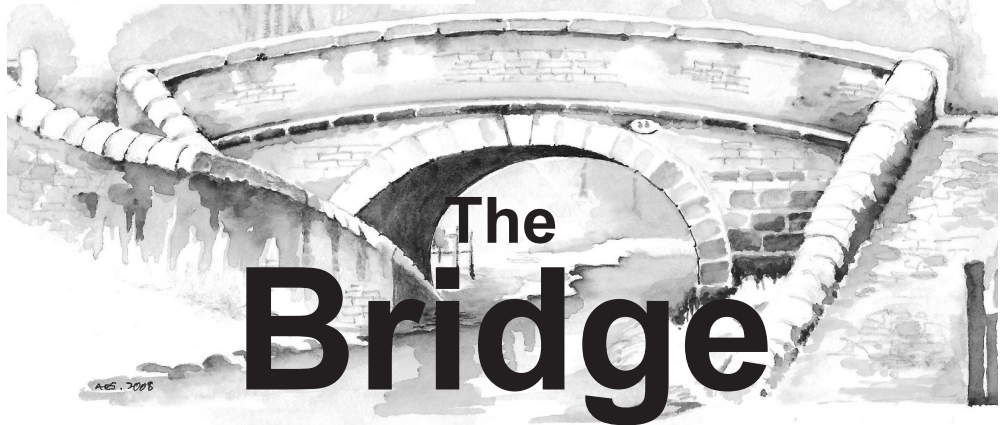


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**LENT
2024**



February 2024 / March 2024

**Parish magazine serving the communities
around the churches of
The Sibsey and Carrington Group
and
The Brothertoft Group**

Serving Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington. New Bolingbroke, Westville, Sibsey Northlands, Wildmore, New York, Brothertoft, Langrick, Kirton Holme, Hubbert's Bridge, Amber Hill, Holland Fen, Gipsy Bridge, Langrville, Anton's Gowt and those with connections to the area.

ISSN 0027-3244



9 770027 324779

Parish Directory

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Rural Dean	Revd Canon Sudharshan Sarvananthan	From 1 st Feb 2024.
READER	Nicola Bradbury (contact until 5pm)	07919860702
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Email :safeguardingbrothertoftsibsey@outlook.com	07596497632
METHODIST CIRCUIT MINISTERS		
Circuit Office (Mon-Fri am)	Email: centenarymeth@gmail.com	01205 355543

Churchwardens

Brothertoft	Mr M. Harrison	01205 290575
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All material for The Bridge – editorial, adverts, pictures, volunteer enquiries, etc

thebridgemag@outlook.com

Websites

www.achurchnearyou.co.uk
www.kirtonholmechurch.co.uk

Twitter

@TheBrid05277267



The Sibsey Group of Churches can be found on Facebook.
Search for 'Sibseygroupofchurches'.

Welcome - February 2024 edition

Happy New Year! We are already well into 2024. Dont forget to send details of Easter Activities to appear in the March magazine.

The Editor

Don't forget those nestboxes!

On 14th February our annual National Nestbox Week begins.

Now an established part of the ornithological calendar, it aims to encourage people to help out the birds in their gardens each Spring. Everyone is invited to put up more nestboxes in their local area, and a very helpful website gives full instructions on how to do this. More details at: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

150 years ago

15th Feb 1874 Sir Ernest Shackleton was born. This Irish-born British polar explorer was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

Special Dates in February

- 2 Candlemass
- 2 National Hedgehog Day
- 3 St Blaise Day
- 4 World Cancer Day
- 5-11 Children's Mental Health Week
- 5- 11 National Apprenticeship Week
- 6 Safer Internet Day
- 7 Charles Dickens Day
- 10 Chinese New Year
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 12 Darwin Day
- 13 Shrove Tuesday
- 13 World Radio Day
- 14 Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent
- 14 St Valentine's Day
- 14 - 21 National Nest Box Week
- 15 World Hippo Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 27 World Polar Bear Day
- 27 Pokémon Day



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What's on Locally?

