

THURCASTON CROSTON PARISH MAGAZINE

The magazine for your parish since 1951

VOLUME 70

No 03

March 2021

The Vaccination!

*How was it for you?
You tell us!*

Live Lent: God's Story, Our Story.

*Get involved! Find out
more inside.*



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Church details, events and services can be found at
www.achurchnearyou.com/5502/

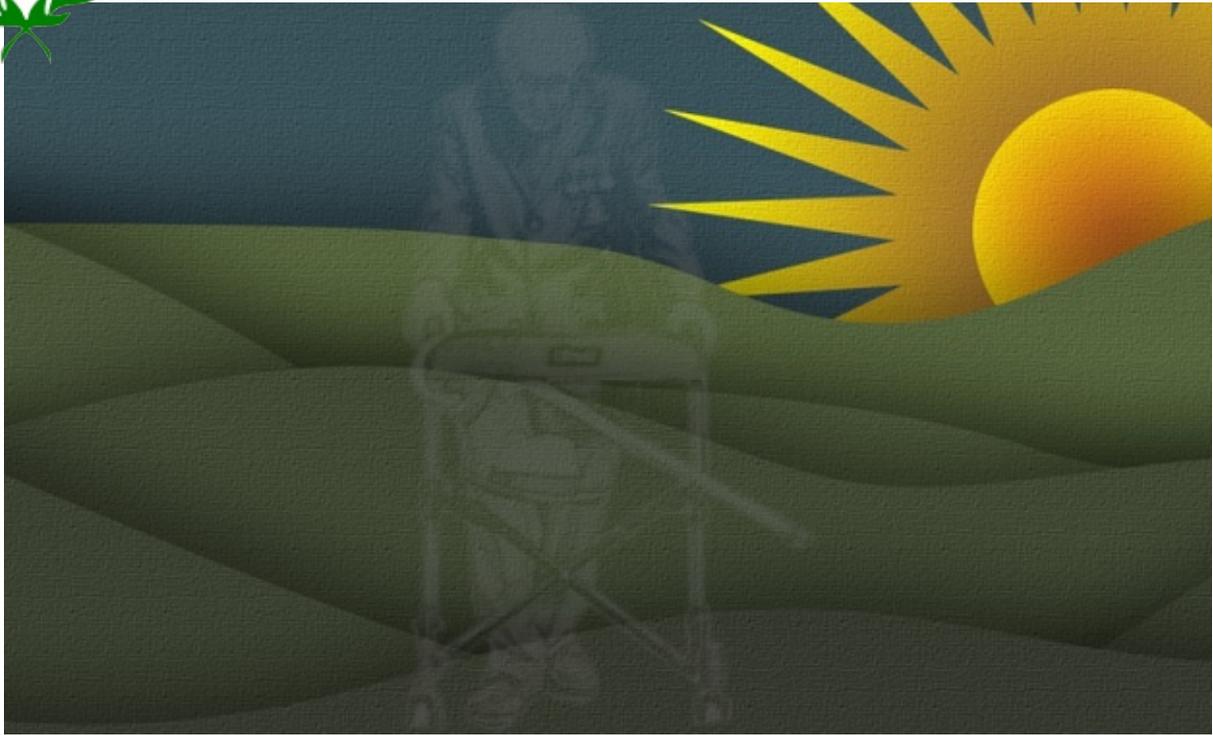
All Saints Church exists for the benefit of the whole community, not simply those people who come to church on a Sunday!

We are always delighted to arrange baptisms and weddings, or to bring Holy Communion to anyone who is unable to come to church.

If we can help in this, or any other way, please contact the Rector or Church Wardens.



Just a thought...



Time for a different perspective!

Hello everyone, may I ask how are you coping in the Covid-chaos? I sincerely hope that you are fine and that your families are safe and well. We now have the opportunity to slow down and re-arrange our lives. How will it all be after this ends? Will people still want to commute to work when they have learnt that working on-line is possible?

I hope that you all have your health as well as job security at this uncertain time. There are always opportunities when the world outside seems to be in confusion. This could be a time for self-reflection and growth should we choose to make use of it. It could be a good idea to stay abreast of current affairs, but not contribute to the fear element that is the news. It seems that bad news always catches the eye so they always have the most graphic and awful stories on there. The more ghastly they depict things, the more we tend to watch. So it is common sense not to watch too much, it can be damaging for our mental health. Unfortunately it is not only bad news that can damage our health; bad people can also

have a toxic effect. I don't know how you feel but I believe we need a different perspective. We have a good example in "Captain Tom" who sadly passed away recently. He was the kind of gentleman who did not think highly of himself and was amazed at the miracle of finding that out of something small great things can happen.

He was a man who set his sight on what had to be done and got on with it. I believe Jesus could go with that. Which brings me to this time of preparation. Jesus set his sight to the matter at hand; the road to Jerusalem.

Together with the disappointment and pain that he would endure yet he did not veer from the path that was set before him. It may be an unpalatable thought that if we wish to follow him we too may have to take that road. My hope dear friends is that despite this time of trial we will not only discover a new perspective but a better way of living that will not only benefit ourselves but others.

Many Blessings.

Denis.



2021 Parish Magazine – Keeping In Touch

Many thanks to everyone who has kindly and generously made donations towards this year's magazine. We hope to increase the print run for those unable to access it online and several distributors have kindly offered to

make deliveries as part of their regular walks.

Don't forget that Richard and his team welcome interesting articles and it is our way of keeping in touch across the Parish.

Jane Westby

Inside this month's magazine

It began as an educational aid in the 1760s and now the Queen and Bill Gates are big fans, not forgetting actor Hugh Jackman. Their height of popularity was in the 1930s with the introduction of cardboard as a cheaper alternative to wood. We are, of course, talking about the humble jigsaw puzzle.

I wonder if cartographer and engraver. John Spilsbury, in 1767, could have imagined that his "dissected maps" would be renamed 'jigsaw' and become a popular pastime enjoyed by countless generations.

Still popular today, author and singer, Tracey Thorn, and Jackman himself, have taken to social media to share their progress, while DJ Fatboy Slim has said they are "good for losing yourself".

Now you have the chance to get stuck into a jigsaw too, or help the charity of your choice. Puzzled? Turn to Page 10 and find out more.

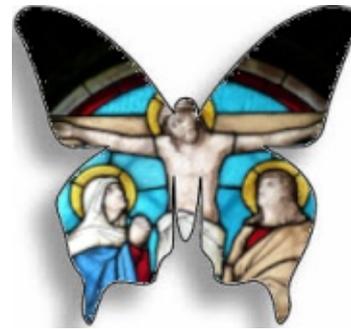
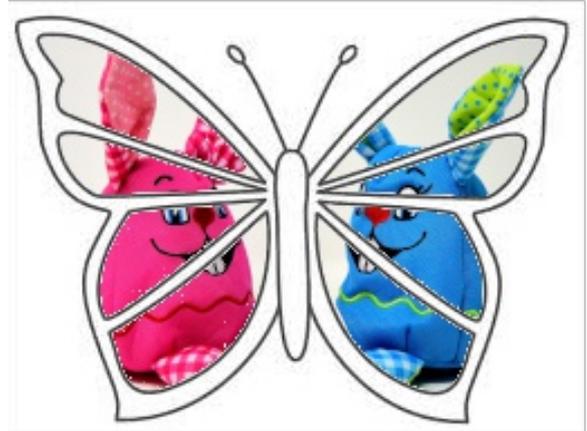
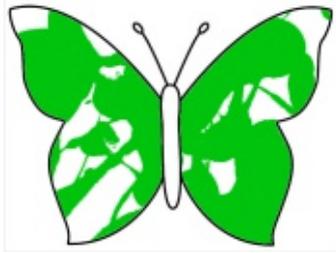
Help make a colourful display for our All Saints' Easter Garden. Use the four butterfly



outlines in the centre of the magazine to create your own celebration of Easter. Not artistic? Write a prayer or verse instead! See page 6 for details.

The way out of the pandemic has always been the delivery of a viable vaccine. That aim has now become a reality, and many of us have had the first jab. We contacted twenty-five of you to find out what the procedure was like for you. Read what our readers thought of their experience on Page 28.

