

Dayspring is produced several times a year on an educational, non-profit basis and seeks to nurture a love for God and humankind in the hearts of all children, inspired by the teachings of the Bahá'í

Dayspring is created by a small team of dedicated volunteers and contributors.

FREE Subscriptions:

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The magazine editors reserve the right to include or not include submissions for any reason.

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C.J. Summer (articles, puzzles, activities, photos & illustrations), pp cover, 2-3, 6-7, 10-11, 12, 13-14, 18-19, 20-21, 26-27, 28.

Sheida Tanhai (articles & illustrations), pp 13, 16-17 & 24-25).

Chiara Khadem (articles, news & photos), pp 4-5 &

Corinne Randall (illustration), pp 8-9. Michael A. Shipley (poem), pp 8-9.

Renata Aminian (news & photos), p 23.

Jackie Mehrabi (story), pp 16-17.

Emily Leith (article), pp 20-21.

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Editors:

C.J. Summer, Chiara

Khadem, Renata Aminian & Sheida Tanhai.

Typesetting & Design:

C.J. Summer.

Proof Reader:

Janet Fleming Rose.

Webmaster & Social:

Sheida Tanhai.

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Our second issue of Dayspring is hot off the press and this issue is all about the soul. An interesting topic to be sure and we hope you will enjoy the insights and inspiration on offer in the magazine. The soul is an interesting subject because it's so intangible. What does that mean? Well, we live in a material world where we can touch things because they are physical or tangible.







To find out more, you'll need to read on and explore the whole magazine.

In other news, we'd like to warmly welcome our latest team member Sheida who will be mostly in charge of social things, but will also be helping out with planning, stories and pictures. We're very excited to have her on board.

.....

Alláh'u'Abhá dearest friends!

The Dayspring Team



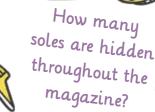






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What is a Soul?

a Bahá'í Perspective

This issue of Dayspring is about the soul. Although we can't touch it, see it or smell it, our soul is what makes us who we are. Our bodies are what people see but it is our soul which makes us truly beautiful inside and out. You could image that your soul is like a bright light shining out from inside a lamp. 'Abdu'l-Bahá encourages us by saying:

"Be calm, be strong, be grateful and become a lamp full of light... that the sun of everlasting joy arise from the dawning place of heart and soul, shinging brightly."

Virtues such as love, justice and respect are attributes of the soul which we call spiritual qualities. The more we strive to practise these spiritual qualities, the more the radiance of the light of God will shine from our souls onto others and help to make the world a little brighter.

The spiritual qualities that we develop in this world are what stay with us in the next world. When we pass away our body dies

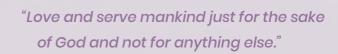
but our soul lives on forever. We can think about the soul like a bird and the body like a cage. When our body dies the soul is freed and can soar to even greater heights.

We can strengthen our souls in many different ways.

One of them is by praying. Prayer is like food for our souls. Our bodies need physical food but our souls need spiritual food. That is why we should try to make a habit of praying in the mornings and evenings to energise us. 'Abdu'l-Bahá once said:

"There is nothing sweeter in the world of existence than prayer."

Service is another way our soul can grow and be strengthened. As we help others and serve selflessly our soul is able to shine even greater. It is important that we serve purely for love of God and not for our own personal gain or a desire for praise. 'Abdu'l-Bahá says:



We have already mentioned the importance of practising spiritual qualities but we also should study and live by the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. These teachings include practising the virtues and also following the laws of God, which can be found in His books and tablets. As we follow the beautiful divine teachings brought for this age, our soul is strengthened through the power of our love for God.

Bahá'í communities all over the world work to put
Bahá'u'lláh's teaching into practice through regular prayer
meetings called devotionals, studying institute materials,
children and junior youth classes. These gatherings are open to
all, not just the Bahá'í community. This pattern of community life mixes prayer,
learning and service together to strengthen the spiritual character of our
communities and help everyone's souls to shine.

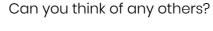
There are many incredible ways in which we can help our soul to grow and the more we try to cultivate our love for God and Bahá'u'lláh the more we will be able to love and serve humanity.



