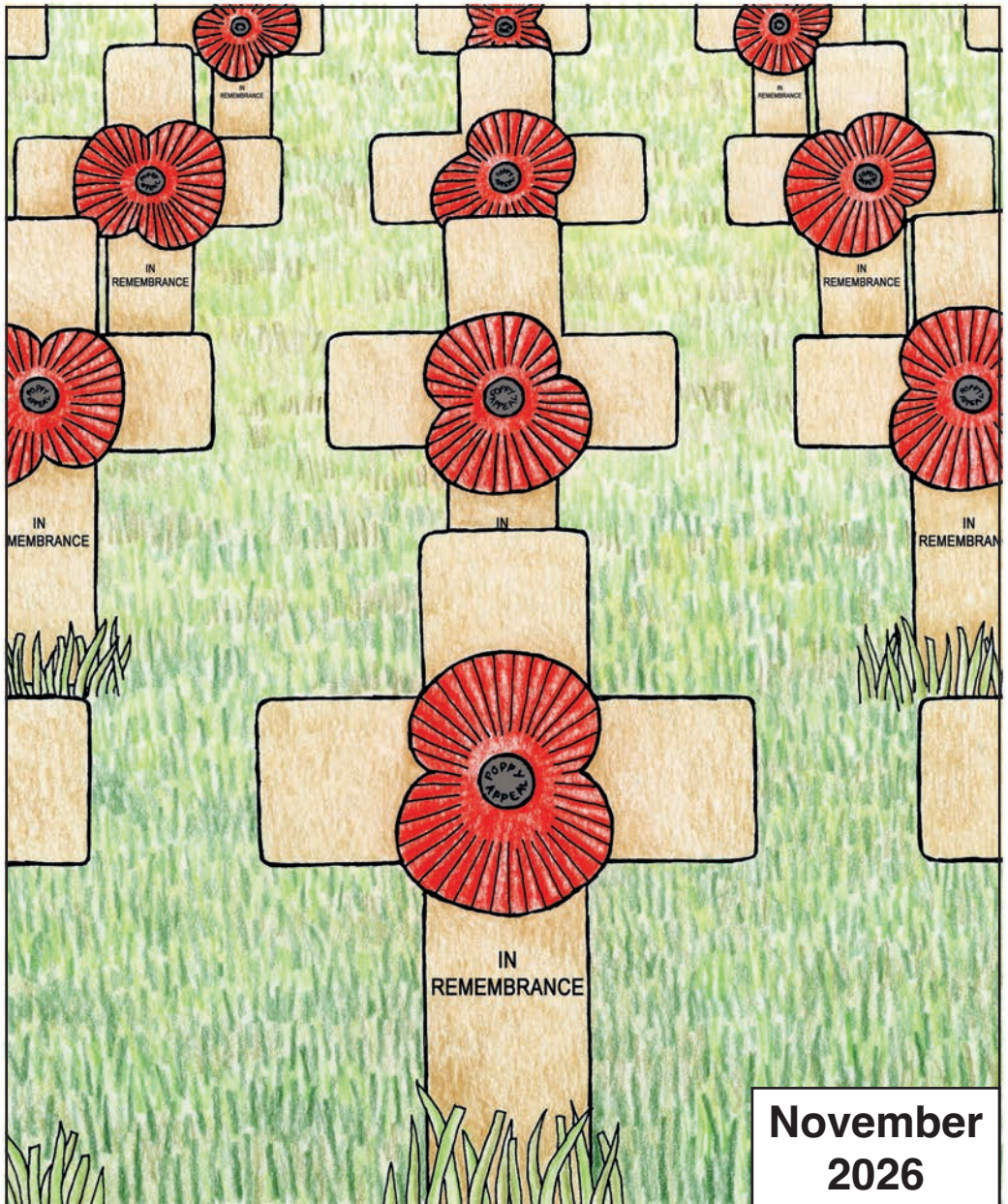


# The Herald

50p



November  
2026

# Reservoir Group of Churches



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

## Ministry Team

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

#### The Revd Jacqui Cattle

The Vicarage, 450 Beehive Lane, Chelmsford CM2 8RN

Tel: 07704 777511

email: [revjacquicattle@gmail.com](mailto:revjacquicattle@gmail.com)

