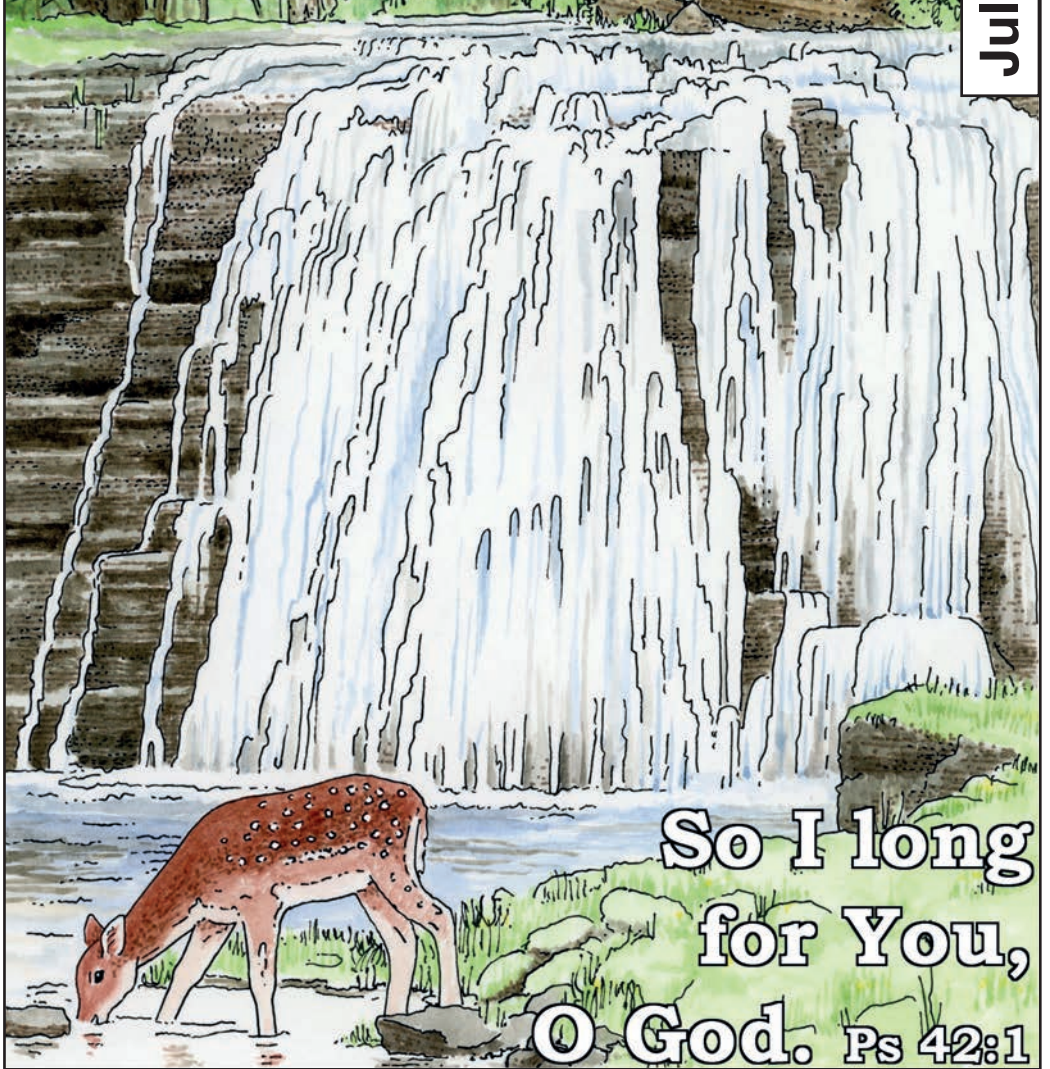


The Herald

50p

As the deer thirsts
for streams of water

July 2025



So I long
for You,
O God. Ps 42:1

Reservoir Group of Churches



The Parish of
St Margaret, Downham with
St Peter, South Hanningfield and
St Mary the Virgin, Ramsden Bellhouse

www.downhamchurch.org.uk

Ministry Team

Priest in Charge of the Reservoir Group of Parishes

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Keep up to date with events as they happen

www.facebook.com/downhamchurch

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www.facebook.com/ramsdensbellhousechurch

The Herald is published monthly by the Parochial Church Council of Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse. Registered charity no: 1209033. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Parochial Church Council.

