



St Mark's

PARISH MAGAZINE

October 2026





THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE

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Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome



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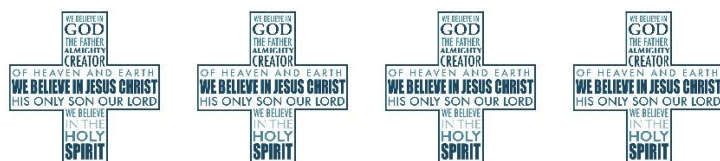


Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from
29 October 2026

All contributions to the editor by
Tuesday 6 October 2026

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

October is the month that the clocks change. The month when we reset our clocks from British Summer Time back to Greenwich Mean Time. The pleasure of an extra hour in bed on the Saturday night is quickly replaced with the reality of the nights drawing in.



But what is time? The whole notion of measuring and naming 'time' is a human invention. Calendars (for reckoning intervals of time) and clocks (for measuring its passage) have a long history. The first calendars were lunar, and there's evidence of them as long as 6,000 years ago. The first clocks were a form of sundial, found in Egypt so clearly humans have long felt the need to track the passage of time.

The dictionary definition of time is as 'the indefinite continued progress of existence and events that occur in an apparently irreversible succession from the past, through the present, into the future.' From a human perspective, time is linear and goes in one direction. What could happen if we were freed from this constraint has long captured writers' imaginations by exploring the idea of being able to travel back in time, or even jump about in it.

So that's what time is like for human beings. But what about for God? Christians believe that God stands outside time. There was never a time when God wasn't, and there will never be a time when God isn't. But even though God exists outside time, and is not subject to it, God reveals Godself within time, because humanity and creation is. Starting with Abraham, God promised that through his descendants, all creation would know God's blessing. Some thousands of years later, and 2,000 years distant from us, God revealed Godself in human flesh, in the person of Jesus, a human being born in a specific place at a specific time.

So as we move through the month of October – and yes the days are shortening and Christmas is getting closer – let us take some time to marvel at the changing of the season and what it brings, and remember that each season and our own time and how we use it, is precious to us.

With my best wishes



CHURCH NEWS

Rev'd Reginald Grant Starts His 50s with a Bang!

What better way to celebrate turning 50 than by taking on the UK's highest zip line, reaching speeds of up to 100 miles an hour, while raising money for two very worthwhile causes?

Rev'd Reg recently took on the challenge to raise money for two local charities, **St Mark's Overseas Aid Trust (SMOAT)** and **Renewed Hope Trust**, with an original fundraising target of £750.



His JustGiving page has already raised an amazing £1,935, with 68 people donating plus donations from the Bahamas. However, this is not the final total, as donations made by cash and other methods have yet to be added, so the final amount raised will be even higher!

SMOAT supports development work in some of the poorest communities around the world, while Renewed Hope Trust supports people experiencing homelessness, helping them get back on their feet and rebuild their lives.



Reflecting on the challenge, Rev'd Reg said:

"Thank you to everybody who supported me in the fundraising bit and just supported me in general. May God richly bless you. We raised some money to do some good, which is even more important. And I have started my 50s with a bang!"



A huge thank you to everyone who donated, encouraged and supported Rev'd Reg along the way. Every contribution, large or small, will help these two charities continue their work.

Well done, Rev'd Reg! What a way to start your 50s!





NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Bishop of Newcastle responds as MPs reject Assisted Dying Bill

Following the vote in the House of Commons against giving Second Reading to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, the Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, said: "I am relieved that the Assisted Dying Bill has been defeated today.

"I recognise the deeply personal nature of this debate and acknowledge all those who will be affected by its outcome.

"I am pleased that MPs have taken seriously the detailed scrutiny applied to the Bill in the House of Lords, work in which I was privileged to participate as a member of the Select Committee.

"I hope that today's decision now affords us space for reflection, but also for action: a clear and sustained commitment to improving palliative and end-of-life care, alongside the social care on which so many people and families depend.

"These are urgent matters, and they must now receive the attention and investment they deserve."



Prayer for Harvest

Dear Lord,



As we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.

May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.

May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.

Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

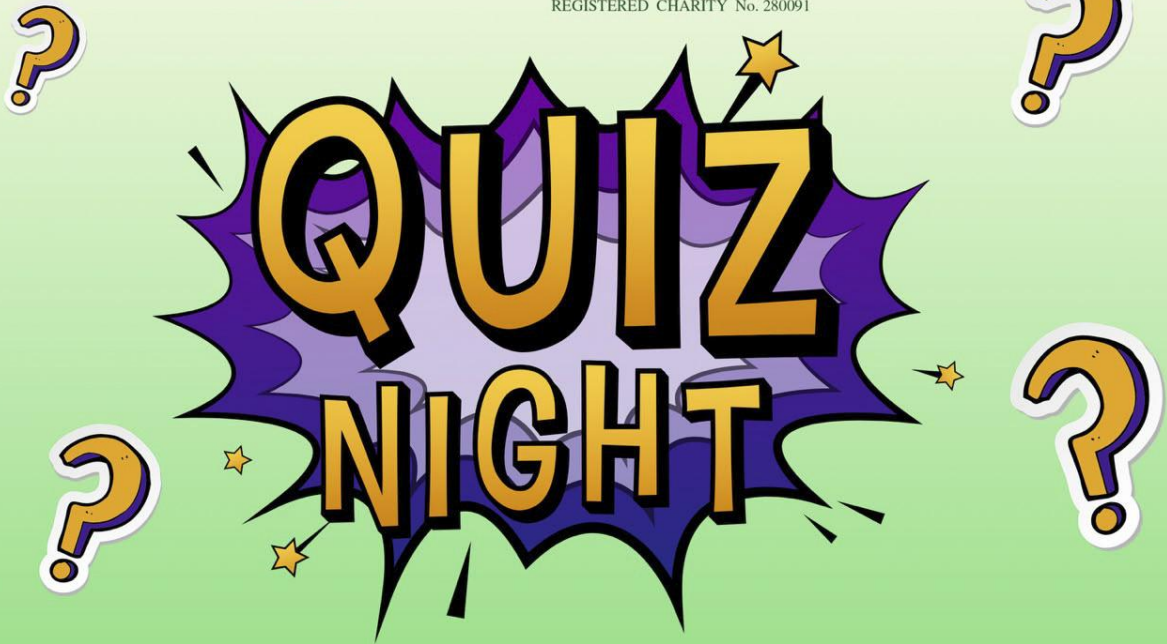
Daphne Kitching



S • M • O • A • T

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Saturday 10th October 2026

**DOORS OPEN AT 7.15PM FOR 7.30 START
ST MARK'S CHURCH CENTRE, REIGATE**

**TABLES OF 8 - BRING A TEAM OR JUST JOIN A
TABLE ON THE NIGHT**

For tickets scan the QR code
or email chair@smoat.org.uk





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Local charities will be showcasing their work in the local area.

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**15TH OCTOBER
2026**



7:30 - 9:30 PM



**ST MARY'S CHURCH CENTRE,
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TOGETHER, MAKING A LOCAL DIFFERENCE

haydn

THE NELSON MASS [Missa in Angustiis]

and MISSA SANCTI NICOLAI

Conductor: GEORGE INSCOE
with ORCHESTRA and SOLOISTS

St Mark's Church, Reigate RH2 0DA

14th November
at 7:30

Tickets: £20.00

Tickets from choir members, on the door
or from [ticketsource.com](https://www.ticketsource.com)



BBCSINFO.ORG



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2026

Thursday 1st October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 4th October Harvest Festival

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
4.00pm All-age Service for Harvest – in Church
5.00pm Harvest Supper

Wednesday 7th October 9.00am Prayer Meeting
3.25am T-Time Tales

Thursday 8th October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 11th October 19th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 14th Oct 9.00am Prayer Meeting
3.25am T-Time Tales

Thursday 15th October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 17th October 8.00pm Social Dance

Sunday 18th October St Luke, Evangelist

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 21st Oct 9.00am Prayer Meeting

Thursday 22nd October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 25th October Bible Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Wednesday 28th Oct Simon and Jude, Apostles

