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in a

NUTSHELL

news, views, ideas from your local church 2026 Sept/Oct

What would you do?

If your children or siblings were malnourished, starving, if you had no family income, your home had been destroyed by wildfire, floods or bombs, what would you do? Wouldn't you seek help – or go somewhere to earn money to save your family?

That is the plight of so many refugees worldwide today. They are not opportunist, benefit-grabbing migrants. If we are really honest, we and our governments know that. So what do western governments do?

Last year the United States abolished USAID, the US Agency for International Development, cutting up to \$60 billion in global development and humanitarian aid. In the Congo (DRC) this has had a devastating impact on the local health infrastructure in one of the world's poorest countries, making people even more vulnerable to the outbreak of a rare deadly strain of the killer virus, Ebola: 2,500 have died so far.

The US has also withdrawn from the World Health Organisation, to which it had been one of the biggest donors – while Britain, Germany and France are also reducing international aid. Last year, Sir Keir Starmer announced that from 2027 UK aid would be reduced from 0.5% of GDP to 0.3%.



'When they said to buy a sheep for charity you weren't meant to KEEP it.'

All of these cuts limit the help people need to stay in their own countries and culture and increases the migration of desperate people.

But that is government. What about ordinary people? The Charities Aid Foundation has just reported a 10% drop in private charitable giving in the UK in 2025-26.

Some people have never had things as tough as now: at least 20% to 21% of the UK population – around 13.4 to 14.2 million people – live at or below the official poverty level. But what of those of us who are still quite comfortable? Can't we keep on giving generously to help our neighbours, the ones here and those in other places who are being hit far worse than any of us by natural disasters, climate change and war?

INSIDE: Puzzles page S4; Sebastian page S5; Cartoon Bible Story page S6 ▶

St Andrew's autumn activities

Don't miss the Kirton in Lindsey
CIVIC SERVICE 3pm, 6 September

Kirton's Got Talent



Friday 25 September, from 7-9pm

Music, readings, sketches
by our talented congregation,
Brownies & Scouts.

Audience participation and fun!
Light refreshments will be served.
Donations for St Andrew's United Church.

Friday 25 September 7-9pm



A different
kind of church
for all the family
Second session
Tuesday
6 October
4.30-6pm
in the United
Church Halls
Don't miss it!



Light a candle in memory
of a loved one at a
SIMPLE SERVICE
on All Souls' Eve
1 November at 6pm

BOOK
THE DATE

St Andrew's supports MAF – the Mission Aviation Fellowship

Mission Aviation Fellowship
works with aid and mission
agencies, to get technical
help, teachers, engineers
and other skilled people into
remote, hard-to-reach places.
It is the world's largest
humanitarian air operator,
flying medical supplies,
doctors and nurses to places
no one else can reach.

To learn much more, contact
David Tattersall:
david.tattersall@mafi.org
01652 648800



Children at Ajumani airstrip, Uganda



The Revd David Swannack reflects on a modern dilemma...

Spoiled for choice

The world of shopping has definitely
changed over the last 40 years. I went to
America when I was 19, visiting New York
on an exchange of church youth groups.
I was shown the sights of the 'Big Apple'
by my counterpart from New Jersey – the
Washington Bridge, Empire State Building,
Grand Central Station, the underground
system, riding in a huge black 'limo' that
belonged to his 'born again' city stock
broker friend with number plate 'JC No1'
and then looking down onto the metropolis
from the roof of The World Trade Centre.

Amongst the experiences I remember
most was the use of the word 'mall' –
a place with hundreds of shops in the
same place and under one roof. We
have them here now, but back then we
might have been lucky if 'Meadowhall'
was a glint in the eye of some architect
and pension fund.

Now we call them 'shopping centres' –
places where we can buy everything
we could want. Choice galore, as long
as we have proved our 'net worth' and
have the right credit card and funds
available! And the same with our
weekly shopping experience: mass
availability, where we now have a choice
of 15 types of apples, 10 brands of
tomato ketchup and the ability to do it
all from our laptops online whilst
watching the TV news about another
disaster on the other side of the world,
where a tornado has just made 50,000
people homeless.

