



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey February 2019
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear Friends

I have recently found an Old Arabian fable which I would like to share with you.

A man was wandering through a forest and came across an injured fox. The fox had broken its legs in an effort to escape the huntsmen. It lay, helpless in the undergrowth, completely unable to find food for itself. Though its injuries were not, in themselves, life threatening, surely it would die of starvation or be prey for other, larger animals.

As the man watched, feeling sorry for the fox, a huge bear approached with what seemed to be his last victim in his mouth. The man, frozen with fear, thought that this would be the end of the fox. Instead, the bear seemed to ignore the fox, and when he had finished his meal, he left the remains of the carcass near to where the fox lay. The bear went on his way and the hungry fox devoured the meat which had been left so close to him.

The man walked in the forest the next day and from a distance, looked to see if the fox was still alive. As he watched, along came the bear again and did the very same thing that he had done the day before. Amazed, the man decided to make regular observations from a safe distance. Again and again, the bear left a tasty morsel for the hungry fox.

The man thought long and hard about what he had seen and he began to wonder if God was trying to teach him something through his observations. Having seen God's provision for the injured fox,

the man thought, "My faith is so weak, I must learn to trust God more. If God has provided for this poor fox, then how much more will he care for me, one of his children?"

The man went and lay in a quiet corner of the forest and prayed, "Lord, this fox has shown me what it means to trust you, now I too trust myself entirely to your care". At this he lay still and waited for God to act. A day passed and nothing happened. The man was getting hungry. Another day passed and nothing happened. The man was puzzled. Another day passed and the man became angry. "Father", he cried, "You love that little fox more than you love me. Why won't you care when I trust you so much? Why don't you feed me?"

At last, not only hunger but the need for a bath and clean clothes, forced the man back into town and back to his nice comfortable home. On his way, the man passed a starving child and railed against God saying, "Lord, why don't you **do** something?" The Lord's answer came straight away, He said, "I have done something, I created you but you chose to imitate the fox when you should have been imitating the bear".

How many times have we accused God of doing nothing while we ourselves have been in a position to help? I have noticed a Food Bank box at the back of Church; I'm told it's some time since it was last full. I also know that the Oldham Angels night shelter is in need of new socks and underwear for the homeless people that they serve. Perhaps we could make an effort to help local people who are struggling by sharing some of the things that God has blessed us with.

May God continue to bless us all as we try to serve Him

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dign' or similar, written in a cursive style.

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Day by Day Scheme

Thank you to all those who are helping to ensure the future fabric of our church by supporting the Day by Day Scheme.

5 Feb	Birthday memories of Uncle Albert
15 Feb	Stewart & Janet's Wedding Anniversary
17 Feb	Margaret Crompton a much loved, mother, grandmother and great grandmother
23 Feb	Gareth's Birthday

Street Prayers

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
03-Feb	David's Lane
10-Feb	Bracken Close
17-Feb	The Sycamores
24-Feb	Oldham Road
02-Mar	Railway View & Jackson Street

Prayers for these streets will be offered in Church on the Sundays shown

Any requests for specific prayers
please ring the parish office 626 3630

Let us witness to the presence of the church to all in Hey Parish

Bible Readings

3 Feb Candlemas

Ezekial 43:27-44:4

Luke 3 2:22-40

10 Feb The fourth Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 6:1-8

Luke 5:1-11

17 Feb The third Sunday before Lent

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Luke 6:17-26

24 Feb The second Sunday before Lent

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-end

Luke 8:22-25

3 Mar The next Sunday before Lent

Exodus 34:29-end

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Diary Dates

Sun 3 Feb

Candlemas

8am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer

9.30am Parish Communion

Wed 6 Feb 10am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer

10.45am Coffee & Chat

11am Holy Communion at Oakdene

Thu 7 Feb 7pm Come & Praise!

Sun 10 Feb

The fourth Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

Mon 11Feb 7.30pm PCC

Wed 13 Feb 10am Holy Communion

10.45am Coffee & Chat

7.30pm Deanery Synod

Thu 14 Feb 7pm Come & Praise! With Holy Communion

Sun 16 Feb		The third Sunday before Lent
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Come & Praise!
Wed 20 Feb	10.45am	Coffee & Chat
	10am	Holy Communion
	11am	Holy Communion Millfield
Thu 21 Feb	7pm	Come & Praise!
Sun 23 Feb		The second Sunday before Lent
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Wed 27 Feb	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat
Thu 28 Feb	7pm	Come & praise!
Fri 1Mar	1pm	World day of Prayer
Sun 3 Mar		The next Sunday before Lent
	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion

What an Experience!

