

SUMMER RENDEZVOUS *At Home*

DAY 1

**Even the stork in the sky
knows her appointed seasons,
and the dove, the swift and
the thrush observe the time of
their migration.**

Jeremiah 8:7

BUTTERFLIES

During the last week of January my wife and I were staying with our daughter, Katy, and her family in Johannesburg. I noticed that there were a lot of butterflies in the garden that week. On about the 3rd or 4th day it dawned on me that they were not fluttering around randomly, but all travelling in the same direction, coming into the garden from the south-west, and heading off to the north-east.



I tried to count them, but there were too many. I estimated the number passing through each minute. There were well over 100, maybe as many as 200. I went through to the front garden, which is bigger, and there were even more. We had maybe 500 butterflies passing through my daughter's garden every minute: 30,000 an hour, for several hours each day, for a few days. I estimated that maybe ½ million butterflies passed through Katy's garden that week!

I Googled this and discovered that I had seen the annual migration of the brown-veined white butterfly. Millions upon millions of butterflies had begun their journey in the arid regions of the Karroo, near Cape Town, and the Kalahari Desert. They were travelling north-east, pollinating innumerable plants on the way, and their journey would take them to the coast of Mozambique, on the Indian Ocean. It happens every year, though the route varies according to conditions.

One of the articles I read pointed out that this is not a true migration. The butterflies don't return. When they reach their destination on the Mozambique coast they die – those that are not eaten by a bird on the way. But back in the Karroo and Kalahari they have laid eggs, which in time will give rise to a new generation of caterpillars and next year's migration of the brown-veined whites.

Social media were said to be “ablaze with videos and pictures”. People were in awe at the sight of all these butterflies. One woman described it as a “magical” experience that had made her day. I felt privileged to have observed one of nature's amazing events.

I cannot get my head round how these tiny insects can travel such a huge distance. The Kalahari Desert was 600 miles away, yet they didn't look at all tired! And they still had another 500 to 600 miles to fly. I am in awe of God, who created these butterflies and enabled them to evolve such an amazing life cycle, so that in some way, that no-one yet seems to understand, their innate sense of direction is

locked away in those eggs, to be passed on in their DNA to next year's butterflies.

Remarkably, the very evening before I realised I was watching an amazing migration event, I had received an e-mail from Ben Jones, the Associate Vicar at Emmanuel, inviting me to preach shortly after my return on the title, *Celebrating Creation*. I knew immediately how I was to begin! I hope we may all see in the natural world awe-inspiring creatures and events that make us want to celebrate creation and worship the creator.



God's love is meteoric,
his loyalty astronomic,
His purpose titanic,
his verdicts oceanic.
Yet in his largeness
nothing gets lost;
Not a man, not a mouse,
slips through the cracks.

Psalm 36: 5 – 6
(The Message)



Worth a watch: ***Spy in the Wild***
Series 2 episode 2 on BBC iPlayer

Marvel at God's creation – includes a clip of a butterfly migration in Mexico

WATER SAVING TIPS

There are lots of simple ways you can conserve water – and every drop helps.

PUT A BOWL IN THE SINK
when washing your 
VEGETABLES –
then reuse the water on your garden

Choose drought-tolerant
TREES & PLANTS
FOR YOUR GARDEN 

Avoid watering your garden
OR CROPS
DURING THE 
HEAT OF DAY

COMPOST MULCH
around 
TREES AND SHRUBS 

PUT A PLUG IN THE SINK
when washing your 
HANDS, FACE OR TEETH
rather than letting the tap run.

 **WASH THE CAR**
using a bucket
RATHER THAN A HOSE

KEEP SHOWERS
SHORT 
TRY USING A TIMER

PUT A BOTTLE FULL
OF WATER
in your toilet cistern
TO REDUCE
FLUSH WATER 

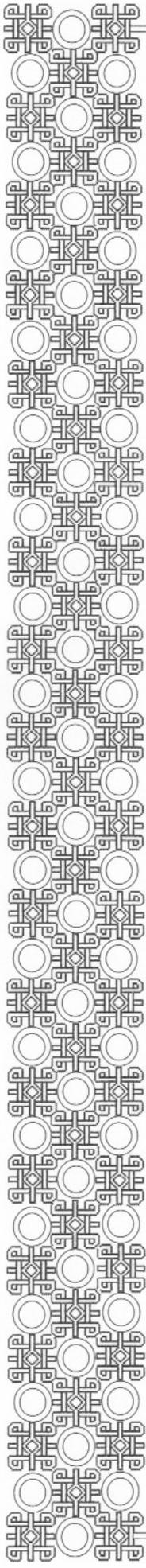
Looking after our planet one small step at a time!

