

Issue 4

Oct–Nov 2025



WHALEY BRIDGE
UNITING CHURCH

FAITH MATTERS



A message to the Partnership from Deacon Georgina Brooks .

Richard and I are delighted to come to the High Peak Circuit and we've been asked to write a little bit about ourselves– so here goes!

Richard and I have 2 adult children and have been blessed with grandchildren as well. I was born and bred in Hertfordshire but Richard comes from Woodley.

Richard is a photographic artist who uses still and moving image to show social justice issues. He is currently looking for work around the High Peak to supplement his art work.

I was ordained in 2013 having previously had a variety of jobs including as a lay employee and a manager of a charity coffee shop.

Richard and I enjoy history and art and we are working on our family tree which can be very absorbing! We look forward to getting to know each of you and sharing in this journey together. Love and prayers. *Georgina*

After 62 years of leading worship Rev Michael Thompson has decided to retire. Michael has long been a friend of the Uniting Church, leading thousands of services both here and away when his Ministry was based in the Durham and other areas. Thank you Michael for your quiet presence, your careful words bringing comfort, inspiration and reassurance to so many. You will have time now for your trains and no doubt further Old Testament study. God Bless.



We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,

But it is fed and watered by God's Almighty hand,
He sends the snow in Winter, the warmth to swell the grain,

The breezes and the sunshine and soft refreshing rain.

All God's gifts around us are sent from Heaven above

Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.



Did you know?

'Harvest' is derived from an old English word - 'hoerfest' meaning autumn.

Church bells would ring to tell reapers when the working day started and ended.

In 1879 weather was so bad that crops were not cut until November.

After the harvest had been gathered in, women went back to the field to glean the final bits, followed by geese for the scrapings. The geese were then eaten on Sept. 29th. This is still celebrated in Nottingham.

The harvest home was a rural event with a huge feast and celebration.

The name 'bonfire' derives from 'bone fire', from the Middle Ages when fires were set up to burn bones.

Up until 1959 it was illegal not to celebrate Bonfire Night in the UK.

Derbyshire dialect is unique and very special. We should celebrate our roots but can you translate these local phrases? (I still use many of them when I talk to my Flagg village friends) C

Ow do

Nesh

What's up wi yer

Ay up

Woz

Wittling

Stop mitherin

Summat

It's cowl

Alreet

Me sen

Me duck

Do yer want owt?

Dunna

Alreet me owd lad

Hast thee gitten

Pack up

Siree

Thaas reet theer

Na then

Flummoxed

Mardy

Chuffed to mintballs

I'm sound ta

All of a mither

Harpin on

Were you born in a barn ?

Its cowl outside

Youth

Sithee Siree

Am I eck as like

Tarra

Gormless

All of a kerfuffle

Up yonder

Pack it in

Does tha think?

Ey up mi duck

Six o one and six o' tother

All reet

I hope you like the new printed version of Faith Matters. If you would like to submit an article please Email me

c. mellor174 @ icloud.com



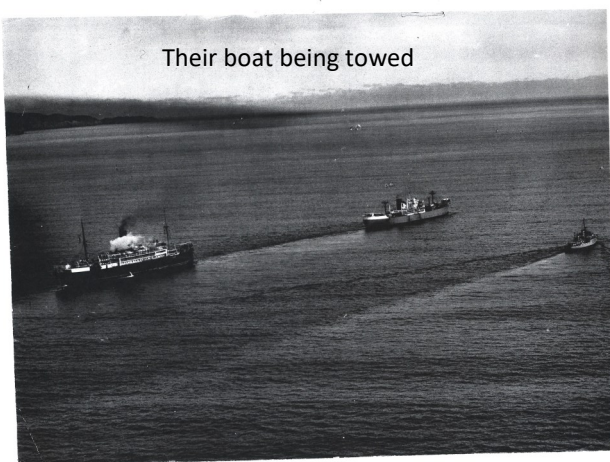
Our very own £10 POM

The year was 1957 and Jennifer Longson was at last on her long journey to live in New Zealand.

She had been picked to play the cornet in the National Youth Band where she met Bob Mulholland, who also played in the band. Bob's Father, meanwhile, had been offered the post of the Musical Director of an orchestra in New Zealand. However Jennifer, who worked at the National Westminster Bank, would not be allowed to emigrate without a job. She and Bob wrote to each other for two years until she managed to find a job in a bank in Napier. Jennifer set off alone and for 7 weeks the ship with its 700 emigrants sailed towards New Zealand where it suddenly broke down and left them completely stranded for one week in the Panama Canal when Jennifer happily got to know other passengers.

