



The Magazine for the Parish of
Chigwell & Chigwell Row

January 2021



The Lord God says, “Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the eternal paths, where the good way is; walk in it and you will find rest for your souls.” Jer 6:16

60p

where sold,
online free!

St Mary's Church, Chigwell Village
All Saints' Church, Chigwell Row
St Winifred's Church, Chigwell



The Churches in Chigwell and Chigwell Row are ~~Open and~~ back Online!

St Mary's Church

High Road, Chigwell IG7 6QQ

[A Church Near You](#)

Churchwardens: Carolyn Whiffin 07941 130467

Alison Jordan 01992 610717

Sunday Services: 9:15am – more traditional
10:45am – more family oriented



All Saints' Church

Romford Road, Chigwell IG7 4QD

www.allsaintschigwellrow.org.uk

Churchwarden: Brenda Tarman 07789 242627

Helen Volgushev 07887 731320

Sunday Service: 9:30am

Prayer: Morning Prayer every Thursday at 9:00am
unless there is a Communion service.

Midweek Holy Communion:



St Winifred's Church

Manor Road, Chigwell IG7 5PS

www.stwinifredschurch.co.uk

Churchwarden: Janice Randall 020 8501 1988

Andy Lambell 07738 664177

Sunday Service: 11:15am

Prayer: Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9:00am



Online:

Sunday services – see next page.

Life Issues – low key, short meetings offering a faith response to life events that cause us stress.

6:30pm on Zoom

24 Jan – an introduction, stress & worry

31 Jan – forgiveness.

De-stress: Wednesdays at the new time of 6:00pm, Zoom

Morning Prayer is hosted on the [Parish of Chigwell & Chigwell Row Facebook](#) page at 9:00am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

(There's no need to sign up or log in, ignore the prompts! There's a guide [here](#).)

PLEASE [CONTACT US](#) FOR ZOOM DETAILS.

All our Sunday Services in January will be recorded and made available on CD. If you would like a copy, please contact the [Parish Office](#).



PARISH OF CHIGWELL &
CHIGWELL ROW

JOIN US ONLINE

For everyone's safety, we will meet online for the month of January and our buildings will be closed.

Please contact us for Zoom details or if we can help in any way.

PHONE: 020 8501 5226

EMAIL: OFFICE.PARISH@GMAIL.COM

Bishop Peter's Christmas message: The Quality of Life

2020 has been a truly tough year for everyone and as 2021 dawns it seems unrelenting. The brutal Coronavirus remains, and even though vaccines are gradually becoming available, many have lost jobs, schools are still disrupted, the economy is uncertain, desperate refugees still arrive and we don't know how our new relationships with Europe and the USA will pan out. Many are anxious and our quality of life is deeply challenged. As the journey of 2021 begins, how will we handle it?



All of life is a pilgrimage, a journey through time with God and others. As human beings we are bound by chronological time: past, present, and future. But a Christian is called to view time from the perspective of eternity. Christian eternity is essentially about quality of life rather than quantity. That is what defines our pilgrimage.

In English we have one word for time, but the original Greek of the New Testament uses two very different words. First of all "chronos", where we get the word chronological, meaning measured time, a period of time, say for a journey. The other Biblical word is "kairos". Here the meaning is about the content and quality of time rather than its length: what's going on within the time, eg a time of harvest, a time of temptation.... Even more importantly it's about opportunity and fulfilment, 'the Kingdom of God is at hand!'. What we do for God and others in the time he gives us. How do we use it? What do we put into it? This is the idea of time that is crucial in Christian thinking and discipleship.

As we journey into a new year, it is this more Christian view of time I would encourage us all to reflect on. What are we going to put into each day in our pilgrimage through 2021? How are we going to use the time

for others? God is concerned about the quality of our lives rather than their length. That is hard for us to accept, but I believe this is real time as God created it. From the eternal perspective it is relationships, love, and friendship that last, that count most and can change us for the better. Kairos is a life word whereas chronos, by definition, is a death word. In Ecclesiastes 3, the Bible tells us "*there is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven*". There is a time for everything God wants us to do in our lives. Some of those things are positive: birth, planting, healing, laughing; while some are negative: uprooting, weeping, death..... Both can lead us to God if we throw ourselves wholeheartedly into life's experience. A verse I came across a few years ago seems to sum it up.

*Time is too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice,
but for those who love... time is eternity.*

(Henry Van Dyke)

The longest journey is the journey inward. Have a good journey in 2021.

+ Peter





We mourned the loss of...



Patricia Eileen
Sheridan

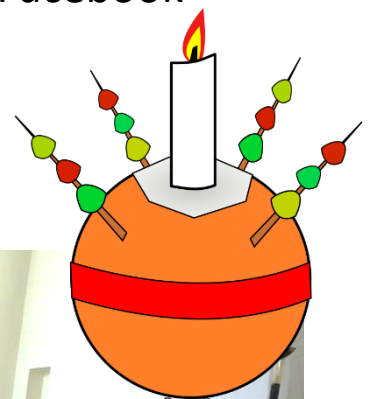
8th December

Burial of
Ashes

St Mary's Garden
of Remembrance



Thank you for your generosity in Advent: the donations to the Toy Services, the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, and for supporting our first Facebook Christingle, raising much-needed funds for the Children's Society.





Lester Amann considers the visit of the Wise Men.

Where do we go from here?

Perhaps this was a question the Wise Men asked after seeing the infant Jesus. They had come from a distant land to Jerusalem. They had followed a star and expected to see a royal child. Now in Bethlehem, they saw things differently. No doubt, Mary and Joseph shared with these men their recent experiences and knew God was with them. Now the Magi had to have eyes of faith to recognise that this child was God in the flesh.

On 6th January many churches will celebrate Epiphany. On this day we remember the Eastern Men bringing their gifts to Jesus. The word 'epiphany' describes their 'revelation' or 'insight' that this was no ordinary baby. Who could they tell? Not King Herod. They had a dream warning them to return home a different way.