Richard, Barbara & Adam



Easter Celebrations

This year we are going to have our Easter Garden outside where everyone can see it, and contribute if they wish. It is the most important celebration of the Church's year and our focal point will be the memorial cross and surrounding area.

We will also be decorating the Church inside but at the time of going to press we do not know what restrictions we may be under. So rather than just flowers we want to celebrate new life with butterflies. These can be coloured in and/or with prayers on and attached to a cross next to the pulpit, and we want everyone to join in to make a beautiful display. You do not need to be artistic; you may just write a prayer or the name of a loved one.

If you are receiving the magazine

electronically, there is a separate PDF attachment with templates of butterflies from which you can choose to cut out. The paper copies of the magazine have them in the centre pages and these can be pulled out and coloured. If you don't have a paper copy and can't print one off, contact Jane and butterflies will be provided. You are welcome to do more than one, the more the merrier.

If you can drop them off in Cropston to Jenny Wallis at 67 Latimer Rd and Jane in Thurcaston at 40 Leicester Rd, or give Jane a ring and they can be picked up. You could also scan & email them to Jane at mowestby@virginmedia.com if you are feeling particularly technical!!

We will triumph over Covid and celebrate our very special festival of Easter remembering God's promises to us.



The Church remains closed for March

Dear friends we are sorry to inform you once more that we will not hold any 'in person' services or events across the Benefice at Anstey or Thurcaston Churches for March.

Following the Government announcement of the staged opening of restrictions we, like many churches in the area, feel that we need to persist with our voluntary lockdown for the coming month. As we announced our plans last month, we received correspondence from the Area Health Leaders to please remain closed as the infection rates were still high. The high rates is still the case and may impair our area ability to follow the Government Roadmap

as it was set out.

We will review this position and we hope that by the beginning of April / Easter we will be able to offer some activities and meetings that are in line with the 'Roadmap'

In the meantime please keep safe and keep one another safe in the days ahead.

Of course Funerals in Church will still be held, and as before if there are individuals that are in greater need though bereavement or some other family crisis and for you there may be a vital need to be in your church to pray. If you contact David or the Wardens we will endeavour to arrange for you to come into church privately to pray safely.

Theological Society Zooms again!

The Leicester Theological Society is continuing despite covid restrictions by holding Zoom gatherings. Dr. Miriam Gill gave a live lecture to LTS members as they sat in their homes. She teaches at the Attenborough Centre in Leicester, and for the Cambridge University continuing Education Programme, and has been involved in setting up the new Leicester Vaughan College for continuing Adult Education. Her lecture, "It's on the wall: Lifelong lay learning and medieval murals" was beautifully illustrated with medieval wall paintings. Many of these were from churches in Britain, and for example the tree of the seven deadly sins was a well-used motif that could have been an aid to teaching or an aid to penitence. A good discussion followed.

The next Zoom lecture will be on 12th March when the author Nicola Slee will speak on "Mary – Ideal woman, impossible saint or feminine divine". Although thought-provoking, this will be handled with due respect.

The LTS has an interesting and varied programme aimed at the thinking lay person as well as the trained theologian. It is ecumenical, and not tied to any particular denomination. Details may be found on its website at <http://leicestertheologicalsociety.org.uk> where it is possible to sign up for inclusion in the mailing list.

Ian Dutton

LTS President 2020-21



Live Lent: God's Story, Our Story

Lent is a time when we are encouraged by the church to renew our discipleship walk individually and together.

In previous times we have encouraged folk to think about reading their bible and praying; following a discipline of prayer and fasting; meeting with others to study together.

In the light of our continuing need to protect ourselves and one another I am suggesting the possibilities below for how you might strengthen and deepen your walk with the Lord this Lent:

First there is the National Church of England Course which is available as an 'app' you can get on your phone or tablet or PC the link is below this explanation

#LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story is the Church of England's 2021 Lent Campaign.

It offers reflections for each of the 40 days in Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day (17 February - 4 April) that encourage us to reflect on our own story of God and how we might share it with others.

For each day (Monday to Saturday) the app offers:

- A passage from the Bible
- A reflection exploring the reading
- A short prayer
- Full audio of the daily reflection, including specially commissioned music
- A suggested family activity to help you share the day's theme with members of your household

For each week, there is:

- A theme, mirroring those of the

Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, Living His Story

- An introduction to the week's theme and an action linked to it
- Links to other #LiveLent resources including weekly group study material

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/live-lent>

If you are not the sort of person that does 'techy' things then you can listen to the same material free on the Daily Hope phone line. The LiveLent stuff is on button 3 in the menu



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



There is a weekly zoom meeting hosted by Ian Dutton too:

Wednesday evening fellowship by Zoom, 7.30pm Ian says our meetings are open to people from all the churches. We hope that we can share how things are, read from the Bible, discuss the odd question anyone may have, and pray together, this year we need to bring in things that comfort, encourage, and help us to "survive" in difficult circumstances.

Contact Ian dut200@ntlworld.com if you wish to be added in to the list of people invited each Wednesday evening.



A Lent Course with a difference.

Baking Through Lent using the booklet provided with recipes and readings (let David know if you'd like a printed copy)

You can follow this alone at home or share with others on zoom each week for a short chat about the reading and thoughts. There

is a simple recipe each week with alternative links offered – so week 1 make bread with yeast or click the links for pitta bread or sourdough bread.

If you want to share the zoom meetings each week let us know and we'll get the link to you.

Church notices that didn't quite get it right...!

Mrs Thomas, of this church, wishes to thank all those members who so kindly assisted in the death of her husband.

The regular Monday night choir practise of this church will be held on Tuesday night instead of Friday night.

Children are normally collected during the

Offertory Hymn.

The talk for next Friday night will be 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practise.

Tuesday at 4 pm there will be an ice cream social. Ladies giving milk should come early.

Are you the answer to our parish (jigsaw) puzzle?

Are you like me? A person who likes to make order out of chaos, who likes to see everything in its place? Then you must like doing jigsaws too.

Usually I scour the charity shops to find new puzzles. The libraries often provide rich pickings too. However, current restrictions have left me unfulfilled.

A jigsaw does seem to appeal to all ages. Watch a child poring over an unfinished puzzle. It's become a brain training exercise without them knowing it. Likewise it works for adults as a stimulation of the mind and as a short term memory exercise. I find there is nothing quite so rewarding as putting that last piece in place. It does wonders for your confidence.

Is there anyone out there willing to form a jigsaw-swapping club? I am happy to fetch and carry (fully sanitised). Or if anyone wants to send jigsaws to charity, please could we have them to form a library (and



an appropriate amount will be sent to Age UK or charity of your choice).

You never know, you could be the missing piece a parish jigsaw club near you is looking for. Contact me for more details on anne.price1616@gmail.com or 0116 236 3269 today.

Happy puzzling!

Anne

All Saints 200 Club Thurcaston

February 2021 Draw

1st JANET COLLINS

2nd MARY WILKINS

3rd LIZ WALKER-SMITH

Congratulations to this month's winners!

*Make next month one to remember and join today.
Contact Jane Westby for an application.*





Flagpole down ... and up!

We arrived at Church on Christmas Eve to find our flagpole had 'snapped' in the strong winds the previous night.

On inspection it was found to have been weakened by the wood having rotted half way up. We managed to retrieve the flag, which sadly, when washed, came out as grey as when it went in!

We were, therefore, very pleased to accept the anonymous donation of a replacement flag and flagpole which was installed during February.

We have been advised that the flag should not be left out all the time because of deterioration and the risk from high winds and rain damage. We will, therefore, only be flying our new flag on national commemorative days and Church festivals.