### Curate in the Reservoir Group of Parishes

#### The Revd Nikki Firth

Tel: 07309 749495

email: [revnikkifirth@gmail.com](mailto:revnikkifirth@gmail.com)

## Associate Priest

#### The Revd Barry Hobson

April Cottage, Highwood Road, Edney Common, Chelmsford CM1 3QE

Tel: 01245 249099

email: [b.hobson@btinternet.com](mailto:b.hobson@btinternet.com)

## Churchwardens

Lee Baxter

30 Louvaine Avenue, Wickford SS12 0DP

Tel: 01268 734266 email: [lee Baxter123@hotmail.com](mailto:lee Baxter123@hotmail.com)

Michael Roome

1 Broome Close, Billericay CM11 1SX

Tel: 07770 795388 email: [mikeannroome@msn.com](mailto:mikeannroome@msn.com)

### Assistant Churchwardens responsible for St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

Beryl Clements

8 Duffield Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 9RY

Tel: 01245 601298 email: [randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk)

Pauline Fordham

1 Oak Crescent, Wickford, SS11 7FF

Tel: 01268 766494 email: [paulinesfordham@gmail.com](mailto:paulinesfordham@gmail.com)

### Assistant Churchwarden responsible for St Peter's South Hanningfield

Marguerite Sharpe

8 Collins Close, Rayleigh, SS6 9UJ

email: [gables@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gables@hotmail.co.uk)

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

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[www.facebook.com/ramsdensbellhousechurch](http://www.facebook.com/ramsdensbellhousechurch)

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## What's on when and where

**Note: There are currently no services at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse because of structural problems there**

### **Sunday 1 November - All Saints' Sunday**

|         |                               |                                 |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00am | St Peter's South Hanningfield | Holy Communion                  |
| 11.00am | St Margaret's Downham         | Family Service                  |
| 3.00pm  | St Margaret's Downham         | Thanksgiving & Memorial Service |

### **Sunday 8 November - Remembrance Sunday**

|         |                                |                                     |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10.45am | St Margaret's Downham          | Act of Remembrance & Sung Eucharist |
| 10.45am | Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall | Act of Remembrance                  |
| 12.30pm | St Peter's South Hanningfield  | Act of Remembrance                  |

### **Wednesday 11 November - Armistice Day**

|         |                            |                    |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 10.45am | Ramsden Heath War Memorial | Act of Remembrance |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------|

### **Sunday 15 November - 2 before Advent**

|         |                                  |                      |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 11.00am | St Margaret's Downham            | Group Holy Communion |
| Note:   | No service at South Hanningfield |                      |

### **Sunday 22 November - Christ the King**

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

### **Sunday 29 November - Advent 1**

|         |                               |                      |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 10.00am | St Peter's South Hanningfield | Group Holy Communion |
| Note:   | No service at Downham         |                      |

### **Sunday 6 December - Advent 2**

|         |                               |                |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 10.00am | St Peter's South Hanningfield | Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | St Margaret's Downham         | Family Service |

## **Other dates for your diary**

### **Public meeting about the future of St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse**

7.30pm on Monday 19 November in Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

We wish to hear your views on the future of St Mary's, given the considerable expenditure required to restore the ceiling and make the building safe.

## From the ministry team

### Bulbs of Hope

A few days ago (bearing in mind I am writing this in the middle of October) I did one of my favourite gardening jobs: planting bulbs.

I must admit, I am not the biggest fan of winter. I do not particularly like the cold, dark days, even if Christmas happens in winter and getting cold is a wonderful excuse to have a hot chocolate!

