

St Francis Weekly News for SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 19th July 2020



This bulletin may have come to you by email or through your letterbox, if you received it on paper but are happy to receive an email in future please email deborah.lechmere@ntlworld.com If you know anybody else who would like this delivered or emailed please contact Deborah or Revd Janet: revdjanetwyer@outlook.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST FRANCIS CHURCH?

WELCOME!

As we gather for worship on Sunday 19th July, we will be welcoming two new additions to the St Francis family.



Following on from his two week induction earlier this month The Revd Tracy Williams and his wife Bev will be working and worshipping with us as he continues on in the journey of learning to serve God as an ordained minister.

As Revd Tracy approaches his Priesting and the second year of his curacy we hold him and Bev in our prayers and pray that their time with us will be a time of great joy and blessing.

This may be a good and opportune time to remind ourselves that God has not given us Revd Tracy to be 'an extra pair of hands'. He and Bev are here to be loved and nurtured as they explore the joy and the challenges of parish life and ministry.

During his placement with us Revd Tracy will be undertaking various roles and tasks to enable his learning and I pray that he will find deep contentment here as he lives out his call to serve both the Church of St Francis and the people of this parish at this time. I also give thanks that by sending him to us God has given us a wonderful opportunity to learn from him and his wife Bev; they both have a rich life experience and a multitude of gifts and skills to offer.

How blessed we are to have them with us.

OPEN CHURCH

This week will be our third Sunday of opening the building and gathering for worship.

As each week passes we grow in experience of offering a spoken service of Holy Communion and we are quietly confident that we are doing all we can to ensure that those who attend can do so safely.

Whilst we are making every effort to adhere to the stringent guidelines laid down by both government and the Church of England in terms of hygiene, cleanliness and sanitizing facilities – we just need to remind everyone that it is each individuals responsibility to keep themselves safe in terms of social distancing and using the sanitizers provided. When you are on church premises please try to remember the social distancing rules and if you happen to see someone being a little forgetful – please gently mention it to them.

Also, I have had a query regarding the use of facemasks. As yet these are not mandatory and the choice to wear a mask in church is at the discretion of the individual. Please feel free to follow your personal inclinations on this – as you will see Revd Winnie and Eeyore are not shy!



SUNDAY AFTERNOON OPENING

Just a little reminder that St Francis is continuing to open every Sunday afternoon 3pm – 5pm. Many thanks to Diana, Ashley and Charlotte for their help in offering this wonderful opportunity to spend some quiet time in our beautiful worship space.

Please do come along – there is a prayer tree available if you would like to leave a prayer request for yourself or someone you know.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Week Three of our Genesis Adventure was handed out this Thursday – and I'm very happy to report that the weather was much kinder to us this week!

We were able to get the bubble machine going and we had many more young visitors. It was really good to be able to hand out the packs, but even better to catch up with everyone who came and see them enjoy some time together [socially distanced of course]

Some children came along for the first time and we were able to start them off with Week One packs which was fabulous - it looks as though the adventure is going to carry on for quite some time!

ST FRANCIS BABBLERS

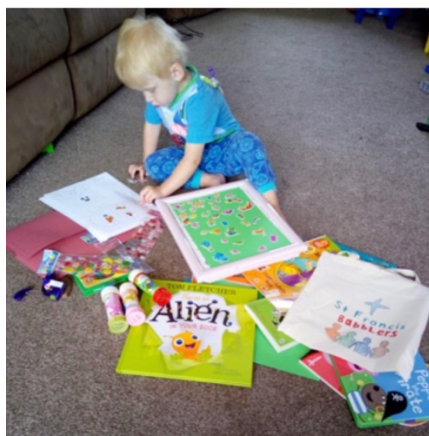
Last week I was delighted to share the news that Rachael, Deborah and Nicky had been putting together some 'Babblers Bags' for our little people.

This week, thanks to Rachael and Nicky, the bags were duly delivered.



Needless to say everyone was delighted with them!

This lovely photo was sent to us as a very special thank you.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For those interested in Anglican affairs, Jim Green will be presenting a Zoom Event entitled: 'Anglicanism and Justice'. [Not 'Anglicanism and Protest' as advertised last week – sorry Jim]

As mentioned last week this presentation forms a part of Jim's first year training for Lay Readership and will be happening this Wednesday evening via Zoom.

