For the people of Whitefield Close and Oakfield Road.
- 4th. For those with whom we don't seem to get along too well.
For the people of School Road and Gorsey Lane.
- 5th. For those to whom we have been less courteous recently and for ourselves that we guard out tongues.
For the people of Moss Lane and the local farms.
- 6th. For the deaf and those whose hearing is failing, or who suffer from tinnitus.
For all the people of Hightown.
- 7th. For all who are confined to wheelchairs and for their carers.
For the people of Grasmere Road.
- 8th. We give thanks for our creation, preservation and for all the blessings of this life.
For the people of North End Lane.
- 9th. **Trinity 2**. Praise God for all his gifts.
For the people of Sandhills and Briary Croft.
- 10th. That we may encourage others.
For the people of Langley Close and Richmond Close.
- 11th. **St Barnabas**. For all who seek freedom from some addiction.
For the people of Marston Crescent and Larkhill Grove.
- 12th. For immigrants and exiles who have made their home in our country.,
For the people of Mark Road and Sandy Lane.
- 13th. For those who teach young children.
For all the people of Hightown.
- 14th. For the hungry and those genuinely reduced to begging.
For the people of Tudor Gardens and Thirlmere Mews.
- 15th. For newspaper, radio and TV reporters that they may never seek profit by falsely twisting what they know to be true.
For the people of Thornbeck Avenue and Mayfair Close.
- 16th. **Trinity 3**.That we hear more clearly God's prompting to work for him.
For the people of Alton Close and Blundell Avenue.

Prayer prompts (contd)



- 17th. We give thanks for happiness within marriage.
For the people of North Dunes and Westway.
- 18th. That we may reject those things we know to be wrong.
For the people of Withins Field and Blundell Grove.
- 19th. For clergy and church leaders as they work to communicate the Gospel.
For the people of Orrell Hill Lane and Delph Road.
- 20th. We give thanks for leisure and the chance to get away on holiday.
For all the people of Hightown.
- 21st. **Longest Day.** We give thanks for long light of day and for the eternal light of Christ.
For the people of Alt Road, Lower Alt Road and Brentwood Close
- 22nd. For all those who suffer with an impediment of speech.
For the people of Holmfield.
- 23rd. **Trinity 4.** For all those who suffer from confusion of mind or who know the darkness of depression or mental distress.
For the people of Windermere Road and Sandilands Grove.
- 24th. For all who lack confidence or underestimate their own worth as precious to God.
For the people of Elmcroft Lane and Moorfields.
- 25th. For those who have no home and must rely on the charity of others for their accommodation tonight.
For the people of St. George's Road
- 26th. For fishermen and all seafarers.
For the people of Blundell Road.
- 27th. For couples whose marriage is going wrong.
For all the people of Hightown.
- 28th. For the unity of the church.
For the people of Village Way and The Roundway.
- 29th. **Feast of St Peter & St Paul** . For drivers of holiday buses and trains and those who fly passenger aircraft that they must always be alert.
For The People of Thirlmere Road.
- 30th. **Trinity 5.** For people with any kind of back pain or paralysis.
For the people of The Range and Altcar Camp.

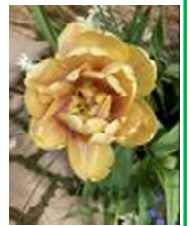


Toddler Church

This is one of our toddlers, who loves coming along, with his brother, on the second Sunday afternoon in the month. He sings songs, listens to stories from The Bible, does craft and has a snack with his friends. Last Sunday, he heard the story about the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost, and made a lovely crown with coloured flames. Well done!



Cambo Gardens *Colette Hudson*

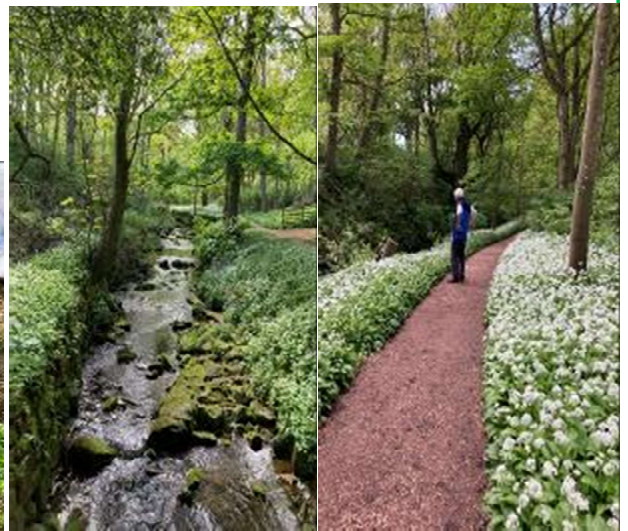


On a warm, spring day at the beginning of May, we took a trip to Cambo Gardens, in The Kingdom of Fife. It is just a short drive outside of St Andrews, which is where we stay in Scotland.

