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Stockport Parish Church - St Marys



St Thomas' Church, Stockport, Holt Street, Stockport, SK1 3PY.



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St Thomas' Church Stockport



St Luke's, Northumberland Road, Brinnington, SK5 8BS



www.stlukesbrinnington.co.uk



St Luke's Brinnington



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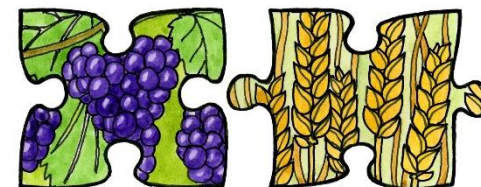
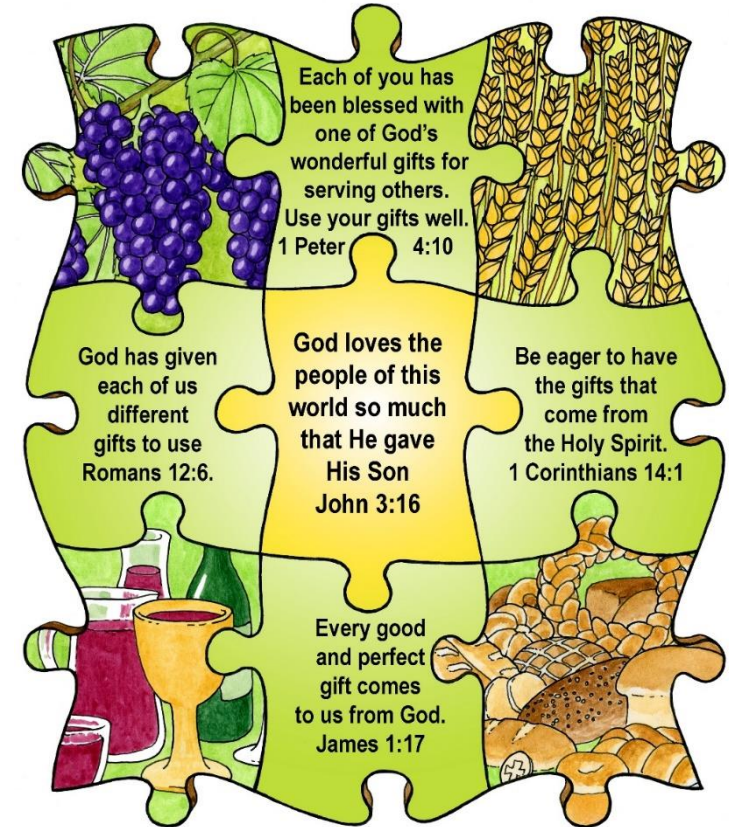
lynne.cullens@gmail.com

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

St Mary

St Thomas

St Luke



September
2019

'I consider myself fortunate that, for reasons of work and because some of my family live there, I get to spend time frequently in London. London is a 24 hour city; bright, vibrant, noisy and full of life. I thoroughly enjoy my visits. But I wouldn't particularly want to live there, because though I love the high energy feel of it, I equally need time spent outside, daily if possible, where hills and fields reach out in an unbroken tapestry to the horizon; time spent walking, often now in the beautiful countryside around Stockport, brings me peace, tranquility, an appreciation of natural beauty and especially so at this time of year as we approach the end of the Summer and look forward to the changes that transitioning from one season to another brings.

John Keats in his poem To Autumn, captured some of those. Written in September 1819, it begins..

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;”

Autumn is the loveliest of seasons to my mind, but mention of it only occurs once in the Bible. In [Jude 1:12](#), where false teachers are compared to “autumn trees without fruit,” implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year.

But 'seasons' feature in scripture far more frequently; in Ecclesiastes 3 for instance which talks about the seasons of our



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

- Holy Cross Day Celebrate
- Symbol Triumph Victory Death
- Helena Roman
- Constantine Rome
- Israel Site
- Emperor



Marks & Spencer – celebrating 125 years

The origins of the iconic British retail chain Marks & Spencer (often known as M&S) were laid 125 years ago, on 28th September 1894, when Michael Marks, a Polish Jewish immigrant, acquired his first permanent stall in Leeds covered market and invited Thomas Spencer to become his business partner.

