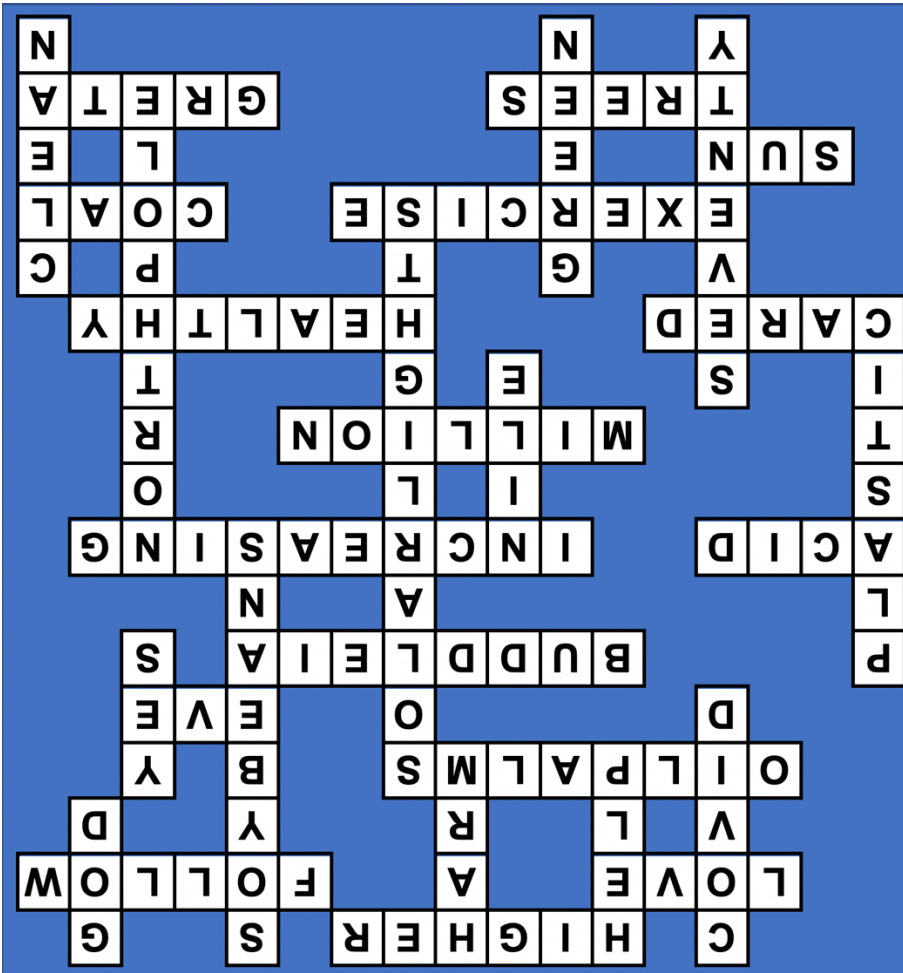


SUMMER RENDEZVOUS At Home

**God looked over everything
he had made;
it was so good, so very good!**

Genesis 1:31

Answers to yesterday's quiz: **SAVE THE PLANET**



DAY 5

GOD'S WORLD

Way back in the early 1990s my wife and I led a church weekend. We wanted to encourage the church to take seriously what in those days we called "the green issue".



On the Saturday morning we did an interesting exercise. There were about 30 people taking part and we divided them into groups of three. We gave each group: a lump of clay; some dried flowers and oasis; and pencils and paper. In each group, one person was to make a sculpture, one was to make a dried flower arrangement, one was to produce a drawing. They spent half the morning producing some really good work. They enjoyed themselves. Many of them were proud their efforts.

After a break came the second part of the exercise. We told them that in each group: the person who made the sculpture had to spoil the flower arrangement; the flower arranger had to spoil the drawing;

and the artist had to spoil the sculpture. Our purpose was to go on to explore their feelings as they saw something beautiful that they had created being damaged or destroyed. It was an effective way of beginning to understand how God feels about the way we treat the natural world. If we are hurt, or upset, to see someone damage or destroy something we made in half a morning, how much more must God be upset to see us damaging the world and destroying fragile environments and ecosystems that he created over millions of years.

One thing we didn't anticipate was the reluctance of the participants to damage one another's creations: the sculptors would slightly dislodge one of the dried flowers; the flower arrangers would smudge the pencil in one tiny part in the corner of the drawing; the artists would make a slight scratch or dent in the sculpture. No-one would willingly do irreparable harm to the work of someone they knew and loved, let alone destroy it. It took a long time to persuade them to do as we asked.

