

St Hilda's Weekly Newsletter Ashford



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We are looking for more contributions from the St Hilda's community, if you would like to contribute, please either call, email or send an article to the Parish Office.

If you would like help or to speak to a member of the ministry team please contact:

Parish Office Tel - 01784 253525

Email - office@sthilda.org

Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237

BBC Proms compromise has precedent

But its Last Night plan has not placated traditionalists, reports Paul Vallely



YOU might have thought a compromise — that most British of solutions in the face of a dilemma — would have satisfied most people in the row over whether "Rule, Britannia!" and "Land of hope and glory" should be dropped from the Last Night of the Proms. But you would have been wrong.

The traditional anthems, sung with gusto by thousands inside the Royal Albert Hall, are

"offensive" and "outdated", critics insist. The songs are a "call to Imperialism . . . and to colonise". Indeed, they are "racist propaganda", according to Dr Kehinde Andrews, Professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University, who says that "they celebrate the British Empire which killed tens of millions of people".

Those who see the songs as harmless celebrations of Britishness denounce the objectors as zealots demanding ever-higher levels of political correctness. BBC executives responding to their concerns are merely "white guys in a panic", trying to appease the Black Lives Matter movement. They are playing into a narrative of cultural self-loathing, of "cringing embarrassment about our history" — in the words of Boris Johnson.

A close study of the words of the songs is illuminating. "Rule, Britannia!" has come in for most criticism. "As soon as you say 'Britons never shall be slaves', you're kind of implying that other people can be slaves," the Indian opera promoter Wasfi Kani says. Kind of. The original words of James Thomson, penned in the 1730s, were actually a call for Britons to resist the "haughty tyrants" who ruled France. His poem gave thanks that this "blest isle" was protected from tyranny by "the azure main", our "every shore", and "happy coasts". Only by ruling the waves could Britons ensure that they "never will be slaves".

The lyrics of "Land of Hope and Glory" are more problematic. They praise our "equal laws", which have "well and long" brought Freedom and maintained Truth. But they also celebrate unapologetically the strength of the British Empire, and pray that it shall expand "wider still and wider" and be made "mightier yet".

Coronavirus safety requirements mean that the size of the Last Night orchestra and choir must be reduced. There will be no audience in the Albert Hall to sing along. Given all that, it seemed to BBC bosses an admirable compromise to play the tunes but not sing the words. The traditionalists were unplacated, decrying the BBC as "Britain-hating" and accusing it of grovelling to "insane 'woke' cancel culture nonsense".

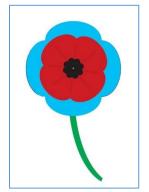
Yet that was how the tunes were first performed by Henry Wood at the Proms in 1905. It was how they were rendered at the Last Night from 2002 to 2007, without the cries of indignation which are the currency of our increasingly polarised society. It is not what you

say, but how it is heard which counts nowadays. "It is an object lesson in how to offend all the people all of the time," the classical music commentator Norman Lebrecht said.

The televised *Last Night*, which has an audience of tens of millions around the world, is a huge money-spinner for the BBC. That is why the traditional flag-waving renditions will probably return next year. But so, now, no doubt, will the current row.

A broader kind of Remembrance

The experience of Covid-19 should change the annual observance, argues Ted Harrison



THIS year is turning into a watershed year. So many incremental changes, which were previously little more than pointers to the future, have been abruptly fast-tracked by the virus. The optimists now hope that we will be back to normal by Christmas, but that normal will be very different from what we knew before Covid-19. From churchgoing to office work, a significant evolutionary leap is taking place.

Whatever shape that new normal will have taken by December, it is highly probable that, in November, we will still be taking precautions

against the virus, such as wearing masks and keeping a social distance. We will be aware of the need to guard against a new wave of the pandemic

It is not too soon to be thinking about how Remembrance Sunday, the national highlight of that season, will be marked. It is highly unlikely that it can be the same as it has been for years, with only the smallest of minor adjustments. It is unlikely that full military bands will be able to play. The politicians will not be able line up shoulder to shoulder. The public may not be able to attend.