The walk through the estate woodland was an olfactory sensation, being covered with a blanket of wild garlic. The 2.5 acre walled garden was hinting at the fact that summer would soon be here and there were many beautiful blooms and edibles in evidence already.

I was reminded that, shortly, on **Saturday**

13th July, we will be having our very own Hightown Flower Show 2024,



turning St Stephen's Hall into a sensory pleasuredome. Everyone is welcome to enter and there are many different categories; crafts, baking, photography, painting IT and more. Flowers, of course, are always most acceptable!

Tea and cake included in entry fee.

Who's Who at St Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Warden	Judith Welch— Judith.Churchwarden@StStephensHightown.org.uk
PCC Secretary	Beryl Howard
PCC Treasurer	Keith Aldis
Gift Aid Secretary	Brian Taylor
Safeguarding	Cath Marshall— cathmarshall47@yahoo.co.uk
Electoral Roll	Beth Cresswell
Sacristan Team	Hazel Roberts
Health and Safety	TBA
Flower Rota	Sue Taylor
CMS Secretary	Beryl Howard
St Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton
Church Hall Bookings	Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Hudson— Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.u
Focus Adverts	Colette Hudson— Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk
Focus Distribution	Mr and Mrs K Bradshaw
St Stephen's Church Website	StStephensHightown.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group has recently donated £50 to Sefton Women's and Children's Aid in Bootle. The following message has been received from them:

"I am writing to express a very sincere thank you for the very generous donation of £50. The money you have raised will be used to make hygiene packs and food hampers for the families we are supporting. We are very grateful for both your generosity and for thinking about our organisation again at a time when we are sadly continuing to experience high demand for our services supporting women and children, in Sefton, who are subject to the effects of domestic abuse.

Your support is very much appreciated."

From Neil Frackelton
Chief Executive

The Craft Group meet on Thursday afternoons, in the church hall, 1:30 pm.-
3:30 pm

For further information contact Sue Taylor 929-2720

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Rohan Pickard - Commodore
Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com

Deryk Johnson - Vice Commodore
DerykJ@Gmail.com



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to find out more ?

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A KING, A CASTLE AND A MUDDY POOL

Graham Goodchild, Old Acre

The description of one-time Liverpool Castle in March *Focus* concluded with a question: What prompted King John to build Liverpool Castle?

CHAPTER II: An Irish Question

On his accession to the English throne in 1199, King John found himself surrounded by enemies, at home by rebellious Anglo-Norman barons and abroad by a French expansionist King, Philip Augustus. A French invasion supported by Anglo-Norman barons threatened England. The security of the nation was John's top priority. Where necessary, he ordered the construction of new castles or the improvement of existing structures. His quest for national security extended to the vassal provinces of Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Ireland was foremost in John's mind. Its worsening security prompted him to revise his attitude towards the province. As a young prince he had visited Ireland in 1189 when he insulted Irish lords by tugging at their long beards and committing other juvenile outrages. Since then, the province had increasingly fallen into the hands of Anglo-Norman adventurers and rival Irish warlords. They all sought to carve out principalities for themselves, chiefly at the expense of indigenous Irish people. One eminent historian, Marc Morris, has described the province as "the Wild West of the British Isles, an unruly frontier territory, where new lordships were carved out at sword-point." Warfare was constant.

With the support of Irish lords loyal to the English crown, John was determined to assert his overlordship of Ireland, intending to attach the province firmly to the English crown and to impose the common law of England and the English system of justice on its people.

By 1206 John had decided to mount a major expedition to Ireland, but first needed to find a secure port from which to embark troops, supplies and reinforcements. He favoured Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire, but was fearful that the port might be overrun by Welsh princes who were gaining strength. He sought a safer port with easy access to the Irish Sea. Chester seemed the obvious choice, but it was part of the fiefdom of Ranulph, Earl of



Chester. Brought up together as children in the court of John's father, King Henry II, Ranulph and John maintained an uneasy relationship throughout their lives, sometimes friends, sometimes enemies. John instructed his advisers to find a reliable alternative port on the coast of Northwest England.

