

CHURCH NEWS

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The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Ministers:

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OCTOBER 2021

Friends,

St Luke – a doctor with ‘good news’

This month we remember St Luke (18 October), the author of the third gospel and of the Book of Acts. Throughout his writing Luke makes clear that the good news of salvation is available to all people regardless of their gender, social position, or nationality. It is believed that Luke was a doctor, and he certainly sees the importance of healing in the ministry of Jesus and the Church. The signs of the presence of God's kingdom include the healing of sickness, hurts, as well as unforgiveness.

This is evident when Jesus sends out the 72 disciples in Luke 10; a reading for St Luke's Day:

‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field... When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’ (Luke 10:2,8).

What challenges do we find in these verses?

Firstly Luke, as a **Gentile** (a non-Jew) recognises the revolutionary way outsiders are welcomed into the faith community, e.g. Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and Cornelius (Acts 10). How can we engage with those who are outside the community of faith? We have to avoid the tendency to regard ourselves as insiders! As we reach out to those who are ready to welcome the gospel, we have an opportunity to share good news and healing in the name of Jesus.

Secondly, as an **Evangelist**, Luke wants us to share the love of Jesus with all those we encounter. However, as these verses indicate, this has got to be rooted in prayer, if we are going to be led by God in our response to others. *‘Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in’* (Rowan Williams).

Canon Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Autumn is here and the nights are drawing in. For many people this can be a very lonely and worrying time. We think of those people who are confined to their homes for all sorts of different reasons. We pray for those who are sick in body, anxious or depressed. We remember those of our congregation and friends who are unwell or recently bereaved.

We learned last April of the sad passing of David Wilkinson, who was one of our 3 ministers when in the South Cheadle Group between 1982~89. We have now learned from David's son, Mark, of the death of his mother Pauline on 2 SEPT. We will keep Mark and other members of his family in our thoughts and prayers.

We are very grateful for the support we received last month for pulpit supply from Prof Chris Whitehead and Rev Peter Sharp, who also took Tom Clarkson's funeral on 10 SEPT.

We have now welcomed back both our pianists, Alex Moore and Dorothy Walker to support Eric our organist. Thank you so much for your skills after a long sabbatical!

Best wishes to everyone who will be celebrating their birthday this month.

DO come along on 2 OCT to support Macmillan Coffee Morning at CH URC, 10 am: the first for 18 months!

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 2 OCT - Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sun 7 NOV - CHURCH MEETING (not as previously advertised)

8/10 JULY 2022 -Thornleigh weekend ~ next yr

CHURCH MEETING - SUN 7 NOVEMBER

It has not been possible to hold a meeting, in person, since January 2020 so it feels like there is a lot to catch up on. We have tried to notify members of as much as possible through the weekly mailing but, we do need a time of reflection on the past 18 months and a chance for members to ask questions and discuss items particularly in relation to Don's two articles on Outreach in the September and current magazines. Please read them - other relevant documents will be circulated before the meeting when we hope members will do what they can to attend.

The Elders

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked for...

w/c Sun 3rd OCT:

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Rev Philip Peacock, the leadership team, mission workers and school and family workers. Pray for the fellowship as they meet and pray together for effective witness in the community. Give thanks for the ongoing food collection for Chelwood every Tuesday morning.

Sun 10th OCT: **Society of Friends**

For the fellowship who have met faithfully via zoom and now begin to meet and pray in person again. Pray for witness amongst their families and in the community.



Sun 17th OCT: **Emmanuel Church**

The minister Rev Christopher Hobbs and the fellowship as they plan the schedule of services and meet and pray together for effective witness to their local community.

Sun 24th OCT: **Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme & St Ann's.** We pray with the confidence of the first Disciples for God's help in every need, for those in flight for any kind of danger ..be their protection. For those who live in terror or in want meet their needs. For those who seek to know your will and do it – show them The Way. Give us a fresh hope at the start of each day and help us to stay on the narrow way in our Christian walk which leads to your glorious Heavenly Kingdom.