In the 1960s, it was assumed that Remembrance would die a natural death. In recent times, interest has revived, but its meaning has changed significantly in the process. After the slaughter of a generation in the trenches of Flanders, it represented grief linked with a determination that wars should never happen again. In contrast, it is often viewed today as an emblem of patriotism, national virility, and, possibly, even gung-ho support for the armed forces.

My observation over the years is that, despite the BBC's expectation that all contributors and employees wear a poppy on screen, the wearing of the poppy divides rather than unites the nation. In 2017, a Consumer Intelligence survey suggested that one third of young people would never wear a poppy, many saying that the symbol glorified war, while 30 per cent of adults polled said that wearing a poppy should be compulsory.

THE centenary of the First World War having passed, and the 75th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day closing a chapter, this watershed year could be a time to reassess Remembrance and what it really means.

We should certainly continue to be grateful to all those who sacrificed their lives in war for the sake of others. Yet, the focus should no longer be primarily on the military dead. Remembrance-tide could now be dedicated to all who have given their lives in the service of others.

It is time to play down the military side of the Cenotaph ceremony and increase our focus on those who, in the course of their ordinary jobs, take risks with their own safety on our behalf, sometimes, sadly, with fatal consequences. It could be a time to recall members of the police force and fire service who have died on duty. Most recently and appropriately, it is right to bring to mind the health workers who, in the course of the coronavirus outbreak, themselves became ill and died.

Changes to be considered might be for the music at the Cenotaph to be provided by civilian musicians. Some members of the royal family could wear the uniforms of civilian organisations with which they are associated. Many of the uniformed soldiers, sailors, and airmen could be replaced by firefighters, ambulance crews, and nurses. I would suggest, too, that the number of politicians present be reduced, to perhaps just the Speaker of the House of Commons, to represent them all.

THE most conspicuous and, perhaps, far-reaching change that I would suggest is to the emblem of the poppy itself. It evolved from the flowers that grew in profusion on the churned up battlegrounds of the First World War after the fighting had ceased. The blood-red flower came to represent those who had died in such huge numbers.

Today, it has become a brand. It has even been used by marketing companies to promote sales of retail products. The wearing of a poppy has also become competitive: every year, MPs vie to be the first to be seen wearing one. Giant poppies are tied to the grills of cars to display patriotism and loyalty to "Our Heroes". Poppy bling is sold and worn.

To get away from all of this, I would suggest a redesign (*pictured*). The poppy that recalls the war dead should be kept, but placed, perhaps, on a background of a different colour, to represent the civilians who have also given their lives for others. Money raised from their sale could be divided between veterans' and medical charities.

This change would allow those with direct memories of conflict and loss a sense of continuity to focus on their own grief, but give to many others a reason again to wear a poppy with thanksgiving and pride.

Ted Harrison is a writer and artist, and author of Remembrance Today: Poppies, grief and heroism (Reaktion Books, 2012). His art installation Innocence Betrayed was the focus for Remembrance-tide under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in 2011.

C of E's new anti-racism adviser 'pushing at an open door'

THE Church of England's new national adviser for minority-ethnic concerns, the Revd Dr Chigor Chike, believes that people are ready to dismantle systemic racism.



Dr Chike is Vicar of Emmanuel, Forest Gate, in east London. He chairs the Anglican Minority Ethnic Network (AMEN), and this week starts a six-month secondment as national adviser to the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC). He succeeds Dr Elizabeth Henry, who retired from the post in May after seven years.

On her retirement, Dr Henry remarked: "I believe there is a willingness in principle, but not in practice, to tackle racism, increase representation, and genuinely work to achieve a

greater sense of belonging for UK minority-ethnic people in Church and society; and thus, sadly, progress is painfully slow".

The Black Lives Matter protests since then have given a new urgency to the work. The House of Bishops voted recently to establish a Racism Action Commission to start work in 2021, with the aim of bringing about "significant cultural and structural" change within the Church of England. Part of Dr Chike's work will be to supervise the commission's setting up.

The Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, director of the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Department, said that the Church's work on this issue was considered too vital to wait for a permanent replacement for Dr Henry. "We have a thorough process in place for identifying a permanent adviser on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) issues, but the work is too important to wait for that process to take its course," he said last week.

"Chigor will play a pivotal role at a crucial time, as the Church of England builds on a new commitment to addressing racism and seeking the full inclusion of all people within its life and ministry."

Dr Chike has been based in Forest Gate since 2010. He also chairs the east London charity Rights and Equalities in Newham, which advocates for people from marginalised backgrounds.

He spoke optimistically last week about his new appointment: "I have worked in the field of anti-racism for the past 25 years, and do not know a time when people have been more aware of systemic racism, or more determined to dismantle it.

"I would be looking to play a part to the Church of England's response to this moment."

Did you know...

AMEN was formalised in January 2016 from two groups with very similar aims, Latimer Group and AMEN CofE.

Latimer Group grew out of a Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Conference that took place in June 2015. The conference, which was organised by the Diocese of London had representatives from Chelmsford, Rochester, and Southwark. It was felt that in order to carry forward many of the goals identified at the Conference, a group needed to be formed which is made up minority ethnic clergy from the various diocese. This event took place at Latimer in Buckinghamshire and through prayerful discernment, the group thus formed took the name LATIMER GROUP.

AMENCofE was formed in 2014 by a group of Anglicans, in training at Rippon College Cuddesdon, who were concerned about the Church's attitude towards inclusiveness and diversity. Following a day-conference in June 2014 for people in training from across the country and the realisation of the need to work together to make the Church of England visibly inclusive and a better reflection of the multicultural and multiethnic character of the country today, the network, AMENCofE, was formed. The network established a social media presence through which many people followed its activities.

Fr. Joseph is a founding member of AMEN, he started the group with a friend whilst training at theological college, and is a current member of the Executive Committee. Over the years, Fr Joseph has worked extensively with Elizabeth Henry from CMEAC in raising awareness for BAME issues, particularly in the field of GTR (Gypsies, Travellers and Roma) people.

The Steering Committee has identified 12 areas of activities, it is focussing on three of these to start with 1) Analysis, 2) Theological Reflection and 3) Networking. Fr Joseph is also a member of the Steering Committee and is working on the focus of Networking.

Petition launched urging Prime Minister to call for National Day of Prayer

A petition has been launched calling the Prime Minister to hold a National Day of Prayer in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The organiser of the initiative, evangelist David Hathaway, urged the PM to call the nation before God, noting that "historically only prayer has delivered this nation from a time of crisis, as evidenced in both in the First World War in 1918 and even more so in WWII".



Hathaway added that "when we have no human answer to the coronavirus which has devastated both health and our economy" we must "seek God's answer"

The **CitizenGO petition** has garnered almost 3,500 signatures by Saturday morning, with a provisional goal of reaching 5,000. Hathaway, a former foreign missionary, also called for the day to be dedicated to praying for the persecuted church.

"When even our government accepts that Christians are the most persecuted minority in the world, it is time for us to once again demonstrate our need both nationally and individually for God's help," he wrote.

The official petition statement reads in full:

"We, the undersigned, request that you call for a National Day of Prayer on a suitable Sunday. That to facilitate this, you allow the churches to be open for prayer and worship without restriction, for this specific and important day.

"We ask you to remember and recognise the strong Christian heritage of this nation and the power of prayer, which is greater than any other power on earth.

"During the last war King George VI and Parliament called 7 days of Prayer and history shows the result was immediate and incredible – the first Day of Prayer on March 27th 1940 bringing the miracle of Dunkirk, and later, on September 8th 1940, delivering Britain during the Battle of Britain in the air.

"We remind you that the legal autonomy of the Church was enshrined when 800 years ago King John in the first clause of Magna Carta, 'granted to God, and by this present Charter have confirmed, that the Church of England shall be free and shall have all her rights and liberties inviolable, forever.' This autonomy was in more recent times confirmed by The European Court of Human Rights. Because of this, the courts in Germany and France overturned the wholesale lockdown of places of worship, as did the churches in the USA, yet our government sought to prevent a similar legal challenge in the UK – although after Brexit we have adopted all these European laws into our legal system.