If you would like to join Jim in the St Francis Zoom Room on Wednesday 22nd July at 7.30pm please either let him know or call the Parish Office to get your name on the invitation list. [01603 431259]

As Jim approaches the end of his first year in the Diocesan Readership Training Programme please remember him in your prayers as this has been not been the easiest of years to be in training.

A THANK YOU

As you may be aware many churches are finding the current situation a strain in terms of receiving their usual funding through congregational giving. This is mainly because doors have been closed and many folk have not been able to give in the usual way.

Although we here at St Francis have noticed a decline in some of our financial receipts, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to all who have faithfully continued with their giving, we are deeply appreciative of your loving generosity.

WILDFLOWER FIELD & PRAYER CIRCLE

The wildflowers continue to thrive and multiply and are attracting many beautiful butterflies into the area. It is such a place of peace and beauty that it blows me away every time I walk past it. [which is many times a day!]

The cultivated pots of flowers that mark out the prayer circle are also blossoming and many thanks to David L for planting them out and to David W for faithfully watering them each day.

This is a such a blessed spot in the middle of our estate – pleased try to come and spend some time here. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

Resources are available if you would like to take advantage of guided prayer using the psalms. Please call at the vicarage for a prayer pack.



ALMA SABBERTON

Alma's funeral took place at Earlham Crematorium on Thursday 16th July at 11am

Her family would like to extend their deep gratitude for the messages of sympathy they received and for the loving care and support Alma received from her St Francis friends



Alma.

Her loving kindness and beautiful smile will be remembered for ever by all who knew her.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

PASTORAL CARE

As we ease our way out of lockdown there remain many uncertainties.

If you are apprehensive about any of the changes that is happening around the church, in the community or indeed in your own particular circumstances, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are very happy to talk with you if that would be helpful.

Please do not feel that you are alone - help and support is always available, whatever may be troubling you.

Revd Janet [07990 576118]

Eleanor [07840 206716]

Also, there is always someone available in the church building weekdays 11.00am – 12.00pm; please feel free to knock at the door, it will open to you.



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

In these difficult times someone might just need one of them...

Childline: 0800 1111

Samaritans: 116 123

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS [CONT'D]

Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247

[If you hear a neighbour in distress please do not hesitate to call this number or 999; you could save a life]

Mind: 0300 123 3393

Age UK: 0800 169 6565

St Francis Free Food: 07990 576118

A WORD FROM THE VICAR

I had a beautiful experience this week – completely out of the blue.

I was outside the church just moving the Free Food table and tidying away when I spotted a little girl with her mummy. She was looking right at me.

Always aware that large ladies in black can be a wee bit intimidating I raised a hand, gave her a cheery wave and what I hoped was a friendly smile.

She looked up at mum and, with mum's approval, she ran straight toward me with the biggest beaming smile you've ever seen.

Obviously very well versed with social distancing she stopped at the required 2 metres, looked up into my eyes and said: 'Thank you for the lovely food you put out for us' – and then she skipped away.

My heart skipped a beat, and I have to admit I welled up – it was for me such a moment of grace.

A beautiful child with the loveliest of hearts; how I wish I could express such heartfelt, genuine gratitude.

I think that was what Jesus was speaking of when he said:

'Let the little children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' [Luke 18: 16 NRSV]

So that's my challenge for this week, to be more childlike and look at life with thankful eyes and give proper thanks to God for all that is good; and in doing that perhaps I will find the grace to deal gently with all that is not so good!

God's blessing and peace be with you and yours.

Revd Janet

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in acute need of prayer at this time: Doreen F; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; David; Jeanette, David & Grace; David B; Paula; Gill; Karen; Maegan; Colin; Pete; Lauren; Fr Brian; Hazel

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Rosemary, Sheila, John, Joy, Shirley.

We remember with love all those who have died in recent days and pray for their family and friends.

PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Church of St Francis
Heartsease**



Heavenly Father

**We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen**

PRAYERS FOR 6TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all
things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ISAIAH 44: 6 - 8

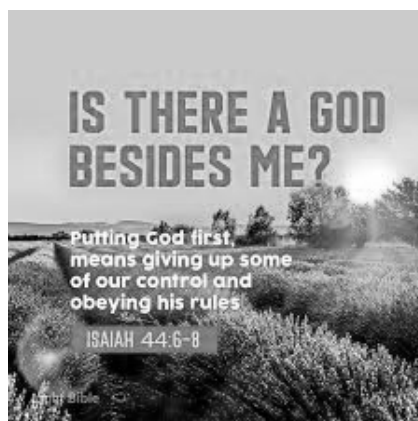
Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.