When Rev Lyn asked for volunteers to help with "Experience Christmas" – a 2 day event in church for all the pupils of Hey with Zion school, quite a few of the congregation came forward to offer their time and talents.

The first thing we learned was that there were quite a few props that needed acquiring or making – a manger, twigs and stones for a fire, pine cones (some of these collected from a local golf course), bowls and jugs, a map of the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, paper boxes and angels for each child (which had to be printed, cut out and the boxes then glued together). We soon appreciated the old saying "many hands make light work", particularly when it came to gluing the boxes, indeed the second batch of these were done at the Coffee and Chat morning by all who attended, which included 2 P.C.S.O.s

So with everything set up and our instruction sheets ready we awaited with some trepidation the arrival of the first set of pupils. Rev Lyn first spoke to the whole group and then they were split into 5 and each group started at a different station and the volunteers at that station explained what it was about and then involved the pupils in thinking about that experience. The pupils had 8 minutes at each station and when the bell was rung they moved on to the next. When they had been to all they processed quietly to the final station which was hidden at the back of the altar – God’s Gift of baby Jesus in the manger, where Rev Lyn spoke about the gift and the children presented their gifts in their boxes to Jesus.

Sounds easy doesn’t it? Well for those of us not used to dealing with groups of children it was a little daunting – would the children behave, listen and participate? We needn’t have worried, the children were well behaved and most were willing to participate, answering questions and talking about the experience described at each station.

Talking to the other volunteers we all agreed that the children were a credit to their parents and teachers, and although it was tiring, it was very rewarding and was indeed quite an experience. So thank you to all who made it possible – Rev Lyn and all the volunteers who made and collected props, set up the church, manned the stations, kept time, made brews and finally cleared it all away. Here’s to the next experience!

Pictures here: st-john-hey.blogspot.com click on 2018 then December and select experience Christmas

Edna Green

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

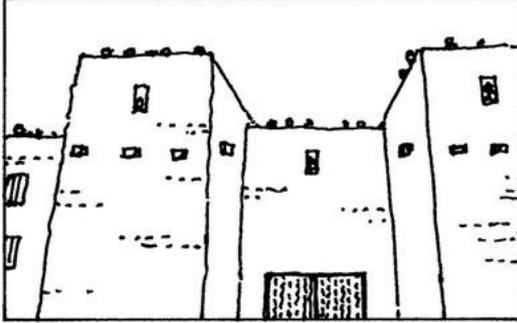
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

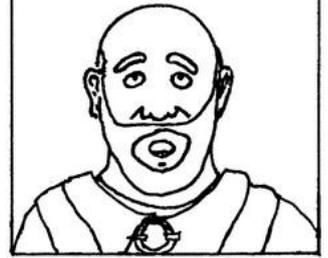
The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



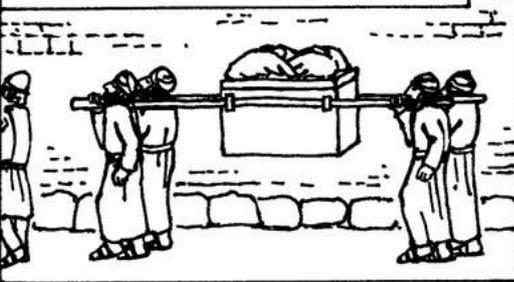
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



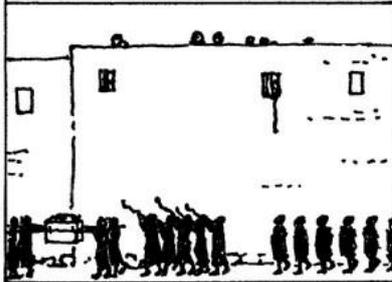
The army followed not saying a word.