Their return to familiar surroundings was going to be different. They couldn't be silent about what they had experienced. Their lives were now changed. On returning home they faced new circumstances and challenges.

Doesn't this sound a bit familiar to us today? The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another. Where do we go from here? We have celebrated our Lord's birth, but now we are returning to our previous activities. The festive break is over, and we are returning to changed, very difficult circumstances.

We go into a New Year that is so different from this time last year. While we might be downcast with all the upsets around us, there is one thing that has not changed.

It is almighty God! He is our rock. We can look to Him in this world of confusion and uncertainty. Perhaps, from now on, we shall be worshipping and serving Him in different ways. So, with the challenges that lie ahead, let's continually seek His guidance.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding....and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Christmas at All Saints' Church 2020 – the year Christmas was different (1)

All Saints' has stood on the corner of Romford Road for 153 years, a cornerstone of the community and our vision has been to enhance the role we play in the community; we are a centre of worship first and foremost but we are also more than that.



After several weeks of effort, discussion, prayer and an element of chance, the opportunity to enhance our involvement has generated several new initiatives.

Christmas is a time to draw people to Jesus and the local Community group, under the leadership of Wilson Chowdry, felt we needed Christmas lights.

After discussion with Rev'd Paula Preston and the team, a fundraising effort amongst the community was launched and the money raised to light the front of the Church, with a star at the highest point of the bell tower guiding folk to Church.



We were blessed with a lovely dry afternoon on Sunday 6th December and Anne Rice, one of our longest standing members of Church and the community, performed the switch on, with refreshments provided by staff at Lambourne Heights and music from our very own singers.

We had a craft stall, and income from the donations were split between the Residents' Group funds and Multiple Sclerosis, a charity All Saints' usually supports at Christmastime.

Many members of the community joined us and despite the requirements of being Covid safe, we had a lovely afternoon.



The lights were able to highlight our beautiful building throughout the Christmas season.

Our second chance of working with the community started on 16th December as we worked with 3Food4U, a charity aiming to support families on hard times with food and clothes, no questions asked. The group already have operations in areas including Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Chigwell Row is their 5th weekly operation.



Chairman, Pesh Kapasiawala says it was an emotional day for him, the culmination of his vision created six months ago.

“It’s a brand the community can recognise and a way of recycling food from supermarkets that would otherwise go to waste”. It is all good food, but perhaps surplus to the supermarket’s stock requirements or is not able to be sold.

Rather than going to landfill, it is offered free with no questions to those who struggle to be able to afford food for their families and themselves.

The Chigwell Row session means that 3Food4U now meets five times a week throughout Epping Forest.



A supporter paid tribute to the hard work of the team and commented what an achievement it is that the whole concept has gone daily so soon after its launch. The Chigwell Row session will meet every week between 5.00pm and 6.30pm on Wednesdays.

In line with this, our weekly de-stress session has moved to a new time of 6.00pm on Wednesdays, in the hope that some of the visitors to the hall will then stop at the Church to de-stress.

Covid permitting, there are many more initiatives waiting on the back burner; watch this space! There really are exciting times ahead, including the reopening of our Eunice Burton library of theologically based books for folk to pop in and borrow.

Christmas 2020 – the Year Christmas was different (2)

Christmas is the most magical time of the year – in Church as well, we love the decorations, the tree and the waiting in anticipation. One of the high points here at All Saints' is our Nine Lessons & Carols service. Despite moving into Tier 4 less than 24 hours before the service,



it went ahead and was enjoyed by those who attended, albeit fewer than usual.

Our worship group led us, but sadly we couldn't sing. We heard the much-loved story, despite some late substitutions of readers as some could not attend under the new guidance. The traditional mulled wine and warm mince pies also had to be shelved. In the end, we had two husband and wife couples reading, and carols and words in the light of candles, and our best ever Christmas Tree. Sadly, it was the last in Church service we were able to hold in 2020.



Christmas was not how we wanted it, but there have been positives, such as working together with the community in setting up the lights, and with 3food4u for the food initiative. A chance to perhaps sit back and think how things can be different, and in the long term, perhaps better.

Above all we marked the anticipation of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday today and forever.

The Christmas episode of the BBC sitcom *King Gary* was filmed around Chigwell and aired on 23rd December; one scene was filmed inside All Saints'.



A very Happy and above all Healthy new year from us all at All Saints'; do come and see us when we can open, or contact Paula if we can help you.

Canon Paul Hardingham finds the wise men's gifts to be of help to us now.

Epiphany for today

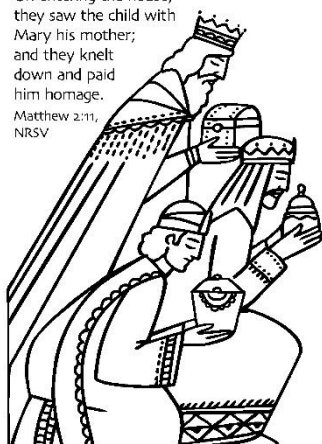
This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

On entering the house,
they saw the child with
Mary his mother;
and they knelt
down and paid
him homage.
Matthew 2:11,
NRSV



The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.' ('We Three Kings').

The Fourth Gift

The fourth gift they had was
Wisdom,
The one they needed for themselves
And the world.

Wisdom
To leave the familiar
In search of a new security
More precious than the gifts they gave.

Wisdom
To discover, in the starlit child,
A significance above
Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Wisdom
And the eyes of faith
To receive God's showing
Of His Son.