"While Government and the NHS bring help and can heal the body, only God can bring healing to the inner 'man' of soul and spirit, which is the eternal part of 'man' and is recognised as suffering increasingly as the result of the pandemic.

"At this critical time when the coronavirus – Covid 19 – has not been eliminated, we have economic crisis, uncertainty and great pressure in government and on the whole of society, we believe that only when the nation returns to its spiritual roots and calls upon the God of the Bible, will this nation be restored.

"God has spoken in the Bible, saying, 'When I send a plague among My people, if My people who are called by My Name will humble themselves and pray... I will hear from Heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land'! 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. We request you accept this petition and call a Day of Prayer for the nation. We will be courageous and unite with you to accept the only answer to deliver this nation."

A separate <u>petition</u> was launched in March, also asking the prime minister for a National Day of Prayer. The petition started by Susan Hawkes has received more than 65,600 signatures.

Christian charity rewarding key workers with much needed break

A Christian charity has encouraged key workers to take a break after a long and hard six months of working during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mother's Union has opened applications for its 'Thank You Key Workers' scheme which allows people to apply or nominate someone to receive a free family experience or short break.

Anyone from nurses to delivery drivers, and care workers to curates can take part.

The charity said it wants to give key workers the space and time to rebuild family connections and togetherness, especially for families who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes, who would often be unable to afford a nice break.

Bev Jullien, CEO of Mother's Union, told *Premier Christian News* the value of time off cannot be underestimated.

"I think it's hugely important because obviously, it's not just been the hours work, but it's been the time away from the home, it's been the worry of themselves, and indeed their loved ones in putting themselves at risk through this period of time.

"Our particular focus is on those who are low paid, so those who potentially would not be able to afford to have some time out to rebuild those relationships. We believe that in terms of their well-being, it's absolutely fundamental to ensure they can continue to thrive as individuals and families in the future."

A full list of those who are eligible can be found on the Mothers' Union website.

Lord we thank you again for the amazing sacrifice that our key workers have made during this pandemic.

Lord we are so grateful for the way you have used them to keep our country running safely.

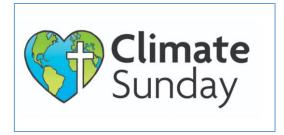
Lord we know the pandemic has put a lot of strain on them, so God please enable them to have a break from it all and be able to enjoy some time off.

Amen.

Climate Sunday: giving a voice to local churches

Climate Sunday has been organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland with support from charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, A Rocha UK, and Operation Noah.

Local churches are encouraged to hold a local Climate Sunday any time during a one-year period starting on 6th September (the first Sunday in the annual season of Creationtide). Free resources will be provided to suit every tradition and style of worship. During their local Climate Sunday, each church is invited to do one or more of three things:



- 1. **Climate service:** Hold a climate-focused service, to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray, and to commit to action.
- 2. **Commit:** Make a commitment as a local church community to taking long term action to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3. **Call:** Join with other churches and wider society by adding its name to a common call for the UK government to take much bolder action on climate change in *this* country in advance of COP26(UN climate change conference), and to strengthen its credibility to lead the international community to adopt a step change in action at COP26.

The culmination of the campaign will be a national Climate Sunday event on Sunday 5th September 2021, to share church commitments and pray for bold action and courageous leadership at COP26.

Chief Executive of A Rocha UK, Andy Atkins, and chair of the coalition, said:

"With the climate crisis accelerating and the UK due to host the COP26 climate talks in November 2021 in Glasgow, we believe the time has come for all churches across the UK to pray about and act on the climate crisis, as we have done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

"Our vision is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of UK churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their normal discipleship and mission; and to make a very significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action at the COP26 conference."