Sun 31st OCT: **Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme.** For the 5th Sunday Joint Evening Service. May it be a time of blessing and fellowship. May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us All now and evermore. Amen.

On **Oak Meadow** on Sat 18 September, Churches Together offered an opportunity for the community to take time to reflect on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and to remember and take hold of the future. We gathered to remember, pray and give thanks to God for the hope He gives to all of us.

NEW CHAIR FOR CHRISTIAN AID

The Rt Rev & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, will be the next Chair of the board of international development agency Christian Aid.

Dr Sentamu, who has been outspoken on issues of poverty and justice in the UK and globally for many years, served as the Archbishop of York from 2005 until 2020. He was created by Her Majesty the Queen, Baron of Lindisfarne in the County of Northumberland and Masooli in the Republic of Uganda. He is a member of the UK Parliament, in the House of Lords.

Born in Kampala, Uganda, Dr Sentamu will be the first person of African descent to take up the position of Chair in Christian Aid's 75-year history.

Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and current Chair, will stand down at Christian Aid's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, having served two full terms of office.

Announcing the appointment today, Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi said: "This is wonderful news for Christian Aid. Dr Sentamu brings with him a passion and energy for global justice, a deep love of the Church and a profound theological understanding that will be able to speak into the crises of climate change, Covid, conflict and debt that are affecting the world's poorest communities. We look forward to welcoming him to the Christian Aid family."

Parish Pump website

HARVEST ~ SUN 10 OCT

After the most difficult time of the past 18 months, we will once again be supporting both **Chelwood Foodbank** and **Lifeshare** with Harvest donations and are therefore asking you to continue your generosity at this special time. OR, using the internet to link to Chelwood's Facebook page , it is possible to place a food order from Amazon which is delivered direct to Chelwood.

Any of the following will be helpful, or you may prefer to make a monetary gift... Most tinned goods; meat, fish, tuna, vegetables, fruit, rice pudding. Drinks tea/coffee, long life milk & sugar, squash/fruit juices. Porridge and Breakfast Cereal. Tinned Soup, Jam, Kitchen Roll, Size 6 Nappies, Hair Conditioner, Antibacterial Cleaning Spray. Thank you,

Alison Stevens



TOM BAMFORD CLARKSON

It seems that Tom's beginnings are shrouded in a veil of secrecy (and quirky handwriting!), so perhaps it is sufficient to conclude that his Kendal roots and Moira's Scottish-ness somehow (by the grace of God and the fierce alchemy of chance and contingency) brought us to this moment of commemoration. We are, in truth, commemorating a life well lived and well loved. All Tom's upbringing and National Service you will remember for yourselves, I feel sure, and be thankful for all that he gave. Moreover, you will rejoice that it all brought Tom to Cheadle Hulme where he met his dearest soul mate Moira, and the subsequent sixty years (as they say) were a blessed history. 1954 to 2015 were the years they travelled together this earthly pilgrimage, for better or for worse - - - for richer or for poorer. Thank the Lord for all of that. **God is good.**

I was fortunate to know Tom (*and Moira*) for a good number of years. When I was called to be the minister at Swann Lane and Ladybridge Road in the year 2000, I began as I meant to go on by visiting in turn the whole of the congregation in these parts, and I believed the fairest way was to do it in alphabetical order. So it was that the surname `Clarkson` came almost immediately onto my radar, and I have never regretted the afternoon I spent, competing (*and failing*) in the game of crazy garden golf around the back of Buckingham Road. That address became a haven of Christian comfort for a new minister, and the more so when I met and married Linda my own soul mate. Moira and Tom were always the very model of Christian love and welcome to us both, and for that I give thanks.

Thanks, Tom, good friend and fellow pilgrim, for showing us something of what God requires of his faithful, and for leaving us with more than a glimmer of the faith which Jesus had in his heavenly Father. **Go well, and REST IN PEACE. Amen.**

Rev Peter Sharp
Extract from Eulogy

...FOOD COLLECTIONS

Methodists Tues am & Baptists Sat am
Or get in touch with Secretary /Elder...