9.00am Prayer Meeting

Thursday 29th October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st Nov	All Saints' Sunday
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
	4.00pm Café Church – in the Hall
	6.00pm All Souls' Service – in Church
Wednesday 4 th Nov	9.00am Prayer Meeting
	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 5 th November	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 8th Nov	3rd Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	9.45 am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online with Act of Remembrance
	1.00pm Community Lunch
Wednesday 11 th Nov	9.00am Prayer Meeting
	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 12 th Nov	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 15th Nov	2nd Sunday before Advent
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
	4.00pm Messy Church
Wednesday 18 th Nov	9.00am Prayer Meeting
	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 19 th Nov	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Saturday 21 st Nov	8.00pm Social Dance
Sunday 22nd Nov	Christ the King
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
	6.00pm Concert in Church
Wednesday 25 th Nov	9.00am Prayer Meeting
	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 26 th Nov	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 29th Nov	1st Sunday of Advent
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
	6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



All in the month of OCTOBER

It was:

800 years ago, on 3 October 1226 that St Francis of Assisi, Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, and founder of the Franciscan Order.

175 years ago, on 18 October 1851 that Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick* was published.

125 years ago, on 19 October 1901 that Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* and *March No. 2* were performed for the first time, in Liverpool.

100 years ago, on 14 October 1926 that the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

90 years ago, from 5 to 31 October that The Jarrow March took place. 200 men set off from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster, to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area following the closure of a shipyard.

80 years ago, on 20 October 1946 that the puppet character Muffin the Mule made his first TV appearance on the BBC series *For the Children*.

75 years ago, on 31 October 1951 that zebra crossings were introduced in Britain. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire.

70 years ago, on 17 October 1956 that Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, was officially opened. It closed in March 2003, nearly 47 years later.

60 years ago, on 21 October 1966 that the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery spoil tip (slag heap) collapsed and fell onto the village. Worst hit was Pantglas Junior School. In all, 116 children and 28 adults were killed.

50 years ago, on 25 October 1976 that the National Theatre in London officially opened.

40 years ago, on 9 October 1986 that Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered in London.

15 years ago, on 31 October 2011 that the world's population reached seven billion.



100 years of Winnie-the-Pooh

One hundred years ago, on 14th October 1926, the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as "largely Edenic" but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield. It came about through the encouragement of E H Shepard, Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine *Punch*, who provided the beguiling illustrations.

Alan Alexander Milne was firstly a playwright and occasional mystery story writer who, again with Shepard, wrote the book of children's verse *When We Were Very Young*, which contained the seeds of *Winnie-the-Pooh* and its sequel, *The House on Pooh Corner*, all of which proved extremely popular.

It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin.

Sadly, the book eventually had an adverse effect on the Milne family. The author said that he felt "amazement and disgust" at the fame his son had had thrust upon him: "I do not want C R Milne to ever wish that his name was Charles Robert." Nevertheless, the son did become estranged from his parents, especially following his marriage to his mother's niece.

The effect of the book on others has been happier. A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world."

Despite creating a kind of Eden, Milne, who was a pacifist, said little about religion. But he did say on joining the Home Guard that "in fighting Hitler we are truly fighting the Devil, the Anti-Christ ... Hitler was a crusader against God."

The four Winnie-the-Pooh books went on to sell more than 50 million copies worldwide. The first book became the first-ever foreign-language book on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Parish Pump



A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church

Leaving a legacy

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference to churches. Each year, gifts in wills, ranging from £100s to £100,000s are received. Faithful witnesses leaving generous legacies have enabled churches to invest in their buildings, pioneer new ministries, and sustain a welcoming presence in their communities.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

To make it easier the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will-writer, so anyone can write a simple will online for free, in as little as 30 minutes. You can find out more by visiting <https://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese>

We strongly advise seeing a solicitor for more complicated wills, or for people wishing to review their existing will or add a codicil.