The gifts we read about
Were three,
But the fourth gift they had was
Wisdom.



by Daphne Kitching



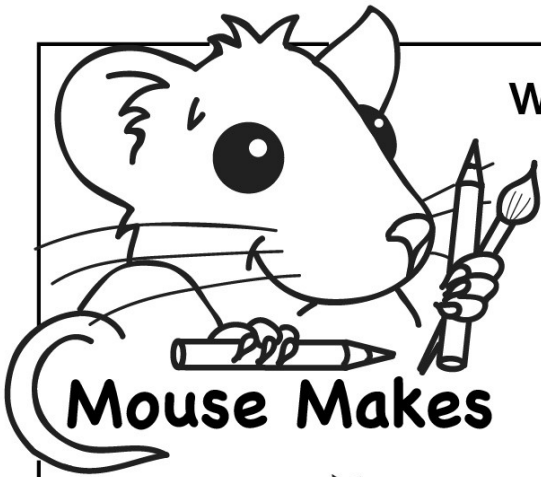
WELCOME
OUR NEW RECTOR

Keep the date free!

**We are pleased to be welcoming
Rev'd Charlie Kosla to join us as
Team Rector of the Vale of Roding
Benefice.**

Please note the date:
Monday 8th February at 8:00pm.

Further information in due course!



What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?

READ Matthew 2:1-12

Who came from the East?

Why had they come?

What were they following?

Who was alarmed by their arrival?

Who had the prophet written about?

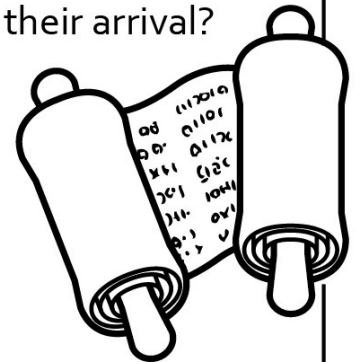
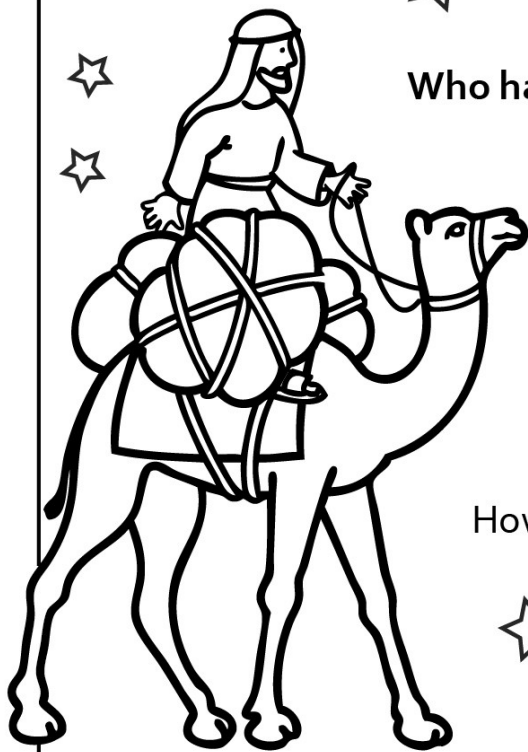
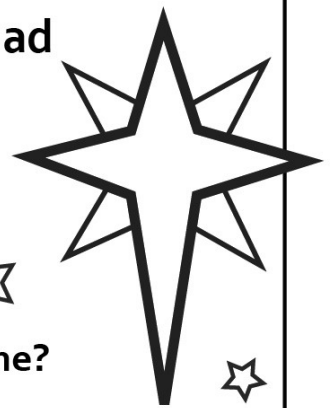
Where were they then sent?

What were they to look for?
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them?

Who did they see? What did they do?

How were they warned to go home another way?



READ Matthew 2:13-23

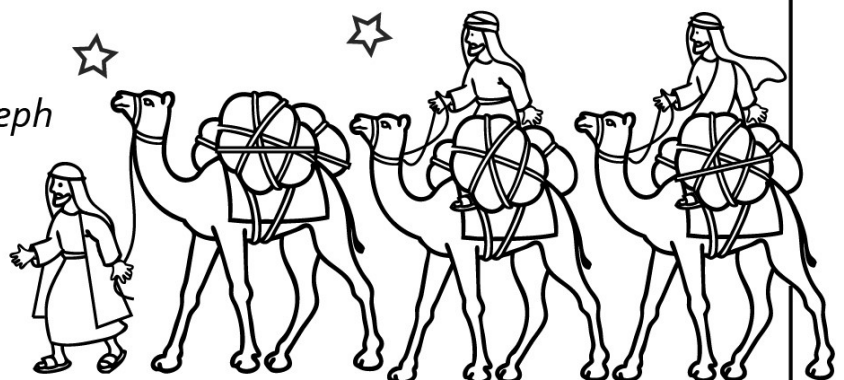
Who appeared to Joseph?

What was he told? Why? What did he do?

Who then became angry?.... and why? What horrible thing did he then do?

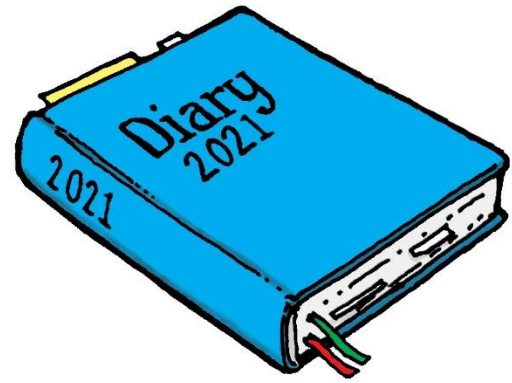
When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family?

Where did Jesus finally grow up?



Counting the cost of coronavirus

Happy New Year! It's good to begin a new year with hope, but few of us have left 2020 unscathed by the pandemic.



For example, nearly half of us, 48 per cent, put on weight during lockdown. (According to a recent survey by King's College London and Ipsos MORI).

Millions of us turned to alcohol or drugs. Public Health England reports that one in five of us aged 45-74 are now drinking more than 21 units a week. The Royal College of Psychiatrists expresses alarm at the rapid rise in patients whose alcohol or drug use led to a decline in their mental health in 2020.

Children have suffered. Childline had nearly 43,000 calls from young people March and October. Cyber bullying has soared, with one in three children being bullied during the pandemic, according to the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

For millions of pensioners, Covid-19 'hit the fast-forward button on ageing', according to Age UK. Lockdown left old people frightened and losing their confidence, mobility and even functions such as memory.