So for me, planting bulbs in autumn is an act of hope - it is an act that says that, yes, winter is coming, but spring will be not too far behind. The bulbs will spend the winter resting and then (hopefully) will produce some beautiful flowers once the days start to lengthen and the sun gets warmer.

Of course, winter is a season, but we can feel like we can go through our own personal winters. In the bible there is a book written by the prophet Micah. He laments what he believes will happen to his people, Israel. They will be invaded by the Assyrians (a large neighbouring empire) and will be overpowered. They will be taken away from their land (exiled) and it will be many years before they are able to return. His people are about to enter into a very dark, very long, winter.

And yet, in his book he writes this:

*"But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,  
I wait for God my Saviour;  
My God will hear me."* (Micah 7.7)

In the New Testament, St. Paul also writes about the importance of hope:

*For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all.  
Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do  
not yet have, we wait for it patiently.* (Romans 8.24-25).

Hope is a powerful thing. My bulbs give me hope that spring will come. For Christians, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ bring us hope in both a fulfilling and joyful life (whatever our circumstances) in this life, and after death, life everlasting with Jesus.

If you would like to find out more about the hope Christians find in their faith, please do come and join us at one of our services. Or you can visit this website: <https://explorechristianity.info/>

But whatever you do this month, I encourage you to plant some bulbs - and look forward to the beautiful flowers in Spring!

God bless,

*The Revd Jacqui*

## Sunday of Christ the King

The fourth Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next.... the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – it is promised more than 250 times!

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

*“For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other”* (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: *“Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God”* (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: *“...His face was like the sun shining in full strength”* (Revelation 1:16.)

*When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle* (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work, watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tells us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is “*seated at the right hand’ of the Father*” (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father’s timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

## **From the registers**

### **Downham**

#### **Baptism**

27 September Lily Susan Victoria Appleton

#### **Wedding**

26 September Matthew Salter & Shemeal Fambegbe

10 October David Cole & Charlotte Quirke

### **Ramsden Bellhouse**

#### **Burial of ashes**

17 October Mark Duggan

### **South Hanningfield**

#### **Baptism**

27 September Jasmine Ilaria Potter

## **St Margaret’s Downham**

### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest collection of foodstuffs that was donated to the Wickford Foodbank run by the Salvation Army. This also included gifts donated at St Peter’s Harvest service.

### **Christmas Quiz night - Saturday 5 December 7.00 for 7.30pm**

As mentioned in last month’s edition of *The Herald*, we are not holding a Christmas Bazaar this year. Instead we will be holding a Christmas quiz in Downham Village Hall. Tables of 8. Tickets £10. Bring your own food and drinks.

Contact Mike Roome (details on inside front cover) for tickets and more details.

## **News from Downham C of E School**

In November we will be commemorating Remembrance Day, giving our school community time to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces during World Wars I and II and in the conflicts since 1945. What a privilege to live in peace, knowing freedom and security. Our Worship Group will be visiting the village war memorial and the School Council will be leading a special Collective Worship in school. We will be encouraging our pupils not only to look back but also to consider the people who actively serve today, in the Armed Forces and in so many other ways, for example, the ambulance and fire services, the NHS etc. These people deserve our respect, thanks and admiration for their dedication to making the world a better place.

Remembrance Day also challenges us to think about how we can make a positive impact on the world around us. One of the ways we can do this is to take time to show our gratitude to people who help us. It's so important to acknowledge the work of people who serve our local community. During the weeks between Remembrance Day and the Christmas season, it's a good time to stop and think to whom we can show our appreciation. At school, we are challenging the pupils to write or draw thank you notes and to deliver them to people who help us. Hopefully this will spread gratitude, joy and love throughout our community.

*Lynne Boyd*

Humanities & RE leader at Downham Church of England Primary School

## **Ramsden Heath Social Club**

The club will run our usual monthly BINGO session on Friday 6 November from 7.30 pm. 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!