A gift for future generations

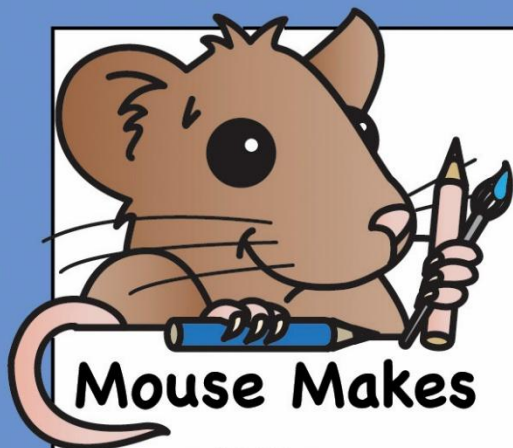
After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider leaving a gift in your will to St Mark's. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Circumstances change over the years, so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss the most appropriate use of the legacy in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (for example, children and youth, music, buildings).

You may also receive tax benefits for including a gift to St Mark's in your will. A gift in your will to a charity is free of inheritance tax and may also reduce the amount of tax payable on the rest of your will. <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

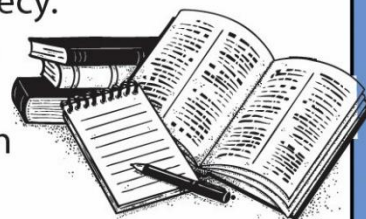
Please consider leaving a legacy to St Mark's.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer



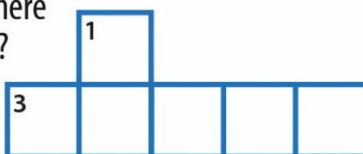
The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?



3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.



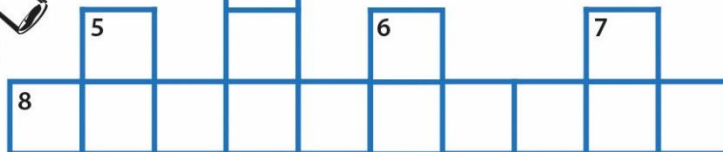
5. The first book of the Bible.



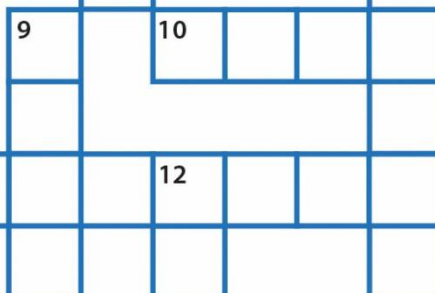
6. God's word is like?

A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105

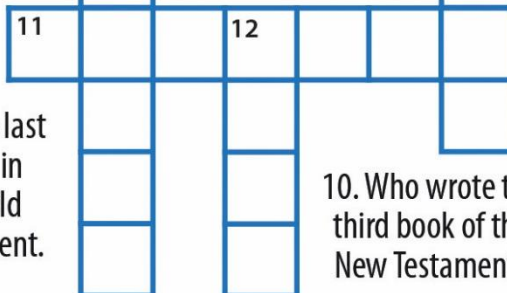
8. The last book in the Bible.



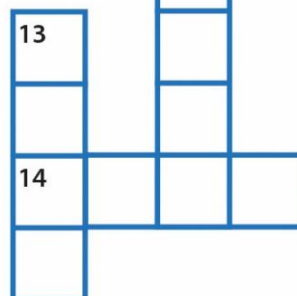
9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.



11. The last book in the Old Testament.



10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?



7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?



12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?