Ten years earlier Marks had opened a market stall in Leeds with the slogan 'Don't ask the price: it's a penny'. Spencer was a cashier from Dewhirst – a wholesale company whose owner Isaac had backed Marks. Spencer's £300 investment grew to £15,000 by 1903. He died two years later, but his wife continued to fund charitable work in Middlesbrough.

After Marks' death, the St Michael brand was created by his son in his honour. The store has always been seen as a retailer of British quality goods, and its attitude to its customers was encapsulated in the 1953 slogan 'The customer is always and completely right.'

In 1998, the company became the first British retailer to make a pre-tax profit of over £1 billion. At present there are well over 900 stores across the UK, including more than 600 that sell only food, but there are plans to close about 100 of them.

lives..."for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven" and in Daniel 2:21 "God changes times and seasons; he removes Kings, he sets Kings up; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding".

In all of the biblical references to seasons there is a sense that, whilst all may change around us - life, the world, ourselves, our relationships - God never changes; his presence with us is absolute, his love unwavering, his purposes unshakeable. In all the changes of our lives, in all of those varying seasons, in times of joy and excitement and in times of fear or sorrow, God is with us. Unchanging, ever-present, loving, merciful and abiding. And there is a great peace in that understanding. I read the other day a soundbite which said 'if you think you have messed up God's plan for your life I have news for you....you, my friend, are not that powerful'. As Christians, as people of faith, we trust to an all-powerful God, we have faith in his love and purposes for us and can be assured of his presence with us through all the changes that we might face, encounter and be challenged by.

So, as we enter September, I pray that you enjoy these final days of Summer and the approaching mellow-toned beauty of Autumn to come. But, most of all, I pray that you are confident in the knowledge that in all the changing seasons - in our world, our country and our lives - that God's love for you never changes, ceases or is absent. All else may change, but God loves you and God is.'

Rev Lynne Cullens
Rector

Supporting Christian Aid this Harvest



Will you support our Harvest Appeal?

Millions of women like Kasthuri are born into poverty. They've faced prejudice all their lives: no rights, no security, no voice. In India, and around the world, Christian Aid projects are helping communities to break

through the social and economic exclusion that's holding them back. You can help more people to build a future for themselves and their families through our Harvest Appeal. Make this the season



for change.

Harvest time is coming. A group of women chat and laugh as they tend rows of organic tomato plants, which are already loving the hot sunshine.

Kasthuri's life wasn't always like this. Like her friends, she was born into India's underclass; as a Dalit, she knows what it feels like to be discriminated against and alone. She survived because someone had faith in her. Selvi is from a different caste, but she gave Kasthuri what she needed most – a home to raise her son, Mathi. 'Normally, someone from her community wouldn't even hand a cup of water to a Dalit person' says Kasthuri. Fortunately, Selvi is determined to change the world around her. The EcoVeg project is also breaking barriers. It supports Kasthuri and her women's farming collective with agricultural and business skills, and gets them a fair price for their crop. For the first time, everyone has a sense of control over their lives.

More than 50,000 people now attend non-traditional church gatherings

More than 50,000 people are attending non-traditional church gatherings, thanks to the success of a drive to attract worshippers with no previous contact with the Christian faith, the General Synod heard this summer. And members of the General Synod gave their backing to an expansion of 'Fresh Expressions' churches – new forms of church gatherings, meeting often in venues such as cafes, community centres and pubs. Fresh Expressions churches now account for 15% of congregations in the Church of England and are estimated to attract more than 50,000 worshippers, the equivalent to the size of two new dioceses, the General Synod was told. To boost the movement, the Church of England is planning for up to 6,000 'pioneer' ministers within the next decade – both lay and ordained – to serve Fresh Expressions churches. There are also plans to give further support for the growth of new forms of church gatherings in 10 dioceses. Fresh Expressions was called "the most influential missionary movement of the last 50 years, and a significant means of allowing our church to thrive now and in the future." Mark Sheard, Chair of the Ministry and Public Affairs Council of the Church of England, leading a debate at the General Synod said: "I am firmly of the belief that ... what we are witnessing here is a real and exceptional movement of the Spirit." And so the General Synod voted to approve a new motion celebrating the success of the Fresh Expressions movement, and encouraging every parish and diocese to be part of the movement.