So, the exercise didn't only teach us in some small way to understand how God feels about the way we treat his creation. It raised a deeper question: if we really know and love God, and we believe that God created the beautiful world and balanced environment we live in, why are we so willing to live in ways that harm and destroy it? What makes us reluctant to make changes to our lifestyle that will protect and preserve God's world?

from Psalm 8

O Lord our God,
the majesty and glory of your name
fills all the earth
and overflows the heavens.

When I look up into the night skies
and see the work of your fingers
- the moon and the stars you have made-
I cannot understand how you can bother with mere puny man,
to pay any attention to him!

And yet you have made him only a little lower than the angels
and placed a crown of glory and honour upon his head.

**You have put him in charge of everything you made;
everything is put under his authority:
all sheep and oxen, and wild animals too,
the birds and fish, and all the life in the sea.**

O Jehovah, our Lord,
the majesty and glory of your name
fills the earth.



Worth a watch: **Blue Planet II**
Episode 7 on BBC iPlayer

This iconic series sparked a revolution in how we use plastics – incredible photography with a challenging message

I praise you because
*I am fearfully &
wonderfully made;*
your works
are wonderful,
I know that full well.

-Psalm 139:14

PsalmsQuotes.com

Looking after our planet one small step at a time!

We are an important part of God's creation too!

This activity is about understanding God's love for us

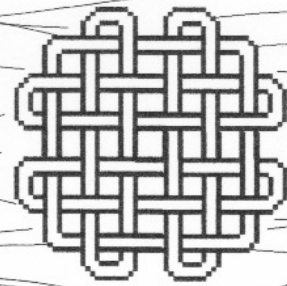
- Try to find a lump of clay, playdough, or bread dough.
- Start to knead it to soften it.
- As you knead, imagine you are God making *you*!
- What do you think he was thinking?
- This is what King David thought in Psalm 139:

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

- Mould the clay into a shape to represent you.
- What would you like to say to God?
- Make a little banner out of card and a cocktail stick. Write a short phrase on your little banner to tell God how you feel.



Place your model somewhere to let it dry and let it remind you of how precious you are to God.