Later the ship broke down again, but luckily another ship managed to tow them in from the Pacific. For the whole of that week they survived on just bread and water. As she left the ship she was handed back £5 of her £10 POM fee for the hardship caused by the rationing. She was just 18 years old. By now her Mother had heard the news on the radio and the family prayed fervently for their daughter's safety.

She settled to her new job and life in New Zealand and she and Bob married two years later. Bob then got a job as a journalist on 'The Age' newspaper in Melbourne so they moved for 2 years to Australia before returning to New Zealand for another 13 years. Jennifer had been required to leave the bank when she married, as was the law then, but she was soon busy with 3 children.



They hadn't ever intended to return to England but her Father was diagnosed, wrongly, with a terminal illness (he lived another 18 years) so they settled back here.

Bob left for 6 months, touring with the band in New Zealand and on a world tour. By then Jen was expecting their 4th child and decided to return to England for the birth. She flew home in 1970, in the early days of commercial flying, 7 months pregnant and with 3 small children. They stopped off in Hawaii, and she recalls that by then she was exhausted and her legs were very swollen, the children had been air sick and had to be entertained

during the flight. Bob returned after a few months and started his printing business in Chapel. Jennifer says she has never played the cornet for years but how amazing that her hobby took her across the world as a £10 POM. Her adventurous spirit lives on in her Granddaughter who plays cricket for England.

A Minister had just had all his teeth out and was waiting for his new dentures to be made.

The first Sunday he preached for 10 minutes. The second Sunday for just 20 minutes.

But the third Sunday he preached for 1 hour and 25 minutes.

When asked about this by the congregation he explained.

The first Sunday my gums were sore, the second Sunday my dentures hurt a lot.

On the third Sunday I accidentally grabbed my wife's teeth— and I couldn't stop talking!!



Answers to last month's Summer quiz.

BEACH,SUNSHINE,DECKCHAIR,SUNGLASSES,FLOWERS,HOLIDAY,LEMONADE,SEASIDE,SANDCASTLE,SUNCREAM, SANDALS

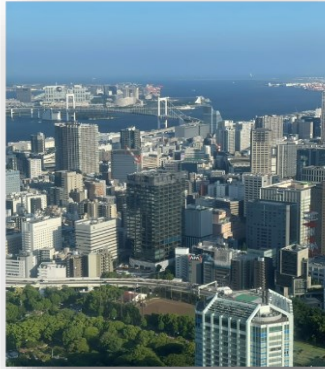
The identity of the mystery child? John Morten

Travels to Japan. By Sue Matthewson

In June 2025, we embarked on a journey that was on my bucket list, Japan.

I was to find Japan a captivating country of many contrasts blending ancient traditions and modern innovations, from the exquisite food, breathtaking scenery, to their rich culture and meticulous customs.

Our Japanese experience started in Tokyo.



A city like many other capital cities, a highly populated bustling metropolis, high rise buildings and busy streets. Some chaos is prevented as pedestrians mainly walk on the left of the pavement. In our experience, except on the major roads, the pedestrian is king in Japan, cars drive slowly and are keen to let you cross the road. While there we experienced the famous Shibuya Crossing apparently 3000 people cross every 2 minutes at busy times. Like London Tokyo has an underground, the metro. If you think it's difficult getting around London; try Tokyo. The metro is run by 3 different companies, so you need to get the correct ticket and platform for your chosen destination.

Each station has its own musical phrase when the train arrives and leaves e.g. auld lang sine!! and so does each train! At one station the exit was heralded by a cuckoo at the exit of the platform. We decided would be a great help if your eyesight was compromised, I also found it comforting as I knew we were going the right way.

The metro is quiet, clean and efficient. The stations are spotless.

When you get off the train you need to find the correct exit, sounds easy not when there are 50. Basically, you can walk all the way to your destination street underground. A blessing when it is hot and I should imagine also when it's wet or icy.

It is like a maze, but we found our friend Google Maps had it taped, and often someone would stop to help us find our best route, taking us to the correct exit not just pointing the way. Tokyo's metro system is much more than just trains and tunnels; it is a vibrant reflection of life in one of the world's busiest cities.

Below are some Tokyo photos and there will be more from Sue on their Japan experience in the Spring edition.

The Meiji shrine where many have their wedding ceremonies, meticulous attention to detail trimming the lawn edges with scissors and a couple having their wedding photos taken.





Pat Kumar's Chutney and jam corner



Pickled plums

Makes 2 x 750 ml jars

1 kg small plums, ripe but not too soft

450 caster sugar

600ml red wine vinegar

5 whole cloves

1 cinnamon stick

1 tsp allspice berries

Half tsp black peppercorns

3 star anise

Wash and dry the plums. Discard any with signs of mould or wasp eaten.