Find out more about the initiative by reading this blog by Andy Atkins, CEO of A Rocha UK: www.climatesunday.org/blog

St Hilda's Parish News

The Great Ashford Jumble Trail

Last Sunday St Hilda's took part in 'The Great Ashford Jumble Trail' where over 250 homes also participated. Four trails were devised covering Ashford which the public were able to follow, each home or location held it's own mini jumble sale. The scheme was dreamt up, as many households have spent time over the last few months tidying cupboards, garages etc. with the purpose to donate to local charities. Unfortunately, charity shops were overwhelmed (as well as some not re-opened) and have been turning donations away. The day for St Hilda's was a huge success and raised approx. £487.

A huge thank you to Paula, Nick, Rosemary, Bobbie, Elisabeth and Joseph who spent the whole weekend preparing and selling, a whole host of others are also to be thanked, those who kindly donated items, those who helped out on the day and those who supported the event.

There are plans to hold another one in October – further details to follow, so you will have another opportunity to donate any unwanted items.

A plea from The Editor

The idea of a weekly Newsletter was to keep everyone informed within the Parish, to maintain this we require your input especially on the Parish News page, we would like contributions from you, examples:

- An article of your choosing, we have received a great selection and would like to see more could be about anything that you think others may enjoy reading. We source the other articles from a range of sources, but would prefer contributions from you.
- Birthday, Anniversaries, or other causes for celebration.
- Puzzle page this is one of the hardest parts of pulling the newsletter together, as I think variety is required, we receive regular Wordsearches from Terry. We need idea's for puzzles, what do you enjoy doing or you can send in a puzzle yourself.
- Photo's do you have photographs of St Hilda's that we can use?

If you have any Parish News you would like to share or anything as per the above, then please send them into the Parish Office.

Electoral Roll

If you consider St Hilda's to be your regular place of worship, why not complete an application for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll. Forms are available from the Parish Office, as well as at the back of the church

Tea and Chat after Sunday Service

We would like to invite you to join us for a virtual Tea and Chat after the service on **Sunday 6 September 2020 at 11.15am**. See below on how to join. Any queries please call the Parish Office.

The meeting is hosted by Zoom.

There are 2 ways in which you can join the Tea and Chat session



- 1. Join via a computer or tablet, for a video style experience (like Skype)
- Download the Zoom app <u>www.zoom.us</u>
- Click Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id 944 5987 5035
- Enter password **883623**
- 2. Join via telephone cost of a local call.
- Dial 0203 051 2874
- Enter Meeting Id 944 5987 5035 and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
- Password 883623

More Tea ... - Weekday Tea and Chat

The second of the weekly Tea and chat sessions where you are able to 'meet up' over a cuppa. In this weekly session, we have introduced a topic for discussion – this week's topic is 'who would you like to invite for dinner, and why (past or present)'.

If you haven't yet joined one of these sessions — give it a try, you can connect either on-line or via the telephone, we would like to see or hear as many of you as possible and encourage you to join us. We encourage all those who haven't yet joined one of the sessions to do so, and if you have any apprehension in doing so, please call the Parish Office and Denise will guide you through the process — it is quite simple once you've done it once.

This week the Tea and Chat will be held on **Tuesday 8 September @ 10.30am**The codes are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id 927 5726 1717
- Password 962607

Canaan Ministries have re-opened, and are following the latest government legislation in relation to the current guidelines on social distancing.

Opening times - Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm (closing during lunchtime 1pm - 2pm), so there will be plenty of time to see and serve everyone. Free local home delivery is also possible.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support, and we hope, your much needed support in the future.

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at <u>crossroads ashford@hotmail.com</u> if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The September edition is now available on our website.

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist - 6 September @ 9.30am

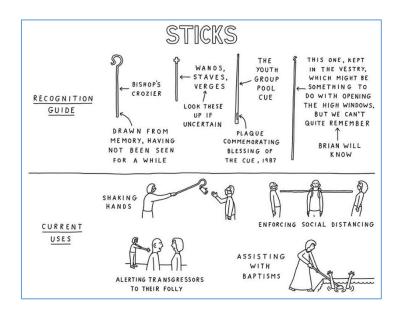
This service can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter for those of you who are unable to attend in person.

This Sunday will see the return of flowers in church and the choir. The service will also include the Blessing of the Paschal candle.