If your son /daughter can help you access...
<https://www.facebook.com/foodbankstockport/>

TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE

Dear Morag, It has been a few months since the Regenerators Appeal wrapped up and we've been hard at work totting up the final total. Thanks to amazing supporters like you, we have reached a final total **£1,312,585** including £656,292 of match funding from the UK government, to help people on the front line stand strong in the face of climate change.

People like Issa, in Tanzania. You might remember his story from the start of the appeal. We think it's worth repeating. In Issa's village they don't ask *'is climate change real?'*

They ask: *'how will I feed my family now that the floods have destroyed my farm?'*

As he explains, it wasn't always like this:

"In my time when I was growing up, these changes had not happened. Back then the seasons went through without any problem. People here knew exactly what to do because the weather was stable."

But the certainty of his childhood is long gone. Climate change means that the coastal region's once predictable weather is now erratic, and harvests have suffered.

An unpredictable cycle of floods and droughts mean that farming in his community barely turns a profit.

"The last rainy season, there was a lot of water and the river flooded. Some of the villagers lost their animals and their houses were destroyed - we had to find a boat to rescue them."

Climate change is happening right now, and it's hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. **Thanks to your support of the Regenerators appeal, people like Issa can begin the fight back.**

Issa's village can now receive training in climate-resilient agriculture, forest protection and invest in tech such as solar panels.

With all this, delivered through our teams in Tanzania, the Regenerators can make that first step towards turning the tide and make sure their community can stand strong in the face of the changing climate. Once again, thank you.

The Traidcraft Exchange Team

ANNA CHAPLAINS

These days there seems to be a day for everything, including the United Nations' 'International day for Older Persons', which is observed on 1 October. So perhaps October is a good month to think about meeting the needs of older people in church.

Many churches employ children's workers or youth leaders – but how many have appointed people to minister specifically to the older people in their congregation and beyond?

In St Albans, north of London, two Methodist churches have joined together to recruit an **'Anna Chaplain'** to help meet the needs of seniors in local church congregations and beyond.

The new role is part of a growing network of [Anna Chaplains](#), named after the widow, Anna, who appears in Luke's gospel as a good role model of a faithful older person.

The development comes as charities that work with older people have published research which how badly the pandemic has impacted those aged 60 and above, and raised questions about how well they will 'bounce back' after Covid-19.

Age UK has called on the Government to give the NHS and social care services extra resources to help older people make the best possible recovery. With coronavirus now hopefully in retreat in the UK, the charity has also appealed to the wider public to keep supporting the older people in their lives.

It said: "The impact of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of some older people in early 2021 is so demonstrably severe that it raises big questions over whether they will be able to 'bounce back'."

Against this background, Maggie Dodd, the first *Anna Chaplain* in Hertfordshire, explained: "Our vision is that older people are cherished and supported within their church communities, and also beyond, in the wider community.

"Often you have people who used to attend church, and they've become a little more frail and not able to attend or they've moved to a care home or sheltered housing, and they just lose touch with what's going on. They're not able to take themselves to church anymore."

The work of *Anna Chaplains* includes ministry in care homes and other settings where older people live or gather. At this time of year, some churches organise 'holiday at home' projects and activities for seniors in their area.

Anna Chaplains are a ministry of the BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) charity, who have a vision "to see an *Anna Chaplain* in every small and medium-sized community in the country, and for the *Anna Chaplain* name to become synonymous with spiritual care for older people."

**Rev Peter Crumpler,
a CofE rector in St Albans,**

See <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/>

OUTREACH: RENEW STOCKPORT

As mentioned at the end of the last article the 'outreach' work for me has now moved to working with like minded people of Faith on what is known as the '**movement for recovery**'

This is a group of interdenominational Christians who have started to work together at the behest of Andy Burnham the Mayor of Greater Manchester. Andy, along with many Civic leaders has realised that the faith community has helped extensively through the Covid crisis and has asked the minister he knows, Ian Rutherford, to co-ordinate what the faith sector does.

