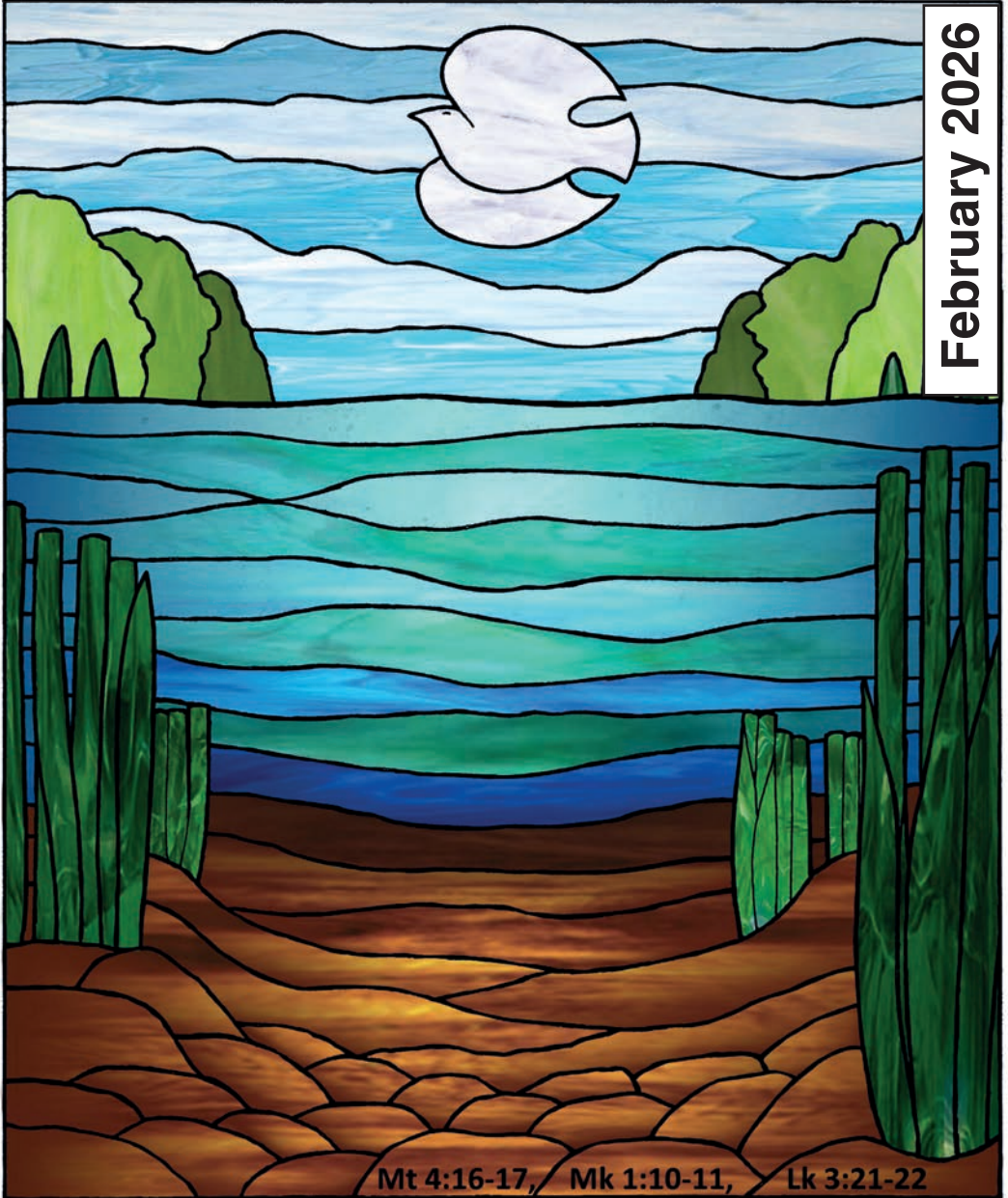


# The Herald

50p

February 2026



Mt 4:16-17, Mk 1:10-11, Lk 3:21-22

# 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](http://www.downhamchurch.org.uk)

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## Ministry Team

### Priest in Charge of the Reservoir Group of Parishes

#### The Revd Jacqui Pearson

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### **Keep up to date with events as they happen**