Suicidal thoughts soared during lockdown, with the number of people seeking help tripling, to stand at more than a quarter of a million. The Royal College of Psychiatrists warn that mental health services are now 'overflowing' with patients struggling to cope with anxiety, psychosis and depression. Many charities fear that a 'second pandemic' of mental health problems.

So – what do we do as January 2021 dawns? Each one of us CAN do something to make things better, if only in a small way. How about these for your New Year Resolutions?

Firstly, just get regular exercise. As one professor said, “Exercise creates a virtuous circle of physical and mental well-being. You move more, you eat better, you feel positive.” On the other hand, only a couple of weeks of lying around the house will leave your cardiovascular systems less effective, your musculoskeletal system weaker, your metabolic rate affected, and your immune system lowered.

Secondly, adopt the right mental attitude. Studies of Holocaust survivors found that those who recovered best had certain character traits of resilience: optimism, self-esteem, acceptance and above all, spirituality. A faith in God gave them purpose and meaning, even in the midst of fear and death.

Thirdly, make an effort this year to keep in touch with your friends and keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours. Be willing to act as a safety net for others, if only to show compassion and a willingness to listen to them.



The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the New Year ahead.

Five things I'd like to see in 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year.

Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily. Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

Let's value nature. Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

Let's bless technology. Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

Let's value our church family. Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.



Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.

Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic.

The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare - because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have - that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity - if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We will be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be.

You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Daily Bible Readings for Morning and Evening Prayer

You may wish to use one or more of the Bible readings for each day; print a copy & keep in your Bible or use the [Daily Prayer app](#).

Friday 1st January

Morning	Psalms 103, 150	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 2:17-end
Evening	Psalms 115	Deuteronomy 30	Acts 3:1-16

Saturday 2nd January

Morning	Psalms 18:1-30	Isaiah 60:1-12	John 1:35-42
Evening	Psalms 45, 46	Ruth 1	Colossians 2:8-end

Sunday 3rd January - Epiphany

Morning	Psalms 132, 113	Jeremiah 31:7-14	John 1:29-34
Evening	Psalms 98, 100	Isaiah 60:1-9	John 2:1-11

Monday 4th January

Morning	Psalms 89:1-37	Isaiah 60:13-end	John 1:43-end
Evening	Psalms 85, 87	Ruth 2	Colossians 3:1-11

Tuesday 5th January

Morning	Psalms 8, 48	Isaiah 61	John 2:1-12
Evening	Psalms 96, 97	Ruth 3	Colossians 3:12-4:1

Wednesday 6th January

Morning	Psalms 127, 128, 131	Isaiah 62	John 2:13-end
Evening	Psalms 2, 110	Ruth 4:1-17	Colossians 4:2-end

Thursday 7th January

Morning	Psalms 99, 147:1-12	Isaiah 63:7-end	1 John 3
Evening	Psalms 118	Jeremiah 23:1-8	Matthew 20:1-16

Friday 8th January

Morning	Psalms 46, 147:13-end	Isaiah 64	1 John 4:7-end
Evening	Psalms 145	Jeremiah 30:1-17	Matthew 20:17-28

Saturday 9th January

Morning	Psalms 2, 148	Isaiah 65:1-16	1 John 5:1-12
Evening	Psalms 36	Isaiah 61	Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
	1 st Evening prayer of the Baptism		

Sunday 10th January – The Baptism of Christ

Morning	Psalms 89:19-29	1 Samuel 16:1-3, 13	John 1:29-34
Evening	Psalms 46	Isaiah 42:1-9	Ephesians 2:1-10

Monday 11th January

Morning	Psalms 2, 110	Amos 1	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
Evening	Psalms 34, 36	Genesis 1:1-19	Matthew 21:1-17

Tuesday 12th January

Morning	Psalms 8, 9	Amos 2	1 Cor 1:18-end
Evening	Psalms 45, 46	Genesis 1:20-2:3	Matthew 21:18-32

Wednesday 13th January

Morning	Psalms 19, 20	Amos 3	1 Corinthians 2
Evening	Psalms 47, 48	Genesis 2:4-end	Matthew 21:33-end

Thursday 14th January

Morning	Psalms 21, 24	Amos 4	1 Corinthians 3
Evening	Psalms 61, 65	Genesis 3	Matthew 22:1-14

Friday 15th January

Morning	Psalms 67, 72	Amos 5:1-17	1 Corinthians 4
Evening	Psalms 68	Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26	Matthew 22:15-33

Saturday 16th January

Morning	Psalms 29, 33	Amos 5:18-end	1 Corinthians 5
Evening	Psalms 84, 85	Genesis 6:1-10	Matthew 22:34-end

Sunday 17th January

Morning	Psalms 145:1-12	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Cor 6:11-end
Evening	Psalms 96	Isaiah 60:9-end	Hebrews 6:17-7:10

Monday 18th January

Morning	Psalms 145, 146	Amos 6	1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Evening	Psalms 71	Genesis 6:11-7:10	Matthew 24:1-14

Tuesday 19th January

Morning	Psalms 132, 147:1-12	Amos 7	1 Cor 6:12-end
Evening	Psalms 89:1-37	Genesis 7:11-end	Matthew 24:15-28

Wednesday 20th January

Morning	Psalms 81, 147:13-end	Amos 8	1 Corinthians 7:1-24
Evening	Psalms 97, 98	Genesis 8:1-14	Matthew 24:29-end

Thursday 21st January

Morning	Psalms 76, 148	Amos 9	1 Cor 7:25-end
Evening	Psalms 99, 100, 111	Genesis 8:15-9:7	Matthew 25:1-13

Friday 22nd January

Morning	Psalms 27, 149	Hosea 1:1-2:1	1 Corinthians 8
Evening	Psalms 73	Genesis 9:8-19	Matthew 25:14-30