The Herald is on sale in St Margaret's, St Mary's and St Peter's at 50p per copy. Alternatively you may purchase an annual subscription for £5.00. If you wish The Herald to be delivered to you please contact Robert Andrews on 01268 733817 or email distribution.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk

What's on when and where

Sunday 6 July - Trinity 3

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

Sunday 13 July - Trinity 4

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

5.00pm St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Flower Festival service

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 20 July - Trinity 5

11.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Group Holy Communion

Note: No services at Downham or South Hanningfield

Sunday 27 July - Trinity 6

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 3 August - Trinity 7

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

Note: There is no Family Service at St Margaret's Downham

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

Other dates for your diary

Flower Festival at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse (see pages 8 & 9)

Saturday 12 July 11.00am to 4.00pm

Blooms and Tunes concert by the Billericay Operation Society 5.00pm

Sunday 13 July 11.00am to 4.00pm

Flower Festival service 5.00pm

Flower Festival at St Peter's South Hanningfield (see page 19)

Saturday 6 September 12.00 noon to 5.00pm

Sunday 7 September 12.00 noon to 5.00pm

Flower Festival Songs of Praise 5.00pm

Monday 8 September 11.00am to 3.00pm

From the ministry team

Fruits of the Spirit

I love eating redcurrants. They are not to everyone's taste, I know, but I like them. I remember as a child, sitting outside in the garden, picking the redcurrants off their stalks so that they could be frozen, ready to be made into redcurrant jelly at a later date. Of course, what often happened is that a fair number ended up inside my mouth rather than in the bowl!

One of the joys of the summer months is fruit-picking - whether in your own garden or allotment, at a 'pick your own' farm, or even picking wild blackberries down a country lane!

Fruit is something that a plant produces which we (as well as birds and other wildlife) are able to enjoy and benefit from.

In the bible, in the New Testament, St Paul talks about 'Fruits of the Spirit'; these are attributes that, as followers of Jesus Christ, Christians try and live out. They are attributes that both we ourselves, but more importantly others, will benefit from. Paul lists these 'Fruits of the Spirit' as: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5.22-23).

These attributes are, of course, not easy a lot of the time, which is why they are called 'Fruits of the Spirit' - it is the Holy Spirit, that Jesus sent to us on the day of Pentecost, which helps us. We are not expected to be perfect, and we will certainly not be able to exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control all of the time. Yet they do, perhaps, make a helpful marker for how we might want to live and treat others, whether in school, at home, in work, or around the hotel swimming pool whilst on holiday!

Whatever your summer holds, I pray that it will be a good time for you - filled with many delicious fruits!

God bless,

The Revd Jacqui

What do we really know about Mary Magdalene?

Fake news is not new. Perhaps one old example is the assertion that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. Back in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory is said to have confused her with two other women in the Bible. Medieval Bible scholars also attempted to name an unidentified sinful woman who had washed and anointed the feet of Jesus. As Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the next

chapter, they regarded her as the same person! After this, many classical artists painted Mary in various states of undress, perpetuating a falsehood.

So what do we really know about Mary? The Gospels tell us that she came from Magdala, a town in Galilee, and Jesus healed her by casting out seven evil spirits. After this she followed Jesus, with other women, on His ministry providing resources. Later, Mary watched Jesus die on the cross, and having cared for His needs while He was alive, wanted to care for Him after His death.

It was when Mary went to anoint the body of Jesus at the tomb that the risen Jesus appeared to her. He told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief. We have to ask, do we have the same courage as Mary? How prepared are we to stand our ground to share Jesus with others in the face of those who mock and scoff at us?

Although we usually associate Mary with the Easter story, this month on 22 July, the Church celebrates her Feast Day. In this snapshot of Mary's life we know she had experienced great distress and suffering. After Jesus healed her, Mary expressed her gratitude by being utterly committed and devoted to Him.

Jesus can give everyone a new start; a new purpose and direction in life. Like Mary, we can thank Him for blessing us, loving us and forgiving us and moving into practical forms of service. Only Jesus can transform our lives so that we can glorify God in all that we do.

From the registers

Downham

Burial of ashes

1 June Graham Anthony Brooks

South Hanningfield

Funeral

20 June Brian Hancock

Wedding

21 June Daniel Carr & Sarah Moseley

How do you give money to the Church?

Our three churches continue to exist, only because of the generosity of those who worship regularly, or support our work in the wider community. At the Annual General Meeting, held at St Margaret's on 28 May, we heard that during 2024, the total cost of maintaining our three churches was £77,588, whilst income received was £79,303. We had a small surplus, but some of the income was restricted for specific projects, meaning that there was a £515 deficit on day to day expenditure.