Soul Food Checklist

Feed your spiritual side with these soul enriching activities:

[]	Daily Prayer
[]	Meditation
[]	Learning
[]	Being of Service
[]	Practising Virtues
[]	Using my skills & talents
[]	Sharing my things / time / love / enthusiasm





1

Children praying in Panama

A Spiritual Feast

When Bahá'u'lláh met a hermi

Bahá'u'lláh and His followers were travelling through the countryside and along their journey they passed through a very remote place. In this place lived a hermit all alone in a cave. Hermits are people who choose to live a life of solitude and religious contemplation - by choice they often have no possessions and very little to eat.

The hermit had heard that someone very special and spiritual would be travelling near his home and he watched and waited eagerly for a glimpse of Bahá'u'lláh.

When the Manifestation finally came past, the hermit approached Him, then he knelt down and kissed the dust before His feet. Addressing Bahá'u'lláh, the hermit exclaimed.

"Oh, my Lord, I am a poor man living alone in a cave nearby; but henceforth I shall account myself the happiest of mortals if Thou wilt but come for a moment to my cave and bless it by Thy Presence."

Bahá'u'lláh told the hermit that He would visit the cave, not just for a moment, but for three whole days. The hermit was so overcome with gratitude and happiness that he was utterly speechless. Bahá'u'lláh

bade His followers pitch their tents, and stay until He returned.

Humble and silent, the hermit led Bahá'u'lláh to his lowly cave in a rock.

The hermit and Bahá'u'lláh sat together for quite some time. They talked a lot and Bahá'u'lláh taught him many things. As the sun began to set the hermit realised with utter dismay that he had nothing to offer such a distinguished guest to eat or drink. All he had to eat was some dry meat and some dark bread, and all he had to drink was some cool water from a nearby spring.

Not knowing what to do the hermit threw himself at Bahá'u'lláh's feet and confessed his dilemma. Bahá'u'lláh comforted the hermit and kindly asked him to bring what he had. He then shared the dry meat, dark bread and cool spring water with His hermit friend with such joy that it felt as if the meagre meal was indeed the greatest and happiest of banquets!

Over the next three days they ate only the simplest food, but to the hermit it had become the most delicious he had ever eaten and Bahá'u'lláh declared that He had never been more nobly entertained or received greater hospitality and love.

This shows us how little we need when we are nourished by the sweetest of all foods – the love of God.

Let each morn be better than its eve and each morrow richer than its yesterday.

Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches.

— Bahá'u'lláh

What does Bahá'u'lláh teach us about what is truly important for the happiness of the soul?

was utterly speechless. Bahá'u'lláh

THE SOUL

By Michael A. Shipley

I have ten fingers and ten toes, two eyes, two ears and just one nose. That's all I need to get things done, to read and write and have some fun.

But I've got even more, you know, a brain, a heart, and best—a soul.



My heart can tell me what I feel—
is love false or is it real?
Am I happy, sad, or blue?
My heart will tell me what is true.



My soul shines like a light inside, through life, it helps me as a guide.

It tells me if I'm right or wrong and fills my heart and mind with song.

Everything—from eyes to ears—the soul can use for many years.



a Sou

For thinking, brains are really cool;
I always carry mine to school.
My brain works hard 'most every day
but sometimes likes to sleep or play.

When I'm old and die one day, my soul will journey on its way. Like a bird that's finally free, my soul will soar eternally.



SOUL STIPPING

What inspires your spiritual side?







Have you ever stood somewhere so beautiful it made your heart feel fluttery or heard a piece of music that was so moving it made you want to cry?

Most people experience this sort of thing in their lives. We often call them 'soul stirring' moments because they speak to us very deeply and can sometimes be very profound, even life changing!

We often think about our hearts

when we think about our soul. The place where we 'feel' love. Our hearts beat faster, there's a little fluttery feeling in our chest and we feel excited and moved by the things that stir the soul.

Many people's souls are stirred by the Bahá'í teachings and prayers because of their beauty. Bahá'u'lláh's message of unity and peace stirs many hearts into wanting to devote their lives to making the world a better place for everyone to live in.

If you think about things that stir your soul, what do you think of... nature? Music? A movie with a happy ending? A movie with a sad ending? Or maybe you haven't noticed that feeling before... that's OK too.

The soul is often touched by beauty, creativity or dramatic things. Experiences that encourage deep feelings in us of happiness or passion. These moments can often help us to recognise something about ourselves, our thoughts and feelings and how we might like to shape the world.

