

Holy Trinity

(without the walls)

Parish News



Norris Road, Blacon, Chester. CH1 5DZ

August 2020 40p

You are my
hiding place; you will

*protect me
from trouble*

Psalm 32:7



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REACHING OUT WITH CHRIST TO ALL



Dear friends,

Welcome to the August 2020 Holy Trinity Parish News.

This month there are articles about Mary Sumner, founder of the Mother Union, God in the Arts, thoughts from Louise and Tina , as well as the usual puzzles and features too.

As the lockdown eases further we will continue to provide you with a printed magazine .

Have faith for God WILL see us though.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Jason Clarke, Magazine compiler

If you would like to share your experiences during this time of crisis in a future parish News magazine, please email htcpneditor@gmail.com

BEING TOGETHER

One of the most prominent features of the lockdown we have endured for months now, is the 'social distancing'. It sounds like a contradiction in terms – keeping at least two metres apart sounds nothing like being social. Wearing a covering over your face, so nobody can see the expression of your mouth, seems a far cry from being sociable. And yet, it is the ultimate in love for one another.

Taking care of those we meet, whether we know them or not, and ensuring as best we can that we do not inadvertently pass the Covid-19 virus on to them, is a very current expression of love for our neighbour. But that does make it very difficult to interact fully with one another, to hold proper conversations where we can read other people's responses, and in being together. Nevertheless, a 'side-effect' of the lockdown, that many have commented on, has been a greater sense of togetherness with those we live next-door to, a

greater sense in some ways of neighbourliness. The sense of community when nobody could leave their homes felt in some ways greater than when everybody is out and about as 'normal'. Community, feeling like we are all in it together, is tremendously important for us, whoever we are.

As Christians, a key aspect of our community, is the fellowship we have together. The relationships we have, within the family of the church. As St Paul puts it so eloquently in his first letter to the Corinthians chapter 12, we are joined together within the fellowship of the church, in such a way that it can be likened to being the various parts of a body. No one part of the body can say it is able to do without another. That explains the ache we all feel while we are apart from one another.

We try to make up for that through conversations held on the telephone, or over the internet, or even in the street. We feel a

connectedness with one another, even though those snatched moments cannot wholly replace the loss of the togetherness we feel when we are together in the same room, worshipping and praying together. One day, when we are back to worshipping together, we will start back where we left off.

As well as fellowship with one another within the church membership, we also have connections with the wider community in Blacon. Our experience of working together with others over recent weeks, through Blacon Action Team, has shown powerfully how collaborating together we can do so much more than the sum of the parts would manage on their own. By the end of June, Blacon Action Team had fed over 6,300 people (and it still continues today). It is wonderful to be able to be at the centre of a large community effort serving the community, which is demonstrating to others how God works with and through us.

He works by collaborating. He chooses to use us as his hands and eyes and feet in the community, demonstrating His love for the world. And through participating in that, we ourselves grow in our fellowship with Him. That is the beauty of collaborative work – we always get more out of it than we put in. You could call it enlightened self-interest. That is how God works through us, and it is how He works in us also. So, in spite of social distancing, let us attempt in every way possible, to collaborate with one another, as He first collaborated with us.

Tina Upton



Amazing Grace

I get fed up with women, including those in the Bible, being used as scapegoats. Seriously, Adam was standing right next to Eve during the whole forbidden fruit shenanigans. He never said anything helpful like “wait, lets chat to God about this...” Instead, he watched to see if she died after her first bite and, when she kept on breathing, joined in without a murmur. Whether you see the whole episode as literal or allegorical, women have been guilty by association ever since.

That’s one reason why Jesus’ response to women is so refreshing. They were the oppressed ‘minority’ (50% of the population!) in his culture under which women were legally male property. Jesus smashed convention by listening to women (Matt 15:21-28), teaching them, and including them in his closest circle of friends (Luke 8:1-3). He gave Mary Magdalen responsibility for telling the disciples that he had risen (Mark 16:9). He defended Martha’s

sister Mary’s decision to study alongside his male disciples (Luke 10:38-42). In John’s gospel it is Martha, not Peter, who declares that Jesus is the Christ. A woman who identifies the anointed messiah awaited by all Israel to release them from slavery (John 11:23-27).

So it may seem strange that over lockdown, I’ve been indulging in Liz Curtis Higg’s Bad Girls of the Bible trilogy. She writes easy-to-read commentaries on the lives of biblical women. From the nameless woman-caught-in-adultery to Sarah, Bathsheba and Athaliah and more. She weaves together stories and Scriptural insights to challenge our perceptions and help us draw closer to God’s grace and love. Every story reminds the reader of the overwhelming outrageousness of God’s grace and mercy in the midst of human brokenness and failure.