Many of our regular worshippers, and a few who have since moved away, make regular monthly payments by bank standing order. This gives us a regular income and helps us to budget for bills. Others put money in the collection plate at services. Unfortunately many of us no longer carry much cash, but at St Margaret's we have a machine to accept card payments. We have had a primitive machine for several years, but during 2024 we replaced it with a new one that is much easier to use. Probably 50% of our casual collection income now comes by way of card payments.

When the three parishes merged at the beginning of 2024, I decided to open the new account with NatWest, partly because I worked for them for nearly 40 years, but mainly because they were the only "proper" bank left in Wickford. I was therefore disappointed to learn that NatWest is following in the footsteps of Barclays, Lloyds, HSBC, Santander & Halifax and will be closing its Wickford branch in September 2025. That means that I will have to travel to Basildon or Chelmsford to bank cash received by the three churches.

If you are one of those who currently puts cash in the collection plate, I would encourage you to consider either setting up a monthly standing order with your bank, or using the card machine when it is available. I try to take it along to St Peter's and to St Mary's when we have larger services there, and we may decide to purchase another one.

If you would like to discuss setting up a monthly standing order, please contact me.

Robert Andrews

07974 922104 email: treasurer@downhamchurch.org.uk

Downham WI

In June we were treated to a wonderful speaker/singer called Martyn Harrison who spoke about the life of the late great Harry Secombe. In between the humorous tales of Harry's life, Martyn would burst into song and what a wonderful voice he had. He sounded just like him.

As many of you know we start our meetings with 'Jerusalem' and Martyn lent his operatic voice to the occasion, which certainly encouraged all the ladies to sing louder.

In July we are sending 6 very 'intelligent' ladies to The Federation Quiz of Essex at Hatfield Peverel. Good luck to them and I am sure they will do Downham WI proud.

In August we are having our usual afternoon tea but with a difference. As we were unable to celebrate VE day in May, we have decided to celebrate VE and VJ days together. To enhance the occasion the food will be themed as well with spam sandwiches and jam tarts.

Of course we will be dressing up for the event 'forties' style with matching hats. Megan our guest singer will be entertaining us with songs from that era. I am sure it will be a joyous day.

Wendy

News from Downham School

It's been a fantastic and busy week at Downham, filled with memorable moments, exciting trips, and brilliant sporting achievements.

Monday morning saw lots of excited faces as we waved off our Year 6 pupils for their residential trip to Bawdsey Manor. The children were full of anticipation and ready for a week of adventure – and they certainly didn't disappoint!

We are incredibly proud of how they embraced every opportunity and represented our school so well. Their behaviour was excellent throughout, and they truly lived out our school vision of "Soaring to New Heights." From outdoor challenges to new friendships and shared laughs, it's been a week they'll never forget. We're sure families are looking forward to hearing all about it over the weekend. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Sutters, Mrs Tapley and Mr Poulson for organising and accompanying the trip – your hard work made this experience possible.

Thursday was a particularly sporty day! Our Year 2 children took part in the Billericay Schools' Mini Olympics, participating in a variety of fun and challenging activities. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and energy were a joy to watch. Meanwhile, pupils from across Key Stage 2 competed in the Berlesduna Football and Netball competitions at The Willows Primary School. Our teams demonstrated great sportsmanship, determination and skill – we are so proud of all who took part.

A big thank you to the many parents who helped with transport – these events simply wouldn't be possible without your support.

On Friday, we welcomed future members of our school community as the children from Ramsden Pre-School came for a visit. It was lovely to see them exploring their new surroundings and beginning to feel at home. We look forward to seeing them again soon as they start their exciting journey with us in September.

Thank you to all the staff, parents, and children who have made this such a positive week. Whether at Bawdsey Manor, on the sports field, or welcoming new faces, the spirit of our school community continues to shine. We wish everyone a safe and sunny weekend. Enjoy some rest, stay cool, and we'll see you all refreshed next week.

St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

July is an exciting month for us as we look forward to our Flower Festival on Saturday and Sunday 12 & 13 July, with a concert on the Saturday by members of the Billericay Operatic Society. We will close the Flower Festival with an informal service, mainly of hymns, at 5.00pm on the Sunday. We are indebted to Gail Carpenter, who is organising this weekend for us. You will find full details on pages 8 & 9. We hope to see you there. Please tell your friends about it and bring them along.