Why your garden needs an old sink

A pond – even a small one – is the most important thing you can do for the wildlife in your garden. So says

Kate Bradbury, a presenter of the BBC nature show, SpringWatch.

The problem is that the number of ponds in Britain has halved since the 1950s. The effect on wildlife has been catastrophic. Beetles, birds, frogs, toads, newts, hedgehogs, and bees are already in steep decline, and with no easy access to water, their struggle to survive is even harder.

Kate Bradbury urges people to use old Belfast sinks, buckets or even baths to help their garden wildlife. For such mini-ponds, the RHS recommends oxygenating plants such as a miniature water lily, starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*) and lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*).

A guide to building a mini-pond can be found at:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/createaminipond/>

A biscuit pack can bring great cheer,
But therein lies a trap –

You pull just where it says 'tear here'
And they all land in your lap.....

By Nigel Beeton



St Mary's Harvest Festival Sunday, 29th September 2019

Morning Service for Harvest 10.30

LUNCH at the Nave Café 12.30
proceeds to Christian Aid

Collection point for the Wellspring

Making the most of your time

Rev Paul Hardingham

September is the time of year when we get back to normal routine after the summer break. It's an opportunity to ask how God wants us to make the most of the time He gives us. Although we can't always choose how we use our time, we can control our attitude towards it. How can we use our time wisely?

*Firstly, **see time is a gift from God.** Each day is an opportunity to know God better and serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, as someday our time on earth will end. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). The first thing we can do when we awake is thank God for the gift of another day.*

*Secondly, **commit your time to God.** Time is not to be wasted, but to be used for God's glory. We are accountable to God for the way that we use our time: 'Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15,16). We should ask God to help us organise our time more wisely, to reflect His concerns.*

*Thirdly, **set aside time for God, others and ourselves.** How often can we go through a whole day without thinking about God or ignoring someone who needs our help? This is because we relegate God to our spare time, so He ends up at the bottom of our list of priorities. Jesus said, 'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew*

6:33). If we prioritise our time for God, people and our needs, the rest of life will fit around them.

'I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.' (Martin Luther).

fiancee, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!



Royal British Legion

HELP REQUIRED (Stockport area) with collection duties this October / November.

If anyone could spare an hour or two to assist we'll put you in touch with Hilda Hampson who really needs some support this autumn.

Enter all the angels

By Canon David Winter

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his

Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them – the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted

that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

St Thomas' Church, Stockport



Saturday 28th September

10 - 12 noon

McMillan Coffee Morning

All welcome

Wordsearch Grid – Holy Cross – sep19

D	A	N	E	L	E	H	L	R	N	E
N	R	O	R	E	P	M	E	O	T	M
E	C	I	L	M	T	S	A	M	M	O
D	M	X	U	D	Y	I	R	A	L	R
E	N	I	T	N	A	T	S	N	O	C
A	R	F	G	R	C	Y	I	E	B	H
T	V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	E	M	U
H	S	C	I	P	R	H	O	L	Y	R
S	B	U	R	I	A	L	M	S	S	C
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		5			1	7
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3	1					
6			7			2
		8		4		
1			3			9
					6	5
	9	1	5			
8	4				3	

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Sudoku

supporting Blossoms at Edgeley Park. Contemporary pop, infused with psychedelia, dipped in naughties R'n'B nostalgia, with just a hint of disco flare - this will be a night to remember. All this set against the backdrop of the beautiful St Marys Church in Stockport - you won't want to miss this one.

Average Sex earned glowing reviews after supporting Tim Burgess on his UK tour in 2018, and one listen will make you see why. If you like girls, boys, guitars, melodies and something to dance to then Average Sex will be your new BFFs. Finding love, falling out of love, eating ice cream - all the major subjects are covered in classic three-minute pop gems that you will still be humming days later.

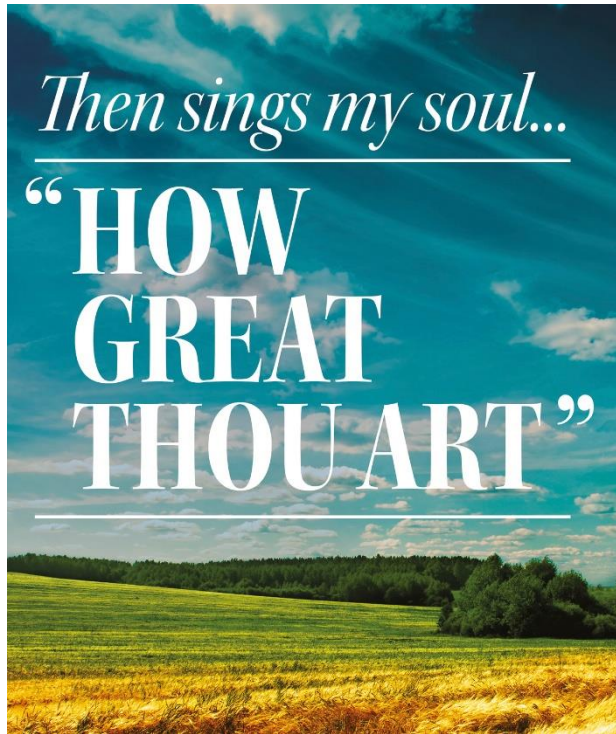
Tickets are selling quickly....



As part of the eight days of music, film and comedy in the heart of Stockport – **coming to St Mary's on Saturday, 28th September (7pm)** are Fuzzy Sun and Average Sex.

Fuzzy Sun are bringing a journey through melodic, psychedelic pop in their home town of Stockport after earning rave reviews for their set

The story behind the hymn: How Great Thou Art



This well-loved, world famous Christian hymn began in Sweden, moved to Germany and Russia, and thence to England and the USA, where it became world famous as the signature song of George Beverly Shea in the great Billy Graham Crusades.

In about 1887 Carl Boberg was a young lay-pastor in

Sweden, walking home from church near Kronoback, Sweden, and listening to the church bells. Suddenly a violent storm blew up, with lightning and thunder and wind – and just as quickly it departed. In the calm following the storm, a rainbow appeared, and all nature was at peace. Boberg was inspired to write a poem, *'O Store Gud'*, on the greatness of God in Nature. He set it to an old Swedish folk tune, and it was first sung in Varmland in 1888.

'O Store Gud' became popular, and it began to spread. By 1907 it had been taken to Germany by a wealthy Baltic Baptist nobleman. From there it moved to Russia in 1912, where it was called *Velikiy Bog* – or 'Great God'. By 1925 it had been translated into English 'O Mighty God' by a professor at North Park College in Illinois. But

this gave way in 1949 to a different English translation, done by a British missionary to the Ukraine, Stuart K Hine, who called it *How Great Thou Art*, and rewrote some verses.

It was Hine's version which went on to gain wide popularity in the USA. It was first recorded by a Bill Carle in 1958, and then the Manna Music version of the song was popularised in the 1950s at the Billy Graham Crusades. It was sung in the 1955 Toronto campaign, and then it really took off in 1957 in Madison Square Garden, New York, where Shea sang it 100 times during the campaign.

George Beverly Shea's recording of the hymn has been ranked number 204 on the top recordings of the 20th century. Billy Graham once said: "The reason I like '*How Great Thou Art*' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christian's eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honouring song.'

How Great Thou Art was voted the United Kingdom's favourite hymn by BBC's Songs of Praise programme, and it was second on the list of the 'favourite hymns of all time' in a 2001 survey by *Christianity Today* magazine.

[What can go in my shoebox?](#)

Please choose a selection of items from those suggested below – this is not meant to be an exhaustive list (more ideas are available on the T4U website) but please do not include anything from the 'NO' list.

For boys or girls:

Toothbrush & toothpaste, hair accessories/brush, soap & face cloth, stationery & paper, gloves, hat & scarf, new socks/underwear Please also include: A soft toy, game, puzzle, small musical instruments, toy vehicles, small rubber ball/inflatable ball, sweets (use by date from March), a photo of yourself.

The Home box:

Candles, cooking utensils (no knives), *plastic containers, t-towels (preferably decorative), hairbrush, small toiletries, plastic utensils, bowls & cups, small Christmas decoration, small decorative item, soap, washing up cloths, clothes pegs, headscarves, new socks/underwear, jewellery, make-up.