PSALM 86: 11 – 17

**11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

**12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God,
with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name for ever.**

**13 For great is your steadfast love towards me;
you have delivered my soul
from the depths of Sheol.**

**14 O God, the insolent rise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.**

**15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and
gracious,
slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

**16 Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving-maid.**

**17 Show me a sign of your favour,
so that those who hate me may see it
and be put to shame, because you, Lord,
have helped me and comforted me.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen**



ROMANS 8:12 - 25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.



I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

MATTHEW 13:24 - 30; 36 - 43

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?”

He answered, “An enemy has done this.”

The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom;

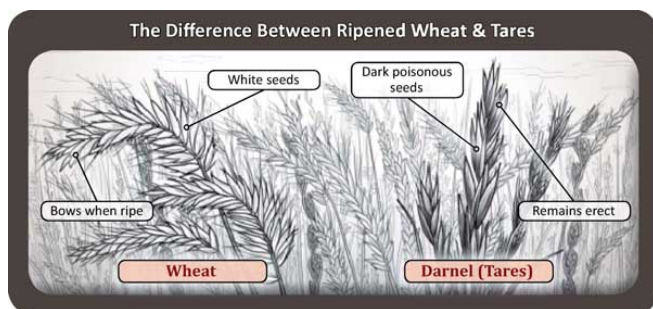
the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!



REFLECTION FOR 6TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The parable of the wheat and the weeds – in some translations of the Bible the weeds are called tares; and when we look at a picture of the two side by side we see that wheat and tares look very similar indeed.



Which helps a lot in understanding what this story is all about.

It's about Judgement - trusting in God and God's judgement rather than our own.

No one talks much these days about God's judgement – it has dropped out of fashion; but I wonder if we are not all the poorer for that.

Certainly, it was an important issue for Jesus – he spent a good deal of time teaching his followers the principles of the Kingdom of heaven; how to live a life of Godly goodness, and God's judgement of our lives was certainly high on the agenda.

Today we live in a world where very little is ever talked of in terms of living a good and Godly life; a life of moral integrity, virtue, loving compassion and forgiveness.

In fact, in some quarters – anything goes, unless you get caught out - and then it's judgement by media, Facebook, twitter, and any other number of fashionable means of public humiliation.

A long, long way from the world of Jesus, his followers and the early church.

It is generally believed that The Gospel of Matthew was written for that early church - those first century followers of 'The Way' who needed to learn the Jesus way of life and behaviour and over the centuries Matthew has come to be viewed as the Gospel for the Church. It points out the way Church and Christians should follow.

Which leads us very neatly to St Paul and his letter to the early church in Rome.

Paul, like Matthew, also had no hesitation in respect of sharing his views on how Christ's Church, Christians, the new followers of the Way should behave.

He was passionate about wanting them to be knowledgeable about God, spiritually protected and practically prepared for the life that they had embraced.

To follow the way was not in those days – persecution and public humiliation in the form of beatings, imprisonment and execution were commonplace. They lived amid a culture of depravity and moral laxity; temptation and public ridicule were a constant feature of their lives.

Consequently, what they said and did, the way they were perceived by the communities they lived among and served was crucial; the gospel of Jesus was to be lived and preached in its purest form.

Paul wanted those early Christians, the followers of the Way to know and be assured that they were Kingdom people, citizens of the kingdom of heaven – released from the bondage of sin and death by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and that their hope should be in the promised coming of God's glory

They were real people, just like us – they lived in an uncertain world, faced the same human challenges we all face, were tempted and tested by the same desires and human failings that we live with day by day.

Only the difference between them and us is theirs was a far simpler world – and moral judgement for them was not a half forgotten concept controlled by flawed, failing, fickle humankind; they were taught, and they believed, that judgement belonged only to God.

It was God who had the final say; yes, human beings could humiliate, imprison, torture and kill the body – but it was God who would comfort the soul, give inner peace and the gift of eternal life.

Using Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds, life was understood to be an enormous harvest with good wheat and noxious weeds growing alongside one another, flourishing together until harvest time; leaving judgements about what was wheat and what was a weed in God's hands.

They lived by the truth that, ultimately, it is always the good wheat that is saved.