'Abdu'l-Bahá was especially good at stirring souls. He would be so kind and loving towards everyone He met that they were often dumbstruck. He seemed to know what people needed to know about themselves to become better people and it was their soul He chose to speak to.

An example of this is when 'Abdu'l-Bahá travelled to America in 1912. He was invited to give a talk at Howard University, in Washington DC.

The talk was arranged by an

African-American lawyer called Louis Gregory, who was a leader in efforts to build racial unity. At the time, the University was mostly attended by black students, as black and white people were segregated and not normally allowed to mix.

However, during the talk, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was delighted to see black and white people sitting together. He said, "Today I am most happy, for I see here a gathering of the servants of God... God does not look at colours; He looks at the hearts."

After 'Abdu'l-Bahá had finished speaking, the audience applauded enthusiastically and joyfully for a long time. Their hearts were touched and their souls stirred by the true love that 'Abdu'l-Bahá showed equally to all of them.

LET'S CET CREATIVE!

You will need:

- Paper
- Paint & Pens
- Scissors & Glue
- Different Types of Music

1. Listen to a piece of music and at the same time create a picture based on how that music makes you feel. Sad, happy, bouncy, serious...? What colours and shapes does it make you want to make on the page? There's no right or wrong so just have fun!

2. Do this for 4-5 pieces of music. Make sure you listen to a range of musical styles, rock, jazz, classical, etc. so you can see how different music makes you feel. Get an adult to help you with this if you need it.

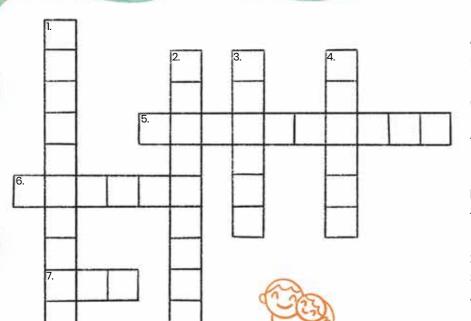
3. Cut the pieces of artwork into strips and then arrange them on another piece of paper putting the music that moved you the most at the top and the least at the bottom. Finally, glue down your soulful collage.





PUZZLE FUN!

Take a break and enjoy some flummoxing fun



Across

- 5. A calm and peaceful connection with God.
- 6. When the sun goes below the horizon.
- 7. A warm and loving embrace.

Down

- 1. A cheerful Bahá'í greeting.
- 2. An artistic virtue.
- 3. A happy face does this.
- 4. Toe bean baby that says 'meow'.



12

Can you find the path through the maze to the happy little light.