LIFE JOURNEY WINDING

PATTERNS UNDULATING OVERLAPPING

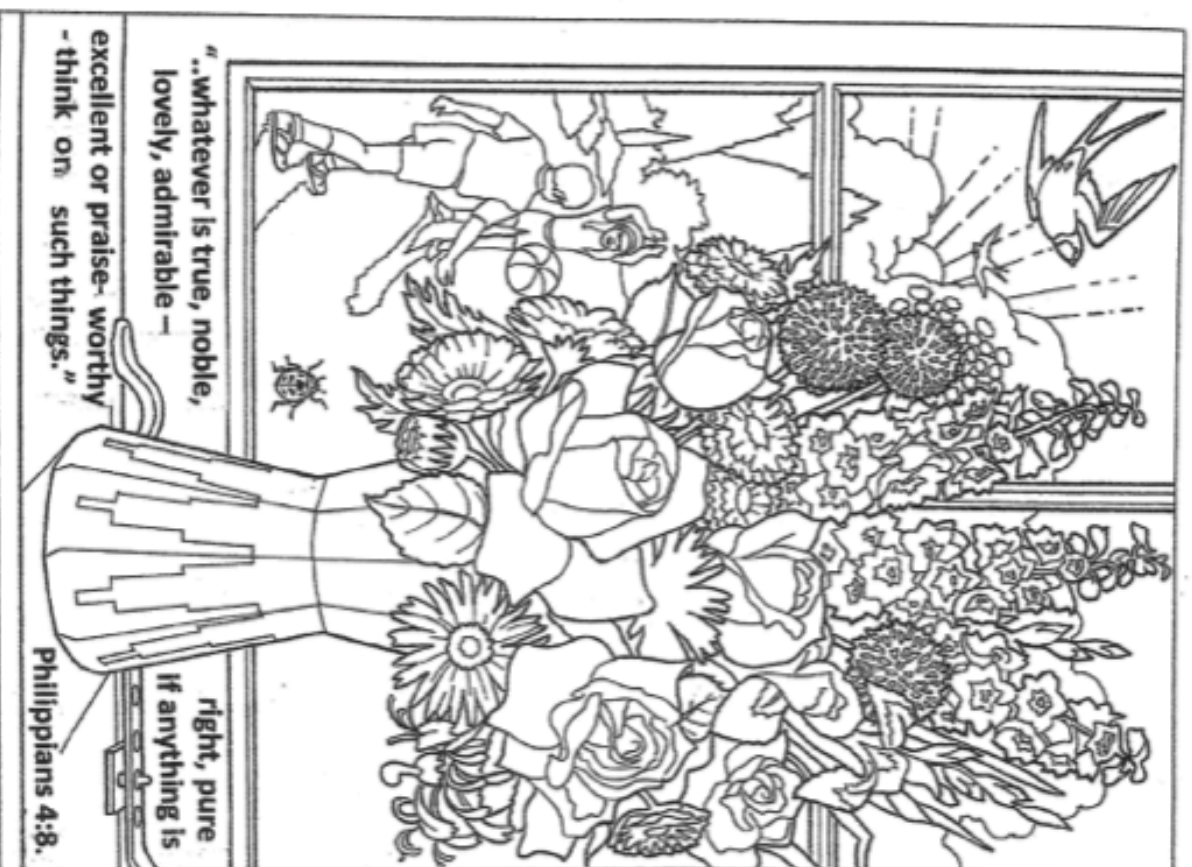
WEAVING COMMUNITY

TOUCH AS YOU PASS, SMILE

HOLD THE MOMENT

AS GOD HOLDS YOU

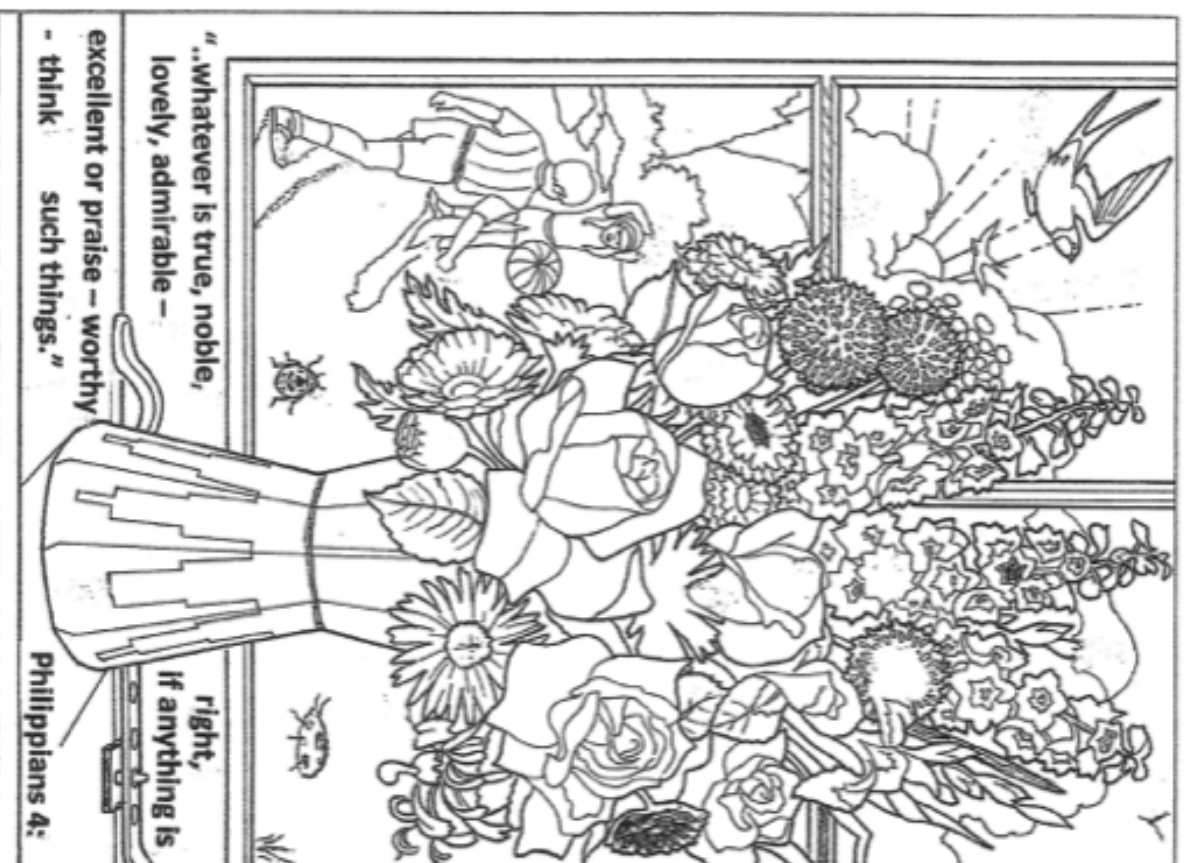
IN HIS HEART



Colour this one if you like.