13. The Bible is also known as the

_____ of God.
Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

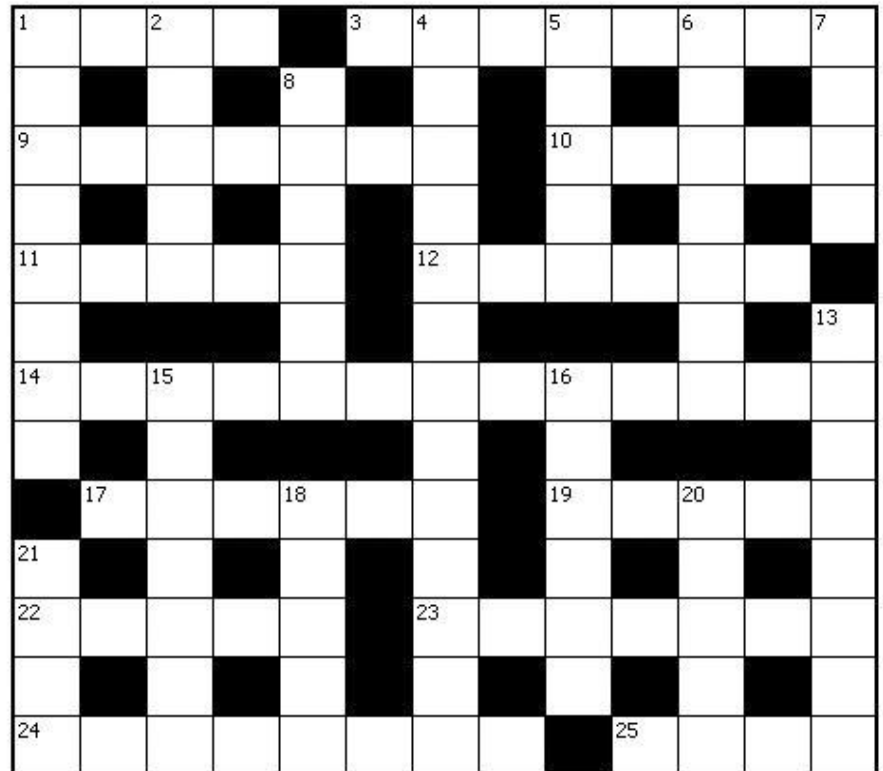


October Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)



Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

September answers

ACROSS: 1. Labour 4. Autumn 7. Stay 8. Darkness 9. Reasoned 13. Act 16. Presbyterians 17. Sat 19. Ridicule 24. Reproach 25. Abib 26. Celtic 27. Intend

DOWN: 1. Lose 2. Blamerest 3. Radio 4. Agree 5. Tend 6. Music 10. Sober 11. Noted 12. Doric 13. Available 14. Test 15. Apes 18. As Eve 20. Isaac 21. Ishvi 22. Fret 23. Ebed

Puzzles

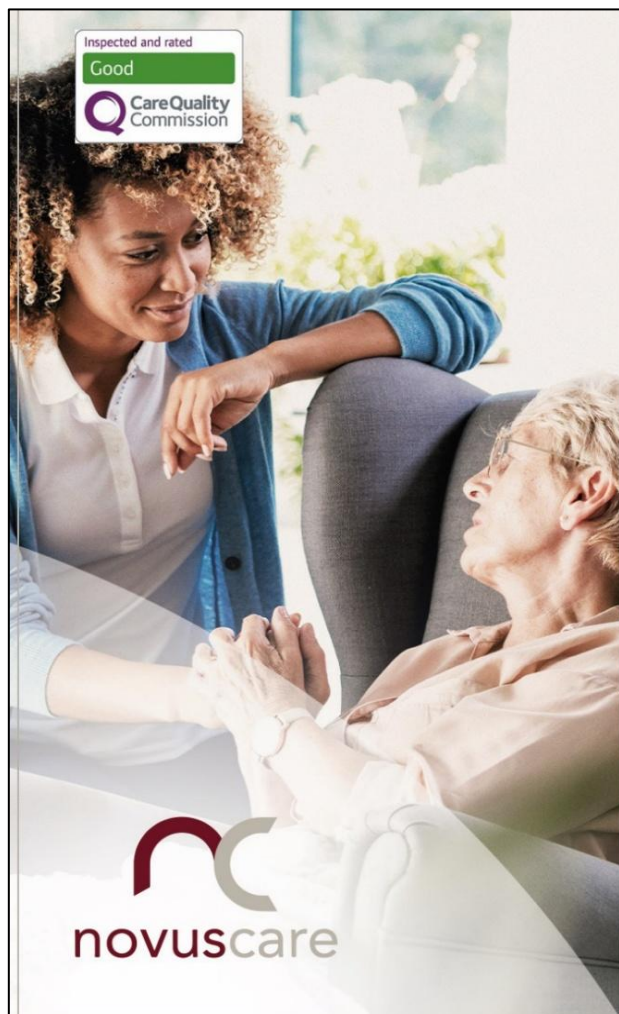
October Sudoku

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

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September Solution

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



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