I was invited to become involved through Adrian Nottingham, the current Major of Stockport, and Steve Hough, who was the Baptist minister at Chelwood, and preached at our church a few times. He is also a trustee at the foodbank and a Christian charity called **Renew Stockport**.

The themes that we are trying to demonstrate that we can contribute to as churches are;

Food poverty	Housing
Homelessness	Mental health
Wellbeing	Loneliness
Digital inclusion	Debt
Climate	

If we look at the activities across our own church we could demonstrate we do 'things' that help in most or all of these areas.

.Donations from CHURC go to the food bank

.We run coffee mornings for specific causes such as Mary's Meals

.Our willingness to talk and spend time with people

collectively helps with mental health, wellbeing and often loneliness

.The building of websites and content can play on the digital agenda

.The conversations and posters we display around climate increase awareness

To name some, and I am sure between us we could point to many other activities that are undertaken by the church collectively or by individuals within and connected to the church that support assisting 'society' on those seven themes.

The piece of work I have agreed to do, based on the work and knowledge I gleaned working with CHURC is to think about the digital theme and a combination of what we can 'report' that churches do and how we can make the activities we do that support communities 'commissionable' by local authorities through the taxes we all pay.

This will probably form the basis of the next article as I am actively working on the plan now!!

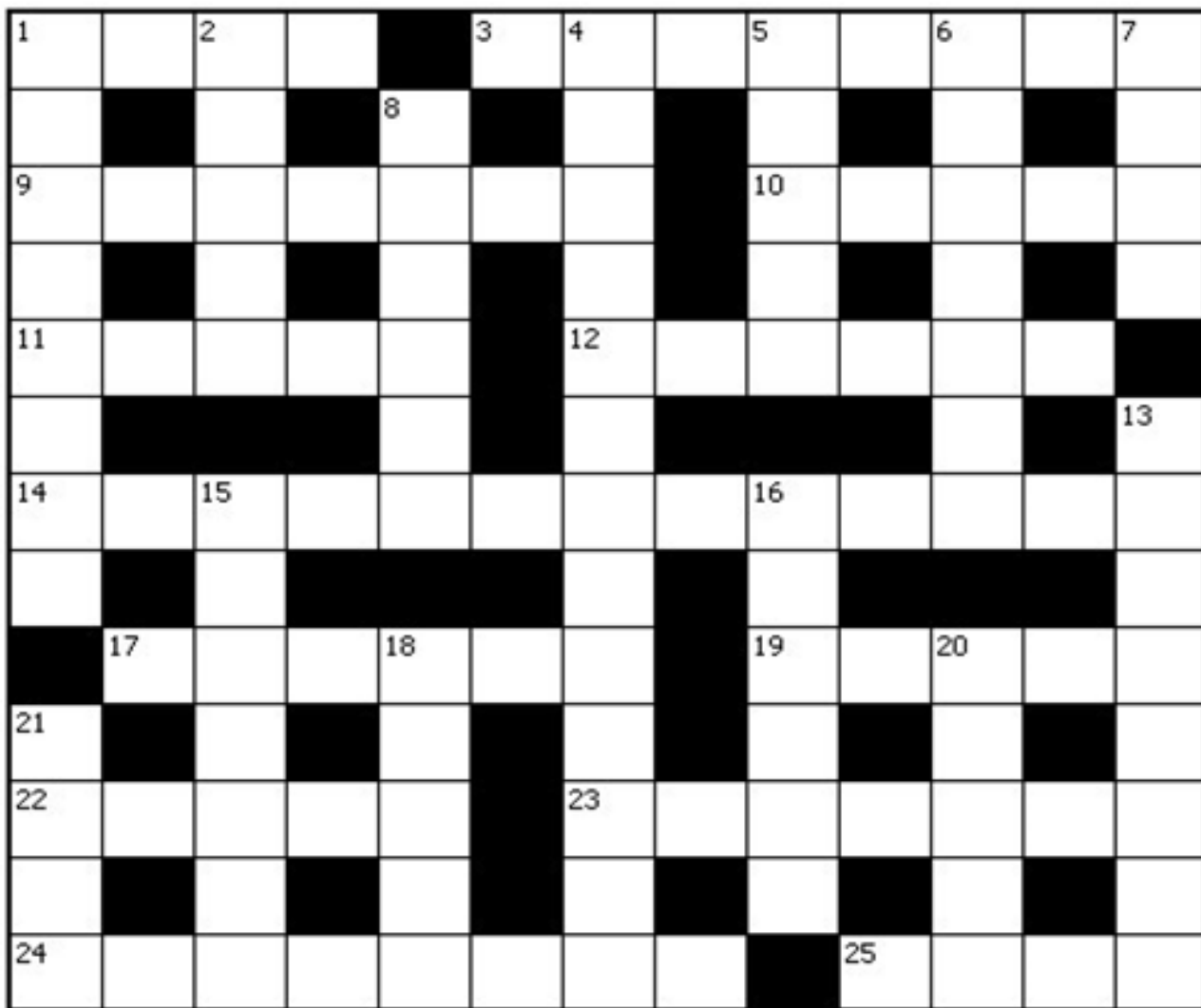
**Don Phillips
Social Enterprise organiser**