Regeneration Sibsey Village Hall 10.30am-11.30am	Every Monday
Amwes Archery Club Carrington Village Hall 6pm-7.30pm. Samantha & Alan, Phone: 07551 968962	Every Monday
Community Coffee Morning Kirton Holme Churchroom 10.00am – 11.30am	2 nd Monday
Coffee Morning 10am Sibsey Northlands Hall Tel 01205 750197.	3 rd Monday
Indoor Bowling Sibsey Village Hall 2-4pm	Every Tuesday
Indoor Bowls New York Village Hall 2-4pm Contact Ron 07951 313782	Every Tuesday
Dancercize Carrington Village Hall 6-7pm-£6 07737064128	Every Tuesday
Coffee Morning Carrington Village Hall 10am-12noon	1 st Tuesday
Coffee Morning Holland Fen Hall 10.30am-12noon	2 nd Tuesday
Country Roads Quilters Sibsey Northlands Hall 9.30am - 4.30pm	3 rd Tuesday
Jive Class Hubberts Bridge Comm. Centre 7.30pm-8.30pm 07767 149167	Every Wednesday
Pilates Sibsey Village Hall 10-11am	Every Wednesday
Slimming World Sibsey Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm	Every Wednesday
Auctions Carrington Village Hall	Every Wednesday
Indoor Bowls New York Village Hall 2pm-4pm Contact Ron 07951 313782	Every Wednesday
Sibsey WI Sibsey Northlands Hall 7.15pm	2 nd Wednesday
Friendship Group/Coffee Afternoon Sibsey Village Hall 2-4pm	2 nd Thursday
Cinema@The Beonna , Benington 7pm	2 nd Thursday
Amber Hill WI 7.15pm	2 nd Thursday
Quiz@The Beonna , Benington 7pm - 11pm	1 st Thursday
Bike Night/Social Night New York Village Hall 5pm-8pm	1 st Thursday
Archery New York Village Hall 7-8pm Steve 07896 534578. All ages and abilities welcome.	Every Friday
Craft Afternoon 1.30pm-4.30pm Holland Fen Vill.Hall	Every Friday
Craft n Chat Carrington Village Hall 10-12 (see Facebook)	Every Friday
Cash Bingo Sibsey Village Hall (see local adverts for times)	Last Friday of the month
Dog Training New York Village Hall 10am-12noon	Every Saturday
Dog Training New York Village Hall 10am-12noon	Every Sunday

Time for a Smile

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded. "Counting your ribs," said Eve.

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly, "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"

Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

Last night our wifi stopped working, so I had to spend a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog? *A Land Rover.*

As a learner driver in London, I was taking the road test for my driver's license. When someone cut me off, I held my temper so I wouldn't look out of control. "You have a lot to learn," said the inspector.

Then at a red light, the car behind me tapped my bumper. I still remained calm, but the inspector shook his head. When the light turned, I accelerated, but the car behind me then sped up and cut me off. That did it! I hit the horn as hard as I could.

The inspector turned to me, smiled, and said, "Now you're getting the hang of it."

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

While we were working at a men's clothing store, a customer asked my colleague to help her pick out a tie that would make her husband's blue eyes stand out. "Ma'am," he explained, "any tie will make blue eyes stand out, if you tie it tight enough."

Grandchildren don't make a man feel old; it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother.

I think my girlfriend's hallucinating. She keeps telling me she's seeing other people.

I like long walks, especially when taken by people who annoy me.

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Sibsey WI

President Fenella warmly welcomed 29 members and The Alford Music Makers, to the December meeting and we all sang two verses of the Carol "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Afterwards we listened to two brief seasonal poems. The talk on Beekeeping in November had been very informative and enjoyable. The Birthday meal outing to Boston Tennis Club restaurant had a festive feel and the food was excellent.

Correspondence from Lincs South concerned the National Meeting at The Albert Hall and the Spring Council Meeting at Spalding. There will be coffee at Dobbie's Garden Centre next week but no Craft meeting in December. Another board games afternoon will be held in January. The Upholstery course is also next month, along with a meal outing to the Rancho Grill. Looking further ahead, a Coffee Morning will be held on 28th March 2024.