When you think about it, wasn't Jesus amazing?

Through a story about life giving wheat and polluting, unproductive weeds Jesus is telling us that the roots of good and evil can intertwine and as they grow together look very similar.

He is telling us that life is not easy nor is it uncomplicated – and it is far too easy to get entwined in evil.

But rather than trying to do God's work; what we should be doing is making sure that each one of us is increasing the wheat harvest; not living in fear of the weeds of the world.

We must understand that sometimes we have no choice than to wait patiently for harvest time – to co-exist with someone or something beyond our ability to comprehend or change until God intervenes and sorts out the muddle for us.

It is very tempting sometimes to look at others; at situations in life and start to judge - but what a mistake that might be!

Ultimately the harvest is in God's hands – it is God who will save us.

When we have God, our Abba; our strong rock and Redeemer who has promised us his Glory telling us 'Do not fear, or be afraid' - I say we should listen.

And do as we are told...

Amen

The Revd Janet Wyer
July 2020

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS...



Jesus told the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is a bit like someone planting his field with good seed. He is very happy, but at night, when everyone is sleeping, his enemy creeps in and plants weeds

among the wheat, then sneaks off again.

So when the wheat starts to grow, the weeds grow too!

'The servants then go to their master and ask him, "Sir, didn't you just plant good seed in your field? So where have all the weeds come from?" When the master tells them that an enemy has planted them, they ask, "So, shall we pull up the weeds?"

'But the master replies, "No, because if you pull up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat as well. Let them both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I will send in the reapers, and then the weeds can be collected up, tied into bundles and burned. The wheat can be harvested and put in my barn."

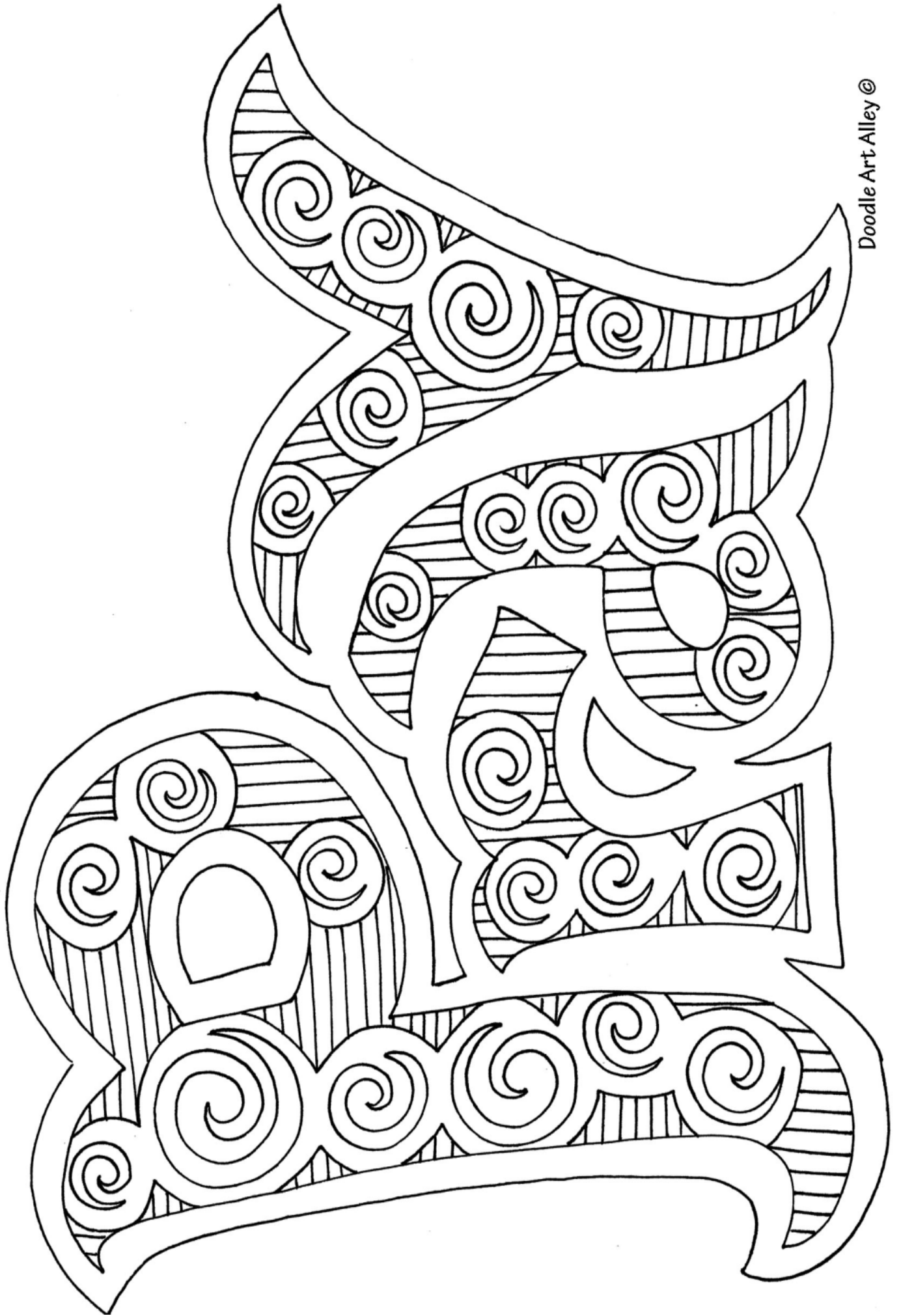
Later, Jesus explained the parable to his disciples: 'Listen carefully. This is the story of my world. The master is the Son of Man, that's me. My friends are like the good seed, and my enemies are like the weeds that the devil has planted. The harvest is like the end of time, and my angels are the reapers who separate the wheat from the weeds in the field – the good and the evil in the world. All the evil is thrown away, like weeds on a bonfire, but all the good will shine like the sun in God's kingdom.'