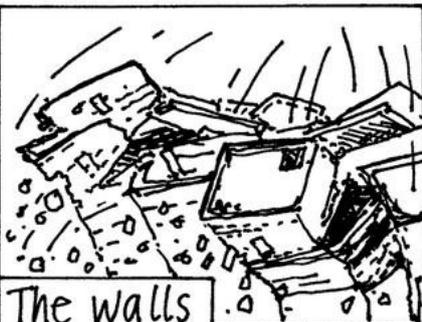
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.

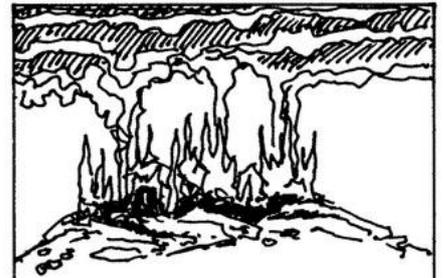
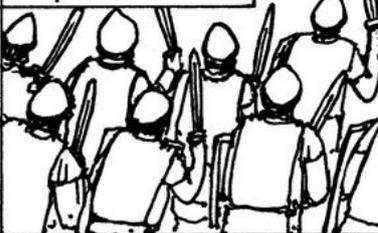


The army gave a victory shout!



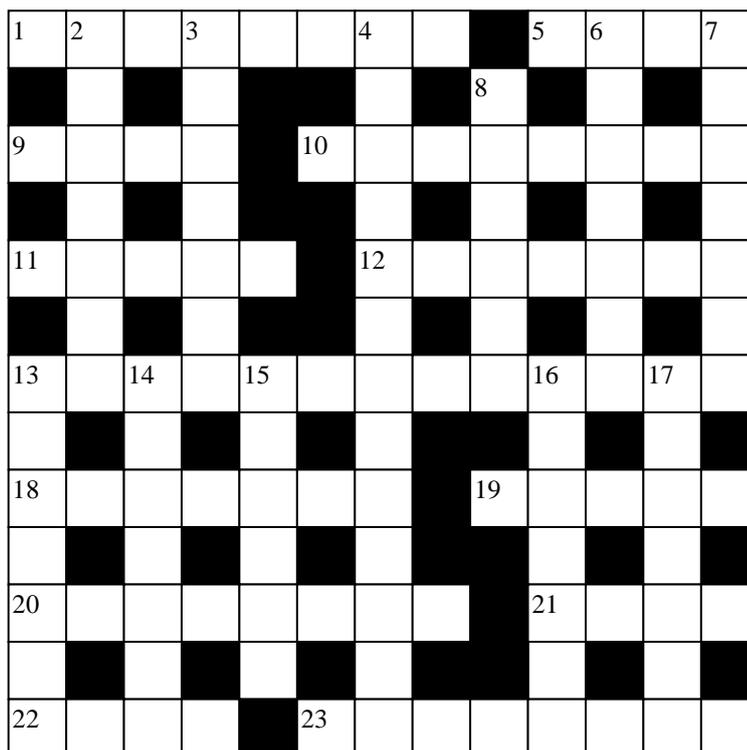
The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS

1. Controls an orchestra (8)
5. Abominable snowman (4)
9. Pollen gatherers (4)
10. Large bird of prey with ear tufts and a deep hoot (5,3)
11. Very important (5)
12. On fire (7)
13. Not in working order (13)
18. Flat unleavened bread used in Indian cookery (7)
19. Creases (5)
20. Towns with councils (8)
21. Jive (4)
22. Grassy area (4)
23. Surprise (8)

DOWN

2. State of being overweight (7)
3. Rod on which wool is wound for spinning (7)
4. Used to control vehicles (7,6)
6. Strong feeling (7)
7. Contrary to law (7)
8. Turns litmus blue (6)
13. Unit of sound intensity (7)
14. Small garden bird (7)
15. Distant planet (6)
16. Go on longer (7)
17. Kidnaps (7)

Solution to December crossword Across:7. Advise,8. Bauble,9. Vet,10. Asses,11. Ego,14. Straw,15. Evening,17. Postman,19. Track,22. Inn,23. Storm,24. Fen,27. Stream,28. Valise. Down:1. Advent,2. Zip,3. Feast,4. Observe,5. Bun,6. Flagon,12. Waltz,13. Snare,16. Pastime,18. Ornate,20. Cheese,21. Brave,25. Leg,26. Ale.