

The churches of St Modwen, St Aidan and St Paul Burton upon Trent



Churchwardens:
Geoff Brown : Tel. 01283 208781
07989 647334
Peter Halliday: Tel: 01283 568320
07974 808966



Churchwarden:
Lynda Cooper: Tel: 01283 539358



Churchwardens:
Sue Ganley Tel: 07852 473250
John Woolley : Tel: 01283 532748

Website address: <https://www.theburtonthree.com/>

REV DR ROBIN TROTTER – TEL: 07984 450761
REV PREBENDARY PHILLIP JEFFERIES – TEL – 01283 544013/07964 892230
REV HAMISH FERGUSON-STUART – TEL 01283 510447

**JULY 2021
NEWSLETTER**

SERVICES

ST PAUL		
SUNDAY	9.30am	Mass
FRIDAY	12.00 noon	Mass
ST MODWEN		
SUNDAY	11.00am	Matins or Mass
WEDNESDAY	10.45am	Mass
ST AIDAN		
SUNDAY	11.00am	Morning Service or Mass



The Revd Dr Megan Smith has been announced as the next Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent.

Megan was born in Burton-upon-Trent and is currently Vicar of Lenton in Nottingham where she is also Chaplain to the University of Nottingham.

She originally studied medicine, specialising in Paediatric Intensive Care and, following ordination, spent a further five years juggling her curacy with full-time medical work.

Megan said: "I was delighted to accept Bishop Michael's invitation to be the next Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to support churches, chaplaincies and Fresh Expressions as they seek to share the good news of Jesus and be beacons of hope in the rich and varied communities they serve, as well as building strong partnerships with others in the community who seek the common good.

“The last 18 months have brought many new challenges but I look forward to encouraging and partnering with parishes as they seek to discern the role God has for them in His mission at this time and grow in their own adventure of discipleship.”

Megan spent most of her childhood in Doncaster before moving to Manchester to study medicine. There she spent time in church ministry, inner-city development work and prison visiting. She also studied Master’s degrees in applied theology and Medical Education. Her paediatric training saw her travel to Melbourne and Toronto before she moved to Nottingham to work as a Consultant Paediatric Intensivist.

Exploring a call to ordained ministry, Megan, joined the East Midlands Ministry Training Course and was ordained deacon in 2007 and priest in 2008. She combined her curacy with medical work in Wilford, Nottingham, before entering full-time ordained ministry as Vicar of Lenton in 2012. Lenton is a vibrant and diverse community, home to university campuses and many people from minority ethnic backgrounds. Her work has seen her build others in discipleship and leadership and working closely with schools and families in the community.

Megan added: “I am passionate about anything which helps people discover who God has created and called them to be. Other passions are gardening, mountains, cycling and lakes, baking bread, Aga cooking and generally living life to the full.”

Megan is due to begin her new role with her collation at Stoke Minster on 3 October. She follows previous Archdeacon of Stoke the Rt Revd Matthew Parker, who she will work closely with in his new role as Bishop of Stafford. She will have responsibilities for supporting clergy and overseeing church buildings in the towns and villages of Stoke-upon-Trent and North and East Staffordshire including Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford and Burton.

Bishop Matthew said: “I am delighted that Megan has accepted Bishop Michael’s invitation to be the next Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent. I know from very direct and personal experience what a wonderful role this is. Challenging and exciting times lie ahead and Megan brings great gifts to the archdeaconry along with a real love for Christ and the sharing of the gospel. We very much look forward to welcoming her to North and East Staffordshire!”

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave, added: “I look forward very much to Megan coming to join us as Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent. Her passion for the gospel, her organisational and administrative skills, and her track record of committed ministry in parish and in chaplaincy will be a great encouragement to our priests and people in North Staffordshire and will strengthen our leadership team across the diocese.”

Taken from the website



ANGELS ALL AROUND...

We are all familiar with angels. I am sure this is right from childhood to adult thinking and probably because they are a deep connection with God; and are indeed messengers from heaven. They are supernatural beings



which are found in most cultures and religious writings. The church has classified them in different ways over the centuries, but I am happy to view them in simple ways and accept that they have various roles as a link between heaven and earth, and that different people view their reality in different ways; perhaps also as personal guardians if you wish. Angels are created beings of pure spirit, that is they are God’s own creations and have no physical body but only appear to have when required to talk to humans. Their beauty and brilliance reflect the glory of God. Angels nearly always bring good news, and often begin by saying “do not be afraid”.