How good a detective are you – did you get the 40+?

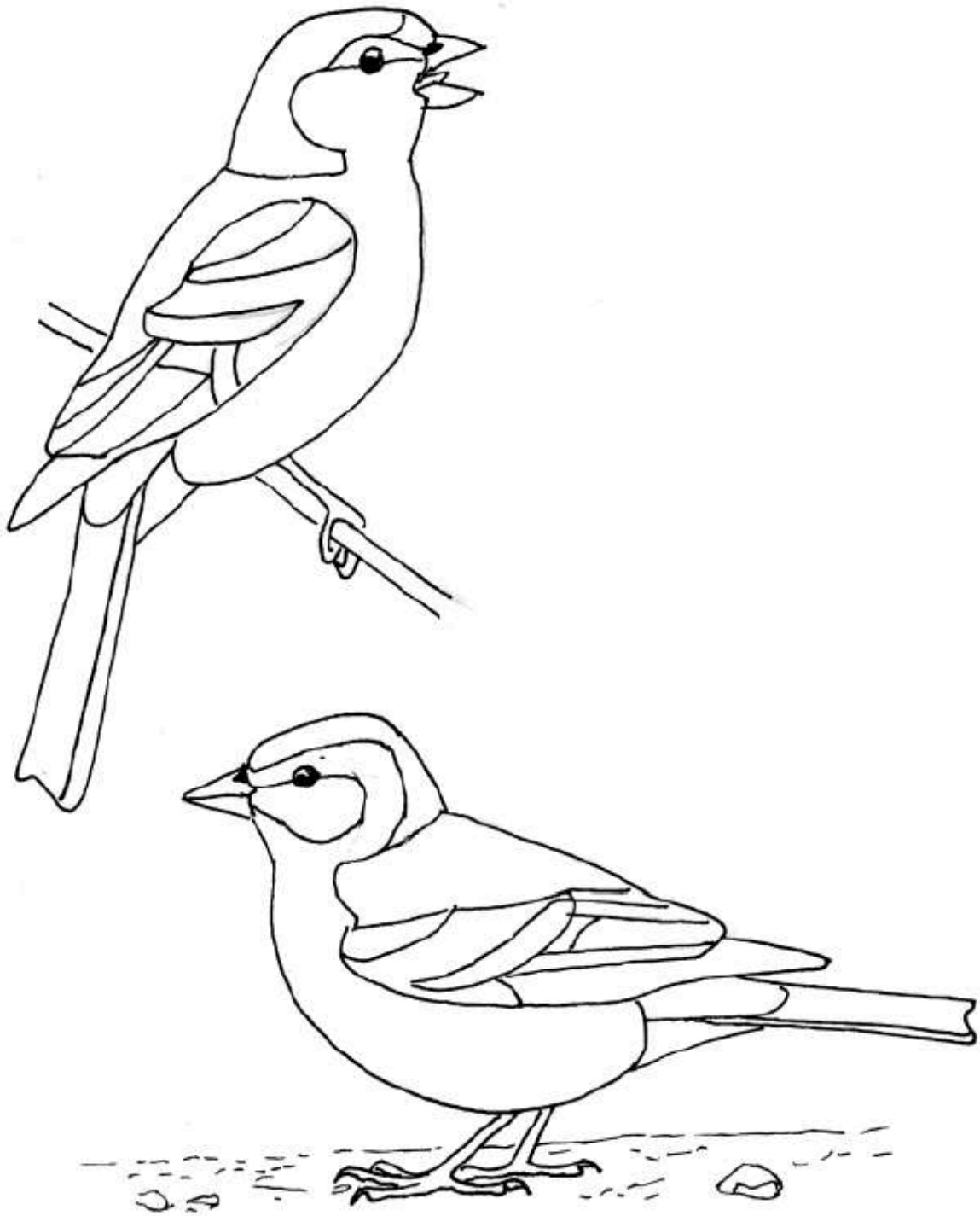
A summer vase.
Can you see 8 different types of flower?



Circle the differences between the 2 pictures on this one.



A summer vase.
Can you see 8 different types of flower?



Chaffinch