The advisers set off from Winchester, soon to be replaced by London as the seat of English government, and journeyed north. They crossed the river Mersey at Warrington, then followed the north bank of the river through the ancient townships of Garston, Aigburth and Toxteth until they reached the point where the river narrowed, before becoming a fast-moving estuary joining the Irish Sea. Here, at the river's narrowest point, they found a tidal inlet or pool, fed at its eastern end by a small stream that tumbled down from the green hills above the old village of Everton into the pool which filled and emptied with the tide. At high tide, the pool provided a deep and sheltered harbour for up to twelve ships. The pool flowed along present-day Whitechapel and Paradise Street to Canning Place, emptying into the Mersey at the Strand. The Everton stream, named Moss Lake Brook, entered the pool somewhere near the present entrance to the Queensway tunnel. Overlooking the pool was a long broad ridge on the line of present-day Old Hall Street, High Street, Exchange Flags and Castle Street, rising to a rocky hillock, now Derby Square.

A Muddy Pool

John's advisers found no sign of human habitation in the area, apart from a few fishing huts immediately above the pool in what is now St John's Gardens. Beyond these primitive structures there was nothing but fields, woods and a few pastures. They found out that the area was known locally as "Liver" or "Lever" pool, meaning in Old English "a muddy" pool, an apt name for a tidal inlet, not unlike our own river Alt. Cormorants may have patrolled the inlet, but sadly, the name does not denote the habitat of extinct or mythological Liver birds! More of the Liver Birds later ...

King John's advisers presented him with a favourable report on Liverpool's suitability as a port for his Irish expedition.

The next chapter will reveal John's reaction to this discovery of Liverpool.

Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st June 10am - 12noon

St Stephen's Hall

Everyone Welcome!



From Lizzie's Kitchen

Easiest Chicken Dish Ever



You can cook this easy peasy dish even when you come in from work exhausted. It's easy to prepare, takes only 30 minutes to cook and there's usually enough to freeze for another evening. Better still, make it ahead and have it ready for those evenings when you're just too tired to cook at all. Use the highest welfare chicken that you can afford.

Ingredients

1 tablespoon garlic oil	75g smoked lardons
1 onion finely chopped	1/2 tsp dried rosemary
500g chicken thigh fillets, cut into 3rds	1/2 tsp celery salt
1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes	125ml white wine
1 x 400g can cannellini beans (optional)	2 x bay leaves

Method

Heat the garlic oil in a large saucepan, fry the lardons until golden and then add the onion, continue on heat to soften the onion.

Add the chicken pieces, stirring continuously and sprinkle in the celery salt and the rosemary.

Pour in the wine and let it come to a bubble before adding the tomatoes and bay leaves. Put the lid on and let the mixture simmer for 20 minutes.

Drain the cannellini beans and add to the pan. When they have warmed through, your dish is ready to serve.

Serves 4

Serve with crusty bread or couscous. Yum!

N.B.

Any type of bean can be used e.g. pinto, butter, chick peas, kidney.

Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan
Hightown Friendship Group 1st Wednesday at 8pm St Stephen's Hall	Margaret Wear
Gardening Club 2nd Monday 8pm St Stephen's Hall	Hilary Munro
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard—RohanPickard@gmail.com Deryk Johnson—DerykJ@gmail.com
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Debbie Underhill— Debbie.underhill@cloud.com
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm St Stephen's Church hall	Sally Anne—tapiabowes@gmail.com Alex
Craft Group, Every Thursdays 1.30- 3.30pm, St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar— clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk Www.hightownparishcouncil.uk
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd. Mon 12-2, Tues 1-3, Weds 1-4, Fri 10-12	Linda Munro—lindamunro@hotmail.com
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55 plus, Mondays 9.45-10.30, St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Co Mon Tues Wed Thurs Sat Children 3 to 18 years	Georgia Gaudi

Saturday Coffee Morning



Please do join us on the first Saturday of every month in St Stephen's Church Hall. Come for a delicious bacon roll, a cup of tea or coffee and, of course , a convivial chat.