Eric Atkinson 1936 - 2020

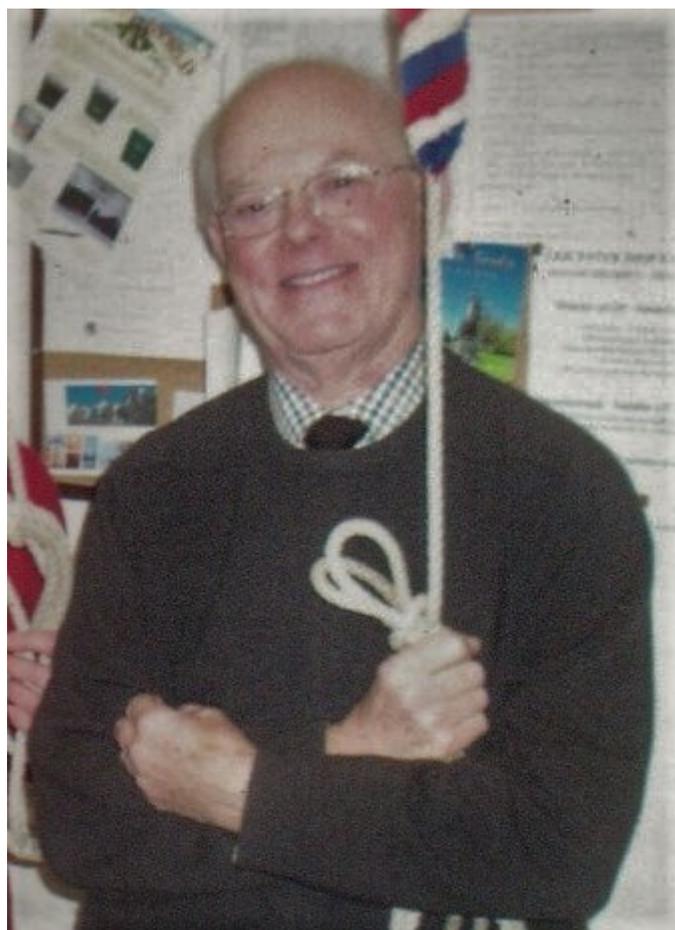
Eric was born in Leeds in 1936 and was always proud of his Yorkshire roots. After his wife, Pat, and Audrey Geary took up bellringing in 1978 he began to learn in 1981 under Ian Roberts, who was tower captain at All Saints', Thurcaston. Much of his learning was on the five Cossington bells with Brenda Wassell.

He became tower captain at Thurcaston in 1981 combining that role with steeple keeper and social secretary until handing over to Richard Pawley in 1996. His records show that he rang at least 69 quarter peals, 1 peal of grandsire triples at the Loughborough Bell Foundry in July 1986 and attended 433 outings. He was meticulous in recording annual dinners and outings.

In his youth he became a chorister in Leeds Parish Church choir and continued his love of choral singing throughout his life, singing in Thurcaston and Swithland church choirs. He was also a pianist and an accomplished church organist. Latterly he was very much in demand to help out at St Leonards, Swithland where he also regularly attended and helped teach the bellringers at their practices.

He was always very ready to help, serving as chairman of the Syston District of the Leicester Guild in 2010. He also served as chairman of the Swithland Church Mens' Club, keenly becoming involved in the Flower and Vegetable Show entering his jams and chutnies with distinction. Puzzles, quizzes and Sudokus were particular interests.

Eric obtained a degree in modern languages



at University College, London in 1957. After National Service in the Royal Signals he started working at the British United Shoe Machinery Company in 1959, qualifying as an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys in 1962. He obtained a law degree from Leicester Polytechnic in 1979.

After taking retirement in 1996 Eric enjoyed regular attendance as an advisor at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Loughborough.

Eric began teaching my son Greg and Peter Spreadbury to ring in 1992. A year later Judy and I began learning to ring at



Thurcaston. The social side of ringing was the glue which held it all together at that stage and Eric's enthusiasm was infectious. The pub after the practice was a vital component and we have very happy memories of Eric with his contemporaries, Percy Barratt, Willoughby Garton, Peter Dobson and David Pugh joining the Pawleys and ourselves for a pint after ringing.

Eric began the association of Thurcaston and Swithland towers which continues to this day, 2019's outing having been the 35th joint annual outing.

He leaves many other legacies, a wife Pat and daughter Penny, who are both ringers, and is remembered with great affection.

Peter Hunt

Tower Captain, All Saints', Thurcaston

From the registers...

Funerals



1st February

Baby Alexander James Coleman

Funeral Service and Committal at Gilroes Crematorium



22nd February

Lorraine Jennifer (Laine) Haddon (72)

Funeral Service and Committal at Gilroes Crematorium

Loughborough Concert Band

Reluctantly, we have had to rearrange, yet again, the date for this concert. It was May 2020, then November 2020, then May 2021. This date is now not viable as with the current lockdown, the band have been unable to rehearse together. They need time to polish up, not only their instruments, but their playing to reach their

usual high standard of performance.

However, with the vaccine roll out, we have to trust that the pandemic will recede, so we are planning ahead, and have set a new date **Saturday 30th October.**

Please pop it on your calendar as it's an evening not to be missed.

Jane



We continue our series of short stories about Ruffle, a mischievous Airedale Terrier, and his adventures on a steam railway...

Ruffle's walks – a very important visitor!

As Ruffle trotted along the platform he could sense by all the activity that something exciting was about to happen at the little heritage railway. There were many people bustling about on the platform next to where the green engine was waiting patiently, steam slowly spiralling from the blackened funnel.

Ruffle looked round for Eric, the station master who was always happy to welcome Ruffle. Ah! There he was! Ruffle went over to where Eric was standing next to a man on a wooden stepladder. They were busy trying to secure a row of bunting from the lamp over the station door to one of the iron lampposts in the middle of the platform. Ruffle nudged Eric's free hand with his wet nose. Eric turned to look at Ruffle.

'Ruffle! Hello there boy. I can't stop – we're busy getting everything ready for our VIP! Off you go, don't get in the way today, there's a good dog!' Eric turned back to help the man on the ladder as they successfully secured one end of the bunting.

Ruffle turned away to look for Ben, the engine driver of the green train. Perhaps Ben would be free or might even have a little snack for Ruffle...

But Ben was busy arranging a special flower garland on the front of the train. He turned his head briefly as he saw Ruffle approach. 'Hello Ruffle! Sorry boy, can't stop – too much to do and too little time before the VIP arrives! Off you go!'

Mmm thought Ruffle, that only left Samantha who looked after the carriages as



his last chance of anything to eat! He looked round but couldn't see her anywhere. Very well he would have a sit down on that lovely soft red carpet someone had left in the middle of the platform. He had just chosen the most comfortable place on the carpet when he heard the familiar voice of Samantha.

'Ruffle! No you don't! Off you get, you can't sit there – you're right in the middle where the VIP will walk!' Ruffle quickly jumped off the carpet as Samantha approached.



Alright then, he would go and find a quiet place to lie down inside one of the carriages! Ruffle walked over to one of the open carriage doors and jumped in. All the doors to the compartments were closed except for the last one. Ruffle sniffed at the seat. There was a very soft warm-looking blanket on the seat – just right for curling up and snoozing on! But as Ruffle jumped up onto the blanket an awful low wheezing, hooting sound came from underneath. Ruffle jumped, his ears flying up at the screeching noise. The more Ruffle tried to move his paws around the blanket, the more noise the blanket made! He managed to jump off the seat back onto the floor. As he landed on the floor, a man appeared at the door dressed in a tartan kilt and black jacket. He laughed as he reached across and pulled the blanket from the seat.

‘Och! I see you’ve found my bagpipes there – you clever dog! I’d lost them and was beginning to panic – the VIP is about to arrive and I’m supposed to pipe him aboard the train. I’m sorry the noise startled you, but you’ve definitely saved the day!’ He gently stroked Ruffle’s head.

Then the man carefully lifted the bagpipes and placed the cloth-covered bag under his arm. Three wooden pipes rested against his shoulder, one pipe next to his face (ready to blow through) and one in his hand ready to pick out the notes. He looked thoughtfully down at Ruffle.

‘How would you like to be my mascot? You could sit next to me as I pipe the VIP aboard!’

Ruffle wagged his tale at the excited tone of the man’s voice.

‘Come on them laddie! We’ll just have time to get into position!’

And so, to the astonishment of Eric, Ben and Samantha, Ruffle sat proudly on the soft red carpet next to the piper as he played the bagpipes to welcome the VIP aboard the train! Definitely an exciting day!