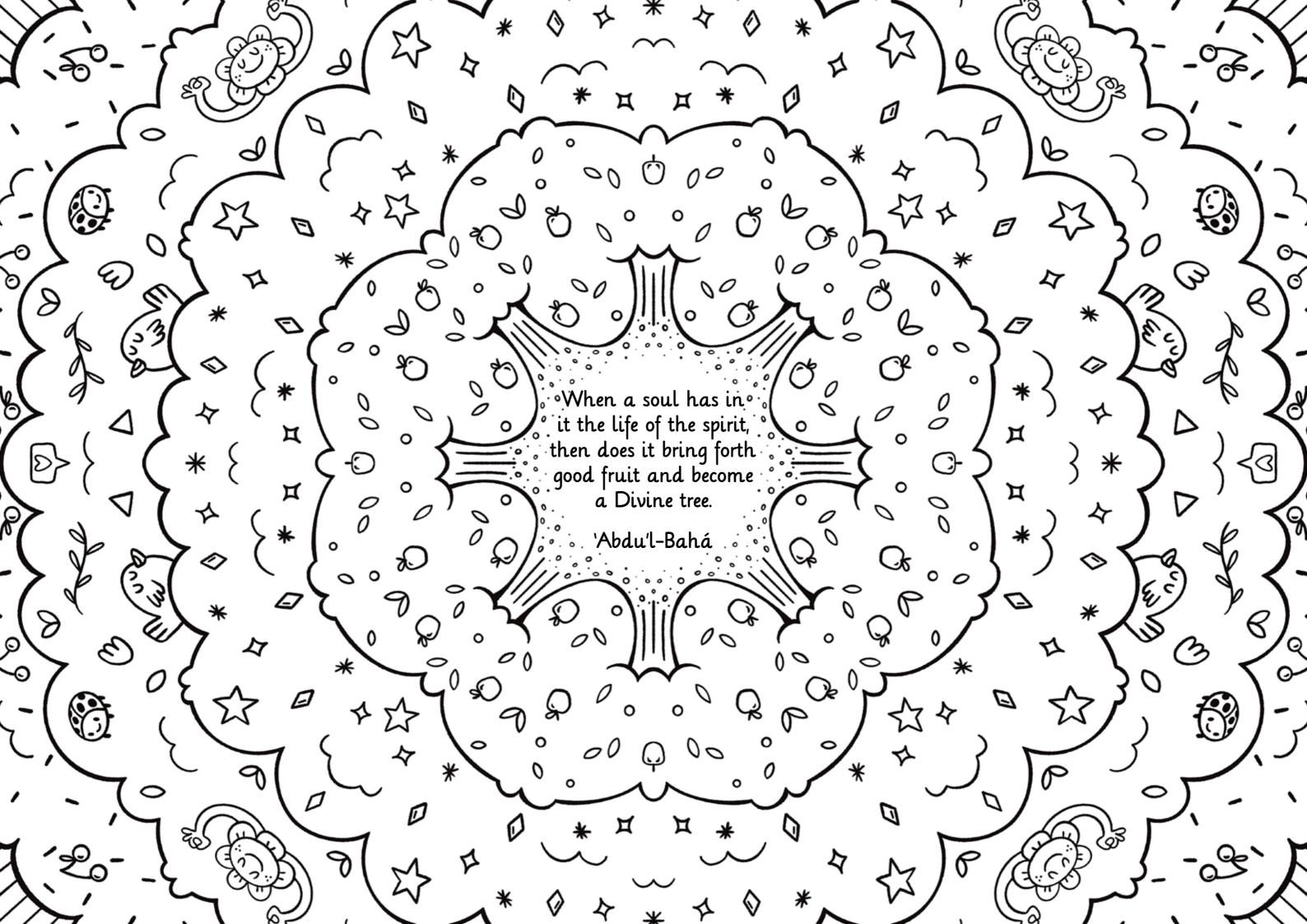
RIDDLE

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?

LOCCK

OUR BODY IS LIKE THE CAGE, AND THE SPIRIT IS LIKE THE BIRD.





Max and Milly floated in the warm water. They were twins and hadn't been born yet. They were still in the dark, safe world of their mother's womb. Now and again they did a somersault and bounced gently off the soft wall around them. Because they were not identical twins, they were each wrapped in their own very thin bag called a sac, but they could feel each other moving.



Sometimes Max found he was sucking his thumb. But he didn't know it was his thumb as his eyes were closed. And he didn't know what it was called either because no one had told him yet.

Once when Milly was doing a somersault she touched her toes. Now, that felt interesting. They were wriggly and warm. They must be useful for something, she thought, but she couldn't think what!

"Ahhh!" said Max, which came out as a gurgle rather than a sound because his lungs were full of water, not air. "What's that?"

Some rubbery things were stuck to either side of his head. If he folded them over they sprung back. And what was that little blob of fat in the middle of his face? Maybe it had grown there by mistake.

Nine months passed and Max and Milly had grown so big there was no room to swim about any more. It was so tight, Milly's little nose touched her knees. And when Max tried to stretch his legs, his feet pushed against the sides and his mother laughed and said, "Oh! He's kicking me!" but it didn't hurt.

It was very cosy being so close together and the twins wanted to stay there always and forever.

Then one day Max noticed that there was more room in the womb. He stretched out his arms to find Milly but she had disappeared!

"Oh no!" thought Max. "Where has she gone? She must have died!" He was very sad and thought she had disappeared for ever.

He was feeling so lonely he would have cried if he could, but he hadn't learnt how to do that yet. Then, a few minutes later, he felt something strange happening. He was slipping out of his nice warm home in the womb.

"Help!" he cried as he slithered through and popped out into the world.

When he got tired of yelling, Max opened his eyes and for the first time saw Milly! She hadn't died after all and was waiting for him, looking



very pleased with herself. She was already wrapped up in a soft fluffy shawl and being held in one of their mother's arms. Max felt himself being gently wrapped in a shawl as well and laid in their mother's other arm. He thought she smelled really lovely.