A Good Read

by Colette Hudson

Continuing our exploration of Hightown in times past

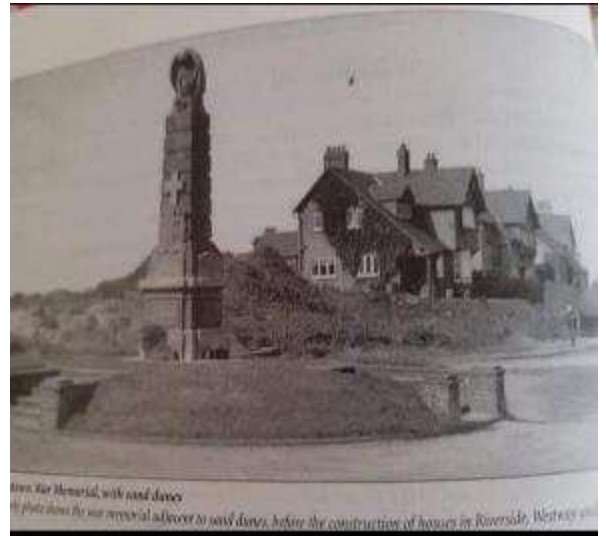
Buildings and Houses

From 1906 to 1914 Joe Bulman's father built School Road and Lower Alt Road.

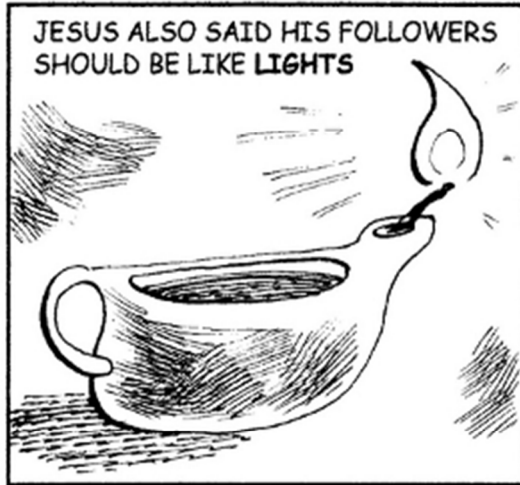
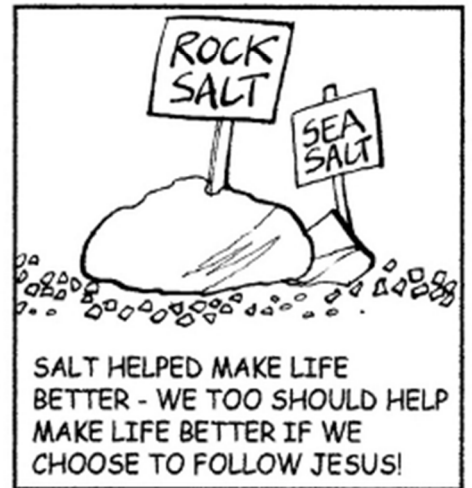
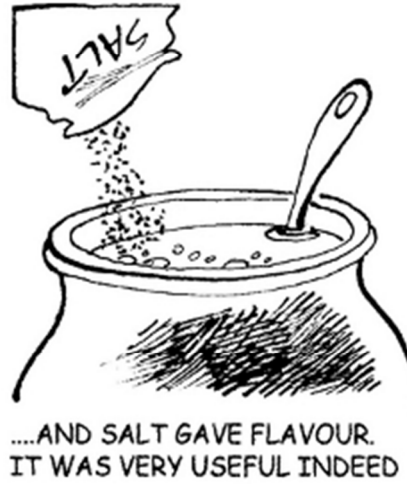
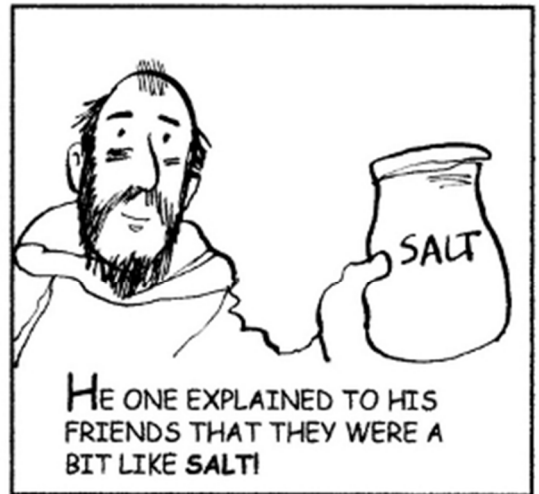
The three houses, beyond the war memorial, on the left hand side of Lower Alt Rd as you walk to the river were sold —number 11 for £400, number 13 for £500 and number 15 for £575. Number 15 was sold to a, then young, Mr and Mrs Crane. As a child, I

knew Mrs Crane as 'Granny Crane', she was a courtesy grandma. She had been a tiller girl in The Crane Theatre, (later known as The Neptune Theatre), Liverpool, where she had met her husband, whose family owned the theatre and a music shop of the same name. Granny Crane's husband had had a 'ride on' railway built around the garden of number 15, or as we knew it, Sunset Corner. The tracks were laid on the tops of the sand dunes all around the garden. Granny Crane had one daughter, Joan, who attended Streatham House School and who, as an adult, once again lived there with her own family from approximately 1970 until 1977.