Make use of some old magazines or wrapping paper
with this chance to release your creativity!

- Your challenge is to make a collage of our wonderful planet earth.
- You will need glue (PVA glue, or any 'school glue' is ideal) and you may have tissue paper, and yarn, but you can use anything you can find at home – for example, pictures from magazines, or old fabric.
- Tear the paper into postage stamp size pieces.
- Glue the pieces down on a piece of card to make a picture that represents the Earth.
- If you use a lot of blue, it will remind you that water is an important part of our world.
- Finally add a prayer card to your picture – you can write your own prayer on a blank card and stick it on.



As you stick the pieces down ask God for wisdom on how best to care for the amazing world he gave us.



as I follow you today

LORD

Let me, your creation
discover how to be creative,

as I follow you today

LORD

Let me, your child
begin to understand
how I am precious

as I follow you today

LORD

Let me, your new saint
learn sacrifice and wisdom

as I follow you today

LORD

Let me, your beloved
accept love from others
and give love in return



FRUIT BOWL



4 LETTERS

DATE

LIME

OGEN

PEAR

PLUM

POME

SLOE

UGLI

ORANGE

PAWPAW

RAISIN

7 LETTERS

APRICOT

AVOCADO

COCONUT

CURRANT

PUMPKIN

8 LETTERS

MANDARIN

9 LETTERS

GREENGAGE

RASPBERRY

TANGERINE

10 LETTERS

BLACKBERRY

5 LETTERS

APPLE

DRUPE

GRAPE

PECAN

PRUNE

6 LETTERS

ALMOND

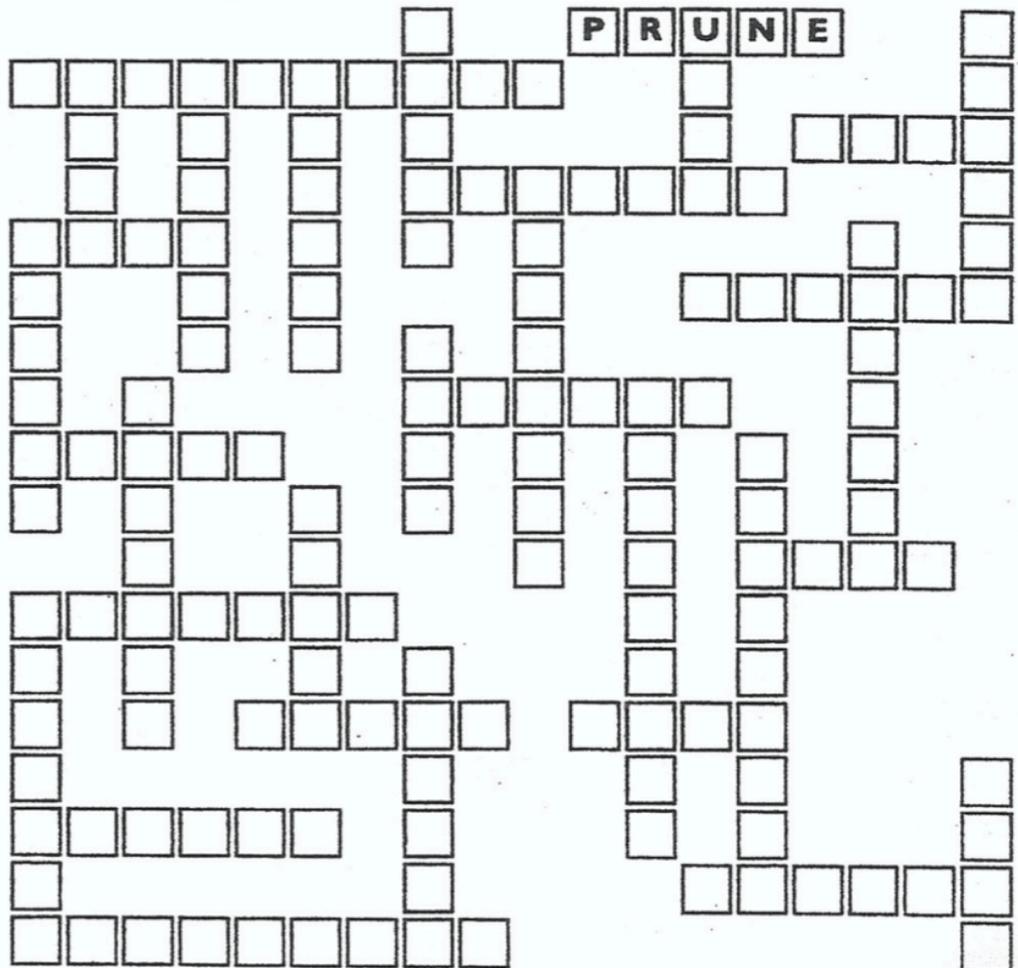
BANANA

CHERRY

LEMONS

LYCHEE

OLIVES



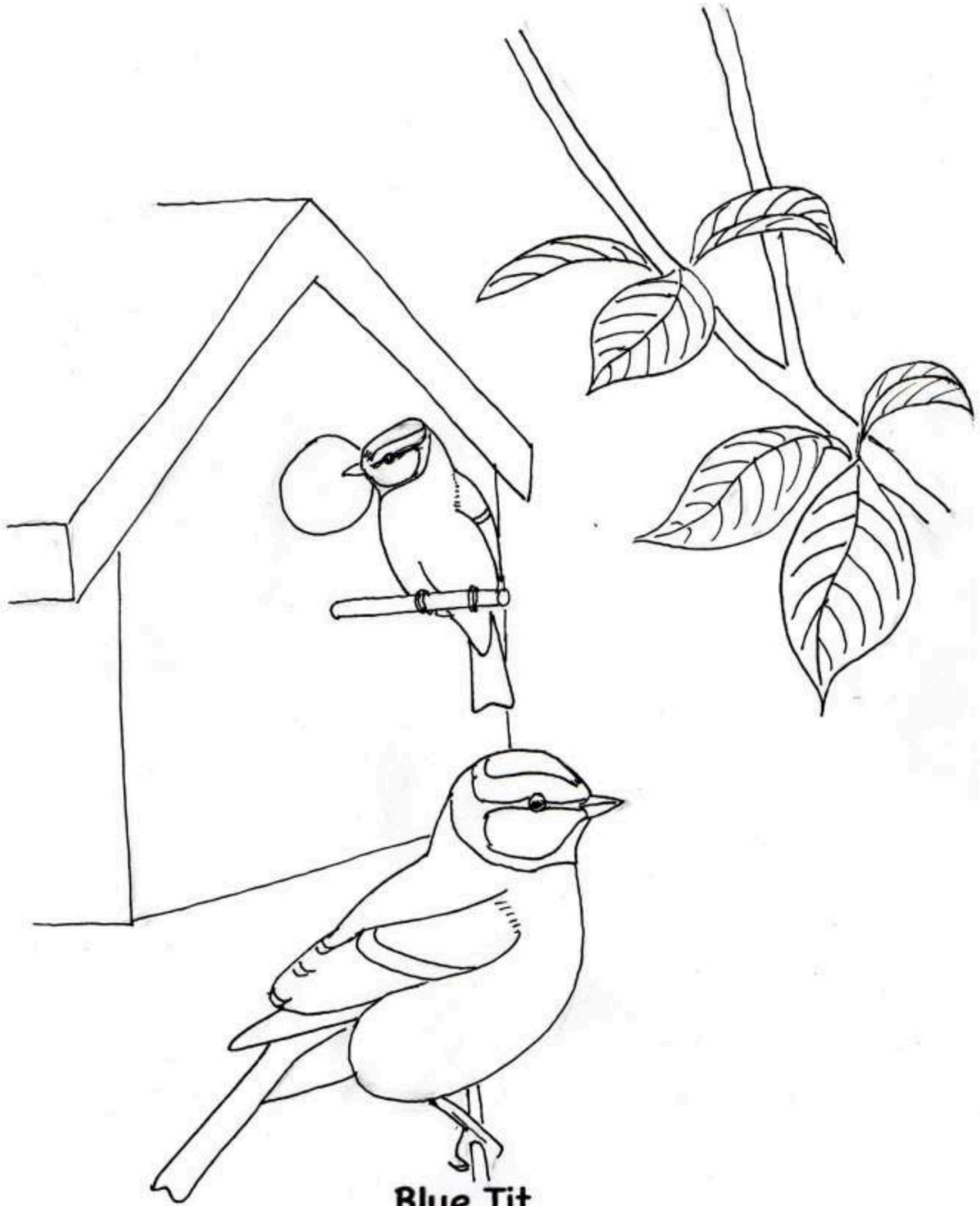
Do we eat enough fruit - if possible seasonal and locally grown?

KEEP FIT WORDSEARCH.

“Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” Jude 21.

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

- KEEP FIT
- BODY MIND SOUL
- BIBLE READING
- PRAYER
- FELLOWSHIP
- MISSION
- WORDSEARCH
- SUDOKU
- CODEWORD
- EXERCISE
- GARDENING
- SPORT
- WALKING
- WALK WITH GOD
- REST
- SLEEP
- HOBBIES
- CHURCH
- GRATITUDE
- ENCOURAGEMENT
- MUSIC
- TRY
- NEW THINGS
- PERSEVERANCE



Blue Tit