Saturday 23rd January

Morning	Psalms 122, 128, 150	Hosea 2:2-17	1 Corinthians 9:1-14
Evening	Psalms 61, 66	Genesis 11:1-9	Matthew 25:31-end

Sunday 24th January

Morning	Psalms 113	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	John 3:16-21
Evening	Psalms 33	Jeremiah 3:21-4:2	Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

Monday 25th January – The Conversion of Paul

Morning	Psalms 66, 147:13-end	Ezekiel 3:22-end	Philippians 3:1-14
Evening	Psalms 119:41-56	Isaiah 56:1-8	Colossians 1:24-2:7

Tuesday 26th January

Morning	Psalms 34, 36	Hosea 4:1-16	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Evening	Psalms 145	Genesis 13:2-end	Matthew 26:17-35

Wednesday 27th January

Morning	Psalms 45, 46	Hosea 5:1-7	1 Cor 10:14-11:1
Evening	Psalms 21, 29	Genesis 14	Matthew 26:36-46

Thursday 28th January

Morning	Psalms 47, 48	Hosea 5:8-6:6	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
Evening	Psalms 24, 33	Genesis 15	Matthew 26:47-56

Friday 29th January

Morning	Psalms 61, 65	Hosea 6:7-7:2	1 Cor 11:17-end
Evening	Psalms 67, 77	Genesis 16	Matthew 26:57-end

Saturday 30th January

Morning	Psalms 68	Hosea 8	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Evening	Psalms 72, 76	Genesis 17:1-22	Matthew 27:1-10

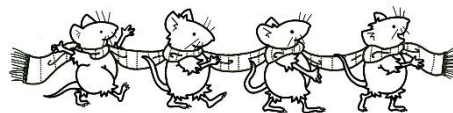
Sunday 31st January – The Presentation of Christ

Morning	Psalms 71:1-6, 15-17	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Mark 1:40-end
Evening	Psalms 34	1 Samuel 3:1-20	1 Cor 14:12-20

Sunday Services Readings

Let's join together in reading God's Word:

Sunday 3rd January Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday 10th January Baptism of Christ	Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11
Sunday 17th January Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3:1-10 John 1:43-51
Sunday 24th January Epiphany 3	Revelation 19:6-10 John 2:1-11
Sunday 31st January The Presentation of Christ	Malachi 3:1-5 Luke 2:22-40
Sunday 7th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	Colossians 1:15-20 John 1:1-4



Happy New Year

(An acrostic poem where the first letter of each line spells out the title of the poem)

Heaven's gift of another year
As the old departs and the new is born,
Plans for a future and a hope
Preparing us for each new dawn.

Yesterday has gone forever,
New days and ventures lie ahead,
Even darkness turns to light
When we make the Lord our head.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit
Ever mindful that He's there,
As we live our lives before Him
Rejoicing in His loving care.

by Megan Carter



The 11th Bishop of Chelmsford

The Right Rev'd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani is to be the next Bishop of Chelmsford.

Bishop Guli is currently Bishop of Loughborough in the Diocese of Leicester, a post she has held since late 2017.

To find out more about Bishop Guli's appointment, watch a video message from Bishop Guli and welcome messages from across the diocese and beyond, click [here](#).

Bishop Guli writes:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to thank you for your warm welcome following my announcement as the next Bishop of Chelmsford this morning.

Despite the fact I have not been able to visit the diocese in person, I have had a wonderful day, meeting with and starting to get to know people on Zoom.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting teachers and children at St Mary's Prittlewell and watching the children's musical performance. I have also had a chance to start to learn about your ministry in my meetings with curates and lay ministers, and with those who are involved in the diocese's refugee ministry.

I am very much looking forward to the New Year and a time when I can visit Essex and East London to continue meeting people face to face and getting to know you.

In the meantime, I want to assure you of my prayers and wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours in Christ

+ Guli

Bishop Guli

This article is based on a recent feature by Paul Valler, Chair of the LICC Board (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.)

How many more waves?

As the days are dark, and winter still stretches ahead, many of us find the prospect of more restrictions for months to come even harder than when we first went into lockdown.

After nine months of coronavirus, we are emotionally drained. We are financially drained. We are lonely, depressed, frightened, and facing deep uncertainty, from job losses to health problems to relationship breakdown. We are running out of steam, and the virus is still going strong.

There is a strong parallel in all this with the ancient book of Job and his experience of loss and pain. Like Job, we are discovering that we are not always entitled to health, wealth, and happiness; and like Job our suffering inexplicably goes on and on. Like the irritating moralising of Job's comforters, the constant critique of the media only seems to make things worse. And, like Job, our minds are incapable of totally grasping the meaning of all this suffering. We need hope.

Job was deprived of everything, yet even in his despair he never lost his belief that God was there. Occasionally an indestructible hope burst forth like a ray of light in the darkness of his pain. "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:26).

But the truly transformative moment for Job came when, instead of seeing his situation in front of God, he finally *saw God in front of his situation*. Then, even in the intensity of his suffering, the greatness of the Almighty eclipsed the problem. That is the revelation we need.

In this sad and weary time lament is therapeutic, and we can be completely real with our Father in Heaven. Yet in our lament, the path to rekindling true hope lies in the possibility of focusing on the character and immensity of God. Greater is He that is in us than the pandemic that is in the world.

Join in with the ancient words of Psalm 42: 'Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.'

Bible Bite

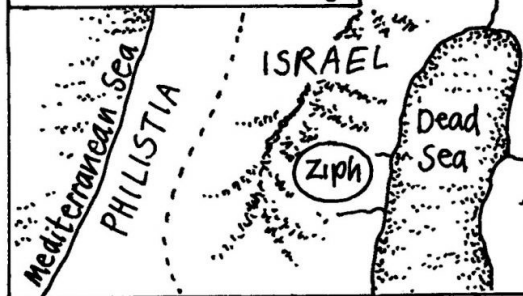
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 26 - 27:1

When King Saul wasn't fighting the Philistines to stop them invading Israel he was still trying to hunt down David.