Max and Milly looked at the sunlight streaming through the window. They smelled the flowers in the vase by the bed. They heard the voice of their mother telling them that she loved them. And they felt her soft lips as she kissed them on the tops of their heads. Then she gave them some warm milk to drink.

"Eyes, nose, ears, mouth! So that is what they are for!" thought Max and Milly together. Max looked down and discovered his feet sticking out and thought he was seeing double because there were two of them. He glanced over to Milly and she waved her hands and smiled at him. This world was much more interesting than the world they had come from, he decided. So many colours. So much to see. So much to discover. And that milk was delicious!

Their mother smiled. She knew that this was the beginning of an exciting journey for the twins, and that one day, when our bodies die, our souls will be born into another world of God that is even more beautiful than this one.



And just as there is nothing to be afraid of in being born into this world, she knew that there is nothing to be afraid of in being born into the next one either.

"When Milly and Max are older," their father and mother said to each other, "we will tell them all about it."

Written by J.M.



Free as a Bird

Let's get crafting with this optical illusion

What you will need:

A4 card

- Scissors
- Colouring Pencils/Pens
- Sticky Tape
- Cup (to draw around)
- Glue Stick

Paper Straw

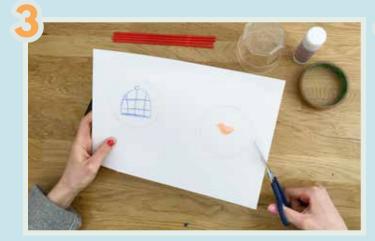




On your sheet of card, draw around your cup twice to make 2 circles on the page.



In one circle draw a cage with bars, on the other circle in a brighter colour draw a small bird silhouette.



Carefully cut both circles out with your scissors taking care to make the circles the same size.



Tape the straw to the back of the cage circle, making sure the cage is the right way up.



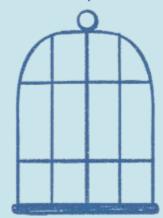
Use the glue stick to stick the bird circle to the back of the cage circle, making sure that the bird is the right way up.



Repeatedly rub the straw between your hands so the circle spins. What can you see?

Template:

You can draw the cage and bird yourself or use the templates below.





TOP TIP: Make your bird smaller than the cage so the illusion works better.



VARIATION: Why not try different animals instead of the bird. Some suggestions are a cat, a pika or even a smiling quokka?





Our body is like the cage, and the spirit is like the bird... if the cage becomes broken, the bird will continue and exist; its feelings will be even more powerful, its perceptions greater, and its happiness increased...

- 'Abdu'l-Bahá



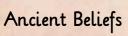
Cultures Of The Soul

What Do Other People Believe?

The many faiths and cultures around the world hold a variety of different beliefs about the soul, the idea that we are more than our bodies and that life carries on after death. Whether ancient or modern, beliefs about the soul can be quite diverse but also quite similar in many ways.

Do you notice any common themes running through these different beliefs?

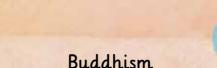
In the distant past humans did not know about the world as we do now. They didn't have science or the internet. They lived much simpler lives as hunter gatherers or farmers, living closely with the land and the rhythm of the seasons. Many early beliefs about the soul were linked to what they could observe in the world around them.



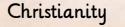
Many ancient peoples believed in spirits and forces that influenced the world around them. Many cultures believe that after death the spirit of a person lives on and journeys into the after life. Respecting the dead is nearly universal amongst all cultures.

Hinduism

Every living being has a soul. After we die our souls will then enter another life form, known as reincarnation. Our actions, whether good or bad, can determine which form we take in our next life. It is considered very important to respect all life on this earth.



Buddhism also teaches
reincarnation, a cycle of life, death
and rebirth called samsara. If we
live a good life and do good things
we gain good karma and may
reach enlightenment.



Every single human has an immortal soul, which is seen as a precious gift from God. If you follow the teachings of Jesus and do goodly things you gain admittance into a paradise called heaven.

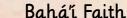


Find out more about other beliefs on the soul at the BBC Bitesize website.



Islam

Our soul is made up of two different entities (the naf and the rūḥ) that represent our divine spirit and our personal qualities. These aspects of ourselves can be nurtured through our goodly deeds, prayer and sincere supplications.