Hierarchy of angels

The main functions of the angels as viewed by the western church set out in the fifth century are indicated by a hierarchy of three orders:

- The highest order of seraphim, cherubim and thrones are the closest to God. Their important purpose is one of perpetual praise. They are restricted to heaven and generally not seen by mortals.
- The middle order of dominions, virtues and powers, manage other angels control the nature of the world and have power over evil.
- The lowest order of principalities, archangels and angels, guide and protect nations, are chief messengers and give special or general help. These angels are the ones most often interacting with humans. All angels act on the instruction directly or indirectly of God himself.

Angels appear everywhere in the bible, both in the old and new testament. And in St Paul's church angels also appear everywhere, they are all around. I counted 175; but there may be some hiding!

A fine window in the hall depicts the middle order of virtues, powers and dominations. It shows Virtues an angel with censer; Powers an angel in armour controlling (having power over) the devil in the form of a dragon on a leash; and Dominations an angel holding orb (for the world) with lily. The window also has kneeling supporting angels "To thee all angels cry aloud" and "the heavens and all the powers therein". This is the Te Deum Laudamus; a hymn familiar to people from matins and other services.

"We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all Angels cry aloud, the Heavens, and all the Powers therein. To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory."

Mainly in western art, and always in St Paul's church, angels are shown as basically human figures with wings. The angels generally have a certain beauty and androgynous features (although some features can be odd, for example feet of an ox).

Isaiah writes of a vision of the throne of God with Seraphim with six wings, two covering face, two covering feet and two to fly. Singing to one another "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory". Isaiah can be seen in the Great West window, Great North window and Lady Chapel East window.

Ezekiel has a vision of the chariot of God, where Ezekiel is told of his mission to the people to condemn the unrepentant and save those who listen. His vision is of four animals in a cloud of light and fire and lightning storm, illustrating the power and glory of God in heaven. Each animal had four faces and four wings; these are the cherubim. A wheel on the ground by each, the wheel had eyes all around. And above them the throne of God like gleaming sapphire. These odd angels are the Thrones. They act as the chariots of God, driven by the cherubim.

Ezekiel is depicted in the Great West window. The cherubim appear with the Heavenly host in the Great East window which features the sacred monogram IHC, for Christ, and the Holy Spirit as a dove.

The book of Revelation describes a future and a vision of heaven with angels signalling great events as well as guarding heaven and praising God.

"And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake."

The Archangels

A splendid window, now in the kitchen, shows the archangels; Gabriel, Michael and Raphael.

- St Gabriel is well known from Luke's gospel, the messenger of the annunciation to The Virgin Mary that she was to give birth to Christ. He carries a lily for purity and an emblem of Mary. "Hail thou that art highly favoured."
- St Michael the archangel, killing the devil in the form of a dragon.
- St Raphael the healer and guardian of pilgrims carrying a jug in the form of a fish and a staff.

Gabriel also appears in the annunciation scene in the Lady Chapel East window and the Great West window.



Everyone knows the story of Hanania, Mishael and Azariah and the fiery furnace, from the Book of Daniel? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to the Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue false god and were thrown into the fiery furnace singing praises to God and were rescued by an angel. Daniel also has an apparition of an angel sent by the archangel Michael to tell Daniel that he has been specially chosen and to be strong, and tells of the future and how Michael stands guard over the people of Israel. Daniel is depicted in the Great West window. In the Great West window Michael has a sword across his neck and holds scales in left hand, he is the protector and brings justice. Above him is Christ crowned and holding a scroll "Saviour of the world" his right hand raised in blessing.



There is a fabulous wooden statue of St Michael on the south side of nave. This was originally on the reredos of St Margaret's church (now demolished).

Raphael appears in Tobit an apocryphal book of the bible. He promises God's healing to Tobit who is blind and helps his son Tobias on a journey. Tobias encounters a fish by the river and Raphael explains how to use it for healing and help win his future wife.