Ramsden Heath Social Club

Our regular monthly BINGO NIGHT will be on Friday 4 July at the normal time of 8.00pm. Just £1.00 to play plus £2.00 for each book you would like to play with. All ages welcome. FREE tea/coffee/biscuits at the half-time break, but please feel free to bring other drinks/snacks of your own.

On Saturday 19 July we have a QUIZ NIGHT which starts at 7.45pm. Another of our popular quizzes. Teams of 8 max. Tickets available now priced at Members £3.00, £6.00 for Guests, Children £2.00.

Prizes for the winners (& losers!) Please bring your own drinks & snacks.

All our events take place in Ramsden Heath Village Hall, Dowsetts Lane.

For more information/tickets please contact:

Dave Quinney on 07950 309524 or Dave Charlton on 07940 540819

FLOWER FESTIVAL

*A Year in the Life
of the Church*



ST MARY'S CHURCH
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE
12th-13th July 2025
11.00am – 4.00pm

BLOOMS AND TUNES

A MUSICAL CONCERT

MEMBERS OF BILLERICAY OPERATIC SOCIETY

12TH JULY 2025 • 5.00PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH • RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE



TICKETS COST £10 (INCLUDING REFRESHMENT)

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM GAIL 07715386228 OR BERYL 01245601298

Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon

**Ramsden Heath Village Hall
Dowsetts Lane CM11 1HX**

Tuesday 8 July 2.00 to 4.00pm

Thank you all for coming along to last month's Coffee Afternoon and with the amount raised we donated £100 to Race for Life which one of our Cupcakes achieved and £50 towards a Memorial for a good friend to the Village who sadly passed away. Mr Ted Branch, helped so many people either as a St John's First Aid volunteer or people on the allotments who needed help. He will be greatly missed.

At next month's Coffee Afternoon we hope to welcome a representative from the Technology Enabled Care Team re alarms, sensors and smart technology who will be there to give advice to anyone who is interested. Also the money raised on that day will be going to St Luke's Hospice and a volunteer from that Charity hopes to come along.

It was also nice to welcome a couple of new people who came along last month and as we always say everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a chat for £1.50 for a yummy piece of homemade cake and a cuppa for 50p.

Enjoy the sunshine

Ramsden Cupcakes

Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

On 5 June we held our annual Summer Buffet. Around 60 people enjoyed a grand feast of meats, fish, quiches, salads, cheeses and a choice of great desserts. Our thanks to Rita Elcock, who planned, shopped and prepared it all. Thanks also to those who helped set up the hall and buffet as well as clearing away at the end of the evening. A good time was had by all!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 3 July when David Willox will be giving tips and tricks on Preparation of vegetables for showing. Just in time to prepare for the Summer Show on 2 August.

Summer Show

Saturday 2 August. Ramsden Heath Village Hall

This is the time to look at your gardens and allotments and choose the best to enter the Summer Show. The closing date for members' entries is Wednesday 30 July. Children's entries need to be confirmed by Monday 28 July. Have a look at the Schedule and see what you can come up with to impress the judges. Details of entries will be found in the Society Schedule.



Members at the Summer Buffet

Gardens Visit

Sunday 3 August 2025. Helmingham Hall Gardens, near Stowmarket in Suffolk. The Festival of Classic & Sports Cars exhibition is being held on this day.

The cost of the day is £25 per person which includes the coach to and from the event and entrance to the gardens and classic cars exhibition. Please contact either Sue Lowing, 01268 712827, Mobile: 07816 600604, email: susan.lowing@btinternet.com or Rita Elcock, 01268 733283, Mobile: 07946 059878, email on t.elcock@talktalk.net to book your seat.

Ramsden Heath celebrates the 80th anniversary of VE Day and raises money for SSAFA

On 4 May, a community picnic in the park was held in Norton Meadows. Although the weather was cool and breezy, over 200 residents came and enjoyed commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

The event began with the arrival of the Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr Janette Potter, and was followed by an act of commemoration in which the lives of all those who served their country both in battle and on the home front, were remembered during a minute's silence.

Afterwards, people enjoyed their picnics while being entertained by the Ladybirds Song Group. There was a variety of other activities including family games, a photo booth featuring 1940's characters "Tommy and Vera", vintage vehicles, a children's scale traction engine ride and a Second World War quiz. The afternoon finished with the National Anthem.

A raffle was held to raise funds for SSAFA, the armed forces charity which supports both serving members of the armed forces, veterans and their families. A huge thank you to Jennie Kohter for organising the raffle which raised over £700. The sale of hot drinks, plants and other donations, together with the raffle, raised in excess of £1,000.