Liz reminds her readers of God’s love for his people. Of his

constant turning towards us, every time that we turn away. Of his kindness and gentleness in dealing with our weakness and brokenness. It's easy to judge the women she writes about. History is littered with supposedly Bible-inspired artwork showing Bathsheba and Salome as temptresses. Depictions that bear little resemblance to the biblical text. Instead, it is more helpful to remember that each was a fallible, redeemed, restored, and dearly loved woman. Loved, just as we are, by the grace of God, not for their own inherent goodness.

If you have thrived under in lockdown then I am delighted for you. But if, like me, your 'bad girl' (or boy!) has emerged from time to time, then it is comforting to remember that our Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. Our Lord is good to all and God has compassion on all that he has made. God reaches out to people who have wandered far from him and forgives all who repent. That's the real biblical story.

Louise Annison



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Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation:** **FIVE TOP TIPS**

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-get-help/dedicated-helpline.aspx>

Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation:** **FIVE TOP TIPS**



1. Pray – light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.



2. Talk about how you feel.

This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but use the phone, internet and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor, this can be arranged by your GP, local agencies or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.



3. Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.



4. Look after yourself – physically, emotionally, spiritually.

Plan things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.



5. Look after others – even if only in small ways, but do what you can:
a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

CONTINUING OUR MISSION IN BLACON

Holy Trinity Church relies on donations to provide care and support to everyone in this community. Now more than ever, please consider giving generously to support our mission and ministry. You may wish to take the opportunity to set up a Standing Order with your bank to ensure we continue to receive regular donations at this time. A form is on the opposite page, which you should pass to your bank.

Thank you for your support.



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The sum of £.....(figures).....(words)

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(delete as appropriate)

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Account number..... Sort code

Signed Date

Address

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PRAYERS FOR USE AT THIS TIME

from the Church of England website)

Prayers about the outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

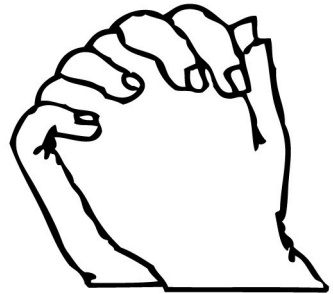
Amen.

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.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens



your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.



Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

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**Monday
2-3pm**

**Community Shop,
Western Avenue**

**Wednesday
2-3pm**

**Community Shop,
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**Thursday
10.30am-12**

**Holy Trinity
Church Hall**

Blacon Action Team

blaconactionteam@gmail.com

07719 960 541

Blacon Action Team is a collaboration between West Cheshire Foodbank, Cheshire West Communities Together, Holy Trinity Church, Blacon Beacon, Blacon Community Store, The Welcome Network, and Cheshire West and Chester Council. Photos by Laurie Rozentals and Lars Blankers on Unsplash

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The doctor and the ill person

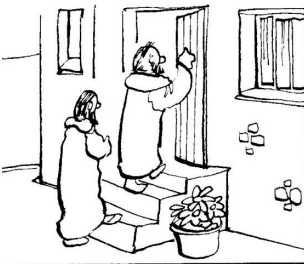


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!



"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"

"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13

Advertising in this Magazine

Our advertising charges for one insert each month for a year, starting at any time, are quite modest:

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Praying for Blacon



“When right-living people bless the city, it flourishes”

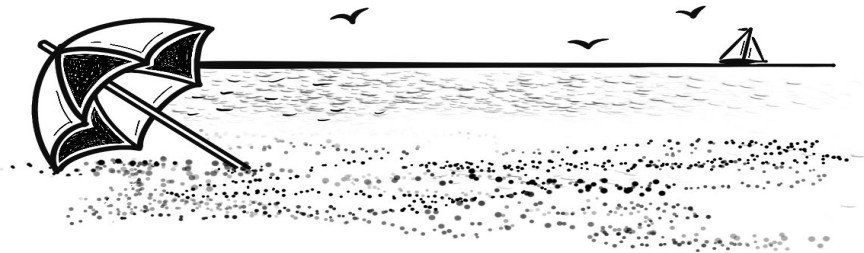
*Prov 11:11
The Message*

As part of an inter-church prayer focus for Blacon, please could you pray, commencing on these Sundays, for the residents living in these roads:

- 2 August** Venable’s Road , St. Chad’s Road, Church Hall Close & Cedar Mews
- 9 August** The Glen, Jonathan’s Way, Sumner Road, Fisher Road & Graham Road
- 16 August** Cotes Place, Bridgeman Road, Stubbs Place & South Way
- 23 August** Hillside Road, Furne Road, Belvedere Drive & Morton Road



The **September issue** of the Parish News will be available on or about Sunday, 30th August 2020. All contributions should be submitted to the Parish Office (*see back page*) by **Thursday, 12th August 2020**. Thank you. If you would like to subscribe to our magazine please contact the Church Office on 01244 376085 - annual cost is £4.00.