Musical angels

St Paul's has many musical angels. They can be found praising God as the Holy Spirit in the Great East window with lute, harps, trumpets, fiddles, and psaltery. They are also very impressive carved wooden angels on the Solo organ casing in the south transept with various instruments. The painted inscription reads "Alleluia. Laudamus dom~ Inter angelos, Laudate dom~ In cordis et organo", "Praise the Lord with the angels. Praise the Lord in strings and pipe". Psalm 150.

Miscellaneous angels

Angels abound in the new testament, bringing messages of joy, comfort and rescue. In Luke an angel tells the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. Importantly in Luke an angel comforts Jesus on the Mount of Olives before his arrest and crucifixion. Angels are present at the empty tomb in all the gospels to announce not to be afraid and that Jesus is risen from the dead. In the Acts of the apostles Peter is rescued from the prison by an angel; said to be a type of the resurrection.

In St Paul's you will find many angels just being there in the light of the windows. They can be praising God, swinging censors, but they are often just quietly being supporters. They hold emblems of the saints and of Christ, emblems of the passion, symbol of the virtues, and scrolls telling of the glory of God or explaining the situation with words from the bible.

In the Philip Stockley memorial window in the south aisle a Guardian angel looks down at the priest in prayer. This is possibly the most personal depiction of an angel in St Paul's.

In the Lady chapel you will find painted wooden statues of angels holding shields of Alpha and Omega, signifying the beginning and the ending, the everlasting God. These were originally on the reredos of St Margaret's church.

On the Lady chapel ceiling there are some splendid painted angels with words below.



"Magnificat anima mea Dominum. Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo." Which is Mary's song the Magnificat from Luke; "My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

You may not have seen these before because the paint is now faded, the ceiling would have been brightly coloured and very impressive.

These things all show what richness is to be found in the building of St Paul's and so next time you are there take a look around, look up and wonder at the glory of God and the talents and imagination given to men and, like the angels, praise him.



Hymns

Like the angels, we love praising God with Hymns, even if at the moment they are in our head rather than in our voice. There are many hymns featuring angels each with its own flavour. Here are just a few:

Hark the herald angels sing, Angel voices ever singing, The angel Gabriel from heaven came, All hail the power of Jesus name, Let all mortal flesh keep silent, Ye watchers and ye holy ones lists the orders of angels and illustrates the function of each

The archangels all now share a feast day called Michaelmas, and Christ the fair glory of the holy angels is the hymn for that day.

Christ the fair glory of the holy angels

Send the archangel Michael to our succour. Peace maker blessed

Send thy archangel Gabriel the mighty. Herald of heaven

Send the archangel Raphael the restorer of the misguided

Father almighty Son and Holy spirit thine is the glory which the angels worship

JWW July 2021

Parish Notes

- We were sorry to hear that Rev Leslie Rees, vicar of Hanbury and Newborough, has passed away. We remember Wendy, his wife, and his family at this sad time. A lot of people may well remember Wendy, she grew up in St Paul's parish and has a sister Christine Binding who attended St Paul's for a while. Wendy was an air hostess before she married Les.
- For churchwardens : the Archdeacon's Visitation is on Monday 19th July at All Saints Church at 7.30pm
- Colin Dawson is retiring as a chef at the Newton Park Hotel at the end of June. This is good news for us as he will be able to attend church on Sundays. Happy retirement Colin!
- Hopefully we will be able to stay for coffee after the 9.30am shortly. We are short of a couple of volunteers to go on the rota. Please see Sue Ganley if you can help.
- The PCC of St Paul's and St Aidan's will be on Thursday 29th July at 7.30pm in St Paul's
- Unfortunately due to the recent Covid lockdown St Aidan's will not be having a Coffee Morning in July and will wait until further easing is allowed.
- We were sorry to learn that Helen Foster's mum Maureen has had a stroke and is now in the Croft Nursing Home at Stapenhill.
- Margot Ada Robinson, Paul and Darquise's granddaughter will be baptised at St Modwen's by Fr Robin on Sunday 11th July.



There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Burton Three on Thursday 8th July at St Paul's at 7.30pm for discussing thoughts on the future of the parishes and our next incumbent. Sue Ganley has put a flip chart in the church hall and we shall be grateful if you could add your thoughts and ideas for the future of our churches which will give us some issues to discuss.