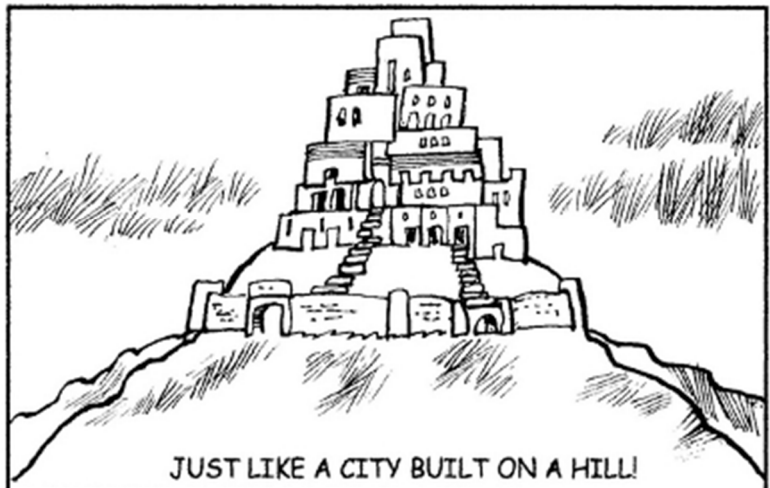
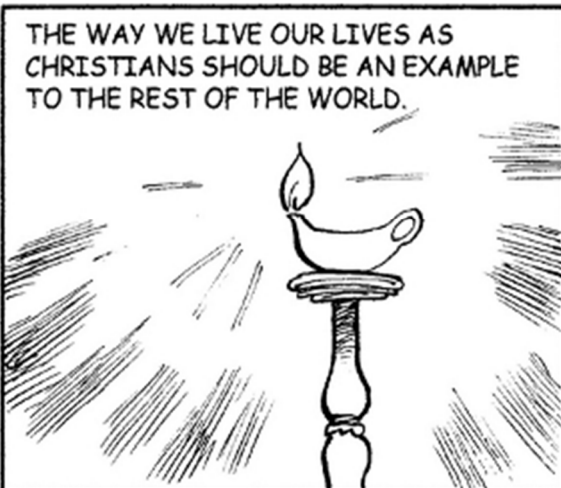
According to Miss Scott's book, prior to the 1914/18 war, apart from Rose Cottage, built around 1600, there were no houses built either in Sandy Lane or Elmcroft Lane. The fields were just a happy hunting ground for a tremendous number of rabbits. Before houses were built in Elmcroft Lane, the fields were called The Yeomanry Fields by the Hightown men who belonged to this regiment. They used the fields for their exercises and later they were used as a camp for Kitchener's Army during 1914/18. The band leader of Kitchener's Army, stationed here, was a man called Ancliffe, who was well known as the composer of the popular waltz of that time, 'Nights of Gladness'. Later, he composed a song entitled 'April Buds', whilst walking up and down Sandy Lane.

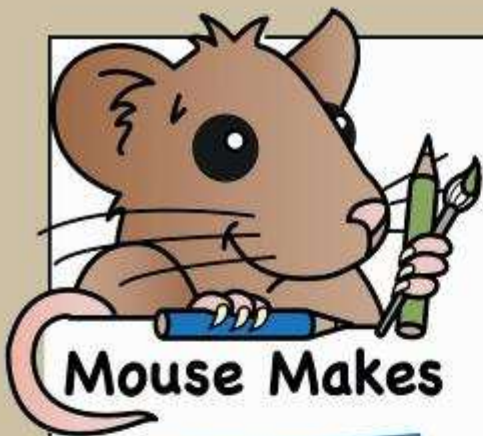


The tale of
the
Salt
and
Light



'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS





Mouse Makes

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

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPIO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3

This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:

"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

ROTAS
OPERA
TENET
AREPO
SATOR

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O



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

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE



Toddler Church

At

St. Stephen's-Hightown

Sunday 9th June

4pm

***A service for pre-schoolers and their families
with lots of fun, songs, a bible story, a simple
craft and refreshments***

All Welcome!

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