For more information about Ruffle’s adventures visit www.ruffletheraildog.co.uk or watch the new series of short story films on YouTube – search for Ruffle’s walks.



What are angels like?

Try asking school children that question, and you’ll get some imaginative replies! Like these....

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter.

– Sara, aged 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who’s a very good carpenter.

– Jared, aged 8

All angels are girls because they have to wear dresses and boys didn’t go for it.

– Anthony, aged 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.

– Kate, aged 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don’t make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it.

– Vicky, aged 8

What I don’t get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them.

– Sarah, aged 7



Crossword

1		2		3			4	5		6		7
8						9						
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15												16
17		18				19		20				
21								22				
23							24					



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe — it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

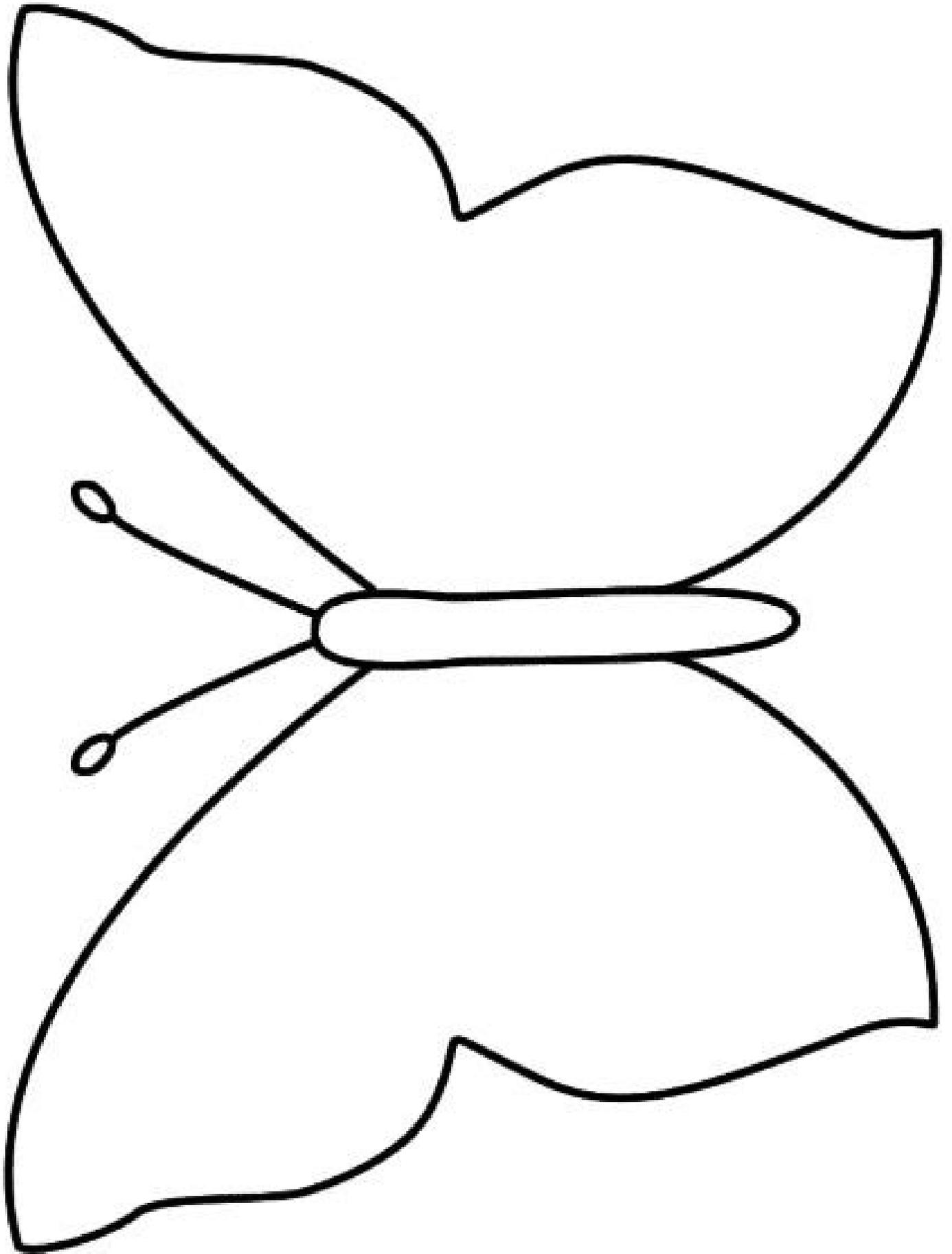


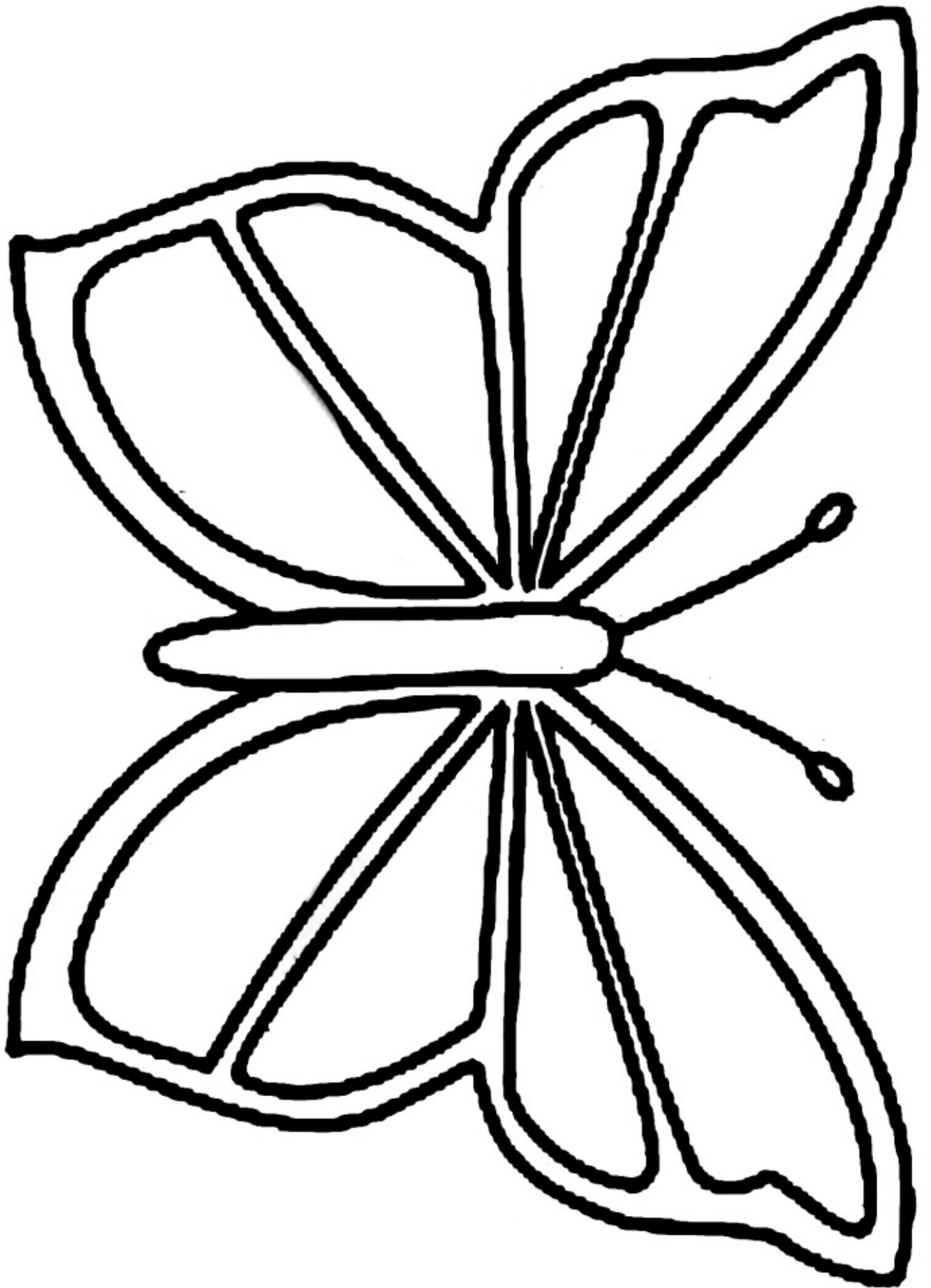
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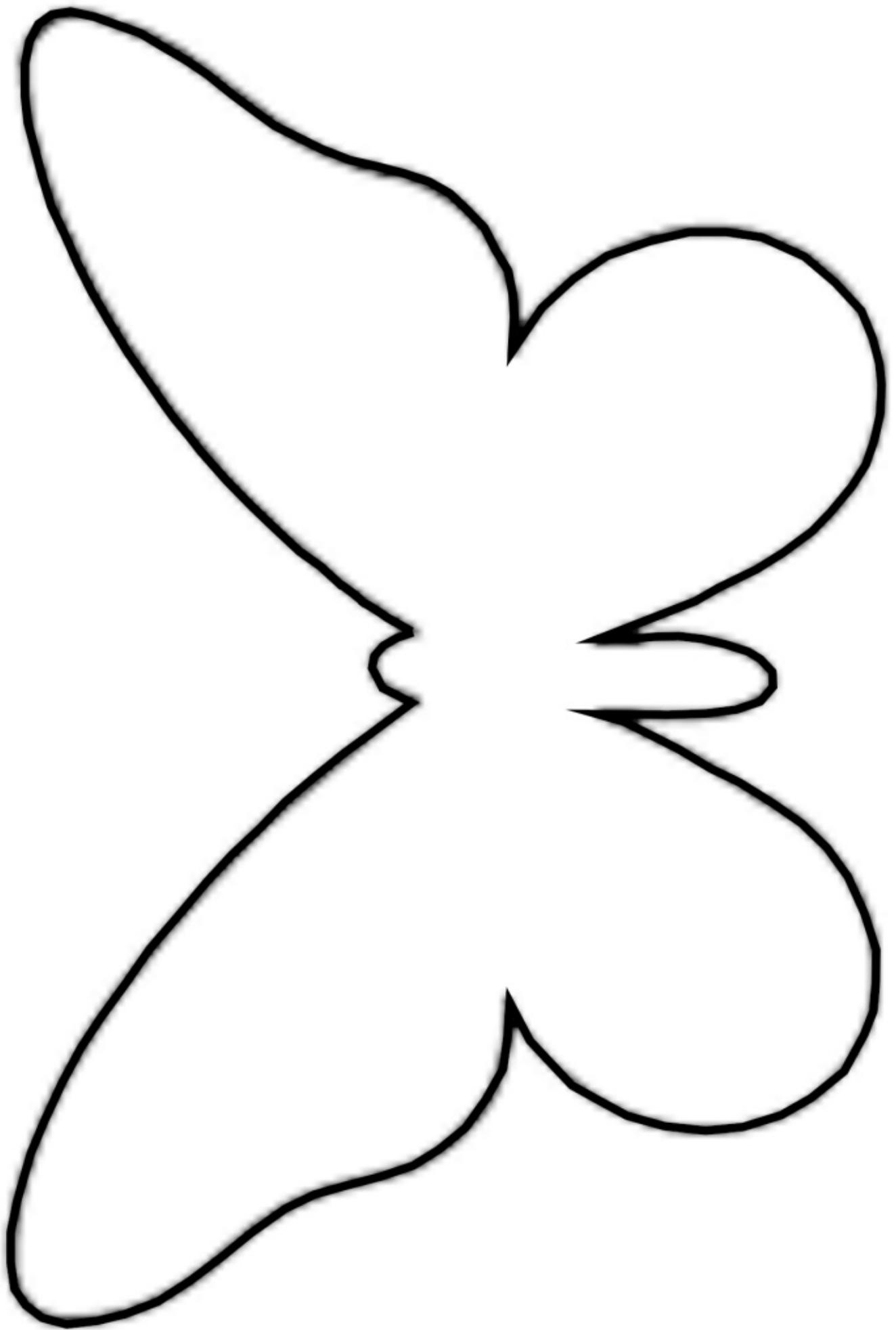
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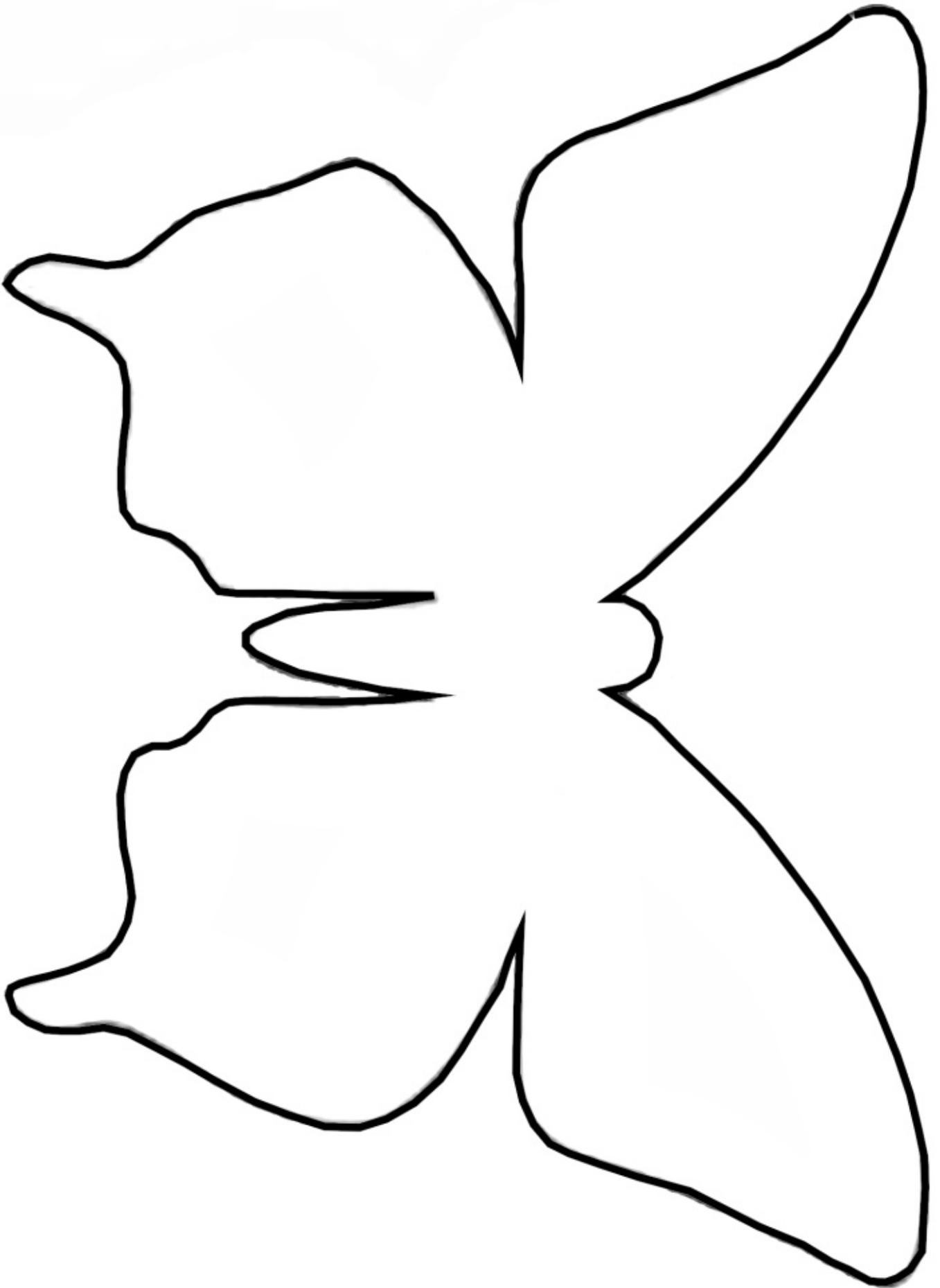
Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and

His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethesame that this fearful cup might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.