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From the Registers

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'

Peter Robert Chapman (60 years) 4th March

Joyce Bickerstaff (92 years) 16th March

Margaret Elizabeth Hughes (80 years) 17th April

Miriam Helah Jeffreys (82 years) 21st April

John Orlando Leonard (98 years) 21st April

Florence Mary Wilsher (79 years) 18th May

Sharon Jane Underwood (50 years) 30th April

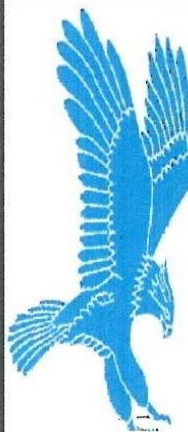
John James Salisbury (85 years) 23rd May

Jean Gillet (88 years) 8th June

Kenneth Moxon (76 years) 23rd June



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9th August

Mary Sumner

Founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire.

Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers'

meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local

women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there

were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose



God in the Arts

The Transfiguration – beholding the Glory



The Rev Michael Burgess considers 'The Transfiguration' by Fra Angelico. It is found in the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence. Our graphic is from Wikimedia Commons at: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Transfiguration_by_fra_Angelico_\(San_Marco_Cell_6\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Transfiguration_by_fra_Angelico_(San_Marco_Cell_6).jpg)

TQ – Tingle Quotient – is the name given to those things that can produce a tingle down the spine or a frisson of excitement. It could be a piece of music or the sight of an **evening sunset at sea**. We look, we hear, and our sense of wonder as something sublime unfolds before us produces delight and awe. We see a hint of glory that can even lead us to worship.

I think the monk who lived in cell no 6 at the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence must have felt that when he entered his room and saw for the first time the fresco of the Transfiguration that Fra Angelico had painted. I am sure the sight would have stopped him in his tracks, just as Peter, James and John were stopped in their tracks as they beheld their Lord transfigured before them on the mount.

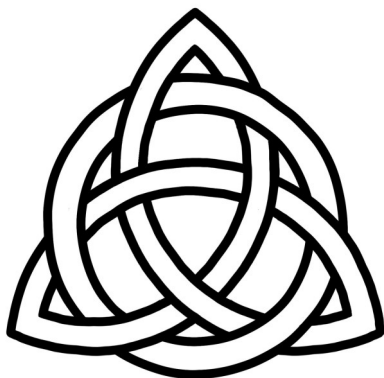
From 1436 Fra Angelico painted a whole series of frescoes for the convent from the High Altar to the Chapter House to the cells of the monks. Here in cell no 6 there is a restrained simplicity and directness about the Transfiguration. One of the three disciples looks out towards us, while the other two are caught up in wonder and awe as they look on Jesus with the faces of Moses and Elijah on either side.

Here Fra Angelico is not seeking to impress a wealthy patron: he is providing a focus for devotion and prayer for the monks of his community. The scene speaks to us of that sense of awe and reverence.

On August 6 we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel accounts relate that special moment of revelation to the inner group of disciples. The glory shown to them evoked a sense of wonder and marvel, but also a sense of loss. For the glory proved elusive and just out of human reach. The moment of revelation passed, and the disciples had to go down the mount again to meet the crying needs of the world, all but forgotten when they were with their Lord on the mountain top.

The monk in his cell would ponder the glory of Fra Angelico's fresco, knowing that he would be called from his cell to take up his monastic duties. But the painting would go with him to sustain and nurture his life. It is the same with us: we have moments of glory. But they pass, and we must return to our daily lives. As we look on this month's painting, we sense that glory and wonder which can sustain us through life. As Thomas Jones says in his poem on this episode:

Like a pearl we hold
Close to our hearts
what we have heard and seen.



Easy

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Sudoku

Medium

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Crossword

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Across

1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

3 See 1 Across

8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)

9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)

11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)

Crossword Clues

- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.



When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus...



This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!



This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.



But Jesus said...

I will go and heal the boy.



But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.



He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed

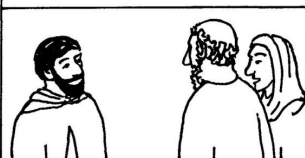


Jesus was amazed!



I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

He said to the friends...



You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!