Bahá'u'lláh taught that every human has a soul which is everlasting. Like our physical bodies, there are ways we can feed the soul spiritually through prayer and meditation, studying and acts of service in our homes and communities.

Humanity has always needed Divine guidance, and God has sent many Messengers throughout history to help us learn about our spiritual reality and the world around us. Many of the very early Messengers are lost to time but you will recognise the more recent Teachers — Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. They each revealed deeper truths to the populations they appeared to.

What does the soul represent about our higher and lower natures?

What ways do different beliefs show how we become better people?

As a result of thousands of years of belief (and superstitions!) humanity has many similar and different thoughts about the soul. These beliefs should be respected. They are like varying flowers in mankind's garden of understanding. We can learn many things from each other's beliefs on how to nourish our soul.



COMMUNITY SPIL Across the UK & the world kids, JY & youth

are doing some pretty inspirational things!

PEACEMAKING IN SCOTLAND



We live in a small village in southwest Scotland called Moniaive. It's a very creative village, nestled in the hills.

There are two children's classes, known locally as Peacemakers, and three junior youth groups. We often join together for service projects, the older JY collaborating and helping the younger

ones. It's like a big family of brothers and sisters, especially as everyone goes to the same primary school and high school.

When they heard the primary school wanted a mural on a cement wall in the playground the youth asked if they could help design and paint it. As all the young Peacemakers go to the primary school they asked them to start sharing design ideas based on a favourite song, which many in the village know, inspired

by a quotation from 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The song was even played by the school ukulele group.

The plan is for the

mural to involve all the children and to reflect the beauty of nature. One of the junior youth wrote in a letter to the primary school:



"We would like the design to inspire and uplift the pupils. We want them to feel included in the creation of the mural."

So far the wall has been measured up, and design ideas are being collected. A local man donated some money to Peacemakers for art supplies. It feels like a real community endeavour!

The wee children were chatting while they drew designs - here's what they said, in between singing...

Drawing actually makes me more calm.

I like that we can share our emotions with each other and that we forget about our troubles.

I like coming to Peacemakers because it's peaceful.

I like it because we do drawing.

I like that we all get together and talk about things.



A FUN. FAMILY **FESTIVAL PICNIC**

In May we had the most wonderful Family Festival in Ely! The Bahá'í community, young and old, gathered together to prepare, and included prayers. Then we went out as a united group to invite families and friends to a 'picnic

festival' being held that afternoon.

The day started out chilly and we worried we might have to cancel, but the sun came out and it turned heavenly warm, perfect picnic weather.

Many friends, old and new, joined the picnic. We played games and had activities to help people know about the children's and JY classes and to

promote unity in the community. We have a special post-it note board for positive quotes about the children's class. We also shared quotes, songs and delicious food.

The day was very special. We got to share the Bahá'í Faith with many new people, making friendships and inviting the community to join children's classes.





This year the UK witnessed an historic event. At Westminster Abbey in London King Charles III was crowned. There were celebrations across the country and the coronation was shown on TV all around the world getting up to 20 million views! But did you know that the Bahá'í Faith, represented by Dr Wendi Momen, a member of the National Spiritual Assembly, led the group of different UK faiths who were invited as a special show of King Charles III's commitment to religious unity?



Dr Wendi Momen leads the procession (above)

We want to hear from you! Send your news, stories, poems, pictures and any creativity to: dayspring@bahai.org.uk



STH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND A diverse, inspired and unified Bahá'í world votes for the next Universal House of Justice.

In May 2023 a very special event was held at the Bahá'í World Centre in Haifa, Israel.

But before we get to that... do you know who the Universal House of Justice are? This is a group of nine people who are elected by Bahá'í delegates from across the world to act as the main governing council of the Bahá'í Faith.

The Universal House of Justice makes important decisions and lovingly supports and guides the worldwide Bahá'í community as it strives to create a more peaceful and unified world. Some of the ways they do this is by consulting together, studying the many writings of the Bahá'í Faith and sharing guidance and inspirations as well as addressing issues when they arise. They write many uplifting letters to the Bahá'í 's including the Ridván Message which the community looks forward to receiving every April. Maybe you've heard of it?