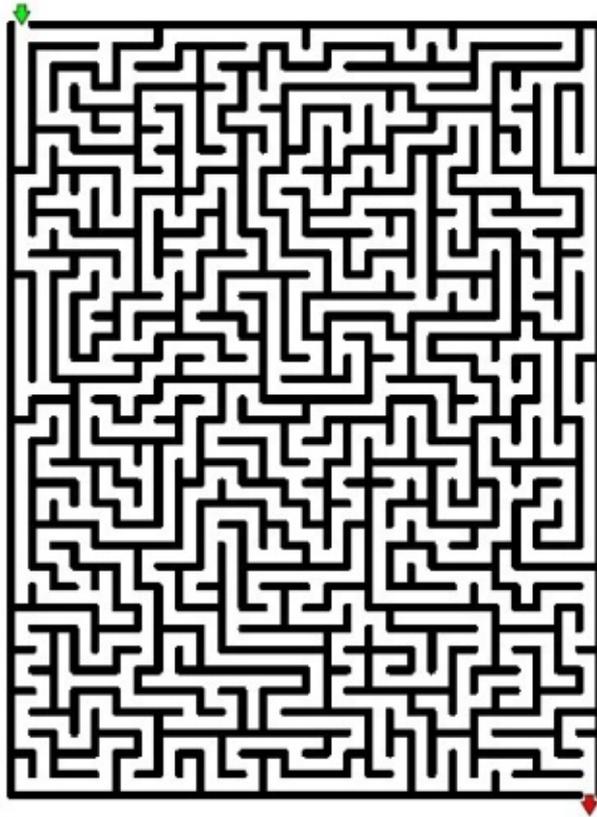
Sudoku

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	3	6	8			9		
								2
			5		6			

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Maze



Sudoku Solution

3	5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9
7	8	1	9	5	2	4	3	6
6	4	9	7	8	3	1	2	5
8	6	7	4	9	1	2	5	3
9	2	5	6	3	8	7	1	4
4	1	3	2	7	5	6	9	8
5	3	6	8	2	7	9	4	1
1	7	8	3	4	9	5	6	2
2	9	4	5	1	6	3	8	7



Crossword Solution

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

Wordsearch Answers

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

On how to deflect those staff appraisals.

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

So, your vicar has introduced staff appraisal for all the officers who work for your church, including yourself. It seems a very dangerous innovation; as far as I am concerned, ministry is only successful when parishioners have no idea what the clergy get up to.

I imagine that he will look at the number of services you take in a year. Funerals can only be increased if you resort to murder, which is likely to be frowned on – although I have been sorely tempted during endless church council meetings. Perhaps if you take a flask of water wherever you go and if you find a baby unattended, you could resort to a spontaneous baptism. That would get your numbers up, even if returning mothers may marvel at the highly localised and brief shower that seemed to have taken place over the pram.

Visiting targets are easily increased. Compile a list of when parishioners will be out and call on those days; a card through their letterbox will prove to your vicar that you were there. Should they happen to be in, mention that you are collecting for the organ fund and they will immediately excuse themselves for an important appointment. You are then free to move on to clock another visit.

Your vicar is also bound to want to see the congregation increasing. This is not sustainable, and you should put a stop to such ambitions at once. It is easily done. All you have to do is to approach your friends at the local football club and bribe them with your homemade beer to come along to church several Sunday mornings in a row. If you give them enough beer BEFORE the service, they will be likely to make just enough muted disruption as to leave your vicar a bit rattled, and thinking that perhaps after all, 'less' is 'more' when it comes to the congregation.

But whatever you do, make sure that you never preach a better sermon than he does. You don't want anyone thanking you at the door for your 'so interesting sermon' in front of him, when they have been sleeping through his sermons for years. If you offend the vicar this way, he will take swift revenge, and ask you to organise the parish summer fete.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

This letter was written before the pandemic.



Janet's Rhubarb Meringue Pie

With fresh rhubarb available at the Wheatsheaf Friday Market, now is the perfect time to tackle this gorgeous recipe.

Shortcrust pastry made with 6 oz flour (see below) or use 2 shop made sweet pastry cases (from step 2).

Sweet shortcrust pastry recipe

2 teaspoons caster sugar
6 oz (170g) flour
4 oz (115g) butter or block margarine
1 egg yolk
1 tsp water (more if needed to make dough)

Filling

1.5 lb ((600g) Rhubarb
4 tablespoons of redcurrant jelly (or raspberry jam)
1.5 (40g) oz cornflour
3 oz (85g) sugar
Grated rind and juice of ½ lemon
2 tablespoons water

Topping

2 egg whites
4oz (115g) caster sugar

1. To make pastry case

Heat oven to 400°F/200C/180C Fan/Gas mark 6. Grease tin. Roll out pastry to fit a 9 inch (23cm) flan tin with some overlap. Prick bottom with a fork. Put in fridge for 30 minutes. Bake blind (line with baking paper and baking beans) and bake for 10 minutes, remove beans and paper and return to oven for 5 minutes until base is cooked.

2. To make filling

Put rhubarb in a pan and add redcurrant jelly and cook without water, covered over gentle heat for about 10 minutes or until tender. Mash with fork. Blend cornflour, sugar, lemon rind and juice with water, stir into the fruit, bring to the boil, cook for 3 minutes until thick and smooth. Pour into pastry case.

3. To make topping

Whisk egg whites until very stiff, fold in 2 teaspoons caster sugar and whisk until thick and satiny looking, then fold in remaining sugar. (note – I usually add sugar a bit at a time – it stops the meringue splitting)

Pile meringue on top of pie, put in a moderate oven (390°F/Gas mark 5, 180C/160C Fan) for a couple of minutes to brown the meringue.

Have you got an old family recipe you would like to share? We'd love to see it and include it in a future edition of the Parish Magazine. Send it to thurcastonallsaints@gmail.com.



Vaccination! How was it for you?

With over 15 million people vaccinated at the time of writing, the UK's vaccination programme is well underway. With both the Pfizer and Oxford Astra Zeneca requiring two doses, there is still a long way to go, but every journey begins with but a single step. The experts are undecided if either vaccine stops transmission, but the evidence does, at least, point to a reduced severity of the symptoms for most people.

We were interested to find out from our readers how they found the vaccination process. Was it straightforward? Were there any last minute doubts? Was it a positive experience? This is what some of you told us.

Anne

Type: **Astra Zeneca**

Site: **Anstey Surgery**

On Wednesday morning I had the text inviting me to go to make an appointment, I phoned straight away and got an appointment for 4.18 (yes, that definite) on the Saturday. When I arrived, five minutes

before time, there was a trickle of people waiting to go in. I was greeted, my mask checked (they were impressed), and told to proceed to Joan (not her real name!). She told me to go into the surgery where I was greeted by Maureen, who told me to register with either of two ladies. My name and age were checked and I was given a printout to take to my allotted room. The vaccination guy asked me if I had any allergies and proceeded to give me the injection, telling me what to do if I felt unwell and what to expect next - a similar procedure in 12 weeks. He asked me if I had any questions then ushered me out. The whole thing took less than 5 minutes and there was no queuing.

The whole thing was very efficient but at no stage did I feel part of a production line. They all seemed very pleased to be there to help. My only observation would be that so many people were involved giving me one jab. They were all working late on a Saturday afternoon, missing the rugby on TV; I really hope they got plenty of time off midweek.

Diana

Type: **Pfizer**

Site: **Charnwood BC Office**

We being in Lockdown, I found it strange to take the car out of the garage & drive so far in heavy rain. In Southfield Road, there were notices inferring that one would be imprisoned if one parked in that council car park. As the civil servants were working from home or on furlough, I parked there anyway!

A cheery volunteer beckoned me to walk up the slope & to wear his preferable mask. I was ushered from the introductory table to a happy lady who gave me a choice of eight chairs. As we waited to be checked at another desk, one Dr vacated his position for a break as he'd been sitting there for three hours. After that short interview, another volunteer took me to the vaccine room where one clinician checked details & the other gave the vaccine, very efficiently.

After being given a card with the injection details to be kept for the second jab, we were then prompted to sit in another waiting area. It was like an episode from Bake-off! Timers were placed next to our chairs and we waited for 15 minutes to check we had no side effects and then allowed to go home.