Our Christmas entertainment was by The Music Makers, hand bell ringers. Their leader explained that the group has members with ages spanning from 14 to 95 years of age and all abilities. In attendance this evening were seven ladies (including their most senior member) and one man. The opening music was "Jinglebellathon" a glorious seasonal medley. It was interesting to see the different combinations of bells. Some ringers held two small bells in each hand, other

variations were bells on a frame and bells resting on a padded surface which were lifted and rung as required. Sometimes the bells were sounded by striking them externally with a small beater. It all looked most complicated. Then, ringing volunteers were sought to "have a go". Several members were brave enough to join in and after a practice run, we listened to "We Three Kings" incorporating some Sibsey WI novices. Fenella went on to assist in the next song too, as a base bell player was required.

Val thanked The Music Makers for the lovely selection of pieces played during the evening. Having enjoyed sherry or juice on arrival, we then had hot drinks and mince pies. Two mischievous elves distributed Secret Santa gifts. As usual, we all sang "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" to round off the WI year.

In January 2024 President Fenella wished 26 members a "Happy, Healthy New Year". A small amount of WI business followed. Bras are being collected to send to Ropsley WI, ultimately for women in Africa. We were reminded to sign up for the Lincs South Annual Meeting. A large amount of toiletries and other essentials for Boston Women's Aid were generously donated at the December meeting. These were handed over before Christmas and we have received a note of thanks. Coffee will be at the Dunelm cafe this month, there will also be Craft and Games afternoons. ... Continued on page 9.

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The committee and 'extras' then presented their pantomime 'Cinderella' (WI-style) complete with a rather irreverent re-write of "Jerusalem". The cast wowed the (captive) audience with an avalanche of awful jokes, rhyming couplets and stunning scene changes. In the fast-paced drama, visions in white net, severe costumes and splashes of brilliantly coloured satins and velvets dashed on and off the 'stage'. Double identities, con-tricks and good deeds were all revealed. And in the end, after cheering, booing and jeering, sweet-throwing and merriment, the pantomime ended in the traditional way, the Prince found his Princess. Even more traditional WI fun followed with a lively session of games, organised by a team of members led by Ann Quickfall.

This included quizzes and a version of 'Play your Cards Right'. A lovely chance to enjoy some time to chat and do the puzzles together over tea and biscuits. All the participants of the Pantomime and the entertainment hostesses were thanked by Fenella and presented with a small gift. Next month our speaker will be Tim Stubbs with his talk 'Reflections of a Life'. February with it's traditional Valentine's Day, is also the month to 'Share the Love' of the environment and a sustainable life by perhaps wearing a green heart. If you would like to come along and "try WI", visitors are always welcome. You can contact us via email; sibseywi@outlook.com, we have a Facebook page, or please ring Sally Grant on 01205 750486.

Ann Mitchell

**New Bolingbroke
Town Hall Markets**
Sundays 10am - 1pm



7th April;
7th July;
6th October;
1st December

New York Village Hall

7th March
4th April
2nd May
5pm-7.15pm approx
(First Thursday every month)
Social & Bike Night
Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments ,
Auction. Indoors/outdoors. All
welcome. See the Village Hall
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QUIZ NIGHT

Kirton Holme Church Hall
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£6 (includes Refreshments)
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Booking essential
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If you or someone you know would benefit from the service please get in touch and to discuss how best you can get the items you want straight to your door. We can choose books based on your tastes, recommend new authors and even help provide access to our online services. With a few clicks you can have the entire Lincolnshire library catalogue at your fingertips and chose your own items for us to deliver - all for free.

Every time we visit you can provide us with specific titles to be delivered next time, although there may be a short wait for more popular items, and we can collect or renew anything you received previously. We are here to help and from the feedback we receive from our existing customers, we know how important our service can be to the people of Lincolnshire

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Brothertoft Village Hall Saturday April 27th

7.30pm

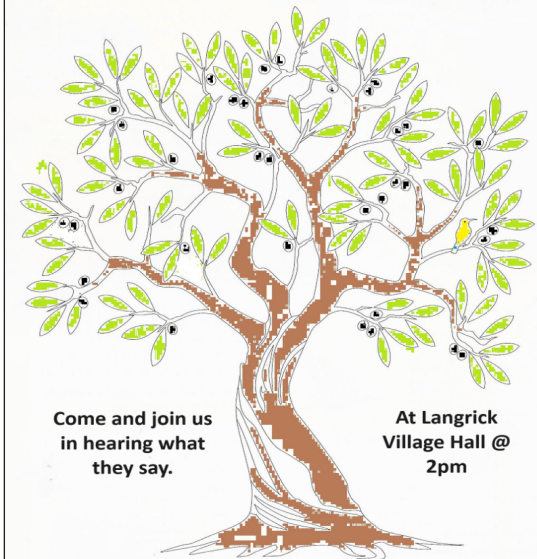
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2pm