Glossary

Reapers people who cut down the wheat at harvest time;

Son of Man a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself;

Devil a personification of evil, also called Satan or 'the evil one'.



Name

 **Matthew 13.24-30,36-43**

Jesus tells a story to help us live in an imperfect world.



Family time

Talk In what ways can we spread good seed in the world?

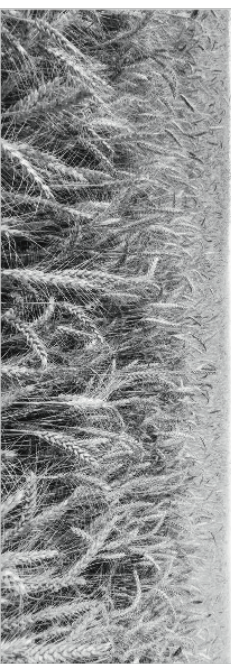
Do Watch an episode of Tractor Ted called 'Summertime'. Discuss what would have been different in the time that the Bible was written.

Pray Dear Jesus, help me stand strong: strong when I am scared, strong when I face decisions, strong when I am excited. Amen.

Activity time



Can you draw what we would use to harvest wheat in the fields today?

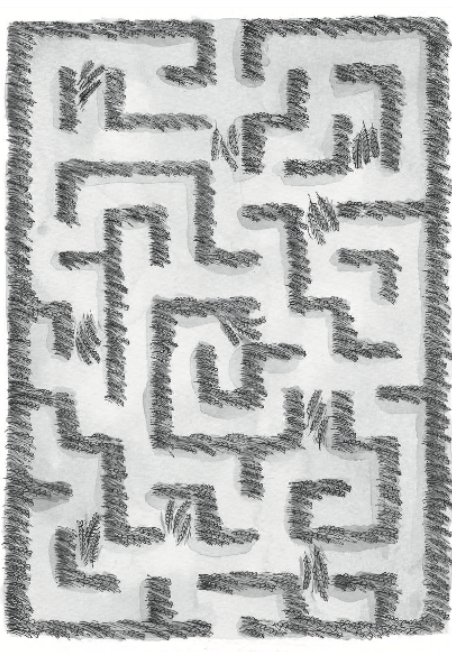


ROOTS children's Sheet

19-25 July 2020



Find your way through the field without treading on the wheat.



Use the clues to complete the four words which make a quote from the Bible passage.

| | |
|-------|---|
| --- | Song from the film <i>Frozen</i> ' _ _ _ _ it go' |
| ---- | Bo + th |
| ---- | Get bigger |
| ----- | gthotere = Unscramble the letters |



Name

ROOTS ⁺ Colouring Sheet

19-25 July 2020

Colouring time

Jesus tells us that the master told his servants not to pull out the weeds until the harvest was taken in.