Summer Raffle



Sue Ganley has organised a Summer Raffle for the parish of St Aidan & St Paul. The money raised will go towards paying the parish share.

Tickets are £1.50p a strip - Sue will be distributing envelopes with 5 strips for you to sell. Please write contact no./address on all tickets. All monies and stubs to be handed in by Friday 30th July. Raffle to be drawn 1st August after the 9.30am.

At last, we are now holding a

JIGSAW AND BOOK SALE

THURSDAY 22ND JULY

10.00am - 2.00pm

In the church grounds

Avid fans of jigsaws will be spoilt for choice - lots of 500 and 1000 piece jigsaws and books.
Please tell your friends.

If restrictions are lifted on 19th July we may be allowed to serve coffee and cake

Lunchtime Organ Recitals

at ST MODWEN'S CHURCH, BURTON UPON TRENT : SUMMER 2021

Melody, Rhythm & Whimsy

Wednesdays 12.30pm – 1.10pm

7th July: Benjamin Mills London 14th July: Matthew Gibson London

Retiring collection in support of the organ restoration fund.

Please feel free to bring your lunch and enter or leave quietly during performances. Light refreshments available.

From the Busy Bees...



An update on the work being done around the church.



- Both the west end and south entrances have been jet washed and white lines painted on the steps.
- The rails on the disabled access have been painted.
- One of the light bulbs has been replaced in the crossing.
- The brasses have been cleaned.
- Gutters over the vestry door have been cleared.



- The bell ringing chamber in the tower has been cleaned and vacuumed.
- The mesh has been repaired to prevent the pigeons getting in. {some neat sewing has been done.} There is still more work to be done on this.
- The inside of the church is cleaned regularly.
- The church grounds are cared for by avid gardeners. Pathways have been mowed around the church.

The Busy Bees meet on a Tuesday morning at 10.00am – volunteers welcome. Thanks to everyone involved.

BEST WISHES FROM ST JOHN ...

We are in fair form and enjoying the warmer weather.

Despite being vaccinated, we remain concerned to exclude possible exposure to the covid virus and continue to avoid gatherings. (I do take a brisk(ish) walk each day though, along mainly deserted pavements, well away from the town centre.)



Warmer weather also means gardening. I received some ixia bulbs as a free gift. I had never really heard of the plant. We were able to grow them, they are currently reaching the end of their flowering period.



UPDATE FROM JANE HILL

Chris continues to make progress slowly and he is beginning to feel stronger himself. Still no movement on left hand side but is able to sit out in his wheelchair for several hours at a time. He misses home greatly and also the contact with the wider family but we have to be thankful that we get one visit per week. Regards to all at St Paul's and we thank you all for your continued thoughts and prayers. Jane x



NEWS FROM MIKE MEAR

Many of you will know the interest I have in Theatre. This year I celebrated 50 years since my first appearance on stage in "The Happiest days of Your Life" which was staged at Tutbury Church Hall.

Since then I have appeared in well over 200 productions, in different companies, as well as Film and TV background artist work.

The theatres have been hit hard and whilst sporting events have allowed hundreds and thousands to attend it is only recently theatrical productions are being allowed but with a considerably reduced auditorium.

This week, for the first time in over a year, I attended the performance of "Rent" by the Little Theatre Company's Youth Section. They should have performed at the Brewhouse last April but we all know what happened.

I joined the Little Theatre Company in 1976 when they performed in St. Paul's Church as part of the church's Centenary Celebrations.

Due to demand, the Youth Section was created and have been performing for a number of years.

When allowed during the pandemic, they have still managed to rehearse just to keep the production fresh in their minds, though not knowing when they would perform. They have even used our Church Hall for one rehearsal.

I know people will say sporting events are mainly outdoor events but it is such a shame Wimbledon is to have 100% attendance for the final. I ask the question if it rains and they have to bring the roof in will 50% be asked to leave?



UPDATE FROM THE WOOLLEYS...

We were able to go to John's twin brother's for a long weekend in June. Ali and James joined us for the Saturday and Sunday. Mick lives in the village of Upper Quinton, about 5 miles from Stratford upon Avon. It is an ideal place to go for a short break.