People came to tell King Saul where David and his men were hiding. Saul took 3000 of his best soldiers and went to look for David...

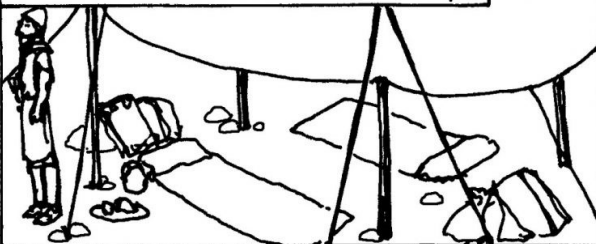
They camped near where David was hiding



When David heard that Saul was near, he crept up to the camp.



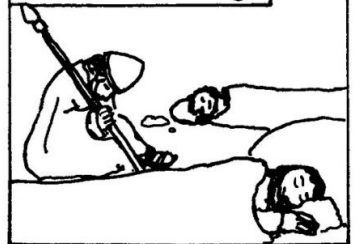
He saw that Saul and his army commander Abner were sleeping in the middle of the camp.



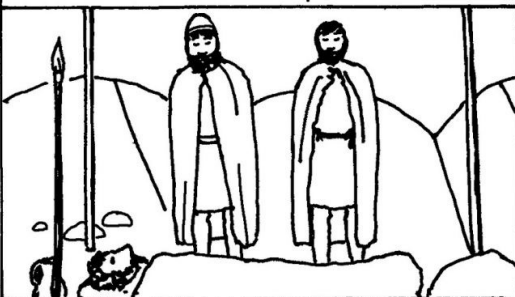
Who will come with me into the camp?



That night God made all the camp sleep soundly.



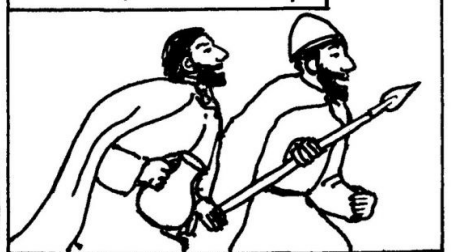
David and Abishai reached the centre and found Saul



This chance is from God! I'll kill him!



They took Saul's spear and water jar and crept out of the camp.



When they had got far enough away, David shouted



King Saul heard David and shouted back



But David knew that Saul would try again to kill him, so he left Israel and went to Philistia.

WORDSEARCH

Silent Night

The Christmas story carries on into the New Year, with Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men, led by the Star in the East. Through the eyes of faith, they saw Messiah in that small baby, and worshipped him, giving gifts that foresaw his life and work. New Year is also a time of new beginnings for us – resolutions about diets and paying the bills and doing better at work... Happy New Year!

Words to search for:

Epiphany	Wise	Men	camels	baby
Jesus	star	Herod	worship	gold
frankincense	myrrh	new	resolutions	bills
work	study	running	gym	

Answers at the back of the mag.



It seems that ever since the car was invented, some people can't resist the urge to put their foot down... by Tim Lenton

The first man to get stopped for speeding...

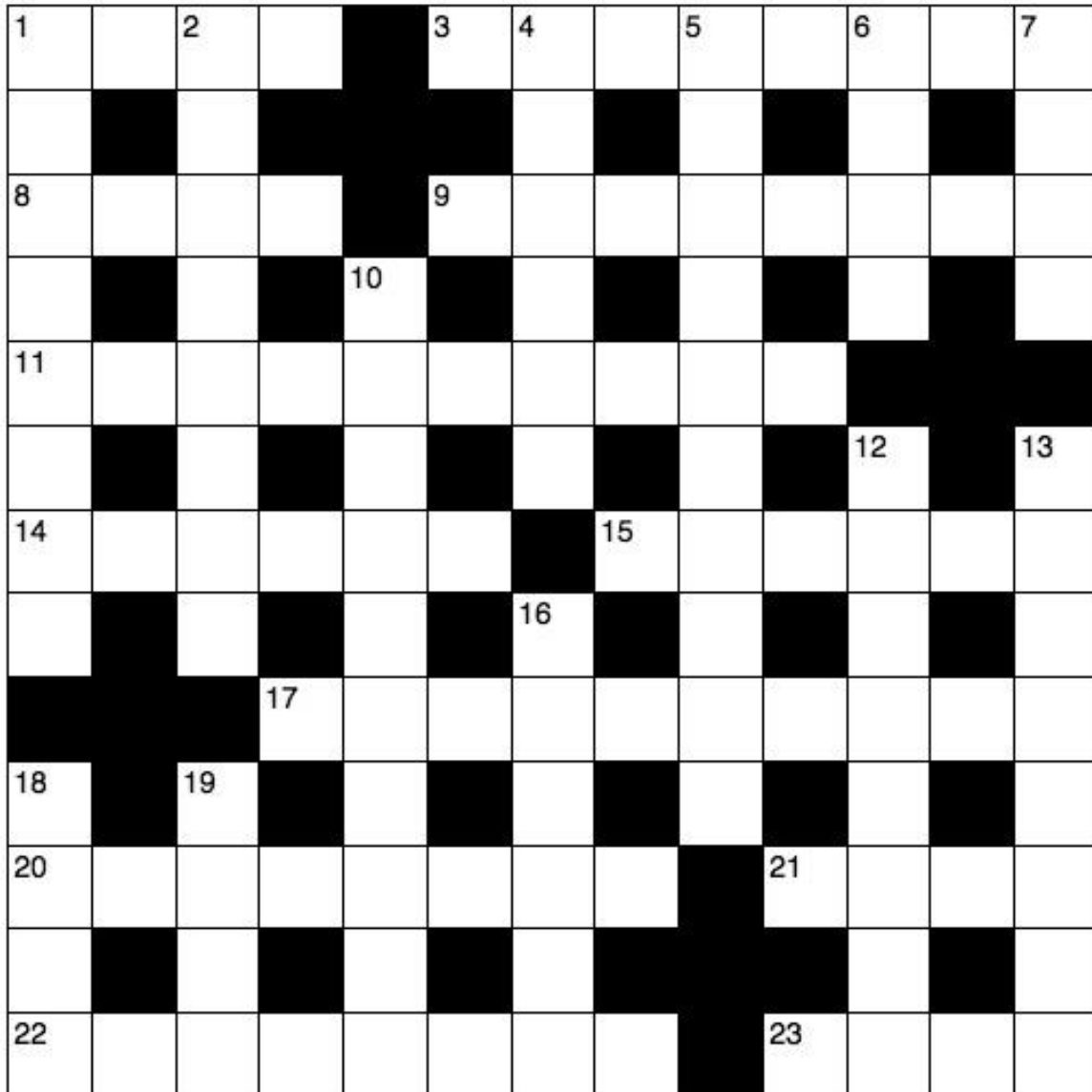
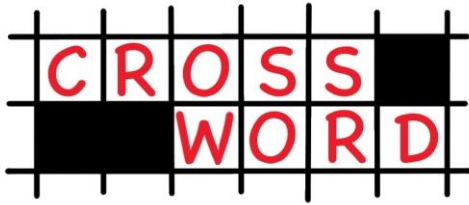
It was 125 years ago, on 28th January 1896, that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2mph at the time, and a man carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But one day Mr Arnold took off at 8mph, without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle for five miles, arrested, and fined one shilling.