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## What's on when and where

### Sunday 1 February - Presentation of Christ

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

### Sunday 8 February - 2 before Lent

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

### Sunday 15 February - 1 before Lent

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Group Holy Communion

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

### Wednesday 18 February - Ash Wednesday

10.00am All Saints Stock Reservoir Group  
Holy Communion and  
imposition of ashes

7.00pm St Margaret's Downham Reservoir Group  
Sung Eucharist and  
imposition of ashes

### Sunday 22 February - Lent 1

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

### Sunday 1 March - Lent 2

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

## Other dates for your diary

**Chelmsford Deanery Day Saturday 28 February** 9.30am to 3.30pm at  
Meadgate Church, Mascalls Way, Great Baddow, CM2 7NS

We are one of 31 parishes making up Chelmsford Deanery. You are invited to attend this free event (bring your own lunch). There will be worship, workshop sessions and networking opportunities. Come and hear about sources of support, ideas and success stories. For more information and to book a place please email: [chelmsforddeanerysynod@gmail.com](mailto:chelmsforddeanerysynod@gmail.com)

## From the ministry team

### Light of the World

Christmas 2024 I was given a wonderful candle holder. It has lots of little LED lights within it that light up when the candle is lit. When I light the candles all the little LED lights flicker - providing a beautifully atmospheric glimmer on a dreary winters' evening. I know many of us like to light candles in our homes (safely, of course!). They add warmth, atmosphere, and maybe a nice scent, to our rooms.

In church we light candles every week; candles in church remind us of the presence of Jesus with us. In the bible he is referred to as 'The Light of the World'. His spirit and his teachings remain with us and guide us through the light and dark times of life.

On 2 February, or the nearest Sunday, the church celebrates the Feast of Candlemas - when Jesus was presented, by his parents, at the Temple in Jerusalem (as all first born Jewish sons were). Mary and Joseph were greeted there by two elderly people, Simeon and Anna. Both had been waiting many years to see God's chosen one, the Messiah, arrive. Both knew, without Mary and Joseph saying anything, that this baby was the one they had been waiting for. Simeon burst into song and he sang:

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel

(Luke 2. 29-32)

Candles can bring joy and comfort to our homes. For Christians, candles are a reminder that Jesus, the Light of the World, who out of love died for us, is always with us (Traditionally people would bring their candles from home to church on Candlemas be blessed, reminding them that Jesus is with them everywhere - at church and at home).

I pray that as we move through Candlemas and the darkness of winter to the brighter days of spring to come, you will know the Light of the World with you, whether you are a fan of candles or not!

God bless,

*The Revd Jacqui*

## Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Day

This year Shrove Tuesday falls on 17 February.

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: *"And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."*

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3 February and 9 March.

### Shrove Tuesday Supper

Stock church has a Shrove Tuesday supper to which all are welcome. If you would like to attend, please speak to the Revd Jacqui for more information.

## From the registers

### Downham

#### Funeral

15 December Victor Charles Taylor

### Ramsden Bellhouse

#### Funeral & Burial

15 December Marion Shillum

# **St Margaret's Downham**

## **Two unexpected visitors**

As we were having refreshments after the morning service on Sunday 21 December, two men walked in and asked if they could look around the church. They introduced themselves as John Vaughan-Jones and his son Dylan. From conversation with them we discovered that John's grandfather William Vaughan-Jones had been Rector of Downham from 1937 until 1955 and the statue of St Margaret over the door to the toilets is dedicated to his memory. John's father Frederick and his uncle were also priests. His mother Jean Claydon grew up in Downham, living first at 64 School Road, then at 68 School Road. She was a Sunday School teacher, bell-ringer and played the organ from time to time at St Margaret's. She was also a talented artist, producing the painting of the interior of St Margaret's before the fire, that appears in our history booklet. John's parents married in St Margaret's in 1952 and they then moved to South Africa. John was born and grew up there but has since moved to Australia. His son Dylan is currently working in London and John was visiting him, whilst celebrating his 65th birthday. They were taking the opportunity to visit the five parishes in England where John's grandfather, father and uncle served as ministers.

