

The Herald

50p

September 2026



Taste and see that the Lord is good.
The Lord's words are sweeter to me than honey.
Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103

Reservoir Group of Churches



— The Parish of —
**St Margaret's Downham,
St Peter's South Hanningfield and
St Mary the Virgin Ramsden Bellhouse**
✝

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Keep up to date with events as they happen

www.facebook.com/downhamchurch

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www.facebook.com/ramsdenbellhousechurch

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

Note: *There are currently no services at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse*

Sunday 6 September - Trinity 14

11.00am	St Margaret's Downham	All age Communion with Baptism
5.00pm	St Peter's South Hanningfield	Flower Festival Songs of Praise

Sunday 13 September - Trinity 15

11.00am	St Margaret's Downham	Sung Eucharist
Note:	No service at South Hanningfield	

Sunday 20 September - Trinity 15

11.00am	St Margaret's Downham	Group Sung Eucharist
Note:	No service at South Hanningfield	

Sunday 27 September - Trinity 16

11.00am	St Margaret's Downham	Sung Eucharist
Note:	No service at South Hanningfield	

Sunday 4 October - Trinity 17

10.00am	St Peter's South Hanningfield	Harvest Festival Holy Communion
11.00am	St Margaret's Downham	Family Service

Other dates for your diary

5 to 7 September - South Hanningfield Flower Festival

See page 6 for full details

Saturday 26 September - Macmillan Coffee Morning

at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse 10.00am to 12.00noon
see page 9 for full details

Saturday 17 October - An evening by lamplight

at St Peter's South Hanningfield 4.00 to 8.00pm
see page 14 for full details

Congratulations to The Revd Mrs Jacqui Cattle

Many of you joined the large congregation in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 15 August to witness the marriage of the Revd Jacqui to the Revd David Cattle, Vicar of Galleywood. It was a joyous occasion and we wish them well in their future life together.



You will find a selection of other photographs on our Facebook pages.

Changes to the ministry team page on the inside front cover

Following The Revd Jacqui's wedding she has a new name, a new address and a new email address, although her mobile phone number remains the same.

Nikki Firth has joined us as Curate in the Reservoir Group of Parishes. She will be ordained Deacon on 13 September. Her contact details have now been added to the page.

From the ministry team

The new curate!

My name is Nikki Firth, and I am a new curate. In case you are wondering, a curate is a trainee minister who, having completed their formal theological study, has been placed with an experienced priest to gain practical experience in a parish (like an apprentice). This is called curacy.

Having completed 3 years of part-time study at St Mellitus Chelmsford, I will be ordained deacon at Chelmsford Cathedral on 13 September, then in a year's time I will be ordained as a priest. I am delighted that I will be spending the next two and a half (ish) years, training with Revd Jacqui in the Reservoir Group of Churches.

During curacy, I will continue to live in Basildon with my husband Darren and our children Hayden (18) and Josie (16). After which (God willing) I will be moving on to pastures new.

This first part of curacy will be mostly learning about the area that I have been called to serve and meeting with people. This gives me a great reason to attend lots of coffee mornings, chat and eat cake. If you see me out and about, please do say hello!

Of course, curacy will not be all about drinking tea and eating cake. I will also have the privilege of coming alongside people during times of celebration and sadness, beginnings and endings and many of the bits in-between!

I love spending time chatting with people, listening to their stories and memories, hearing about hopes, dreams and all the other things that are of importance. Interestingly these things differ from person to person, and I love how each of us, even when we have much in common are still so unique.

Stories are important, they can help us understand each other and situations better. Jesus often used stories when teaching. We each have our own story, that we and others can learn from, I believe these are gifts to be shared.

I did not grow up in a Christian home, yet in 2012 a chain of events and an invitation to "come and see" led me to explore Christianity, and I was baptised

(christened) in the December.

When I gave my life to Jesus it felt that a physical emptiness that I had unknowingly been carrying was filled. For the first time that I could remember, I experienced a feeling of inner peace, which was beyond my own understanding.

As I experienced that life changing transformation, I looked back on my life and just like Mary Stevenson's poem, Footprints, I could see that the times when I had felt most alone and abandoned in life, those were the times that God had carried me through and guided me.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you. Wherever you are, whoever you may be, whatever your joys or your struggles. God's invitation is open for all, you are seen, known and loved and that invitation to "come and see" is open to all!

God Bless

Nikki

The 25th Anniversary of 9/11

25 years ago, on 11 September 2001, the terrorist attacks on America took place.

Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York, into the Pentagon, and into a field in Pennsylvania (following a passenger revolt – the intended target was Washington DC). 2,973 people were killed.

This year major national institutions in the US will mark the anniversary of that terrible day. In New York, a good number of Christian churches and interfaith groups are planning special services and memorial events.

This will include hourly musical offerings at St Paul's Chapel in New York City, in honour of the chapel's role as a refuge for the first responders.

Other events include a digital experience at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and various events by the New York City Fire Department, who lost 343 members that day, as well as the 400 members who have since died from World Trade Center-related illnesses. There will also be the iconic reading of the names of those who died, and the annual Tribute in Light installation, held at Ground Zero.

In the UK, the 25th anniversary of 9/11 will be remembered by a Memorial Concert held on Friday, 11 September at Southwark Cathedral (7:30 pm to 9:30 pm). A special guest performance by The Outcry Ensemble will present a programme of American and British music reflecting on loss, memory and the human cost of violence.



St Peter's Church



Church Lane
South Hanningfield
CM3 8HW

Flower Festival 2026



Saturday 5 September 12.00noon - 5.00pm with outside Fete

Sunday 6 September 12.00noon - 5.00pm with outside Fete
with Songs of Praise service at 5.00pm

Monday 7 September 11.00am - 3.00pm

Light lunches and refreshments available each day



From the registers

Downham

Burial of Ashes

16 August William Thomas Hills

Funeral & Burial

23 July Doris Margaret Polard

3 August Christine Anne Bronze

Wedding

24 July Sydney Clegg & Erin Lucid

South Hanningfield

Baptism

26 July Archie Flack

St Margaret's Downham

Gas leak and kitchen renovation

We have an annual service and safety inspection of our gas heaters and other appliances but when the engineer came recently to undertake this year's service he discovered a minor leak in the kitchen. As a result the gas supply to the church has been isolated for safety reasons. We have to replace a section of the main gas pipework running from the gas meter, under the kitchen units to a joint in the floor where the gas enters the back of the church.

The existing kitchen units were installed when the kitchen was created after the 1977 fire, so they are well past their expiry date. As it will be necessary to remove the base units in order to replace the gas pipe, we have instructed Curnicks who have recently done a fantastic job creating a new kitchen and toilet area in St Peter's, to fit new kitchen units in St Margaret's. We hope the work will be completed by mid-September.

Harvest Festival and lunch - 18 October

Make a note of the date in your diary. More details next month.

Downham WI

Well that's the summer holidays over with for another year and I hope you all had a nice time and it wasn't too hot for you.

The ladies thoroughly enjoyed our Afternoon Tea in August. We were entertained by Rumatica, a local group who were enjoyed by all.

May I remind you that we are holding a Quiz afternoon on 29 September in Downham Village Hall between 1.00pm and 4.30pm. Everyone is invited with tables of 8 people at a cost of £3.00 ahead. Tea and cake will be served for a small donation, proceeds to our nominated charity.

Another date for your diaries is our 'bring and buy' on 20 October 12.00noon to 4.00pm. All are welcome with proceeds to our nominated charity.

I would like to end with a thank you to St. Margaret's church who made a donation and a supply of red wool for our poppy making project for Remembrance Day. The poppy display will be on the Lych Gate at the church.

Wendy

News from Downham C of E School

Each September, we start again at Downham Church of England Primary School. We have rested well over the summer holidays and are eager to move forward with the next steps on our educational journeys. It was hard to say goodbye to our old Year 6 children but we know they are ready for new adventures and we wish them well as they begin Year 7 at their new schools. We hope to hear of their great achievements in the future! We know that our new Year 6 cohort are ready to step up as leaders at school and they are keen to take on the roles of Prefects, Sports Leaders and House Captains. They will also play a key role in welcoming our new starters in the Early Years Class, alongside Miss Proctor.

Each year group will have fresh challenges and new opportunities for learning and developing critical thinking skills, creativity, courage and collaboration. These 5Cs are our core values and it is our aim to help each pupil grow in these attributes as they soar to new heights (our school's vision). Our key Bible verse is Isaiah 40:31 *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

We know that each Downham pupil is blessed with a range of talents and we aim to encourage each one to explore and develop their God-given gifts and abilities. What a joy to be part of their academic, social and spiritual development! We also value your role as members of our local community – please pray with and for us at Downham C of E Primary School as we move into this new school year. Pray that we will know God's blessing and guidance in all we do. As ever, thank you for all your support and encouragement.

Lynne Boyd

Humanities & RE leader at Downham Church of England Primary School

Downham Village Hall

QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 9th October 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-essex.co.uk**

St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Saturday 26 September from 10.00am

Although the church remains closed because of damage to the ceiling, we intend to hold our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning as usual this year. We have access to the kitchen and toilets via a door that doesn't enter the main church. We will serve coffees in the churchyard using tents to protect us if the weather is inclement. We hope to see you there to support this very worthy charity.

Ramsden Heath Social Club

The club returns to regular activities with a BINGO session on Friday 4 September. Please note that we will now be starting at the earlier time of 7.30 pm ahead of those dark winter nights! For an admission fee of only £1 and £2 for each book you wish to buy, you can enjoy a relaxed evening in good company, tea/coffee and biscuits and the chance to be a winner!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The club AGM will be held on Friday 11 September from 8.00pm. We would like as many members as possible to attend this year, as there are important matters to discuss and we would also like members to complete updated contact details, both for data protection reasons and to ensure that we can continue to communicate effectively going forward. Subscriptions remain unchanged at £12 per person (cash on the day or online). Wine (or non-alcoholic alternatives) and nibbles will be served and there will be a few houses of free bingo. If you are not a member we will still be pleased to see you.

On Saturday 26 September we welcome back the fabulous **SID BOLAN BAND** to the club. If you haven't seen them before, I would urge you to come along: you will be in for a treat! Ticket prices are £5 for members, £8 for non-members.

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

For more information/tickets please contact:

Dave Quinney on 07950 309524 or email dave.quinney@hotmail.com
or Joan Parmenter 07779 175494

Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon

Ramsden Heath Village Hall
Dowsetts Lane CM11 1HX

Tuesday 8 September 2.00 to 4.00pm

Our August meeting was unexpectedly busy. We thought with holidays, etc. we would be short on numbers but it was the reverse and it was great to see so many people. We might have to start making more cakes!!!

We had the pleasure of donating to the representative from Billericay Food Bank £100 towards their charity. He said that times are tough and more and more people are needing the food banks and our money will go a long way in buying fresh produce. It is thanks to all our customers that we are able to support so many charities. This month will be the food bank in Wickford

and the RSPB who are struggling after all the wild fires that have happened recently.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September for a piece of homemade cake for £1.50 and a cuppa for 50p. Many of our customers are saying we should put the price up which we might have to do as the ingredients are getting more expensive. Under discussion.

Ramsden Cupcakes

Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

Report on Summer Show, August 2026

Finding vegetable and flower exhibits for our Summer Show this year was somewhat of a challenge due to the recent very hot weather, but our members made a tremendous effort and we were pleased to offer the judge a good selection of entries in the end. We also had plenty of cakes, handcraft, paintings, photos and children's entries to show our visitors later in the afternoon.

The best in show trophy was awarded to Trevor Elcock for his beautiful rose. Other trophy winners were Suzanne Dorrington, Rita Elcock, Teresa Flannigan, Lyn Hinson, Jackie Seppings, Sue Lowing, Barara Stanton and Susan Walker. Winners of the children's trophies were Isla Coyle and Bibi Mitchell. Congratulations to all the trophy, certificate and placement winners.



Our main show season is now over for another year, but there is still plenty of time to enjoy your gardening, and perhaps start planning for next year.

Brenda Burnell
Show Secretary

So now we are moving into Autumn and our meeting on Thursday 3 September will be a talk by Andy Thomas, entitled 'Crop Circle Mystery'. Sounds fascinating.

Don't forget the mini show which will be Dahlias, fruit and vegetables. If you are taking part in the show, please bring your entries by 7.30pm to give time for judging before our speaker begins at 8pm.

Note for your diary

Harvest Supper - Thursday 1 October

Our next social event will be the Harvest Supper on 1 October. This is the chance to bring something to eat for the table as well as sample other people's delights. You can make savoury or sweet dishes and if you don't feel like cooking, bring cheese, fruit, pâté or something else from the supermarket shelves. Don't forget to bring your own choice of liquid refreshment and a glass to drink it from.

St Peter's South Hanningfield

I can't believe that we are in September. Our afternoon services on a Sunday have been a great success, 16 people attended on Sunday 9 August. These services will resume next year when the car park is up and running after the winter. Needless to say this will be our next big project, to weather proof the car park, we have had one very hefty quote so we need to do some more shopping around.

The afternoon service is much more relaxed than our usual Sunday Holy Communion and is a nice way to wind down to Sunday evening - we have our usual tea and cake, do please come along it would be lovely to see you. We are a friendly bunch and it's always nice to see new people.

Flower Festival Preparations

The 2026 Flower Festival is just around the corner, the theme this year is The Silver Screen. See page 6 for full details. At 5.00pm on Sunday 6 September we have a service in our amazing flower filled church so please come along. This year the Archdeacon of Chelmsford will be attending and preaching during the service.

We do need help to keep this lovely event going so we can raise as much money as possible for St Peter's:

Volunteers Needed

Friday 4 September, Ralph needs help to put up all the marquees around the churchyard which house all the stalls. Please meet in the churchyard

at midday. Anne-Marie and Dawn are putting up bunting and signs about 3.30pm on Friday, if anyone wants to help us do that. We then need people to help take down the marquees on Monday.

We need people to help the catering team serving the ploughman's lunches and the afternoon teas, this involves waiting at tables, washing up etc. Please let Sascha know (tel: 07795 188146) if you are able to help and are happy to go on the rota. We also need people to help with the traffic flow and car parking. Again, please let Sascha know if you are able to help and are happy to go on the rota.

We would also like donations of any fruit and vegetables you may have growing in your gardens which we can sell on the produce stall. We are also needing donations of any plants that can go on the plant stall. These can be brought on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning to the churchyard.

We are also desperately needing donations of home made cakes which can be cut up for the Afternoon Tea. Please can the cakes be clearly marked with what they are and the ingredients for people with allergies.

Thank you all in advance, we know this is a massive list of things we need and jobs to be done. But we are great at all pulling together and making the most lovely event.

Thank you Tea

We will be holding a thank you Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall, on Sunday 4 October from 2.30 - 4.30pm for all those involved in helping with the Flower Festival. To say a massive Thank you.

South Hanningfield Coffee Morning

The August Coffee Morning was really well attended despite the hot weather. The next coffee morning will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9 September, 10.30am -12.30pm as usual

Advanced notice....

On Saturday 17 October we have invited The Historic Lighting Club to show off all their lovely antique lamps in St Peter's. The church will be beautifully lit with all these lovely lamps for us to enjoy and we will, of course, be serving refreshments. We hope to see you there, but there will be more reminders nearer the time.

Looks like we will all have a super busy time coming up - so make sure all these dates are in your diaries!

Best wishes from Mission Control

Anne-Marie, Sascha, Rosemary, Deidre and Rosemary.

The Historic Lighting Club

presents

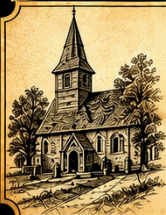
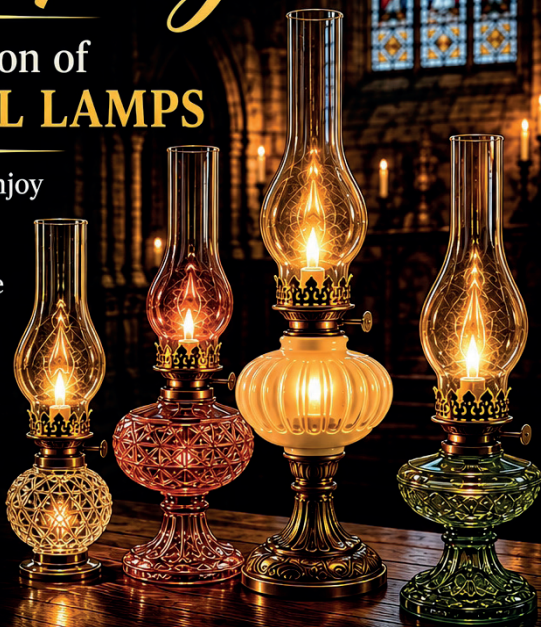
An evening by lamplight

an exhibition of
ANTIQUE OIL LAMPS

Step back in time and enjoy
the warm glow of the
fascinating display of
antique oil lamps in the
beautiful setting of

St Peter's church

Saturday
17 October
4.00 to 8.00pm




Suitable for
children aged
12 and over



Complimentary
drinks, cheese &
biscuits available.



Everyone
welcome

St Peter's Church

Church Lane, South Hanningfield, CM3 8HW

Admission free, but donations requested to support our ancient church.

South Hanningfield Village Hall

Our next fundraising event will be our Christmas Crafts & Gifts Fayre on Saturday, 21 November from 10.30am to 4.00pm. There will be lots of Christmas crafts, gifts, festive refreshments and a Raffle. Free Entry. The tables have already been booked up as this is becoming one of our popular annual events with only outside space available! There will be over 30 craft and gift stalls with a wide range of items for sale as festive gifts.

Dates for your Diary in 2027

Hanningfield Ball on Saturday, 23 January at Stockbrook Manor in aid of St Peter's Church and South Hanningfield Village Hall.

St Patrick's Ceilidh with The Yardarm Ceilidh Band on Saturday, 20 March at the hall.

St George's Day with Chas & Dave on Friday, 23 April at the hall.

Further details of these fundraising events 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.

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 dates are 8 September and 29 September.

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm

Wednesday, 9th September.

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

Minis/Pre-School Classes for 1-4 years

Tuesdays from 9.30am – 10.15am
3-week trials available! Phonics with Robot Reg
Contact Laura Dack on email 2lauras@robotreg.co.uk
or 01268 956859 for more information.

Line Dancing

Tuesday afternoons 12.30pm-1.30pm (beginners) and 1.30pm to 2.30pm (more advanced)
Contact Richard from the Super Troupers Line Dance Club
email thesupertroupersldc@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 and 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.

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

Upholstery Class

Friday morning 9.30am – 1.00pm Friday afternoon (from September)
Contact Fiona on 01621 776586 or 07887 507208

Wickford Board Game Club

Friday evenings from 6pm - 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 and Pilates on Saturday mornings

Zumba from 9.20am to 10.20am and Pilates 10.30am to 11.30am. 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 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>

Follow us:

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

or Instagram page <https://www.instagram.com/shvhall/>



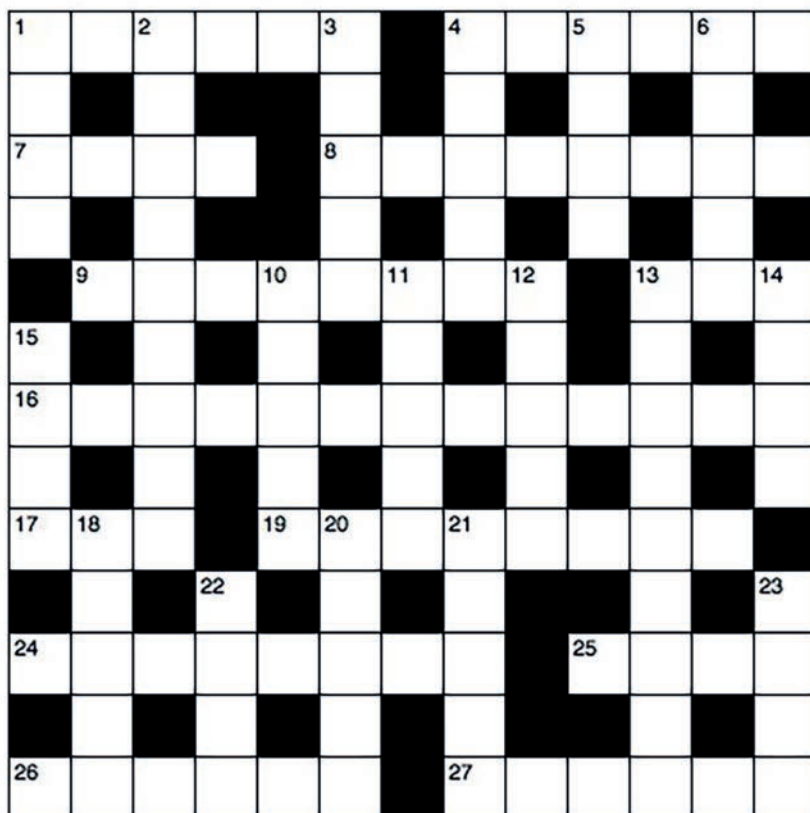
Bishop's Forest Pre School

Led by experienced and passionate staff on our 10 acre site in Rettendon Common, our Froebel-inspired, term time Forest Pre School for 3 to 5 year olds values curiosity, connections and the wonder that comes from learning outdoors.

hello@bishopsforestschooll.co.uk

Call: 07729 624222

Puzzle corner



Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain'
(Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and
keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first
Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary
journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good
purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 18

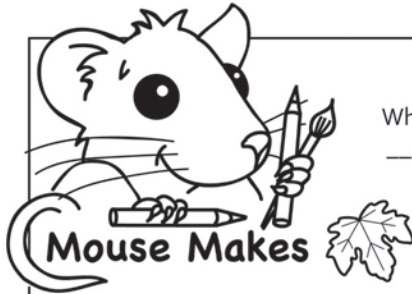
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)
- 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4) (4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Answers on page 33

Children's pages



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

John 15:6



READ
John 15:1-17

How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?

What does Jesus command?

To one another.

John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

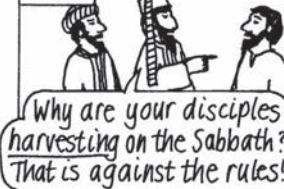
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



Don't you understand when God says 'Keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



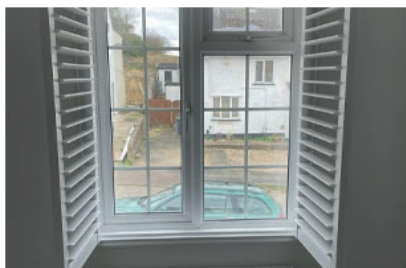
Hold out your hand.



The Pharisees left and made plans.



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Smile lines

Creation

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So, they picked one scientist to go and tell Him so.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things by ourselves."

God listened very patiently and then replied: "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest. We're going to do this just like I did, back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"

Eve's arrival

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Charles seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Charles, what is the matter?"

Little Charles responded solemnly, "There's a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Police

A young clergyman, fresh out of theological training, thought it would help him better understand the world if he served as a policeman for a while before taking on a congregation.

He studied hard and passed the exams; passed the physical; and then came the all-important final interview. One question was: "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He promptly responded, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

Wedding

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Contacting The Herald

Contributions to the October 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 September**. 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

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Answers to the Crossword puzzle

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

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