Paul

Type: **Astra Zeneca**

Site: **North Cotswolds Hospital**

As I lay in the bath relaxing after a hard day of doing nothing, a text message arrived inviting me to make an appointment to have the Covid vaccine.

'But I'm only 62 and they're still doing the over 70's. Is it spam? Will they be asking for money?'

It looked legitimate and after confirming my date of birth I was offered a range of times the following day. No real instructions. Just turn up between 10.10 and 10.20. I was excited if not a little surprised by how simple and efficient the system was.

I arrived at the hospital entrance and my name was checked off and told to park in a certain area. A jovial lady greeted me and

escorted me to the back of the building.

'You'll be having the Astra Zeneca jab today'

'Oh ok' I replied

'You don't sound too enthusiastic'

'Well it's not suppose to offer the same protection against the other variants is it?'

She just smiled.

In the reception area a nurse checked me off and gave me a hand sanitizer.

'You can come through as well. And you'.

And the three of us went into a large room with 4 chairs on one side. It was a group vaccination! One explanation: 3 people saves time and probably explains why over 60's in the North Cotswolds are being vaccinated before other parts of the country.

There was a 2 minute explanation about the possible side effects and a leaflet handed out, with the request to wait in your car for 5 minutes before you drive off.

I suffered the following day. Pounding headache and tiredness but that could have been due to the lack of sleep and excessive amount of alcohol consumed to celebrate my first step towards a Covid free existence.

John

Type: **Pfizer**

Site: **The General**

Whole process took 1 hour from parking the car to getting back in it including waiting 15 minutes at the end after the jab. Very well organised, and great volunteers helping out. Lots of information in 3 leaflets given to me. Don't know how I was selected as only turned 60 last May, but glad to have it! Sore arm tonight, but otherwise feeling fine so far.

Reactions at four different centres, and of the 25 people we asked, all reported similar experiences. Interestingly, outside of Leicestershire, the process, based on our, admittedly, somewhat limited poll, seems to be slightly more relaxed, however, we say, "roll on the second dose and lets get the show back on the road!"

Richard, Barbara & Adam



What have you been doing during lockdown Ruffle?

One of the positives about the lockdowns is that it has given us time to re-visit lapsed hobbies or undertake new projects. We were really interested to hear how Rachel Greaves – author of the Ruffle stories – had been spending her time over the past year...

Rarely a week goes by when I'm not stopped by someone in the street as I walk my proud Airedale Terrier, Bramley, to talk about their memories of Airedales many years ago. The conversation then continues to 'Do you remember the dogs on wheels? I learnt to walk with a toy terrier who I could push along and even ride on!'

How many of you remember the dogs (other animals were available!) on wheels? The vintage models have labels such as Triang, Lines Bros and Pedigree and can still be found in antique shops and online – testament to the sturdy well built toys that were meant to last.

Many readers will know that Ruffle and I

visit schools, care homes and adult social groups such as The W.I. to perform the stories and to talk about Ruffle's incredible journey so far. At the latter two venues talk always comes around to the memories the dogs on wheels! With this in mind, I decided that to complete my Ruffle touring 'collection' - I needed an Airedale on wheels.

However, those of you who know me will understand that I wanted to create my own bespoke Ruffle!

I managed to find a tired looking dog on wheels (not sure what breed) that was definitely in need of TLC and therefore I wouldn't feel guilty about giving the dog a complete make-over!



These old toys have wood wool stuffing so I donned gloves and mask and set about cleaning and remodelling the head and securing the stuffing in place on the rest of the body. I remodelled the head into a terrier with the distinctive boxy muzzle. He did look like the invisible dog at one point, wrapped in bandages! For the tail I searched through my mother's wardrobe for a wooden coat hanger – do you remember the sort? It had just the right curve for an alert terrier tail! This was duly fixed onto the body and foam wrapped around. Then black and tan fur was added with new eyes. (I was able to use the original nose.)

Lastly the ears were added with plastic inside so they kept the folded look that again is so distinctive with the terrier. I decided to just clean up the frame and handle rather than repaint to retain the aged character.

Wherever we take him he's an instant hit! And brings back wonderful childhood memories. But the story doesn't end there!

During the first lockdown my grandson was born and is now approaching his first birthday (where has the time gone?). I have his own pack of Ruffle books waiting but decided that he needed his own Ruffle to complete the 'set'! And what better toy than...a Ruffle on wheels!

So...a few weeks ago I once again managed to find a suitable candidate – this time a tired looking horse on wheels. The longer



legs and neck and tired condition made him ideal for remodelling. The process was mainly the same as before though I always had in the back of my mind the fact that this little dog would be used and so made the tail in a different way to make it more flexible. This time I repainted the frame and cleaned the little wooden footrests ready for action. He has a different look and therefore character about him which is rather lovely. He's sitting in the loft ready for the birthday boy!

Rachel

Caption?

What is Bramley, the four legged Airedale Terrier, saying to his four wheeled companions?

Perhaps readers could offer (polite) suggestions...

Email us at thurcastonallsaints@gmail.com



Staying Connected: Life's too short to waste a moment!

During the Coronavirus scare we are keeping proactive... It is a chance to reflect and understand what is most important to us all, as well as practicing and learning new skills, staying connected and helping family and friends! Our thoughts are with everyone, but we will get through this! As they said in the olden days 'chin up'.

Our staff are taking all necessary precautions and the home is following all the guidelines issued by the Government. Our care home is a community in its own right, but it is also part of a larger community locally and internationally.

As well as old school technology (e.g. a written letter and the telephone) the residents are getting to grips with modern technology to stay in touch with family and friends... from email, video, Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Zoom. To keep ourselves entertained, both



residents and staff, are discussing ideas with all of our entertainer/ performer/ workshop leader friends to deliver COVID-19 friendly performances/ workshops.

During this time it has been a good chance to talk and listen to each other as well as share the simplest of pleasures e.g. memories, life experiences, jokes, photos.



In February we celebrated Valentine's Day and remembered past and present loved ones.

We also celebrated Bessie Grindrod's 105th birthday in style. We had a virtual birthday party with all the

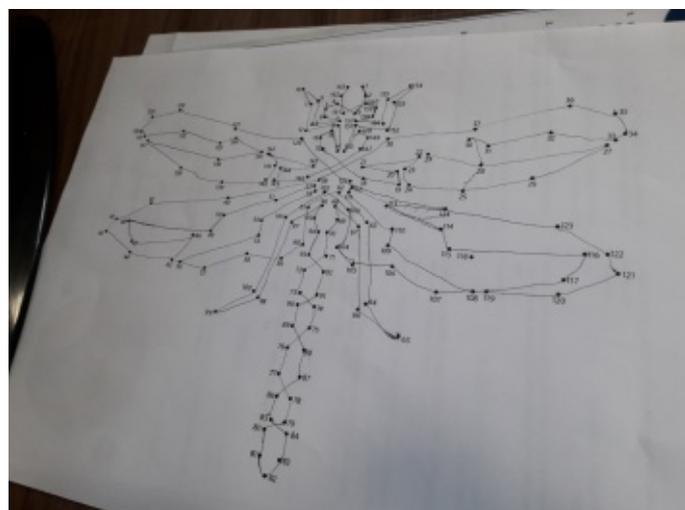
trimmings and an enormous personalised birthday cake! Bessie also received lots of presents, cards and birthday messages! Local entertainer, Jayne Darling, also sent Bessie her own vocal birthday telegram to wish her happy birthday.

We are all really enjoying your messages and photos... Please keep up the good work! We are all in it together!

Together we can achieve anything!

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History Society blown away by local windmills

At our online meeting in February, we welcomed Mark Temple to tell us about the Vanishing Windmills of Leicestershire and Beyond.

While watermills already existed in the Saxon period, windmills were probably introduced to England after the Norman conquest. The first written reference to them dates from the 12th century and by the 14th century we have illustrations in books such as the Luttrell Psalter. Those early examples were all post mills, in which the whole structure was pivoted on a large, central post so that it could be turned to face the wind. This made them vulnerable to strong winds and a gale in 1895 destroyed or damaged 40 windmills in the Leicestershire area. The only example surviving in the county today is at Kibworth. The central post was usually supported by a trestle structure resting on four stone piers and sometimes, as at Markfield, the four stones in the shape of a cross are all that remains on the site of a former mill.