Mr Arnold was four times over the rather modest 2mph limit in the streets of Paddock Wood, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. To achieve this feat today, a driver in most towns or cities would have to be travelling at over 100mph, which is probably a bit excessive.

The speed limit was changed later that same year to 14mph, but there is no record of Mr Arnold getting his money back. Nor is there any evidence that he was endangering life and limb, which used to be the criterion: the 1832 Stage Carriage Act introduced the offence of endangering someone's safety by "furious driving".

Just over 100 years later, the road safety charity Brake reports that male motorists are more than three times as likely as women to having driven at more than 100mph, because 'boy racers' believe they have more talent than the average driver. Police have caught one driver doing 120mph in a 20mph zone, another doing 152mph in a 30mph zone, and one doing an astonishing 180mph on a motorway. As Edmund King, AA president, points out: "Generally men have riskier attitudes towards driving than their female counterparts."





Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow'
(John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)

- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation'
(Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



2021

At the passing of time, I'm aghast
 Another New Year coming fast!
 Can it be that much worse
 Or more of a curse
 Than the horrible year that has passed?

by Nigel Beeton

St Mary's Church

Like most organisations, St Mary's is under a lot of financial pressure trying to make ends meet, whilst still reaching out to our local community.

Unfortunately, we have been advised that the roof of the Church is in a poor state and requires a lot of work doing to it. Our architect has estimated this will be in the region of £80,000.



We are therefore having to ask for help in maintaining this Grade 2* listed building from people like yourselves.

There are various ways you can support us:

- A one-off donation to St Mary's Fabric Fund
- A regular standing order, or
- Sponsoring a roof tile at £10 per tile.

The tile can be signed by the purchaser on the reverse and mounted onto the roof for the next 100 years!

We would really value your support to enable us to return this beautiful building to its full glory. Any monies donated will be used specifically for the roof and spire work.



Please contact the Treasurer,
Philip Gittins, for further information.
(Contact details on the back page.)
Thank you.

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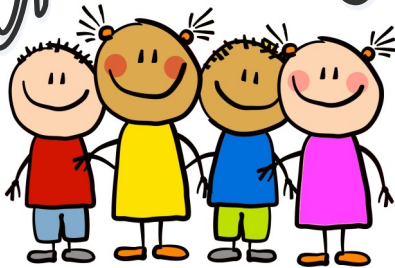
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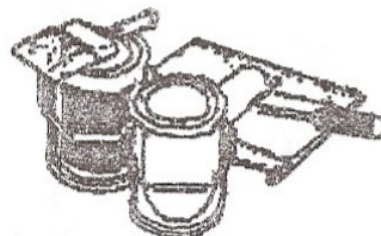
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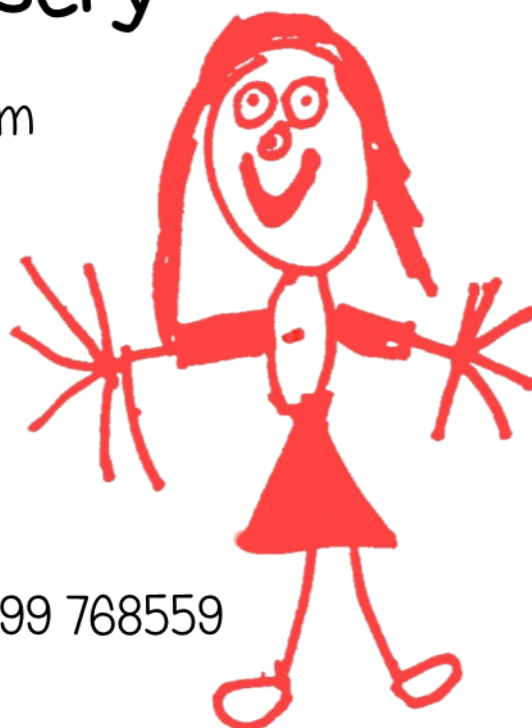
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Answers