A huge thank you to all our marvellous volunteers who organised and set up the event; as ever, a splendid team! Thanks also to Clive for providing the sound system which greatly added to the welcome and ambience of the event and Julie in the parish office who was such a huge support by printing materials and liaising with so many people and organisations. We were also grateful to our sponsors: Henton Kirkman estate agents, South Hanningfield Parish Council and Ramsden Heath Village Hall.



Speaking after the event, Don Duncan, the area co-ordinator for SSAFA, said that the funds the community have raised will go to local beneficiaries who

have served their country both in the Second World War and in more recent conflicts.

St Peter's South Hanningfield

Flower Festival

By the time you receive this copy of *The Herald*, our annual Flower Festival will be only two months away. We hope you have the date in your diary and you are telling your friends and family about it. See page 19 for more details. Just a reminder it starts on **Saturday 6 September** and we open at 12.00 noon. We will be open again on Sunday 7 September and on Monday 8 September. At 5.00pm on Sunday we have our informal **"Songs of Praise"** service in the church to which all are welcome. We will have our usual fantastic displays of flowers and an extensive variety of refreshments for you to enjoy. We hope to have a few more stalls this year and we will again have a play area for the children. If you have a four-legged friend we will be pleased to welcome them too.

The Flower Festival is the main fundraising activity at St Peter's, however there are many upfront costs which have to be met. In the past several generous benefactors have provided sponsorship for the event and we hope we can rely on their continuing support. If you feel able to offer sponsorship large or small, please contact Robert Andrews the parish treasurer at treasurer@southhanningfieldchurch.org.uk If you are a UK taxpayer we would encourage you to Gift Aid your donation which will increase its value by 25%. Please note we will not be dedicating flower arrangements to specific sponsors.

We would welcome donations of second hand books, plants for the plant stall, cakes for the cake stall and raffle prizes.

We also need volunteers to help with various tasks. Whether that is helping to tidy up the churchyard before the event, erecting the marquees, helping to serve the refreshments, washing up, helping to park cars, the list is endless. If you are able to volunteer your services, please contact Sascha Spriggs on 01268 711059.

South Hanningfield Village Hall

South Hanningfield Summer Show on Saturday, 12 July from 12 noon to 6.00pm. This year, it will be the 40th Anniversary year of the rebuilding of South Hanningfield Village Hall so there will be even more reason for a celebration and bringing the local community together. This Free Entry village event will be outside either on the Tye green (by kind permission of South Hanningfield Parish Council) or in the field beside the village hall

by kind permission of the landowner. The village hall will also be open to showcase its use on that day. There will be local entertainment as well as a wide range of crafts, traders, community stalls, children's activities, food and drinks stalls. Thank you to Pronto Training who will be sponsoring their First Aid services and Tina Wing Business Photography for sponsoring their photography services at the event. Thank you to South Hanningfield Parish Council for sponsoring the cost of the children's entertainment. Thank you to Bond Residential for sponsoring the letting boards and Monster Parties for the big banner promoting the event in the village. We will have a Raffle with a range of exciting prizes to be won! Thank you to the following for the prizes: Asda Chelmsford, East of England Co-Op, Essex & Suffolk Water, Everyman Cinema, Express yourself paint parties, Team Sport Karting, Greggs, PippFitness, Ingatestone Saddlery, Kingpins Bowl, Mega Centre Rayleigh, Noah's Adventure Golf Park, Perrywood Garden Centre, RHS Hyde Hall, Spar, The Bark Park Woodlands Adventure, The Old Windmill, The Super Troopers Line Dance Club, Usborne Books, Whitegates Farm and Writtle Maze. Chelmsford Mayor Councillor Jannetta Sosin will be attending to open the event. Thank you to The Hanningfield Treat Company who will be making a special cake to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the hall which will be cut by the Chelmsford Mayor. If anyone can help in anyway, please let Clive know on email vallisc@aol.com or phone 07891 653238.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) We are holding our village hall AGM on Tuesday, 22 July from 7.30pm. This is an open invitation to all to attend. If you would like to join the committee, please let Clive know on vallisc@aol.com and he will email the nomination form to you.

Magic Evening on Saturday, 27 September, doors open from 7.00pm. The tickets cost £8 each adult and £3 for children over 10 years. Bring your own drinks and snacks. There will also be a Raffle. For further information, email vallisc@aol.com or phone 07891 653238.

Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 22 November from 10.30am to 4.00pm. There will be lots of Christmas crafts, gifts, festive refreshments and a Raffle. Free entry. Further details about the Christmas Fayre will be in future editions of The Herald.

Raffle Prizes Needed If anyone has any suitable items that could be used as Raffle prizes, please can you donate them to us which would be used at future fundraising events for the hall. The committee would be very grateful.

No Parking on Pavement by Hall South Hanningfield Village Hall Management Committee requests that vehicles don't park up on the pavement outside the village hall because of the health and safety risks. Please alert the volunteer committee if you see such vehicles parked in this way outside the hall on 07891 653238.

SOUTH HANNINGFIELD SUMMER SHOW

Saturday, 12th July 2025

12 noon - 6pm – FREE ENTRY

South Hanningfield Village Tye/Fields and Village Hall
South Hanningfield, CM3 8HL



Programme includes:

Entertainment throughout!

Over 60 various crafts, traders, charity and community stalls

Karate display, Zumba demonstration, dance displays

Historical photo display

Children's activities inc Punch & Judy, children's painting, Dinosaur encounters, dog mascot to name a few!

Food/Drinks stalls, Licensed Bar

Raffle and More!

For further information

Email: vallisc@aol.com Phone: 07891 653238

Supported by



South Hanningfield Parish Council

All funds raised from this event will go towards improvements at the village hall.

Registered Charity No. 301402

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library visit South Hanningfield Village Hall every three weeks.

Day of visit: Tuesday Time of visit: 11.25pm to 11.55pm

Next visit date is 15 July.

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm

Wednesday, 9 July.

Please call the listed contacts below to book a place.

Pilates & Keep Fit

Monday 9.45am – 10.45am

Thursday 10.30am – 11.30am

Contact Hayley on 07758 427379

Strollercise Dance

Monday 11.15am – 12.15pm

Tel: 07952 791183

Email: lynne.strawford@sky.com

No booking is required, just turn up.

Puppy Dog Training Classes

Monday from 6.00pm and 7.00pm

Dog training for puppies of all ages

Contact Rachel on 07484 706085 or

email Rachel@PuppyPotentialDogTraining.co.uk

****NEW** Line Dancing**

Tuesday afternoons 12.30pm-1.30pm

Contact Richard from the Super Troopers Line Dance Club

email thesupertroupersldc@gmail.com or tel 07740 360554

Karate and Kick Boxing

Tuesday evenings:

5.30pm Children's Karate

6.30pm Advanced Children's Karate

7.30pm Senior Karate

7.30pm Kick Boxing

Free first classes at all sessions

Phone number to contact for Leah and Richard is 07934 213010

1-1 Ballroom and Latin lessons and wedding dance lessons

available with Callie every Wednesday afternoon and evening from 3pm £30 for a 45-minute lesson. Please contact Callie on 07885 630241

****NEW** Tai Chi**

11.30am to 12.30pm Thursdays

Tel Sen 07853 239103 or email senfitness@outlook.com

Yoga and Zumba Thursday night

Zumba 6.30pm to 7.20pm and Vinyasa Flow Yoga 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Pay as you go.

Tel: Charlene on 07772 443028 or email info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk

Upholstery Class

Friday morning 9.30am – 1.00pm

Contact Fiona on 01621 776586 or 07887 507208

Zumba Saturday mornings

Zumba 9.20am to 10.20am

Pay as you go

Tel: Charlene on 07772 443028 or email info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk

If you would like to book the South Hanningfield Village Hall for any regular activities or events, please call Sandra Graves, our Bookings Secretary on 07396 546050 or email shvhall@gmail.com to check availability and prices.

Please continue to support our local village hall in 2025 and if there are any other ways you can help us, let us know. Please contact the Chairman, Clive Vallis for further information on 07891 653238.

Website <https://e-voice.org.uk/shanningfieldvillagehall>

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/southhanningfieldvillagehall>

All in the month of July

It was:

250 years ago, on 1 July 1775 that the British Parliament brought in the New England Restraining Act. This forbade its North American colonies from trading with anyone other than Britain, Ireland, and the British West Indies. The colonies were also forbidden to fish in the Atlantic without permission.

175 years ago, on 2 July 1850 that Robert Peel, Prime Minister (1834-35, 1841-46) died. He founded the Metropolitan Police Service and is seen as the father of modern British policing.

100 years ago, on 21 July 1925 that racing driver Malcolm Campbell became the first person to travel at over 150 mph. He set a new land speed record of 150.87 mph at Pendine Sands in Wales in a Sunbeam 350HP. He also went on to break the 250 mph and 300 mph records, in 1932 and 1935.