PARAPROSDOKIANS...

are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station...
10. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted the pay cheques.

**Parish Pump
(~Internet)**



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION = back page

OUR SERVICES

Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please wear masks (especially for singing) and understand our plans may change with little notice.

We may sometimes have a speaker and sometimes a simple in-house led service. Video conferencing continues and Leaders or readers may Zoom in or speak in church, from one of the lecterns.

Duties are performed by a small team on a rota.

Date	3 OCT	10 OCT	17 OCT	24 OCT	31 OCT
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Chris Whitehead	In House	Sandy Smith	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Bernie Stevens
Reader	M Hardie	J Hodson	G Elsdon	P Grieve	M Morton
Elder Duty	S Smith	B Stevens	A Stevens	S Smith /D Phillips	P Oliver
Notes		HARVEST celebration		HOLY COMMUNION	

CHURCH REGISTERS - FUNERAL

TOM BAMFORD CLARKSON, who died on 23 August 2021 aged 93 yrs, at Cheadle Hulme URC and Stockport Crematorium on Friday 10 September 2021.

LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

3 OCT: Genesis 2v18~24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1v1~4+2v5~12; Mark 10v2~16
10 OCT: Amos 5v6~7+10~15; Psalm 90v12~17; Hebrews 4v12~16; Mark 10v17~31
17 OCT: Isaiah 53v4~12; Psalm 91v1~2+9~16; Hebrews 5v1~10; Mark 10v35~45
24 OCT: Jeremiah 31v7~9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7v23~28; Mark 10v46~52
31 OCT: Deuteronomy 6v1~9; Psalm 119v1~8; Hebrews 9v11~14; Mark 12v28~34

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "You gotta sin!"

Parish Pump

SORRY, LORD, I JUST COULDN'T MAKE IT

The bells ring out on Sunday morn,
O did you hear their call?
They call the faithful ones to prayer
To Church they summon all.

v
But Lord, I cannot come today,
I live a busy life,
Still, when there's something special on
I'll try and send the wife.

v
It poured with rain last Sunday
An inch or two, I bet..
You surely can't expect me then –
I'd get my new suit wet.

v
Today the sky is blue and clear,
but the car's as black as ink
And if I do not clean it soon,
What will the neighbours think?

>

<
You know I do my bit, dear Lord
I have a golden rule,
I sometimes send my kids along
To be at Sunday school.

v
But I really couldn't come as well,
There's grass to mow, and beds to weed
Shelves to fix, a dog to walk, and
Sunday newspapers to read.

v
And now this day has ended, Lord
How fast the weekends go!
I ask for faith and strength this week
For I feel (spiritually) quite low.

v
Inflame, O Lord, my feeble faith
My lamp burns rather dim,
For God depends on me, of course,
And I depend on Him.

Author unknown
Parish Pump

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS

1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

DOWN

1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA

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