We have a wonderful, modern world to
enjoy and embrace, but sometimes I



'I wasn't sure which mattress to buy,
so I bought 180 of them to try out.
We'll return the 179 we don't want.'

wonder if my generation particularly
(myself included) has lost a sense of
thankfulness for all that we have – and
the Source of those things. Embracing
modern methods of accessing infor-
mation and 'doing our shopping', in
person or on line – even the vexed
question of which supermarket we visit
this week – may have robbed us of
the joy of gratefulness that 'harvest
celebrations' down the centuries were
meant for us to embrace.

God has given us the brains and the
resources to create so many things to
be thankful for, and this season of
harvest is a good time to be grateful
and give honour and praise to the
generous God of all creation who has
given us so much. It's also time to
remember those who struggle while
we have plenty, to alleviate their lack –
whether that be our neighbours here or
our neighbours on other continents.

The Revd David Swannack is Rector of the South Manlake
Group of Churches, to which St Andrew's United Church,
Kirton in Lindsey, belongs. Contact details on page S8.



A Word Ladder

Climb from FAIRS to LOLLY changing just one letter at a time, without disturbing the order of the remaining letters. But the clues for the steps are not in the right order.

LOLLY CLUES

- Milk products sold here
- Lacy mat
- Gives reward for the loss of a tooth
- All mammals are this
- Every day
- Old-fashioned washing aid

FAIRS

A bat and a ball cost £1.10. The bat costs £1 more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?

Back to School Word Search

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

Find these words in the box. Words are hidden → and ↓ and ↘

BOOKS	GAMES	LESSON	PROBLEMS
CLASSROOM	GEOGRAPHY	LITERACY	SCIENCE
COMPUTER	GYMNASTICS	MATHEMATICS	SPELLING
DANCE	HISTORY	PLAYGROUND	TEACHER
FOOTBALL	HOMEWORK	PLAYTIME	TEST

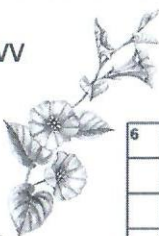
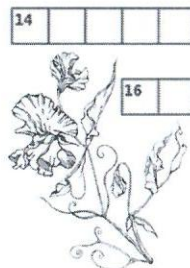
Weed Anagrams Crossword

Clues Across

5. CLLNOOSUUWV
8. AERST
9. CEHTV
10. ACEELRSV
11. CDKO
12. BCEPTRUU
13. ADISY
14. DEEKNOTW
16. ADDEILNNO
17. ADELNR

Clues Down

1. EHILSTT
2. AEGGOORSSS
3. CELORV
4. EELNTT
6. AGORRTW
7. CCDEEHIKW
12. BDDEEINW
15. CEFMORY



Answers on page p58

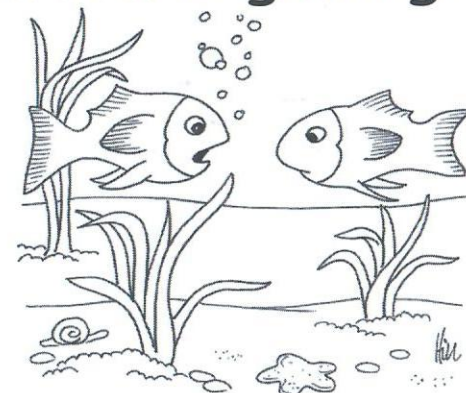


Sebastian on new beginnings!

Hallo there, friends!

Did you know that September is a month of new beginnings? It's a bit like a second New Year. Lots of you may be feeling sad that the summer is coming to an end - especially if you've got to go back to school.

Cedric and I are too old to go to school now, but I still remember how it felt to go back in September. I always felt upset because it meant the end of the holidays. No more playing all day. No more staying up till 10 o'clock at night. Instead, Mum made me get up early and put on my school uniform. Then I had to sit in a classroom all day, while the sun was still shining outside. I asked the teacher once why we couldn't go outside and play, instead of doing sums. She got a bit cross with me! At home it was even worse. I had to go to bed while it was still light, instead of playing in the garden with Cedric. Mum got really annoyed. 'Sebastian,' she said, 'you are a very silly spider. Going to school is great. You get a chance to learn all kinds of interesting



"NO, YOU CAN'T STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL TODAY!"

things that are going to be useful to you later on. You'll make lots of new friends, too. And every September, as you move up the school, you get a chance to make a fresh start.'