Slit the plum down the cleft like crease. Place the sugar and vinegar in a stainless steel saucepan with the spices. Bring to the boil, stirring occasionally to help the sugar dissolve, leave to bubble for 5 mins. Add the plums and simmer, cook for further 2 min, turning the plums in the liquid. Scoop out the fruit with a slotted spoon and cram into preserving jars, Bubble down the liquid for a further 2 mins and pour over the plums making sure there are no bubbles. Cover, seal and leave for a month before using.

GREEN TOMATO CHUTNEY

This is a lightly spiced, smooth-textured chutney.

500 g (1 lb) cooking apples, peeled, cored and minced

250 g (8 oz) onions, skinned and minced

1.5 kg (3 lb) green tomatoes, thinly sliced

250 g (8 oz) sultanas

250 g (8 oz) demerara sugar

10 ml (2 level tsp) salt

450 ml ($\frac{3}{4}$ pint) malt vinegar

4 small pieces of dried root ginger

2.5 ml ($\frac{1}{2}$ level tsp) cayenne pepper

5 ml (1 level tsp) mustard powder

Place all the ingredients in a large saucepan. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer gently for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally, until the ingredients are tender, reduced to a thick consistency, and no excess liquid remains. Remove the ginger, spoon the chutney into pre-heated jars and cover at once with airtight, vinegar-proof tops.

Makes about 1.5 kg (3 lb)

Hidden Books of the Bible—This issues quiz.

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves.

There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized.

Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph.

During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal.

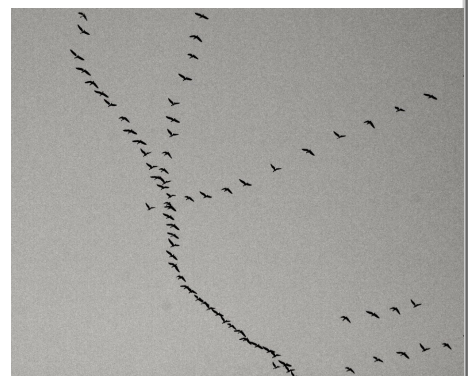
A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

(This kept me amused for ages , but I did find them all in the end, good luck. Chris) Answers next time.

George reports on our migrating birds.

This is the time when thousands of birds that have spent the breeding season in the Northern Hemisphere are moving through Britain to wherever their winter destination takes them. Some birds such as cuckoos, that use other birds nests, leave as early as June as they don't rear any young themselves. Some birds move only as far as Morocco, others to the Arctic. Terns move as far south as the Antarctic.

Many bird watchers watch on the East coast for rare birds that have been blown off their course. Some from as far away as China. But the loyal blackbirds, robins and sparrows brave it out throughout the cold. So please remember to thank them with a nice feed.



Lord we pray that this harvest will provide for those in need.

May the abundance be shared generously, ensuring that no one goes hungry. Let our hearts be moved to give freely as you have given to us.

Amen.

Happy Birthday



October

23rd Sheila Morten

27th Margaret Smith

30th Graham Peasland

November

14th Michael Thompson

21st John Morten

27th Joyce Winfield

Have a lovely day, from us all

I've been coming here on Sundays

I've been coming here on Sundays
For forty years or so
Twas here that I was christened
And tis here I'll want to go.

Now I know you all gets vexed about changes in belief,
Well frills on top don't matter if you're comfy underneath.
I never lets it bother me if I'm high or low or what,
While I've got me ten commandments, I shan't go wrong a lot.

Now I likes th'old fashioned prayer book, an they like ASB,
And they can have what pleases them, and I'll read what suits me,
And half the hymns we sing these days I've never heard before
But I can stand and listen, and perhaps I'll learn some more.

We've had clergy straight from th'college, full of summat new,
From incense on the altar to posters in the pew
And I lets 'em all get on wi't, 'cos all these fashions pass,
And you still do the flowers ,me dears, and I'll still clean the brass.

I got this seat I always have, no draughts and nice and clear,
So I can hear the organ and see the vicar clear,
And I tells God what's happening, and what a week I've had,
And I thanks him for the good times, and he helps me through the bad.

'Cos all that really matters,
As far as I can see
Is that I, down here, remembers Him
And He remembers me.

Barbara Robinson

From out of the mouths

Two little boys were sitting together at a wedding. As the couple said "I do" one of the little boys said to the other "I wonder how many wives a man can have?" The second boy looked at his friend as if he was an idiot and said " He can have 16 wives of course! "

"How do you know that" said the first little boy.