## **Christmas celebrations**

Christmas started at St Margaret's with Downham School's Christingle service on Monday 15 December, followed on Sunday 21 December when we sung carols during our Eucharist service. Christmas Eve started with the Christingle service at 3.00pm which was attended by about 170 people, including about 60 children. The collection taken at that service was for The Children's Society and we were able to send them £500 (which included the collection taken at St Mary's Carol Service). Thank you to everyone for your generous support. We continued, welcoming about 50 people to Midnight Mass, then a smaller group for the service of Holy Communion at 10.00am on Christmas Day. We estimate that, across the three churches of the Downham Group, about 300 people attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day which was the most we have seen for several years.

## **Ash Wednesday - 18 February**

We commence the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. This year the five churches that make up the Reservoir Group will have two services. The first at 10.00am to be held at All Saints Stock will be a said service of Holy Communion together with the imposition of ashes for those who wish to participate. Then at 7.00pm we have a Sung Eucharist, also with the imposition of ashes at St Margaret's.



# Downham Village Hall

## QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
in the Village Hall  
at 7.00 for 7.30 start**

**£10 per head (tables of 8)**

**Bring your own food and drinks**

### Raffle

**To book please call:  
Mike Roome 07770 795388**

**All proceeds will contribute to the cost of maintaining the Village Hall  
(Registered Charity no. 296139)**

**The Village Hall is available for hire and if you would like further information  
please call 01277 413343 or e-mail [contact@downhamvillagehall-esssex.co.uk](mailto:contact@downhamvillagehall-esssex.co.uk)**

## Downham WI

As life settles down in the New Year our first meeting was a busy one. An earlier start of 12.30pm where soup and French bread was served followed by some lovely songs from Debbie, a relation of one of our members.

We then had the pleasure of Paul and Angie of the Guide Dogs Charity visiting us and where we had the pleasure of presenting them with a cheque for £2,000. I would like to thank everyone that helped us fund-raise for this worthy cause.

The Tuesday Morning club are looking forward to their belated Christmas lunch at Vita Bella in the first week of February.



We are endeavouring to enter 2 tables for the Downham Village Hall Quiz night on 20 February. It's great fun and helps towards the upkeep of the hall. If you are interested then you can contact me for details.

*Wendy*

Tel: 07778 809723

## **Downham Church of England School**

2026 is the National Year of Reading and, at Downham Church of England Primary School, we are excited to embrace this national campaign. From our Early Years classroom right up to our oldest pupils in Year 6, we aim to develop a love of reading in every child. For some, this reading for pleasure will take the shape of reading fiction which transports them to new lands and a myriad of fantastical creatures. For others, it may be recipes, sports magazines, instruction manuals or even environmental print (road signs and billboards).

One of my favourite books, which I love to share with the children at school, is "Elizabeth and Larry" by Marilyn Sadler. This book describes a friendship between Elizabeth (who is "pushing forty") and Larry, an alligator who arrives in a box of oranges from Florida. The unlikely duo's relationship develops until they are more like family than friends. Other people comment on their differences and, for a while, this has a significantly negative impact until they realise that true friendship looks past differences and connects hearts and minds.

This message resonates so clearly with the message of the Bible. Think of Jesus' choice of disciples – fishermen, a tax collector, a nationalist zealot – yet each one played an important role in the founding of the Early Church and the establishment of the Christian faith around the world. Other people with whom Jesus connected included Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus, Mary Magdalene and Nicodemus. On the surface, these friendships seemed unlikely as they challenged many of the social norms of Jesus' time. Today, the Bible challenges us to look beyond ourselves and our regular social circle and to reach out in love to others in need of a friend. Indeed, often times we are the ones who are in need of a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on and a new perspective on the problems we face.

At Downham Church of England Primary School, we aim to be inclusive, looking out for each other and searching out opportunities to build friendships. It is a joy to see friendships within classrooms, but even more so to watch relationships develop across the year groups and even between adults and children around the school. Older children help younger ones to find lost

coats and gloves, adults and children plan World Book Day outfits together, and high-fives are regularly exchanged in the corridors. We celebrate our differences and all that makes us unique but we also seek to connect with others around us in meaningful and life-changing ways. Our hope and prayer is that these are the lessons which will impact the children and remain with them long after they have moved on from Downham.

*Lynne Boyd*

RE & Humanities Leader at Downham Church of England Primary School

## **Ramsden Heath Social Club**

Our regular monthly BINGO is on Friday 6 February at 8.00pm. Just £1.00 to play plus £2.00 for each book you would like to play.

All welcome. FREE tea/coffee/biscuits at the half-time break, but please feel free to bring other drinks/snacks of your own.

The next event in February will be a QUIZ NIGHT on Saturday 21 February starting at 7.45pm.

Admission prices for this event are £3.00 for Members, £6.00 for Guests & £2.00 for Children. Teams of 8 maximum. Why not come along & test your general knowledge? Please bring your own drinks & snacks to this event.

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

## **Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon**

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

**2.00 to 4.00pm Tuesday 10 February**

It was great to see everyone at our last Coffee afternoon in January. We had two lovely ladies come along to tell us about the Billericay and Wickford Parkinsons Group which was very interesting. We are pleased to say that as usual, our 'customers' came up trumps and have donated £200 to the Group. Thank you again for your support.

We hope to see you in February to join us for a cuppa for 50p and piece of homemade cake for £1.50

Best wishes

*Ramsden Cupcakes*

# **St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse**

## **Christmas**

We were pleased to see a full church for our service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Thursday 18 December. The collection taken at the service was £127 which was donated to The Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who attended for your generous support.

## **Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society**

So the horrible month of January is nearly over and we can now start thinking about longer days and plans for the Spring.

Unfortunately our usual January get together planned for 8 January had to be cancelled due to the horrible weather and several of our members falling foul of colds and flu.

So we now look forward to our next meeting on Thursday 5 February which will be our AGM when we elect the coming year's Committee. Following the formal proceedings there will be time for a chat with a glass of wine and cheese and the 2026 Society Schedule will be available for collection on receipt of the annual subscription.

We will also be presenting one of our members with the Banksian Medal for the most points awarded in all the Shows in 2025.

We have a full and interesting programme lined up for 2026 and are always happy to welcome new members. Contact Sue Lowing (Chair) on 07816 600604 or email [susan.lowing@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.lowing@btinternet.com).



## **Ramsden Heath Luncheon Club**

On 16 December the Luncheon Club held their annual Christmas dinner in Ramsden Heath Village Hall. We welcomed members, village guests and representatives from the Parish Council and Village Hall, serving 47 dinners. Our guests were welcomed with a festive glass of wine before enjoying a

traditional roast turkey dinner, followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies, fruit and chocolates – a feast indeed!

Between the main course and dessert our diners were entertained by Downham Church of England School choir who sang a collection of Christmas carols and songs. Many thanks to Shirley Gowland for organising this and choir mistress, Rebecca, for arranging such a lovely concert.

We would like to thank South Hanningfield Parish Council for their very generous donation and constant support to the Lunch Club, also Ramsden Heath Village Hall Committee for letting us have the Hall rent free for the occasion, all of which made it possible for us to provide a lunch free of charge to all our guests. Last, but by no means least, thanks to our wonderful team of helpers who worked so hard to make the day enjoyable for our guests.

The Luncheon Club membership has grown over the past two years and we now have 31 people coming along to enjoy a full roast dinner and dessert followed by tea and coffee as well as time spent amongst good friends.

Our thanks to Ralph Thomason for continuing to organise our raffle throughout the year, all of which helps towards boosting funds.

We serve lunches on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at a very minimal cost and, although we are restricted in numbers, it is always good to welcome new members as, and when, space becomes available.

If you are interested please contact Barbara Stanton on 07528 789258. Email: [barbarastanton950@btinternet.com](mailto:barbarastanton950@btinternet.com).

*Barbara Stanton*



# St Peter's South Hanningfield

## Christmas Events South Hanningfield 2025

We are sorry that this may appear a belated thank you for supporting all our Christmas events, but this is simply due to printing timings! We would firstly like to give a huge thank you to Clive and Sandra for all the time and effort they put into our village hall events, without them both, these events simply would not happen, so we truly hope they know how much we appreciate them. We of course had enough time to mention the Carol Service and the Carol Singing in January's Herald so this month we are able to mention the remainder :-

### Christmas Coffee morning

A huge thank you to the Parish Council who kindly and generously funded our December coffee morning.

We were lucky enough to have a fantastic attendance with just over 50 local people joining us, enjoying each others company and the refreshments on offer, which included Christmas cake, mince pies, stollen, hot sausage rolls, chocolate yule log, panettone and of course mulled wine. The village hall was beautifully decorated and Christmas music was playing in the background.



We were also able to offer a small Christmas gift to all our attendees! There was a donation bucket towards repairs to the church and people very generously donated just over £100. We all had a wonderful time.

### Carols at the Village Hall

For the second year running we were able have carols in the Village Hall, again this was another successful event with attendees in the region of 80 even though the weather that evening was awful! A huge thank you must go to Denise Fleming for arranging for Rayleigh Brass band to perform all our favourite carols. We also appreciated the appearance of Father Christmas who visited us for a short time as well as the not so popular Grinch, who was up to non stop mischief! The generous refreshments were again kindly funded by the Parish Council.



It was a lovely evening thoroughly enjoyed by all, with donations, again to the church repairs, totalling just under £120!



### **Christmas Eve Service at St Peter's**

The church looked absolutely beautiful on Christmas Eve. It was candlelit throughout with lanterns outside leading attendees to the church door. Mulled wine was again on offer to assist with the singing of carols and we had just over 40 join us for this lovely service.





We have thoroughly enjoyed this Christmas season and hope that you did also. We thank you all for your continued support and hope to have some dates for your diary, including some new exciting events, ready for the next addition of *The Herald*.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

*Your Mission Control Ladies*

## **South Hanningfield Village Hall**

We have two further events over the next couple of months at the village hall as follows:

**St Patrick's Ceilidh** We have our Ceilidh Dance coming up on Saturday, 14 March, doors will open from 7.00pm. The Yardarm Ceilidh Band will be in attendance, with a caller to show dancers the steps to the music. Tickets cost £8 per person. There will be a cheap licensed bar and there will also be a Raffle. Tickets cost £8 per person and are selling fast as this has become a



popular annual event! For further information and to book your tickets, email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com) or phone 07891 653238.

**St George's Day** We have booked Tom Carradine musical act for Saturday, 25 April, doors will open from 7.00pm. Tickets are £15 each and bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will also be a Raffle! To book, please call Sandra on 07396 546050 or email [shvhall@gmail.com](mailto:shvhall@gmail.com)

**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.

## **Mobile Library**

The Mobile Library visits South Hanningfield Village Hall every three weeks.  
Day of visit: Tuesday Time of visit: 11.25pm to 11.55pm  
Next visit date is 10 February.

## **Regular Activities**

### **Village Coffee Morning**

Wednesday, 11 February

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm

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

### **Puppy Dog Training Classes**

Monday from 6.00pm

Dog training for puppies of all ages

Contact Rachel on 07484 706085 or

email [Rachel@PuppyPotentialDogTraining.co.uk](mailto:Rachel@PuppyPotentialDogTraining.co.uk)

### **\*\*NEW\*\* Minis/Pre-School Classes for 1-4 years**

Tuesdays from 9.30am – 10.15am

3-week trials available! Phonics with Robot Reg

Contact Laura Dock on email [2lauras@robotreg.co.uk](mailto:2lauras@robotreg.co.uk)

or 01268 956859 for more information.

### **Line Dancing**

Tuesday afternoons 12.30pm – 1.30pm (beginners)

and 1.30pm – 2.30pm (more advanced)

Contact Richard from the Super Troupers Line Dance Club

email [thesupertrouperstldc@gmail.com](mailto:thesupertrouperstldc@gmail.com) or tel 07740 360554.

### **Boxfit Personal Trainer**

Personal Trainer available from 7.00pm during Tuesday evenings.

For more information, contact Rachael, Boxfit instructor on

07912 344560.

### **1-1 Ballroom and Latin lessons**

Wedding dance lessons available with Callie every Wednesday afternoon and evening from 3.00pm £30 for a 45-minute lesson.

Please contact Callie on 07885 630241

### **Tai Chi Beginner Class**

11.45am to 12.45pm Thursdays

Tel Sen 07853 239103 or email [senfitness@outlook.com](mailto:senfitness@outlook.com) to find out more information.

### **Zumba and Yoga 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](mailto:info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk)

### **Upholstery Class**

Friday morning 9.30am – 1.00pm Contact Fiona on 01621 776586 or 07887 507208

### **Wickford Board Game Club**

Friday evenings from 6.00pm The club are a friendly mix of players of all ages and experience levels with a huge range of modern board games for those interested to come and try! For more information, contact Mike on 07958 456575 or look up the Wickford Board Game Club on Facebook.

### **Zumba Saturday mornings**

9.20am to 10.20am Pay as you go Tel: Charlene on 07772 443028 or

email [info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:shvhall@gmail.com) to check availability and prices.

Please continue to support our local village hall in 2026 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 February**

It was:

300 years ago, on 20 February 1726 that William Prescott, an American colonel in American Revolutionary War was born. Famous for giving the order: "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

200 years ago, on 4 February 1826 that James Fenimore Cooper's historical romance novel The Last of the Mohicans was published.

175 years ago, on 1 February 1851 that novelist Mary Shelley died, aged 53. Best known for her Gothic novel Frankenstein.

125 years ago, on 2 February 1901 that the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

80 years ago, on 11 February 1946, that the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version was published in 1611.

Also 80 years ago, on 14 February 1946 that the Bank of England was nationalised.

Also 80 years ago, on 19 February 1946 that mathematician and cryptanalyst Alan Turing presented a detailed paper for the national Physical Laboratory that gave the first reasonably complete design of a stored-programme computer.

70 years ago, on 11 February 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

65 years ago, on 9 February 1961 that the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.

50 years ago, on 11 February 1976 that John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating.

Also 50 years ago, on 23 February 1976 that the artist L S Lowry died. Known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men.

40 years ago, on 12 February 1986 that the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France. It was the agreement to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. The tunnel opened in 1994.

30 years ago, on 1 February 1996 that US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House, to discuss the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Also 30 years ago, on 15 February 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven in Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

25 years ago, on 12 February 2001 that the Human Genome Project announced the publication of the first complete working draft of the human genome.

Also 25 years ago, on 19 February 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex.

20 years ago, on 18 February 2006 that the Rolling Stones played the world's largest free rock concert on Copacabana beach, Rio de Janeiro. An estimated 2 million people attended.

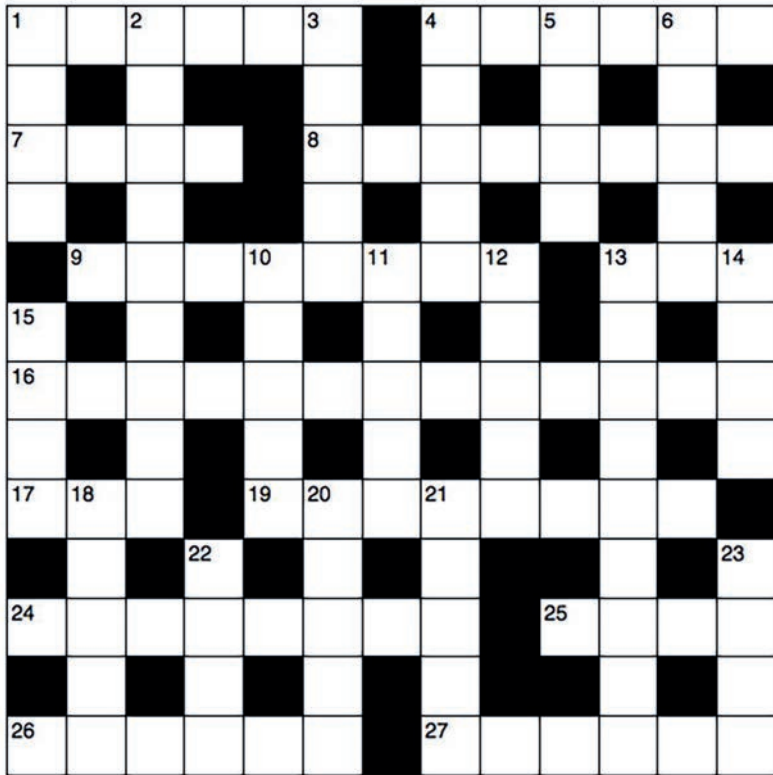
## **Ideas for Valentine's Day**

Valentine's Day was begun by Pope Gelasius the 1st in 496, in honour of St Valentine, the saint who had shown such kindness and love to all who crossed his path. It has become the day when we celebrate the joys of human love.

If you have a romance in your life, Valentine's Day is easy: you can celebrate your shared love with everything from a candlelit meal to red roses to love letters, to revisiting the place where you first met each other.

But even if you do not have a romance in your life, that need not stop you enjoying Valentine's Day (after all, the saint had no romance in his life). Instead, why not seek out and show love and kindness to several people? How about hosting a Valentine's meal to enjoy each other's company and to share God's love for us all? At the very least, why not be on the 'look-out' to do people a random act of kindness this month? Ask God to help you be sensitive to even a stranger who needs a helping hand.

## Puzzle corner



### Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 18

- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

### Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

### Answers on page 33

# Children's pages



Read the story in  
Luke 4:1-13



## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

## FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible

Learn God's word.



## SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God first

Worship only Him.

1

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



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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED  
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL  
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD  
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH  
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

## THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, trust

Him do not test Him.





# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.





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# Smile lines

## Hymns for Professionals

Dentist - Crown Him with many crowns  
Contractors - The Church's one foundation  
Obstetricians - Come labour on  
Golfers - There is a green hill far away  
Politicians - Standing on the promises  
Librarians - Let all mortal flesh keep silent

## God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. *"Grandpa, did God make you?"*

*"Yes, sweetheart,"* he answered, *"God made me a long time ago."*

*"Oh,"* she paused. *"Grandpa, did God make me too?"* Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, *"God's getting better at it, isn't He?"*

## Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: *"I'm drawing God."*

The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, *"They will in a minute."*

## Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

- We congratulate our youth group for raising nearly £500 for drug abuse.
- We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon.'
- Any church member aged over 18 can join our lay ministry programme. It requires a minimal amount of training and time. The first course is six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.
- The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring either a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert in a covered dish.
- Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order."

# Contacting The Herald

## Contributions to the March edition

Copy for the next edition of The Herald should be sent by email to Robert Andrews at [theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk) by **Thursday 12 February**. 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.

## Advertising in The Herald

All general enquiries about advertising should be addressed to Mike Roome on 07770 795388 or email [advert.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:advert.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk)

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## Answers to the Crossword puzzle

**ACROSS:** 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

**DOWN:** 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

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