On the first day we were able to go for a stroll around the village. After lunch John and Mick had an energetic time sawing a pile of wood up for Ali's woodburner hoping that the load would fit in the car boot.

On Saturday we visited Coughton Court near Alcester – a National Trust property, a former family home of the Throckmortons. The house itself was not of much interest to us but the grounds were absolutely delightful. I must say that the staff and volunteers were very helpful and pleasant, having had bad experiences of past visits to National Trust properties.

In the evening Mick, John and Ali prepared dinner which was the full works of an Indian meal consisting of poppadoms, onion bhajis, samosas and three vegetable curries. We sat outside to eat and had a glass of wine or two under a canopy to escape the sun – we were all stuffed after the feast! It was just like going to Jee-Ja-Jees but cheaper. We went indoors later in the evening and had a game of Only Connect.

On the Sunday it was lovely to have a relaxing breakfast in his garden and say "hello" to walkers as they strolled along the public footpath which runs adjacent to his plot. One party of walkers asked if we could refill their water flasks and have a bowl of water for their dog. I suggested to Mick that he put a tap in the garden with a sign saying "please help yourself to water" which didn't go down too well as he is on a water meter!

After breakfast we visited Broadway, a village in the Cotswolds, a short drive away from Upper Quinton. This is a lovely quaint village with lots of unique shops and very nice landscapes. It was our luck that there was an Artists painting competition that day, the artists were dotted around the village so we could watch them. How the artists coped with the heat for five hours we are not sure. There were some fantastic paintings and it was unfortunate that we didn't get to see who won. As it was hot, before leaving the village we treated ourselves to a large ice cream which we struggled to eat before they melted! Upon returning to Mick's the remainder of the curries were on the menu. Ali and James left late afternoon.

On our last day we did a sudoku with Mick which we set a time limit to finish it. We did not succeed. We went to The Four Alls pub and had a delicious lunch in the garden by the river Avon. Arriving back at Mick's we finished the sudoku before leaving to come home. It was a great weekend!

We are visiting Mick again in July and have also booked a 3-day break to Portsmouth with Ali and James. It is something to look forward to.

We had a break from our memory testing but have now resumed it. We each have three words/phrases beginning with the same letter per day to remember, well that means six in reality as we have to remember what words we have given each other. John has been giving me some real stinkers – here are some examples: helioscope, Harper's Bazaar, Fresnel lens, Orlando Gibbons, sophomore, Zoltan Korda, Dmitri Mendeleev and the latest one Brunelleschi. We have now gone through the alphabet and are starting again. It seems to work most days and it is fun to do. Try it yourselves, it keeps the grey cells working!



Puzzle time

Answers to the June newsletter 'How well do you know your Hymns 3?' quiz:

1. All my hope on God is founded,
2. Morning has broken,
3. Three in one, and one in Three.
4. Abide with me
5. Eternal Father, strong to save
6. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
7. Give me joy in my heart
8. O for a thousand tongues to sing
9. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
10. Hills of the North rejoice
11. To God be the glory
12. Praise my soul the king of heaven
13. O love that wilt not let me go
14. Just as I am without one plea
15. My song is love unknown
16. Angel voices ever singing
17. Crown him with many crowns
18. Christ is made the sure foundation
19. Praise to the holiest in the height
20. Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour

Thanks Colin for the quiz. For some reason I found this selection harder than the first. I wasn't tuned it to quite a few. Did anyone else find it difficult?