Please DO NOT include: Food (only exception is sweets), medicines, military themed items (such as toy soldiers/tanks/ guns), aerosols or anything highly flammable, sharp items, novels



T4U
real people making
a real difference



SHOE BOX GIFTS

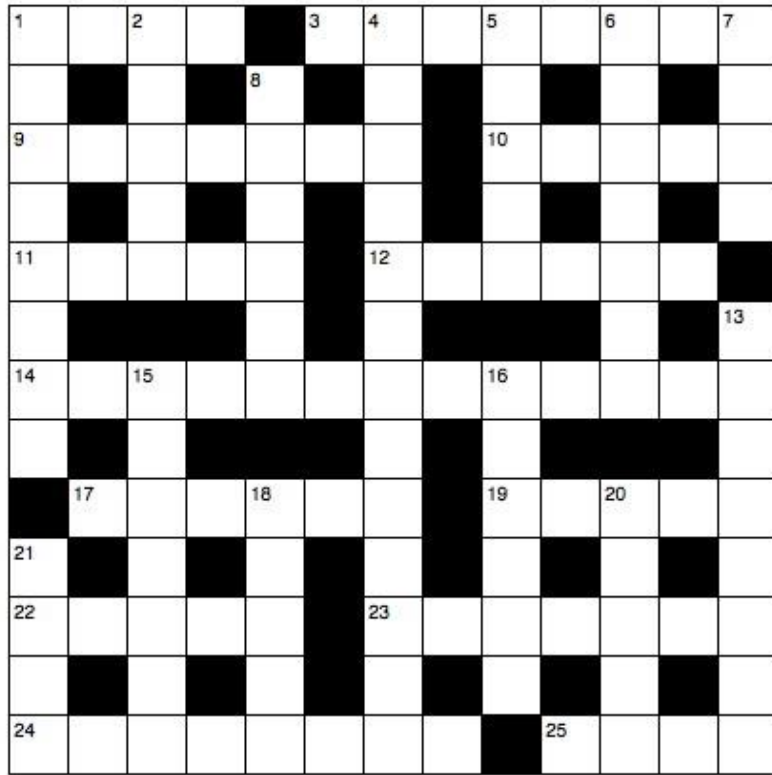
In 2018 from St Mary's we sent 48 shoe boxes containing gifts for vulnerable children and families in Eastern Europe.

Teams4U distributed at Christmas over 51,000 boxes at schools, orphanages and homes in Romania, Belarus and Bosnia showing someone cares for them. Many of the children will never have received a present before and live in desperate poverty.

Many of the magazine readers are already knitting hats and scarves and collecting suitable items for the boxes.

Leaflets giving information on how to make up a box and suitable items will be available in the Nave Café area. If you are not able to make up a box and prefer to bring suitable items for boxes to be made up, they can be brought in and left in a collection box in the café area or donations towards their transportation to Eastern Europe can be given on Sundays to Margaret Forster who coordinates the boxes at St Mary's.

All boxes and gifts to be brought to St Mary's for Sunday 17th November when the boxes are blessed at the Morning Service.



First time around the world – 500 years ago Tim Lenton



Five hundred years ago, on 20th September 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan led a Spanish expedition to the East Indies that turned into the first circumnavigation of the world in 1522.

Magellan was a minor Portuguese noble serving the crown until King Manuel I refused to support his bid to reach India by a new route, south of America, through what are now known as the Straits of Magellan. So, he switched allegiance to King Charles I of Spain and set off with five vessels to reach the Spice Islands.

But Magellan was killed in a battle with natives in the Philippines in 1521, when he took the side of a local chieftain who had converted to Christianity and was defeated by one who did not. The circumnavigation was completed under the command of the Spaniard Juan Sebastian Elcano, in the only remaining seaworthy ship, the Victoria.

Magellan had encountered many problems, including a mutiny. Of the 270 who left on the expedition, fewer than 20 returned, and most of them – including Elcano – were anti-Magellan, whose reputation suffered as a result. But Antonio Pigafetta, a Venetian survivor who had kept a diary, was eventually able to put that right.

Crossword Across

1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
17 Seared by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)

20 Episcopal headwear (5)

21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)