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Church Services and Events

Wednesday 14th February 2024

6.30pm Frithville Joint Service/Ash Wednesday

Sunday 18th February 2024

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship

10.45am Kirton Holme Morning Worship

Sunday 25th February 2024

10.30am Carrington Snowdrop Sunday Service

10.45am Langrick Holy Communion

Friday 1st March 2024

2pm Langrick Village Hall. Women's World Day of Prayer

Sunday 3rd March 2024

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship

10.45am Wildmore Holy Communion

Sunday 10th March 2024

10.30am Sibsey Holy Communion

10.45am Brothertoft Morning Worship

Everyone is welcome to attend any service at any church or event. Face coverings optional but welcome. Hand sanitiser will be available. Refreshments may be served if volunteers available. Anyone not taking communion may receive a blessing from the priest.

Prayer Requests

If you would like prayers said in church for you at a time of illness or upheaval this can be arranged. If the request is for another person the prayers will not be said in public for confidentiality reasons. Contact the clergy or lay ministers listed inside the front cover.



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EVERY TUESDAY BETWEEN 2pm and 4pm

Beginners are welcome at these two-match events which include a refreshment break. First sessions are free and loan bowls and tuition is available for beginners.

Annual membership is £5 and each session is £2.50 which includes refreshments and a 'Bring it to win it' raffle.

Players must wear flat soled shoes to protect the playing surfaces

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Coffee Morning

At Northlands Village Hall, Sibsey PE22 0UA

Thursday 28th March

10am till 12 noon

Also a variety of stalls and competitions

Everyone Welcome

Friends of St. Margarets 300 Club

A list of winners of 2023 will be printed in March magazine. Would you like to buy a ticket for 2024? Tickets are £10 for 2024 starting with 1st draw in March 2024. Each month you can either win £25, £15 or £10. Also, a chance to win £1000 in December 2024. If you are interested in buying a ticket for 2024, please contact Monica on 01205-750622(answerphone). Also, we need one new organiser for the 300 Club. If interested and need more details, please contact Monica on 01205-750622 (with answerphone)

The Sibsey Joint School Trust 1993

Starting a College or University Course?

Under 25 years old and live in the Parish of Sibsey?



You may be eligible to get a grant to help with books and equipment. The Trust exists to promote education (including social and physical training) of young people resident in the area of the parish of Sibsey whether or not they were pupils of Sibsey Free school.

To apply for a grant you should be under 25 years of age and require some financial assistance. The trustees are keen to emphasise this is not a charity but a trust: we wish to encourage and support the educational development of local people by providing funds for qualifying applications.

Applications should be made to the Clerk:

Mrs Christine Hewerdine, Avocet Lodge,

Main Road, Sibsey PE22 0TW

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Boston Community Transport are a small charity based in Boston who provide a transport alternative to the residents of the Borough.

Volunteering opportunities available! We would love to hear from you!

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Does the Church need an Electoral Roll??

Do you know what this is?

How does it help your Church?

How does it benefit you?

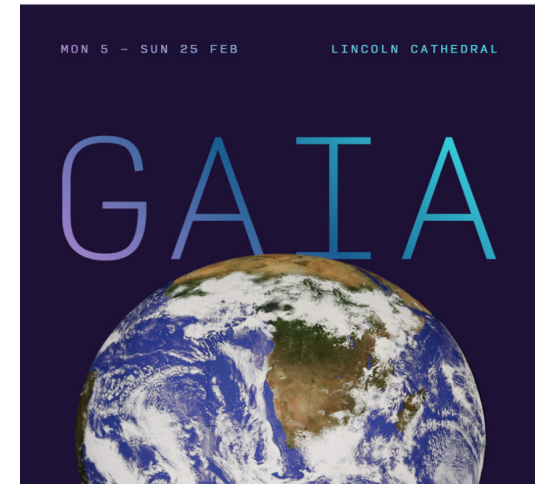
If you cannot answer all these questions perhaps it's time to suggest to the Church that we modernise some of the processes which the Church hangs onto.