Well, she was right (of course).

Making a fresh start is always a good thing. When Jesus met people, he often encouraged them to make a new start. When he made people better, for instance, he would tell them to go away and enjoy their new life.

And remember one of my favourite stories that Jesus told.* There was a boy who decided to leave home and have a good time, instead of helping his dad on the farm. Unfortunately, he soon ran out of money and nearly starved. In despair he went back to ask his dad if he could come home. His father was very happy to see him and give him the chance to start again.

Happy new year - and remember you can make a fresh start every day!

Your friend, *Sebastian*



When the young man was near home his father saw him and ran out joyfully to meet him. ▶

*Luke, chapter 15, verses 11 to 32

Wheat and tares (Matthew 13.24-30)

Jesus told this story to help people understand what the Kingdom of God is like



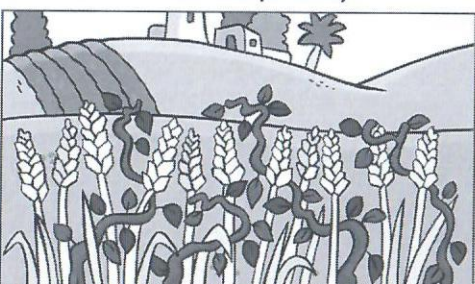
There was once a man who owned a large field, and wanted to use it wisely



So he got his servant to plant the very best quality wheat seeds in it. (They didn't have tractors in those days, so they sowed it 'broadcast' - like in this picture.)



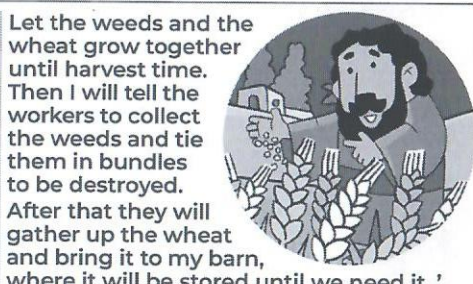
And the seed began to grow, so the farmer hoped for a good harvest. But then things seemed to go wrong



As the wheat grew, strong weeds (which we call tares or darnel) also began to grow, tangled in amongst the healthy grain ...



The man's servants asked, 'Do you want us to pull up the weeds?' He replied, 'No, because when you pull up the weeds, you might also pull up the wheat.'



Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until harvest time. Then I will tell the workers to collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be destroyed. After that they will gather up the wheat and bring it to my barn, where it will be stored until we need it.' But the workers wanted to know where the weeds had come from. The farmer told them, 'An enemy came secretly one night and planted them.'

* The weed in the story isn't any old weed - it is bearded darnel, a poisonous plant which, when grown, looks like wheat, but the grain is grey. Unscrupulous people *did* sow it to vandalise a rival's crop, and the Romans had laws against the practice. Jesus was making the point that a loving God is not complacent in the face of evil.

In one boat - Harvest 2026

This summer's weather has brought home to us here in the UK the growing unpredictability of the climate. 'Will it never stop raining?' we cried in February, in relentless downpours. Then in August, surveying a parched brown landscape and coping (or not) with heatwave after heatwave, we greeted even a few drops of water with delight.

Of course, other countries, especially those nearer the Equator, have experienced this kind of weather for years - bringing devastation to crops, livestock and people alike, and driving desperate folk to try to earn a living elsewhere, to send help home.

This harvest-time, we invite you to stand with communities in Madagascar, as they struggle to be more resilient to climate change through better waste management and care for the environment. Maybe there are lessons for us as well.

Please be generous! Gifts of produce and household goods for The Forge, Scunthorpe. Donations of money will be shared equally between USPG's Harvest Appeal for Madagascar and the DEC Appeal for Venezuela.

St Andrew's United Church Harvest Festival



Thanksgiving Service 11am 11 October

followed by Harvest Lunch
in the United Church Halls

EVERYONE WELCOME

Treasure Hunt 2026

Over 40 people of all ages joined our annual treasure hunt on 19 August, which ended with afternoon tea in the church halls. More pictures (in colour) in the October issue of *Nutshell*.





Your local churches

St Andrew's United Church, Kirton in Lindsey
www.standrewsunitedchurch.org.uk

St Radegund's Church, Grayingham
www.achurchnearyou.com/grayingham-st-radegund



Ministry Contacts: September 2026 - KIRTON

- ☎ 01724 647789 **The Revd David Swannack** (Anglican Vicar)
- ☎ 07395 453246 **The Revd Robert Roberts** (Methodist Superintendent)
- ☎ 01472 466824 **The Revd Dr John Schofield** (Methodist Minister)
- ☎ 01652 649365 **Dr Pat Frankish** (Baptist Deacon; Anglican Lay Reader)
- ☎ 07855 120896 **Mrs Janet Caughley** (Baptist Deacon)

Ministry Contact: Sept 2026 - GRAYINGHAM

- ☎ 07738 356048 **The Revd Charles Thody** (Anglican Priest in Charge)

Other enquiries

Church Council Secretary, Kirton, 01652 648846

Church hall bookings, Kirton, 01652 648573

Church Warden, Kirton, Mrs Fiona Munn, 07733 166321

Church Council Secretary, Grayingham, 01652 640157

Church Warden, Grayingham, Mr Clive Marshall, 01652 648125

SAFEGUARDING (Kirton) 01652 640740

SAFEGUARDING (Gray'm) 01652 640157

Baptism bookings (Kirton) - 07776 487791
 Wedding bookings (Kirton) - 01652 648846
 Funerals (Kirton) - 01652 648573

Worship in our buildings in September 2026

- St Andrew's United Church, Kirton,
11am Sunday; 9.30 every Wednesday
- St Radegund's, Grayingham,
9.30 1st Sun HC; other Sundays 9am

Please visit our websites/Facebook or
 phone one of the contact numbers
 above for other information about our
 churches and activities.

Join us for Worship on Zoom: every Sunday at 9.30am

* To join - on computer, tablet or phone -
 contact heather.bunker@btinternet.com

Halloween - 31 October A SAFE SPACE

'Love in a Cup' is opening the church halls
 for toilets and refreshments

PUZZLE ANSWERS (page S4)

Word Ladder. FAIRS, FAIRY, HAIRY,
 DAIRY, DAILY, DOILY, DOLLY, LOLLY

Weeds Crossword. CLUES, DOWN:

1) thistle; 2) goosegrass; 3) clover;
 4) nettle; 6) ragwort; 7) chickweed;
 12) bindweed; 15) cornfey
ACROSS: 5) convolvulus; 8) tares;
 9) vetch; 10) cleavers; 11) dock;
 12) buttercup; 13) daisy; 14) knotweed;
 16) dandelion; 17) dandel

Bat & ball maths. ANSWER: The ball
 costs 5p and the bat costs £1.05. If the
 ball cost 10p, the bat would cost £1.10,
 making the total £1.20, which breaks the
 £1.10 amount actually spent.

'Love in a Cup' Community Café

Every Thursday, 2-5pm:
 St Andrew's United Church Halls

Get a full-size colour Nutshell: only £1

from Paynes Chemist
 Local pics, cartoons, puzzles,
 What's On, town history - and more.

Messy Church 6 October

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editor.nutshell@btinternet.com

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 Jan, 10 October 2026



CLEATHAM HALL NEWS

Celebrating Life at Cleatham Hall

Celebrating Family and Friends, Birthdays and Anniversaries.

Feel relaxed and enjoy the hospitality we are renowned for while enjoying a relaxing meal. So, if there are just 2 or 52 of you, contact us by email or phone to book your own personal celebration.

Dine and Stay packages available for both groups or couples to enjoy a special occasion of get together.

The Restaurant is open daily from Wednesday to Sunday subject to availability. Watch out for our current menus as they will be updated quarterly this year.

Try our Sunday Lunch, or weekday Lunch menu, our celebrated Afternoon teas, using homemade seasonal jams and chutneys, available to buy, and of course Dinner menu.

Brunch served from 9 - 11am, Lunch served from 12 to
 3pm, Afternoon Teas from 1 to 4pm
 Dinners from 6 to 8.30 pm

See our website at www.cleathamhall.com/events for our
 menus and pricing

To book call: 01652 649402 or email:
enquiry@cleathamhall.com



Cleatham Hall, Cleatham, North Lincolnshire, DN21 4JS

www.cleathamhall.com

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Email: enquiry@cleathamhall.com