On Saturday 14 November we plan to host a WINE-TASTING event from 8.00pm, hosted by Laurent Brenez, with the help of some willing assistants! Many of you will remember from a couple of years ago Laurent's brilliant presentation and expert knowledge of many different wines. It is important to note that we will only be able to go ahead with this event if we receive sufficient interest and we are likely to ask for monies "up-front" in order to fund the advance purchase, so please let us know asap if you would like to come (contact details below). Tickets will be available at a cost of £8 for members and £12 for guests. We would suggest tables of no more than 8 people, who will be able to sample five different wines as well as cheese and biscuits.

Non-alcoholic options will also be available.

Please note that all of our events are held at the Village Hall, Dowsetts Lane.

For more information/tickets please contact:

Dave Quinney on 07950 309524 or email [dave.quinney@hotmail.com](mailto:dave.quinney@hotmail.com)

or Joan Parmenter 07779 175494

## **St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse**

### **MacMillan Coffee Morning**

Thank you to everyone who supported our MacMillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 26 September. We were unable to use the church because of the structural problems, but still had use of the kitchen and toilets. Fortunately the weather was fine, so we were able to sit around tables in the churchyard, with the church porch acting as a cake shop. We were able to send £280 to MacMillan Cancer Care from this event.



### **The future of St Mary's? - a public meeting**

We are keen to hear the views of people living in Ramsden Bellhouse about the future of St Mary's. We are therefore arranging a public meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 19 November in Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall. We will be distributing invitations to properties in the village and we hope that many people will come along to help us decide on the future of the church.

## **Allotment Plots available in Ramsden Heath**

Allotment Plots Available in Ramsden Heath - Get your growing space ready over winter!

Plots are currently available at the Heath Road allotment site, Ramsden Heath, CM11 1NA.

November is a great time to take on a plot and use the winter months to clear and prepare the ground, improve the soil and plan for spring. Frost and winter weather can help break down heavy soil while you get ready for the new growing season.

Whether you fancy growing your own vegetables, fruit or flowers, now is the time to get started.

Annual rent: £55 for residents of South Hanningfield, Downham and Ramsden Heath, or £75 for non-residents. Holding deposit: £125.

The site is a registered charity, managed by the trustees, South Hanningfield Parish Council.

For more information or to apply, email [contact@shallots.org.uk](mailto:contact@shallots.org.uk) or call 01268 710820.

## **Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon**

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

**Tuesday 10 November 2.00 to 4.00pm**

The October Coffee Afternoon was as busy as usual. We might have to start making more cakes!! Thank you to everyone who comes along and also to the many who donated to one of our Cupcakes, Sue, who did an Alzheimers Memory Walk in Hylands Park. The total at the moment on the JustGiving page has reached £935. Amazing. This month's Charity is the local branch of Motor Neurone Disease and we will be donating £100.00.

On the 10 November Coffee Afternoon representatives from Essex and Suffolk Water will be available to cover topics such as water efficiency and advice on how to save water, priority service for vulnerable adults and affordability support. More important is sitting chatting with friends and eating cake for £1.50 and a cuppa for 50p.

Please make a note in your diary for our Christmas Coffee Afternoon which is 8 December when we will be entertained by Downham School Choir. A highlight of the year.

*Ramsden Cupcakes*

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

So the clocks have gone back, it's dark by 5.30pm and the garden has all but gone to sleep. The good news is that we have lots of events happening to keep you entertained during the winter months.

Our first autumn event was the Harvest Supper, which took place on 1 October. The message was to 'bring and share' and our members certainly did.

The Harvest Supper is always a work of cookery art. Members supply amazing dishes, and this year was no exception. We knew we would be lower on numbers as many people were away but the quality of the food our members brought was excellent. We never know why it happens but we seem to get the right amount of savoury dishes and desserts and certainly no one went away hungry. We had a light hearted quiz to round up the evening and want to thank everyone for making it such a pleasant evening by bringing the food and helping to clear up afterwards.