How can you make such a suggestion? Approach your vicar, (which vicar), approach your overburdened Cburchwarden or try your Synod representative, if you know what this office holder is.

Whilst the Church is failing to communicate in modern terms we the Rural Church supporters are fighting a losing battle. We are asked to be compliant with an ever increasing burden of rules and regulations. Yet we never appear to reduce historical rules such as those surrounding the Electoral Roll.

There is an avalanche of top down rules to reflect modern issues (correctly so at certain levels) but no suggestions of how thoughts and voices from the grass roots may be heard or even acted upon in the interpretation of these. One size fits all or does it?

So returning to my electoral roll. Do we need it? Does it only serve to demonstrate our decline? Could it be rewritten, revamped, to be turned into something of actual use. Read the application form with an open mind. Welcoming? helpful? Useful? If your answer is no surely someone will listen...or will they? This could be a first step.



Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia provides the opportunity to see our planet floating in three dimensions in the vast space of Lincoln Cathedral's Nave.

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This event is included in your Cathedral admission so don't miss out, mark your calendars and get ready to explore the cosmos on display until 25th February.

70 years ago

On 23rd Feb 1954 the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh. It grew into a year-long national trial involving 1.8 million children.

60 years ago

7th Feb 1964 the Beatles arrived in New York for their first US tour. They were met by thousands of screaming fans.



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900 places of worship on Historic
England's at Risk Register - with
53 more added in 2023?

#DYK in Wales, 25 per cent of
historic churches and chapels
have closed in the last decade?

#DYK the Church of Scotland is
actively planning to close as many
as 30-40 per cent of its churches?
Every Church Counts sets out six
key actions needed to save the
UK's church buildings. These
actions are:

- Support for heroic volunteers
- Our National Help Service
- Funding to save priceless
heritage

→ On the visitor map

→ Churches open for all

→ Making change happen

Read the manifesto in full and find
out how you can help on our
website

[https://](https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/everychurchcounts)

[www.nationalchurchestrust.org/
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The Day the Music Died

It was 65 years ago, on 3rd
February 1959, that American
rock-and-roll performers Buddy
Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big
Bopper were killed in a plane
crash in Iowa. Thanks to Don
McLean and his eight-minute hit
song American Pie, it became
known as "the day the music died".
Buddy Holly was a rock 'n' roll
pioneer who is widely regarded as
having sparked a 'quantum leap' in
popular musical output in the post-
war years, being admired by such
stars as Elvis Presley and John
Lennon. He was born in Lubbock,
Texas, to a Christian family and
attended a Baptist church where
he made a commitment and was
baptised.

At the time of the plane crash –
attributed to their young pilot's
inexperience in appalling weather
conditions – Holly, 22, Valens, 17,
and the 28-year-old Big Bopper (J
P Richardson), together with other
musicians, were on what they
described as "the tour from hell",
travelling hundreds of miles each
day by bus in temperatures as low
as minus 35F.

After a concert in Clear Lake,
Iowa, Holly decided to rent a
private plane to get to Fargo, North
Dakota, for the next concert. He
planned to take his band
members, Waylon Jennings and
Tommy Allsup, with him, but
Valens tossed a coin for Allsup's
seat and won. Jennings then gave
his seat to the Big Bopper, who
was unwell.

Holly's young wife Maria learned
about his death on television and
suffered a miscarriage.

.....Continued on page 19.

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His mother heard the news of his death on radio. Since then, news media have introduced rules to prevent the names of people who die in accidents being revealed before the family itself is informed. Maria did not attend his funeral and has reportedly never been to his grave, but she preserved and promoted his music after his death.