80 years ago, on 5 July 1945 that WW2 leader Winston Churchill lost the General Election to Clement Attlee's Labour Party.

75 years ago, on 5 July 1950 that the Law of Return was passed in Israel. It granted all Jews the right to immigrate to Israel.

Also 75 years ago, on 24 July 1950 that the first rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida. It reached a height of 25 miles.

65 years ago, on 9 July 1960 that US President Dwight D Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev traded threats over the future of Cuba.

60 years ago, on 8 July 1965 that Great Train Robber Ronnie Briggs escaped from Wandsworth Prison in London. He lived in Brazil until 2001, when he returned to London and was re-imprisoned. Released in 2009, he died in 2013.

40 years ago, on 13 July 1985 that the two Live Aid concerts were held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, as well as at other venues such as Sydney and Moscow. They raised millions of pounds for famine relief in Africa.

30 years ago, on 16 July 1995 that Amazon.com first opened its website to the public

25 years ago, on 11 July 2000 that Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury (1980 – 1991) died..

25 years ago, on 25 July 2000 that an Air France Concorde crashed outside of Paris, shortly after taking off for New York. It killed all 109 people on board, along with four people on the ground.

20 years ago, that the 7 July (2005) London bombings took place. The coordinated series of four suicide bomb attacks on London's transport system during the morning rush hour killed 56 people and injured more than 700. It was the worst-ever terrorist attack on Britain, and the country's first attack by suicide bombers.

Also 20 years ago, on 28 July 2005 that the IRA ended its 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland and ordered all units to dump their weapons. IRA leadership said that they would continue their campaign exclusively through peaceful means

10 years ago, on 14 July 2015 that NASA's New Horizons space probe, launched in 2006, completed the first-ever flyby of the dwarf planet Pluto, and returned close-up photos.

St Peter's Church

Church Lane
South Hanningfield
CM3 8HW

Invites you to our

Flower Festival 2025 “A Posy of Poetry”



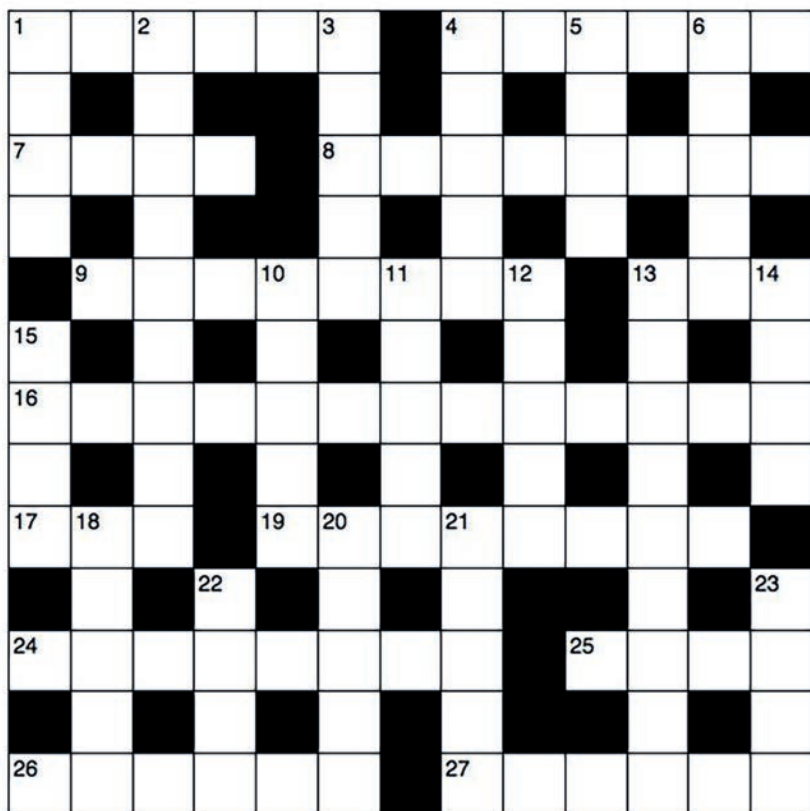
Saturday 6 September 12.00noon - 5.00pm with outside Fete

Sunday 7 September 12.00noon - 5.00pm with outside Fete
with Songs of Praise service at 5.00pm

Monday 8 September 11.00am - 3.00pm

Light lunches and refreshments available each day

Puzzle corner



Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)