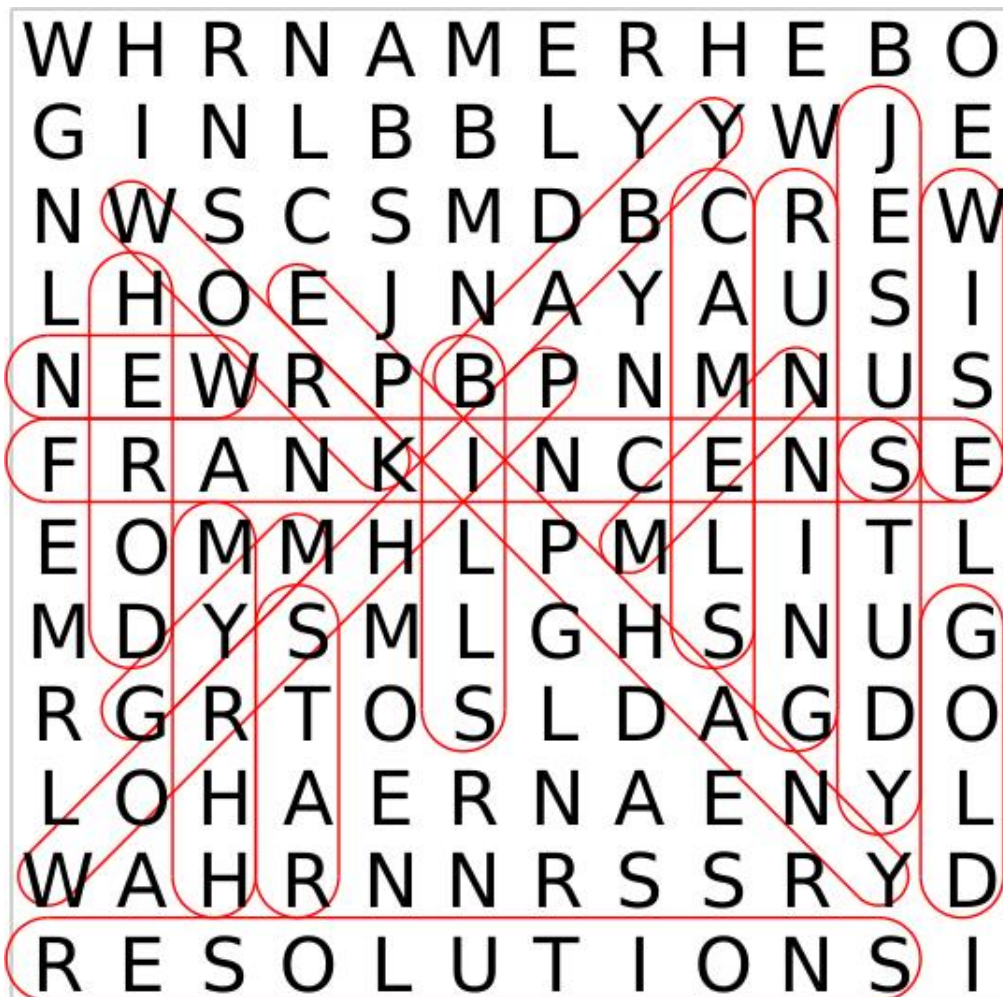


Crossword:

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

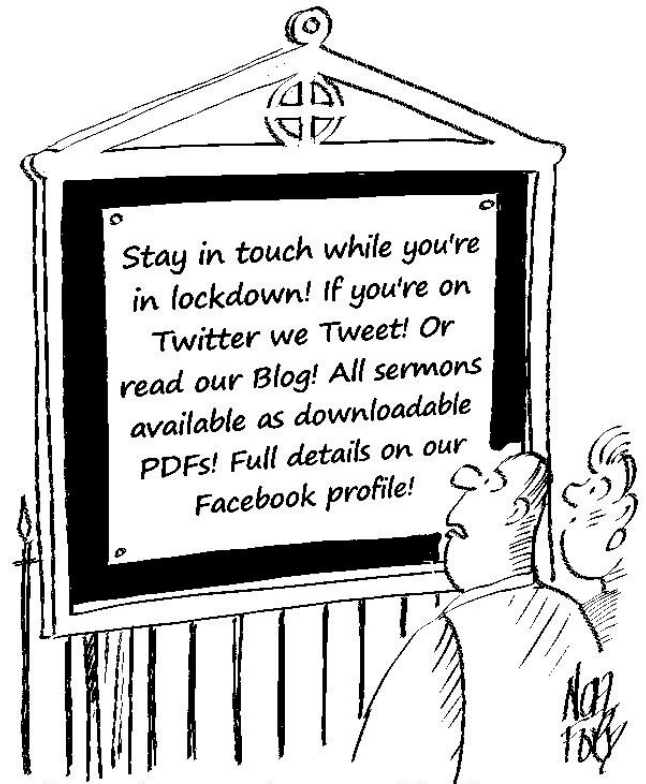
Wordsearch:



Fire?

The team at the local fire station had assembled to hear their training officer discuss the behaviours of various kinds of fire. He began: "You pull up to a house and notice puffs of smoke coming from the eaves. But the windows are blackened out and there is little or no visible flame. What does this tell you?" he asked.

Hoping the men recognised signs of a possible 'back draft', a condition very dangerous to firefighters, he heard instead: "It tells me I've got the right house."



"...and we used to grumble about not understanding archaic church language!"

Church

My grandson, Justin, watched a live streaming service with his dad one Sunday morning. His mum wanted to know how it went. He said, "The music was nice, but the commercial was too long."

Response

The mother of a lively youngster was struggling to get him into his pyjamas one night. "Jamie, lift up your arms!" she said. To which the child promptly replied: "We lift them up unto the Lord!"

Order

Happy to visit his local pub before it closed again, a man found himself near two nuns. Eager to talk to anyone after weeks in Tier 3, he ventured: "What is your order?" (meaning their religious community).

The nuns happily replied: "Sausage and chips."

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Ministry Team

Acting Team Rector: Rev'd Paula Preston (*rest day Saturday*)
The Vicarage, All Saints' Church
Romford Road, Chigwell Row IG7 4QD
Tel: 020 8501 5226 / 07743 534647
Email: revpaulapreston@gmail.com

Associate Team Priest: Rev'd Lorraine Smart (*Parish duties: Sundays, Mondays, & Thursdays*)
Tel: 020 8502 2017
Email: lorraine.smart@btopenworld.com

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Sandie Forshaw (*rest day Monday*)
Tel: 07749 258616
Email: sandie.forshaw@btinternet.com

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