Amber Hill W.I Meeting January and February meetings

24 members attended the January meeting, after the singing of Jerusalem prizes were given out for last year's competitions. Flower of the Month 3rd Shirley Rogers 2nd Freda Stephens 1st Thelma Fountain. Competition of the Month 3rd Thelma Fountain 2nd Freda Stephens 1st Elizabeth Gadd. The speaker for the evening was Adrian Isaac who talked about the Boston Woods Trust which is a local independent charity started in 2001 that relies on support from members and benefactors. It's run by volunteers and currently has approximately 150 acres of woods and parks over 3 areas in Boston, The Sir Joseph Banks Country Park and Woods at Wyberton and Fenside Woods. The most recent is Dion's Wood Nature Reserve that was planted with 17,000 trees in 2022 although it will take several years for it to become a wood. Competition results were Flower of the Month 3rd Joyce Barker, 2nd Freda Stephens 1st Elizabeth Gadd. A Theatre Programme 3rd Shirley Rogers 2nd June Davy 1st Elizabeth Gadd. The raffle made £21.

There were 23 members and 3 guests at the February meeting of Amber Hill WI. The details for the April party were given, next year's subscription which will be £48 needs to be paid for at the March meeting and can be by cheque or BACS payment. The speaker was Rosemary Sneath a trained Norland Nanny. She talked about her early life growing up in Lincolnshire and how a trip to see the film Mary Poppins made her want to become a nanny when she left school. She went away to college to become a nanny. The training involved not only learning how to look after children but also how to cook, knit and do needlework too. She bought in items of the uniform she had to wear as well as photos and books. Competition results Flower of the Month 1st Freda Stephens 2nd Sarah Payne 3rd Elizabeth Gadd. My Favourite Pen 1st Freda Stephens 2nd Shirley Rogers 3rd Anita Fox. The raffle made £23.

Next months meeting is March 14th and the speaker will be Alan Mason who is a garden designer.

Claire Golding

50 years ago

7th Feb 1974 Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.

20 years ago

4th Feb 2004 Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

Sudoku Challenge

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 without repeats.

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

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Wordsearch

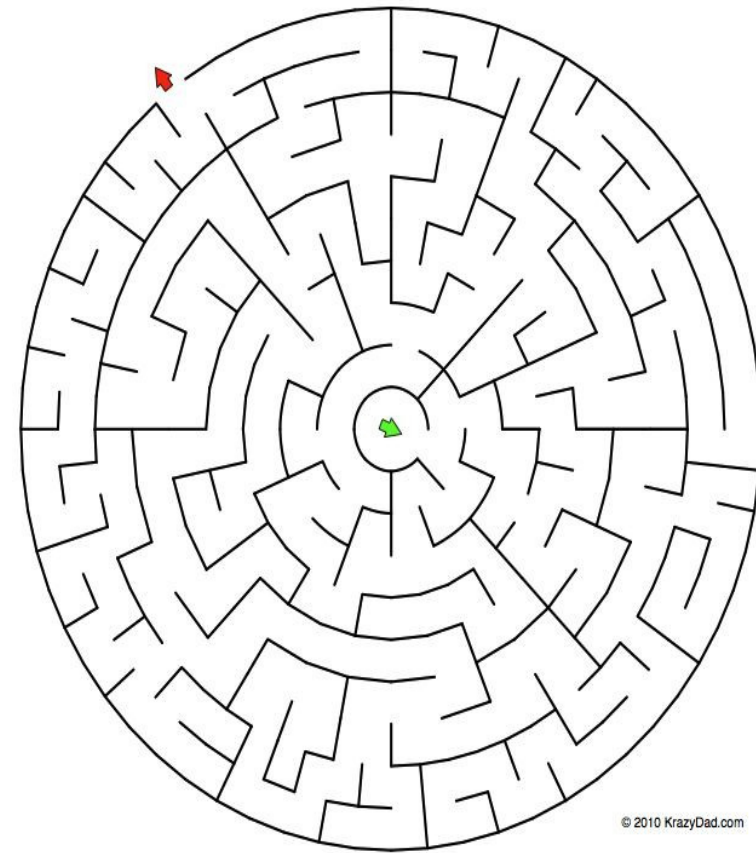
Find the words hidden in this wordsearch puzzle. Clues can be found in the text below. There are 20 words.

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!

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

Maze

Find your way from the centre to the top.



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Solutions for December edition

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

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

St James the Least of All

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



On why rural church-goers like to freeze in church

My dear Nephew Darren,
Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close *your* car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle, *Eustace*

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