A later development was the tower mill, in which the sails were mounted at the top of a brick tower, where they could catch more wind. Only the cap with the sails needed to turn to face the wind so the millstones and other heavy equipment could be housed in a fixed building below. However, tower mills were more expensive to build and most Leicestershire windmills continued to be of the post mill type, perhaps because – unlike in Lincolnshire – we have no shortage of hills to put them on. Although 5- and 7-sailed windmills did exist, an even number of sails was preferred so that if one sail was lost, the opposite one could be removed to balance it and keep the mill in use.

Loughborough is known to have had four windmills. A “South Prospect of Leicester”

from 1743 shows several of them in the area that is now Victoria Park and Highfields, as well as on the distant hills of Charnwood. A large number of village windmills survived into the age of photography and Mark showed us many examples from around the county. During the early 20th century flour began to be milled on a more industrial scale using other sources of power. Most windmills were either dismantled or allowed to decay so there are no working examples in the county today.



The most famous windmill in this area was at Woodhouse Eaves, which remained a popular tourist destination long after it had fallen out of use, until destroyed by a fire in 1945. Its stone base survives and a viewing platform has been added. Also near to us, Hough’s Mill near Swannington is undergoing restoration and will re-open to visitors as soon as that becomes possible.

As far as the members of our Society are aware, there was never a windmill in either of our villages but documents do refer to one somewhere in Swithland. The names of the former furlongs Windmill Lane in Cropston (1775) and Windmill Flat in Thurcaston (1608) suggest that the Swithland mill might have been located not far from our border.

www.thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk

John steps out in 'March the Month' for Prostate Cancer

Local retired teacher and tennis player, John Mumford, is taking part in 'March the Month' for Prostate Cancer UK. The aim is to complete 11,000 steps a day during the month of March to raise awareness of the 11,000 men who die of this disease annually.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the UK, killing one man every 45 minutes. It's killing dads, partners, sons, brothers, grandads, uncles and mates. But it doesn't have to be that way. John is raising money to help fund lifesaving research for men and their families affected by prostate cancer.

To keep John company, and to help encourage him on his way, a club member (including your editor, Richard) from the Rothley Ivanhoe Tennis Club will be joining him most days.



If you would like to support John and Prostate Cancer UK, find his 'March the Month' Just Giving page at <https://tinyurl.com/ku629bek> or to find out more about the event and the charity go to [https://marchthemoth.prostatecanceruk.org/!](https://marchthemoth.prostatecanceruk.org/)



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

14th March: Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes



called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Observations on modern life

Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a workstation.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a flat tyre.

The darkest hour is just before dawn. So, if

you're going to steal your neighbour's milk, that's the time to do it.

Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A filing cabinet is a place where you can lose things systematically.

If you think the problem is bad now, just wait until we have solved it. (Arthur Kasse)

The most welcome guest is the one who knows when to go home.

Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club February 2021



Newsletter 2021 : 2nd edition

Club News

As we go to press the Government is making announcements about releasing the lockdown in slow but necessary stages but it is still going to be many months before "normal service" can be resumed. With this in mind The Gardening Club Committee have been making decisions for the future.

First the good news;

- ◆ The latest from the RHS is that the Tatton Flower Show will run as planned.
- ◆ All our speakers for 2021 up to and including June have been moved to 2022
- ◆ Once restrictions allow, the committee are considering offering outdoor social events sometime over the summer before we are able to meet indoors. We could, for instance open local gardens when conditions are right. Two committee members have offered their gardens for this, and other club members may also be willing to 'open' their gardens for this activity. This would enable a safe and relaxed way for club members to meet together again.

And the not so good news.....Reluctantly we have cancelled this year's Annual Show. The advanced planning required for this event is just not feasible in the current circumstances.

The recent very wintry weather seems to have sent several members to their favourite seasonal poetry. Here is the first from Janet Mason and another from Cheryl Young.



I love these *Cyclamen coum*.

They come from the Mediterranean but here they are shrugging off the snow of a British winter.

While the leaves aren't quite as attractive as *Cyclamen hederifolium*, their jewel-like flowers are a real treat at this time of year.

Peter Smith



Jack Frost was in the garden
I saw him there at dawn
Dancing round the bushes and
prancing on the lawn
He wore a cloak of silver, and a hat
all shimmering white
A wand of glittering stardust and
shoes of moonbeam light
J.P Smeeton



As I love snowdrops I have found a poem entitled 'February' by P.A.Ropes.

and a photo of Colesbourne Park, Gloucestershire.

**'The frozen ground is broken
Where snowdrops raise their heads,
And nod their tiny greeting
In glades and garden beds.'**

Tribute to Laine (Lorraine "Laine" Haddon) January 1949—February 2021.



A staunch member of the Gardening Club for many years , Laine was a straight talking, straight forward sort of a gal; what you saw is what you got; honest and hard working. Friends at the Club remember her as a fun loving person; always good company and never taking anything too seriously. She loved her garden and baking and the Gardening Club Show was a fitting place to show off both those skills. She reigned supreme over the Floral Art and Flower sections for many years. After becoming "clerical assistant" to the show sec in 2005, she rather reluctantly agreed to sit on the show committee. A fellow member recalls Laines light hearted approach to the meetings and the frequent bouts of laughter that would ensue. More than willing to assist, the tombola stall was her forte; collecting and sorting the prizes months before the big day, and with the help of fellow members , running a highly successful addition to the Show day. Someone once said "Always look on the bright side of life" I'm sure that was her motto.

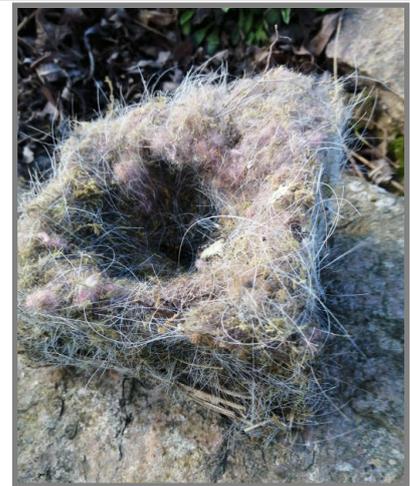
Rest in Peace.

David Haddon.

Don't forget to clear out your bird boxes ready for this year's new nests and broods!

Birds might return to the same nesting spot or box, but they don't reuse old nests. So make sure you clean out your old nesting boxes to get rid of old nesting material, parasites and other unwelcome guests!

We found this perfectly formed nest in one of our bird boxes fitting snugly into the base of the box. It was made up of many different materials, but there was definitely a recognisable amount of several lockdown haircuts from this household.



We are lucky to have areas in our garden where snowdrops are pretty happy. All our snowdrops are common ones, not the sort that snowdrop enthusiasts will pay hundreds of pounds for. But, common as they are, they always lift the spirits at this time of year and give optimism for the gardening year ahead. They also provide valuable food for any bees that are brave enough to be out and about

Can you spot two bees in this photo ?

Richard Elks

Deadline for next edition March 19th 2021

Richard Cropston161@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 236 8313

For more general information contact

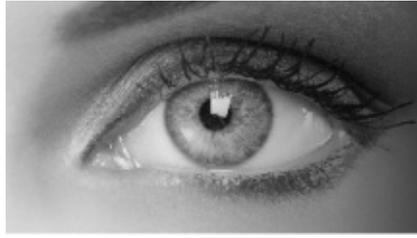
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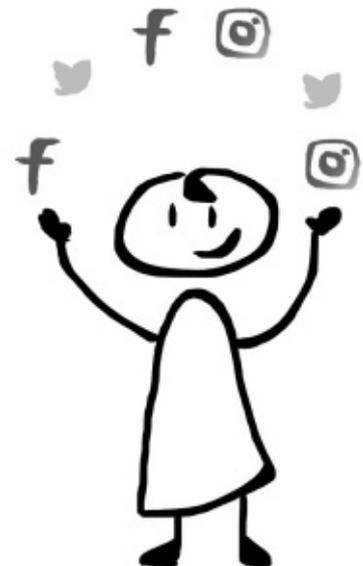


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