

What then is Apollos? What is Paul?

1 Corinthians 3

As Paul reminds us, divisions distract. They can lead to jealousy and quarrelling. What unites us is infinitely more important than what divides. Our own human efforts are nothing unless they are nurtured by God. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." Paul then uses another analogy. "I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no-one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ."

For centuries we have allowed division to disfigure the Christian message and bewilder those who look on at us. We have allowed these things to distract us from the one message that matters: the Good News and the love and hope that Christ brings, a Saviour who was prepared to die for us on the cross, so that we might be redeemed.

As today is a Bank Holiday it is a day when you may just have time to try a brain teaser. All of the following anagrams reflect the muddle that we have caused by our squabbles and internal disputes. Often these splits have begun as reforming movements, and we acknowledge their value when they challenge complacency, and a failure to focus on God. However, it is how we make those improvements that matters, and we are challenged to do this with grace, always centred around Christ, and never on ourselves, or a wish to be in control.

Each of these 24 anagrams, will lead to the name of a Christian church, or movement. They are not necessarily to be found on the Island and some of them you may never have heard of. (Sorry about that !). Two alternative names for the same church may be used. To help the number of letters in each word of the answer are given. At any time you may see that they lead us to an important message about unity, which we sing with gusto, thanks to Edward Plumptre.

Whether or not you accept the challenge, we always need to remember our foundation lies in Christ alone, and that we are God's servants, working together ... God's field, God's building.

OPTIC-C (6)

NESTLE WISE MOTH DAY (8,9)

ENTER BY HOT PLUM HR (8,8)

CANTOR CLAIM HO (5,8)

HOSPITAL COT CALICO (8,9)

UNDERFIRED MOTE (6,8)

RAY MOIST NAVAL (9,4)

CHABLIS IN TRIBE (5,9)

HEROISM TIP TIMID VET (9,9)

ONE CAR GLOATING (14)

NEST BARRY PIE (12)

END PINT NEED (11)

FEEL CARING LEAVE (4,11)

ANCHOR CUDGEL FHN (5,2,7)

I SPAT BT (7)

TALENT COPEES (11)

HUNTERAL (8)

OX THROOD (8)

NAVLISTIC (9)

EQUARK (6)

LAP SHEW FAIRY FLOWERS (9,10)

OPEN ASPIC AIL (12)

ROMAN VIA (8)

DANGER BISON WE (13)