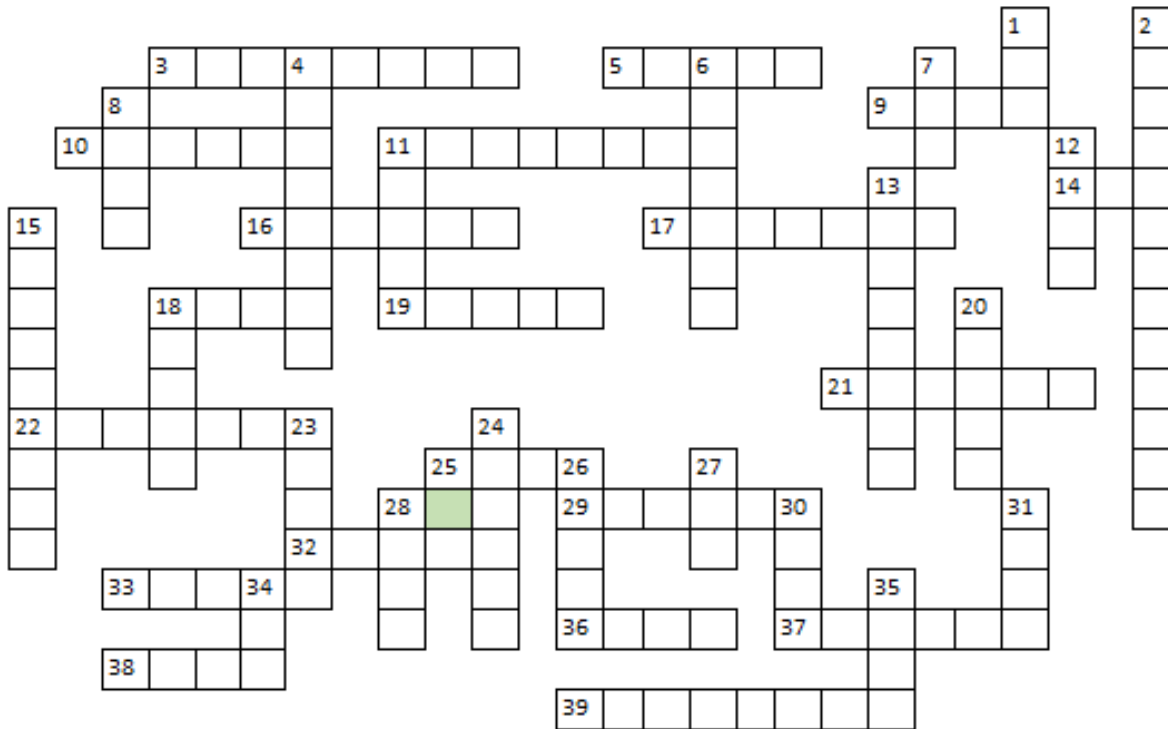
How well do you know your bible? (Compiled by Colin Dawson)

Below are a series of stories, characters or events from the bible. Can you name the book of the bible in which they appear? Answers next month.

1. The conversation of St Paul
2. The story of Meshack, Shadrack and Abednego
3. The tower of Babel
4. The battle of Armageddon
5. Jesus says 'I am the True Vine;
6. The wedding at Cana
7. Joseph and his coat of many colours
8. Moses receiving the Ten Commandments
9. Samson and Delila
10. Jonah and the Whale
11. The Assumption of the Virgin Mary
12. The sermon on the Mount
13. Noah builds the ark
14. The parting of the Red Sea
15. The shortest book of the Bible
16. Daniel in the Lion's den
17. The story of David and Goliath
18. The Fall of Jericho
19. The parable of the Good Samaritan
20. Elijah is taken to heaven in a chariot

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

Have a go at this crossword fill in the blanks to the words of the hymn. Have a sing whilst doing it!



1.The (18 dn) my (3 ac) I'll not (8 dn);
 He makes me (12 dn) to... (35 dn)
 In (4 dn) (11 dn); He (23 ac) me
 The (20 dn) (10 ac) by.

2.My (9 ac) He doth (6 dn) again,
 And me to (28 dn) doth make
 Within the paths of righteousness,
 E'en for His own (19 ac) (38 ac).

5. (11 ac) and (5 ac) all my (18 ac)
 (32 ac) (16 ac) (24 dn) me,
 And in (31 dn) (23 dn) for (39 ac)
 My (2 dn) shall be.

3.Yea, (29 ac) I walk in (37 ac) dark (35 dn),
 Yet will I (36 ac) no ... (1 dn);
 For Thou art with me, and Thy ... (7 dn)
 And (26 dn) me (17 ac) still.

4.My (33 ac) Thou hast furnished
 In (13 dn) of my (25 ac);
 My (30 dn) Thou dost with ... (14 ac) (21 ac),
 And my ... (27 dn) (15 dn).

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEWSLETTER