



Bethel News November 2020

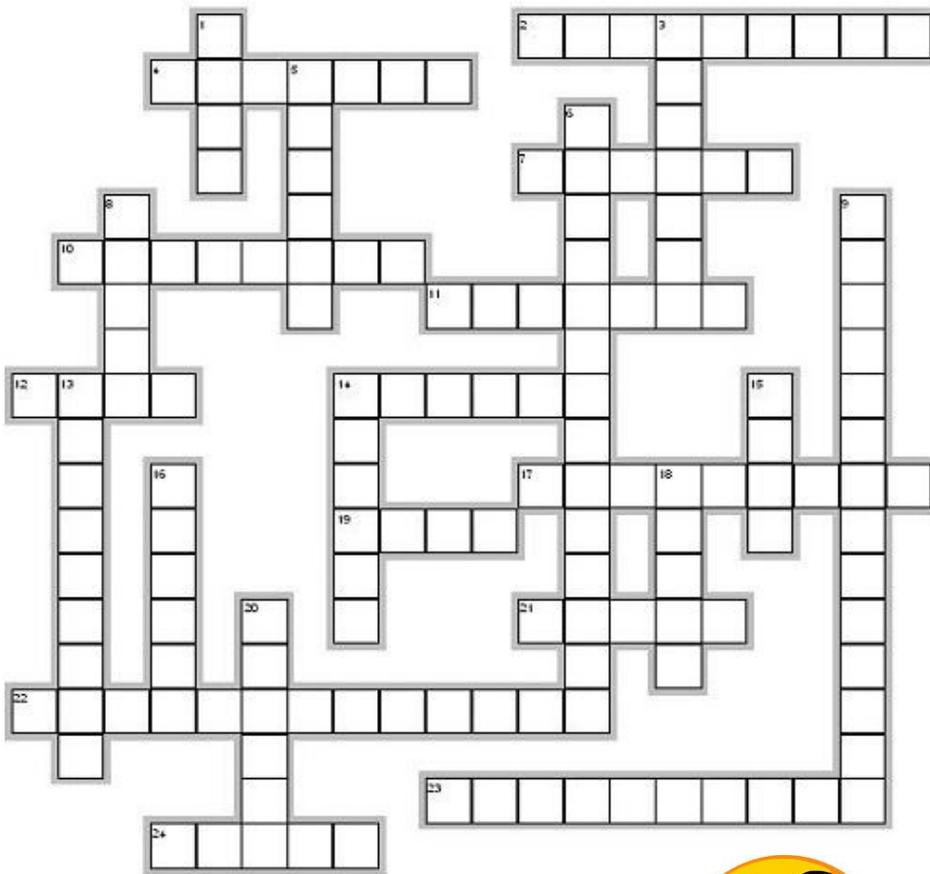
In the last news we said that the re-decoration of the church was due to start but sadly that hasn't happened! The good news is that the church has been painted outside and is looking good. We have discovered a problem with the hall floor which means that the decorating of the hall has been put on hold until the insurance company have been to inspect and a decision made on what action needs to be taken. We have someone willing to paint the interior of the church but we do not have a start date yet.

Christmas 2020 as you all know we normally invite you to bring gifts to church for the Women's refuge in Sittingbourne but sadly we cannot do that this year and so instead we are sending a cheque to the refuge for them to spend as they wish. Please also be aware that the usual Christmas post boxes won't be available this year so if you want to send Christmas cards to your Bethel friends you will need to post them using Royal Mail.

Please pray for:

- Those who have lost loved ones – pray that they will be comforted during these difficult times.
- For any in our fellowship who are unwell – that they may receive the treatment they need.
- For any who are lonely – help us all to support each other during this difficult time.
- We give thanks for our young people and those who lead them.
- We pray for each church on our island and for wisdom for those who lead.
- We pray for those in authority in our world—for wisdom in making the correct decisions.
- Lastly for ourselves, help us to continue to trust and obey.





Across:

- 2. Mother of John the Baptist
- 4. Man whom Jesus raised from the dead
- 7. The earthly father of Jesus
- 10. Short tax collector
- 11. Tax collector who wrote became a disciple
- 12. Temple prophethess
- 14. He found no guilt in Jesus, yet sentenced him to death
- 17. Father of John the Baptist
- 19. Doctor and New Testament writer
- 21. The disciple who was also called Peter
- 22. Betrayer of Jesus (2 wds)
- 23. Blind beggar healed by Jesus
- 24. The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Down:

- 1. The mother of Jesus
- 3. Father of disciples James and John
- 5. Peter's brother
- 6. The forerunner of Jesus (3 wds)
- 8. The tempter
- 9. Man who issued decree for census (2 wds)
- 13. He asked, "How can a man be born again?"
- 14. The disciple who called Nathanael to follow Jesus
- 15. Writer of the second gospel
- 16. Mary's very busy sister
- 18. He had John the Baptist beheaded
- 20. Official whose daughter was healed by Jesus

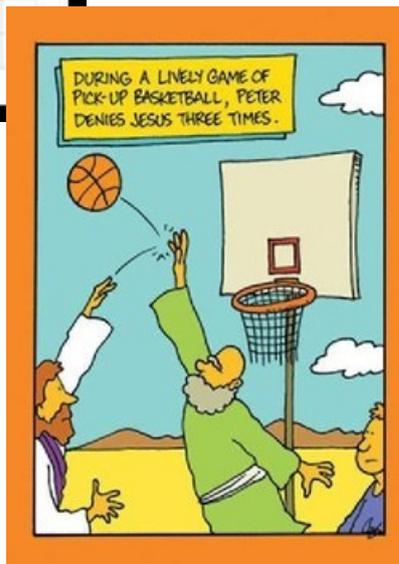


H	J	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	F	G	J	P
G	K	G	E	W	A	S	D	F	H	U	I	O	P	H	J	O
U	M	J	U	K	M	B	V	F	D	E	S	P	O	I	J	K
H	J	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	I	F	E	X	O	D	U	S
J	H	S	A	S	D	G	H	J	K	C	C	F	G	B	D	W
S	T	O	H	J	U	K	I	O	L	D	O	X	C	V	G	Q
G	R	O	S	E	C	O	N	D	K	I	N	G	S	O	E	A
N	D	H	H	U	D	F	G	H	G	Y	D	E	Q	I	S	S
I	S	F	N	O	C	F	G	J	B	H	S	N	S	L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

GENESIS	DEUTERONOMY	FIRST SAMUEL
EXODUS	JOSHUA	SECOND SAMUEL
LEVITICUS	JUDGES	FIRST KINGS
NUMBERS	RUTH	SECOND KINGS



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



Across:

- 2. ELIZABETH 4. LAZARUS 7. JOSEPH 10. ZACCHEUS
- 11. MATTHEW 12. ANNA 14. PILATE 17. ZACHARIAS
- 19. LUKE 21. SIMON 22. JUDAS ISCARIOT 23. BARTIMEUS 24. JESUS

Down:

- 1. MARY 3. ZEBEDEE 5. ANDREW 6. JOHN THE BAPTIST 8. SATAN 9. CAESAR AUGUSTUS
- 13. NICODEMUS 14. PHILIP 15. MARK 16. MARTHA
- 18. HEROD 20. JAIRUS

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF WWI



The first signs that something strange was happening occurred on Christmas Eve. At 8:30 p.m. an officer of the Royal Irish Rifles reported to headquarters: “Germans have illuminated their trenches, are singing songs and wishing us a Happy Xmas. Compliments are being exchanged but am nevertheless taking all military precautions.” Further along the line, the two sides serenaded each other with carols—the German “[Silent Night](#)” being met with a British chorus of “[The First Noel](#)”—and scouts met, cautiously, in no man’s land, The war diary of the [Scots Guards](#) records that a certain Private Murker “met a German Patrol and was given a glass of whisky and some cigars, and a message was sent back saying that if we didn’t fire at them, they would not fire at us.” The same basic understanding seems to have sprung up spontaneously at other spots. For another British soldier, Private Frederick Heath, the truce began late that same night when “all down our line of trenches there came to our ears a greeting unique in war: ‘English soldier, English soldier, a merry Christmas, a merry Christmas!’” Then—as Heath wrote in a letter home—the voices added: ‘Come out, English soldier; come out here to us.’ For some little time we were cautious, and did not even answer. Officers, fearing treachery, ordered the men to be silent. But up and down our line one heard the men answering that Christmas greeting from the enemy. How could we resist wishing each other a Merry Christmas, So we kept up a running conversation with the Germans, all the while our hands ready on our rifles.. The night wore on with songs from the German trenches, the piping of piccolos and from our broad lines laughter and Christmas carols. Not a shot was fired. Just how widespread the truce was is hard to say. there are plenty of accounts of fighting continuing through the Christmas season in some sectors, and others of men fraternizing to the sound of guns firing nearby. One common factor seems to have been that Saxon troops—universally regarded as easygoing—were the most likely to be involved, and to have made the first approaches to their British counterparts. “We are Saxons, you are Anglo-Saxons,” one shouted across no man’s land. “What is there for us to fight about?” Even so, accounts of a Christmas Truce refer to a suspension of hostilities only between the British and the Germans. The Russians and the French did not take part, It was only in the British sector, then, that troops noticed at dawn the Germans had placed small Christmas trees along parapets of their trenches. Slowly, parties of men from both sides began to venture toward the barbed wire that separated them, until—Rifleman Oswald Tilley told his parents in a letter home—“literally hundreds of each side were out in no man’s land shaking hands.” The story of the Christmas Truce has its jewel, it is the legend of the match played between the British and the Germans The first reports of such a contest surfaced a few days afterward; on January 1, 1915, *The Times* published a letter written from a doctor attached to the [Rifle Brigade](#), who reported “a football match... played between them and us in front of the trench.” The brigade’s official history insisted that no match took place. They organized each side into teams, lining up in motley rows, the football in the centre. The game ended 3-2 for Fritz.” Both the German and Scottish soldiers had come out of their trenches and were fraternizing along the front and exchanging cigarettes, schnapps and chocolate with the enemy. Later a Scottish soldier appeared with a football which seemed to come from nowhere and a few minutes later a real football match got underway. The Scots marked their goal mouth with their strange caps and we did the same with ours. Most places, up and down the line, it was accepted that the truce would be purely temporary. Men returned to their trenches at dusk, in some cases summoned back by flares, but for the most part determined to preserve the peace at least until midnight. There was more singing, and in at least one spot presents were exchanged. George Eade, of the Rifles, had become friends with a German artilleryman who spoke good English, and as he left, this new acquaintance said to him: “Today we have peace. Tomorrow, you fight for your country, I fight for mine. Good luck.” Fighting erupted again the next day, though there were reports from some sectors of hostilities remaining suspended into the New Year. And it does not seem to have been uncommon for the resumption of the war to be marked with further displays of mutual respect between enemies. In the trenches occupied by the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Captain Stockwell “climbed up on the parapet, fired three shots in the air and put up a flag with ‘Merry Christmas’ on it.” At this, his opposite number, Hauptmann von Sinner, “appeared on the German parapet and both officers bowed and saluted. Von Sinner then also fired two shots in the air and went back into his trench.” The war was on again, and there would be no further truce until the general armistice of November 1918. Many, perhaps close to the majority, of the thousands of men who celebrated Christmas 1914 together would not live to see the return of peace. But for those who did survive, the truce was something that would never be forgotten.



A Poem For Remembrance Day

Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.

(Author unknown)



1914: THE WAR TO END ALL WARS...



AIR RAID SHELTER



Dunkirk Fact File



98,780 men were lifted from the beaches; 239,446 from the harbour and mole (a wooden breakwater protecting the harbour) at Dunkirk

The "British Lion" lay at peace
Within his island lair,
When all at once the bugle rang—
Its war-notes pierced the air;
The "British Lion" wanted peace,
But Germany said "No!"
So to defend our Island Home
To war we had to go.

*So we're march, march, marching on to battle,
Beneath the Union Jack;
When we face the foe
We'll let the Germans know,
That we never turn back.*

*So we're march, march, marching on to battle,
Our fierce foes to assail;
And the Germans will have cause
To dread the Lion's claws,
If they twist the Lion's tail.*

The "Lion's Cubs" across the seas
Spring to their mother's aid,
Though scattered wider they're Britons
And they are not afraid [still,
To come across the ocean,
And join us hand in hand,
And fight the foes that would enslave
The dear old Mother-Land.

*So they're sail, sail, sailing ever onward,
Across the stormy sea;
With rifles in their hands
They come, those gallant bands
To fight for Liberty.*

*So they're sail, sail, sailing ever onward,
In spite of every gale;
And the Germans they will find
That the "Cubs" are ne'er behind,
If they twist the Lion's tail.*



Get behind
the girl he left behind him

Join the
land army