Sudoku Solutions

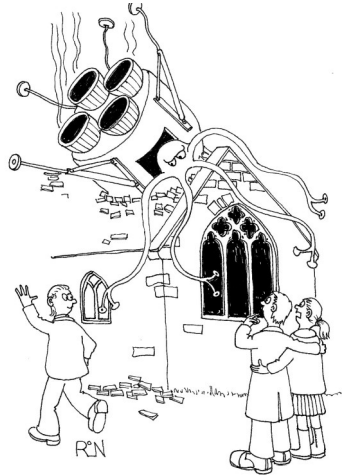
Easy

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

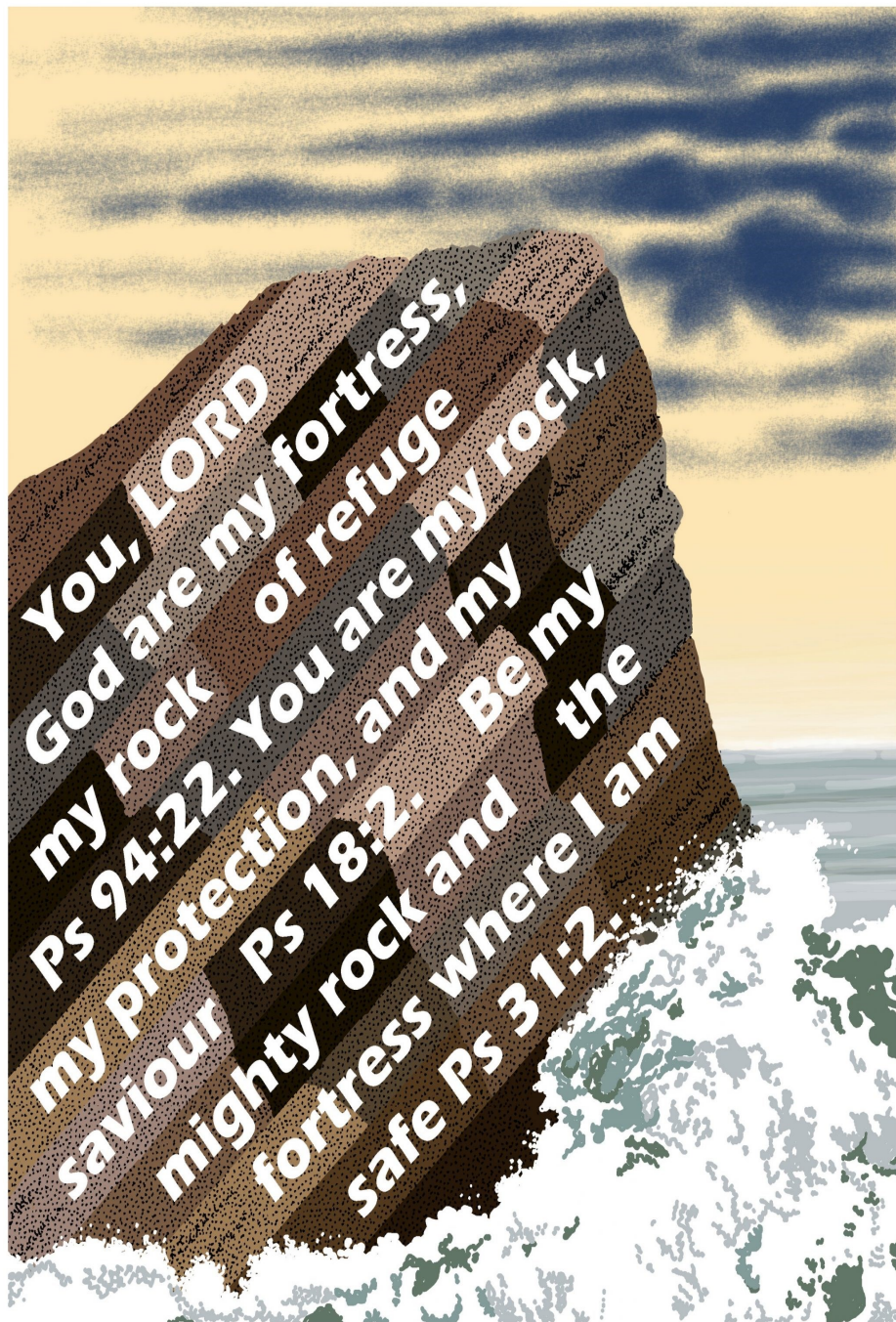
Medium

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

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



As Lay Rectors, he reminded them, the chancel



You, LORD
God are my fortress,
my rock of refuge,
Ps 94:22. You are my rock,
my protection, and my
saviour Ps 18:2. Be my
mighty rock and the
fortress where I am
safe Ps 31:2.