The Seat of the Universal House of Justice



The view from the Seat

THE BAHA'I WORLD CENTRE IS LOCATED ON MOUNT CARMEL IN HAIFA, ISRAEL

HOW ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE ELECTED?

Every five years members of every single National Spiritual Assembly gather together at the Bahá'í World Centre to vote.

This year 1,400 Bahá'í delegates from more than 170 countries arrived in

Haifa, Israel to participate in the 13th international convention. How exciting is that?!

The gathering brings together delegates from all over the world to elect the Universal House of Justice. The convention lasts for eight days, and during this time the delegates participate in visiting the holy sites, prayer, consultation and study the Bahá'í writings together, which is a very inspiring and uplifting experience.

The central part of the convention is the election process. All of the delegates prayerfully consider the spiritual qualities and qualifications of potential members. Nobody can put themselves forward or campaign to become a member of the Universal House of Justice. The delegates strive to elect members that they think show brilliant qualities like wisdom, knowledge, selflessness and trustworthiness. They then make their vote through a secret ballot. The delegates also get a chance to speak about their communities. It is a very dignified, unified and joyous occasion.







1.400 DELEGATES FROM OVER 170 COUNTRIES COME TOGETHER TO VOTE IN THE UTMOST UNITY

WHAT DO THESE WORDS MEAN?

Convention = A gathering or meeting where people come together to discuss, share ideas and make decisions on certain topics.

Delegate = Someone who is chosen to represent another person or group of people.

Ballot = A piece of paper or method of voting in an election. A ballot has a list of options or people that voters can choose from.

Elect = To choose someone for a specific role or position through a voting process.

Governing Body = A group of people or an organisation that makes decisions, sets rules and shares guidance.



PUZZLE TIME!

Wrap your brain around these puzzles, facts & jokes

WHAT AM I?

Can you decipher the anagrams and solve the riddles?

. I am full of keys but can't open any doors... what am I?

IANPO

2. I start out tall, but the longer I stand the shorter I get... what am I?

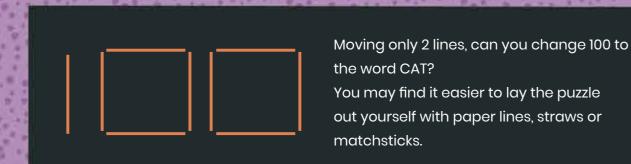
ANDCLE

3. I have a thumb and four fingers but I'm not alive... what am I?

LOGEV

4. I run but never walk, I have a bed but never sleep, I have a mouth but never eat... what am I?

IRRVE



Once you've cracked it, this is a great puzzle to do with friends.

line on the T of CAT. Then move the lower stick of the middle 0 up halfway to become the middle line of the A.

Move the right-hand by stick of the first 0 to become the top to CAT. Then move the

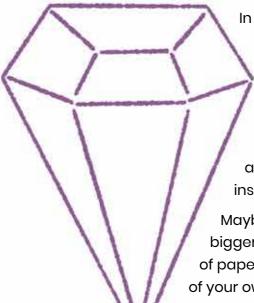


Page 12: Crossword – 1. Alláh'u'abhá, 2. Creativity, 3. Smiles, 4. Kitten, 5. Meditation, 6. Sunset, 7. Hug.

There are 10 SOLES hidden throughout the magazine.

ANSWERS

SPIRITUAL SPARKLES



In His writings Bahá'u'lláh describes the soul as

'a heavenly gem'

Can you think of some attributes of the soul you've learned about and write them inside this gem?

Maybe you could draw a bigger gem on a large piece of paper and write out some of your own qualities or things you'd like to aspire to. Make it as colourful and creative as you like!

_{How} do Y^{ou} make an octopus laugh? With ten-tickles! (Second

Why did the scarecrow
win a Nobel prize?
He was outstanding
in his field!

What do sprinters eat before a race? Nothing. They fast!

> Why do hummingbirds hum? Because they don't know the words!

What kind of dog does a magician have?

A Labracadabrador!



FASCINATING FACTS

You've learned about the soul, now let's look at some facts about the human body.

It is impossible to lick your own elbow.

Your blood is as salty as the sea.

Humans are the only animals with chins.

You can't breathe and swallow at the same time.

The most common eye colour is brown.

The human heart beats around 115,000 times a day.

The human body contains almost 100 trillion cells!

Why do your feet smell but your nose runs?