Wednesday Eucharist – 9 September @ 9.45am

To attend either service please book a ticket on Eventbrite (link on the website), or call the Parish Office. Please remember that face coverings are mandatory in Church.

Please see our website (www.sthilda.org) for updates and the weekly service sheet.



Please hold in your prayers and thoughts this week those who are affected by the Corona Virus as well as the family and friends of those below.

The Sick

James Bedford	Jim Hennessey	Riley Shaw	Peter Wilson
Pamela Claridge	Libby Mills	Anne Shenton	Jo Wood
Robb Clarke	Raymond Nation	Elsie Stone	Nic
Rebecca Cohen	June Prentice	Roy Stone	Martyn
Ann Considine	John Radford	Sandra Swain	Joey
Chris Davenport	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Rev. Peter Taylor	
Michael Dixon	Delphine Scrivener	Chick Wilson	

The Recently Departed

Shirley Warrender Michael O'Hagan Audrey Cummins

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Puzzle Page

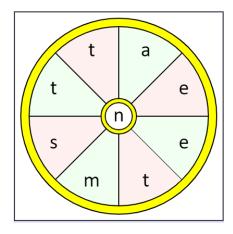
British Queens Wordsearch

(puzzle created by Terry Rickson)

Z	S	Α	F	K	М	Ε	α	Υ	٧	J	Ν	C	В	D
٧	S	U	Ρ	Е	ш	_	Z	Α	В	Е	Н	Τ	8	G
0	٧	R	Μ	Р	Е	L	G	L	Α	Z	S	Α	J	C
Υ	Т	Т	R	Α	Р	R	G	Ε	L	K	Ν	R	Ν	F
F	R	F	Ι	Α	Т	0	Ν	Х	0	R	C	L	В	G
G	Z	Α	S	Μ	0	-	L	Α	Ν	8	L	0	В	K
Н	S	-	Σ	8	_	Μ	ш	Z	Ρ	σ	Z	Н	Z	Е
В	F	R	-	Υ	Р	ш	Z	۵	Α	Σ	Е	Н	U	D
С	G	0	_	ш	D	S	>	R	Α	S	Μ	Е	ш	—
Ι	Ι	T	F	K	W	0	В	Α	Ν	Z	Е	٧	J	Α
М	Α	C	U	_	D	כ	0	В	Χ	R	_	Ζ	0	ш
Р	Ζ	—	S	Z	Z	Т	\neg	ш	U	Н	ш	Ρ	В	Е
0	Р	٧	Z	В	Р	٧	F	K	В	S	Р	α	C	D
Q	М	D	W	C	0	Χ	S	G	F	>	0	Т	Υ	Α
R	R	Υ	Ε	R	G	Ε	Ν	Α	J	Υ	D	Α	L	W

ADELAIDE
ALEXANDRA
ANNE
BLOODY MARY
BOUDICCA
CHARLOTTE
ELIZABETH
LADY JANE GREY
MATILDA
VICTORIA

Word Wheel



How many words can you find using the centre letter?

There are two 9 letter word, one of them is new and old.

Seven Little Word

Find the seven words to match the clues.
The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can only be used once, all letter combinations are required to

CLUES

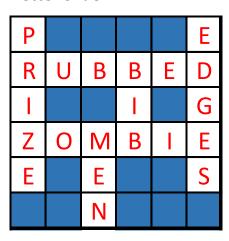
- 1. Fancy Dinner (7)
- 2. Coffee shop chain (9)
- 3. Practical joke (5)
- 4. Director's trade (10)
- 5. Explodes like a volcano (6)
- 6. One responding to a blaze (11)
- 7. Moe, Larry and Curly (7)

EFI	OG	KING	ET	
STO	STA	RBU	ER	
ERU	MMA	ANK	QU	
FIL	GHT	PR	FIR	
PTS	BAN	ES	CKS	

Riddle

What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?

Answers from last week Letter Slide



Sudoku

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

Word Wheel

10 letter word - Crossroads

Riddle

The paragraph does not contain the letter 'e'.