"Weren't you listening? The Minister just said it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer" said the other little boy!



REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE TIPS

MAKING A BEE BOWL

Help our pollinator pals stay hydrated by creating a safe space for them to drink



A flower pot dish makes the perfect bee bowl, but you can use a similar dish of any kind.



Collect some stones and pebbles in the dish. These will add weight to your bee bowl. Insects will land on these as they come to drink.



Pour in water, leaving some stones just above the water level. It's best if you can use rainwater!

Alternatively, leave the bowl to collect falling rainwater.



Find a sunny spot to place your bee bowl. Bees will love it even more if it's near flowers!



EXPLORE MORE FREE RESOURCES



REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE TIPS

BANANA PANCAKES

Every year, UK households bin 4.5 million tonnes of edible food. That's rubbish! Don't waste, taste!



You will need

- 2 overripe bananas
- half a mug of oatmeal
- 1 tablespoon of coconut oil
- some sunflower seeds (optional)



Cut the bananas into chunky slices and mash together with the oats and seeds until you have a gooey ball that holds together.



Heat the oil over a low heat in a non-stick saucepan. Put your banana ball into the pan and squish it down with a fork so its round and flat.



Cook gently for two minutes. Once one side has started to brown, flip the pancake and cook the other side. Remove from the pan and add any toppings you like. Tasty!



EXPLORE MORE FREE RESOURCES



REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE TIPS

MAKING A BIRD FEEDER

This is a great way to support wildlife!



Find a used carton and some old sticks or things that were going to be thrown away to use for a perch.



Cut a big hole for the food and small holes in the corners of the carton so you can slide your sticks through.



Tie string around the top and fill it with bird seed (not bread because it hurts their tummies!)



EXPLORE MORE FREE RESOURCES

The book corner

Our review this issue is from Ruth Gay.

Jo Jo Moyes—Someone else's shoes

Jo Jo Moyes, what a storyteller, so perceptive too!

Someone else's shoes is about two women from very different life situations whose paths cross through a mistaken exchange of sports bags at a gym.

A friendship eventually blossoms and their journey for justice takes you on an entertaining and exciting ride which keeps the reader glued.



Please hold all those who are in hospital, poorly, or recovering, in your prayers. In particular:

Joyce Clayton

Bill Jackson

Jean Mellor

Anne Reeves

The family of
Edward Wild



The Hallowee'en story

All Hallows Day goes back to the 8th century when it was authorised as a holiday by Pope Gregory 4th. Today it is more commonly known in the Church as All Saints Day. Like Christmas Eve preceding Christmas Day, All Hallows Eve was contracted by the Scottish to Hallow E'en.

There have been many traditions and pranks played on this evening, some scary. Faces carved from turnips, known as Jack O'Lanterns, bobbing for apples and a bonfire. This was changed to November 5th in 1605. In Scotland Robert Burns penned a 252 line poem about it, with it's Tattie Bogies (scarecrows), lanterns made from neeps (turnips), eating treacle laden pancakes hanging from string. Later in the evening there would be dancing with a piper, a supper of neeps and tatties (potato and turnips) and singing. Queen Victoria liked these traditions and started her own at Balmoral Castle with 100 carried torches to start a huge bonfire at the front of the castle. Many Christians at the time considered it wrong as she was the Head of the Church of England. Some took the tradition with them to America when they emigrated and by the 1960's it was so popular that Agatha Christie wrote a murder story entitled 'Hallowee'en party'. However by 1978 America started a new genre of occult and horror, associated with Hallowee'en and trick or treating became popular. Pumpkin farms sprung up and it became commercially lucrative. Christians may not embrace Hallowee'en but usually accept it as a bit of fun that children all over the world enjoy, so they choose to ignore it nor judge others who come to a different opinion.

Christiantoday.com

What a harvest!

My first harvest was when I was 5 months old and since then I have been to one every single year. In fact we went to all 3 surrounding villages as well, and that is an awful lot of harvest festivals —a few thousand harvest hymns and several dozen readings of the Sower and the seed! As a child I would switch off after twenty minutes of the sermon (they were very long back in the day) and concentrate on the 'harvest game'. Devised by me, to entertain just me, you had to name something from the harvest display for every letter in the alphabet, with extra points for multiple answers. So A for apples and apricots, B for bananas, beetroot and broccoli, C for cabbage, cauli, carrots and custard powder? (who brought that) and cake (I just hope my Dad buys that at tomorrow night's sale) and so on, but you get the idea. By the time I got to X my eyes were crossing, Y was a yawn and ZZZZZZ I'd gone !!!!! I promise you it still works to get to sleep! But don't try it in Church!

Chris