### **Future events**

On Thursday 5 November our speaker is Dr Ian Bedford talking about 'Gardens for them and us'. A brief synopsis of the talk: 'Home gardens can all become valuable stepping stones for our wildlife in the quest to connect the natural reserves. This talk explains some of the very easy things we can all do to help achieve this, for us and the future generations of not only our population but those of Britain's wildlife'. The evening is open to non members for a fee of £2 per person.

Don't forget the mini show, Chrysanthemums, vegetables and pot plants, full details in the Society Schedule. A free raffle ticket will be given to each entrant to the mini show. One person, one ticket. This is the last chance to add points towards the Banksian Medal award.

Plans are now well underway for our annual Christmas Supper on Thursday 3 December. This year the format is different. After many years of members cooking and bringing food for the feast, we are having outside caterers to supply a full Christmas turkey roast dinner (which comes piping hot) plus dessert. This will be followed by musical entertainment. The cost of the evening is £20 per head. This evening is for members only and tickets can be obtained from Rita & Trevor Elcock, Telephone: 07946 059878; email: [t.elcock@talktalk.net](mailto:t.elcock@talktalk.net). The list will also be available at the November meeting.

## **St Peter's South Hanningfield**

On 11 October we had a wonderful gathering in the Village Hall to thank everyone for helping at the Flower Festival. We all had a lovely time drinking

tea and eating a lot of cake! It really is good how we can all pull together and have the most spectacular event to raise money for our little village church.

As we write this we have been setting up the church for the Historic Lighting Club to come on Saturday 17 October to display all their lovely old lamps. This is the first time we have done anything like this so will be interested to see how it all goes, I am sure the church is going to look very pretty.

### **Dates for your diary**

Sunday 1 November 10.0am - Holy Communion

Sunday 8 November 12.30pm - Act of Remembrance at the war memorial in the church yard

Sunday 29 November - 10.0am Holy Communion

Sunday 6 December - 10.0am Holy Communion

Sunday 13 December - 3.00pm Carol Service

Thursday 24 December - 9.30pm Candle lit Christmas Communion

We do hope you will join us sometime during the Christmas season.

*Your Mission Control team*

## **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. For further information, please contact Clive on 07891 653238 or email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com)

### **Other 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

**'The Reservoir Dogs'** local band on Saturday, 21 August outside with permission from the landowner (weather permitting).

Further details of these fundraising events will be in future editions of The Herald.

A big thank you to Wickford Board Game Club, our regular Friday hirers, for

kindly donating a brand-new kettle to the village hall to replace our old one. We really appreciate your generosity!

**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: 11.25am to 11.55am

Next visit dates are 10 November and 1 December.

## Regular Activities

Coffee Morning - Wednesday, 11 November.

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm

On Wednesday 13 October we had the most fantastic Coffee Morning in conjunction with Breast Cancer Now to raise money for breast cancer research. About 45 people attended and it was so lovely to see so many dressed in pink. We raised £259.85 plus gift aid, which was a sterling effort. We ended up with so many flowers for the table decorations that we could give almost everyone a little posy as they left and we handed out all the left over cake in Sandra's very lovely pink take-away boxes, bought specially for the event.



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)

### **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](mailto: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 [thesupertrouperslcdc@gmail.com](mailto:thesupertrouperslcdc@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, 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](mailto:info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk)

### **Upholstery Class**

Friday morning 9.30am to 1.00pm

and Friday afternoon 1.30pm to 5.00pm

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 and Pilates - 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](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>

Follow us:

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

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

## **All in the month of November**

It was:

400 years ago, on 18 November 1626 that St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City was completed. It is the largest church in the world (measured by its interior).

175 years ago, on 13 November 1851 that the first telegraph service between London and Paris began operating.