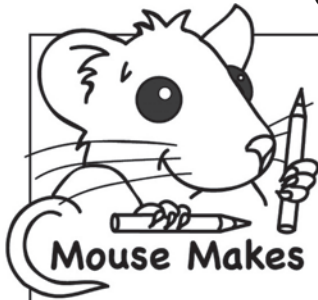
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams'
(Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in
Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

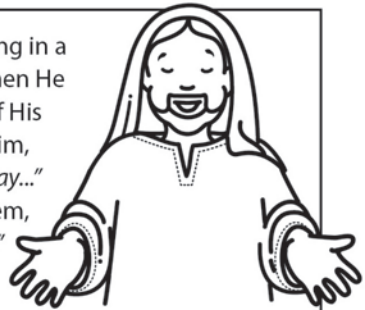
- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls'
(Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from
Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the
gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across
The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is
like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist'
(Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with
me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one
(Daniel 5:31) (4)

Answers on page 33

Children's pages



"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, *"Lord, teach us to pray..."* And He said to them, *"When you pray, say..."*"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

but _____
us from _____.

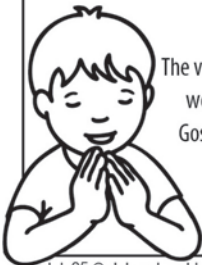
For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen



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



Fill in the
missing
words of
the Lord's
Prayer
then find
them and
these extra
words in the
word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer**
we say today come from the
Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
*Which version do you
use in your church?*



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Ruth chapters 1 and 2

When famine came to Bethlehem, Elimelech took his family to the nearby country of Moab. The two sons married local girls.

But Elimelech and his sons died, leaving Naomi, Orpah and Ruth as widows.



Naomi told her daughters-in-law she was returning to Bethlehem.



Go back to your parents' homes.

The girls cried, and Orpah left, but Ruth stayed.



I will stay with you. Your people and your God will be mine.



So Naomi and Ruth went back to Bethlehem.

Call me 'Mara' not 'Naomi' * because God has made my life bitter.



* 'Naomi' means 'Pleasant' 'Mara' means 'Bitter'

It was the start of the barley harvest. Poor people were allowed to glean - to pick up the ears of grain that had been dropped. Ruth went out to glean.



She picked a field, asked if she could glean, then worked hard



The field's owner, Boaz, arrived.

Who's that girl?



That's Ruth, who came from Moab with Naomi.



Boaz told Ruth she was welcome to work in his fields.

He told her to join his workers at lunch-time, and made sure she had more than enough to eat.



Ruth worked hard and took home a huge bag of grain.

I worked in Boaz's field.



He is a near relative!

Ruth worked all through the barley and wheat harvests in Boaz's fields.





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Smile lines

Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. “Why does she do that?” whispered one. “I expect she’s studying for her final exams,” came the reply.

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: “Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver.”

It’s cool

I was at summer scout camp where the final service was to be taken by a bishop. It was a very hot, humid day and the clergy from local churches were slowly melting in their various heavy robes. Finally, one snapped: “When is that flipping bishop going to turn up?”

Whereupon a man close by, dressed in Scouts shirt, tie and short trousers, said mildly: “I’m already here.”

No worries

A 102-year-old lady was asked if she had any worries about the future. She replied: “Not since I got my eldest son into an old people’s home.”

Vatican

Once asked how many people worked in the Vatican, Pope John XXIII replied: “Oh, about half.”

Open wide

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: ‘Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.’

What exactly is ‘a lie’?

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what ‘lying’ is. He wrote: “A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble.”

Baptism

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

Vote carried

The vicar was ill in hospital and so the churchwarden went to visit. Trying to cheer him up, the churchwarden said: “We missed you at PCC last night. We even put forward a resolution to wish you a speedy recovery. It was passed by 14 votes to 12.”

Contacting The Herald

Contributions to the August edition

Copy for the next edition of The Herald should be sent by email to Robert Andrews at theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk by **Thursday 17 July**. Please send files in .doc, .docx or .rtf format. Because we wish to maintain a common house style please keep any formatting to an absolute minimum and do not embed photographs or other artwork. If you wish to include photographs or other artwork they should be sent separately in .jpeg or .pdf format. If you are unable to use email or are unsure about file types please telephone Robert on 01268 733817, but be aware that the telephone line has BT Call Guardian installed to deter nuisance callers, therefore you may have to announce your name and press the # key in order to be put through.

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If you wish us to produce artwork for you this can be arranged for a small one-off fee.

Answers to the Crossword puzzle

ACROSS: 1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thieve.

DOWN: 1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.

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