150 years ago, on 1 November 1876 that the North Sea Canal in the Netherlands was officially opened. It links Amsterdam to the North Sea.

125 years ago, on 12 November 1901 that German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics, for discovering X-rays.

100 years ago, on 15 November 1926 that the Balfour Declaration was approved by the delegates to the Imperial Conference of 1926. It declared that the UK and its Dominions in the British Empire were equal in status.

90 years ago, on 30 November 1936 that the Crystal Palace in London was destroyed by a fire.

75 years ago, on 2 November 1951 that the Suez Crisis began. 6,000 British troops arrived in Fayid, Egypt, to quell unrest in the Canal Zone. It was the biggest airlift of troops since WW2.

70 years ago, on 11 November 1956 that the Hungarian Revolution ended after its uprising was brutally suppressed by the Soviet Union.

60 years ago, on 22 November 1966 that the first chess match between two computers took place, between the USA and Russia. The Soviet Union's computer won.

40 years ago, on 22 November 1986 that the American boxer Mike Tyson became the youngest-ever WBC world heavy-weight champion, at the age of 20.

30 years ago, on 18 November 1996 that the Channel Tunnel fire took place when a truck caught fire while on board a Heavy Goods Vehicle shuttle travelling through the tunnel. It caused considerable damage and the tunnel was closed for six months for repairs. There was another serious fire in September 2008.

Also 30 years ago, that on 30 November England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland after 700 years. It was the coronation stone of the Scottish and later English and British monarchs. It is now on permanent display in Perth Museum.

25 years ago, from 22 November to 9 December 2001 that the Fall of Kandahar took place when coalition forces ousted the Taliban from the last major city under their control. This marked the end of the Taliban regime's control of Afghanistan. Then in August 2021, NATO withdrew and the Taliban moved back in.

20 years ago, on 23 November 2006 that Alexander Litvinenko, Russian-born British intelligence agent, journalist and writer, died. He had been poisoned by radioactive polonium. His death is believed to have been ordered by President Putin.

15 years ago, on 12 November 2011 that the Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, resigned over Italy's debt crisis.

10 years ago, on 4 November 2016 that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change came into effect.

Also 10 years ago, on 7 November 2016 that Leonard Cohen, Canadian folk/soft rock singer, songwriter and poet died.

Also 10 years ago, on 8 November 2016 that Donald Trump was elected as 45th President of the USA.

# SOUTH HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE HALL

## CRAFTS & GIFTS FAYRE

SATURDAY



21 NOVEMBER, 2026



10.30AM - 4.00PM

*Free  
Entry*

*Raffle and  
Festive  
Refreshments*

### CRAFTS AND GIFTS STALLS

Beauty • Cakes and treats • Canal art  
Christmas decs • Crochet • Crystals  
Gin • Homewares • Honey • Jewellery  
Original paintings • Personalised gifts  
Sweets • Wooden items • and much more!

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

email: [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com)

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## General Synod opens – for the 11th time

There is a new General Synod beginning this month. Its term will run from 2026 to 2031. It is the 11th since the first General Synod began in 1970, following the Synodical Government Measure of 1969.

The new General Synod has lots to debate and decide. Here are just some key issues:

*Identity and relationships:* Since the conclusion of the formal Living in Love and Faith (LLF) programme, new consultative groups will manage the work regarding same-sex relationship and marriage guidance.

*Clergy care:* There is a growing concern for the well-being of our clergy. It is felt they need stronger support packages, better pensions and improved care for themselves.

*Safeguarding is still a top priority:* The new General Synod will discuss and implement the strict new Clergy Conduct Measures (CCM) and responses to independent safeguarding recommendations.

*Social & Environment:* These problems are still growing, and so debates will address achieving net-zero carbon goals, protecting nature on church land, and reducing the polarisation in our society.

Please pray for our newly elected representatives from Chelmsford Diocese.



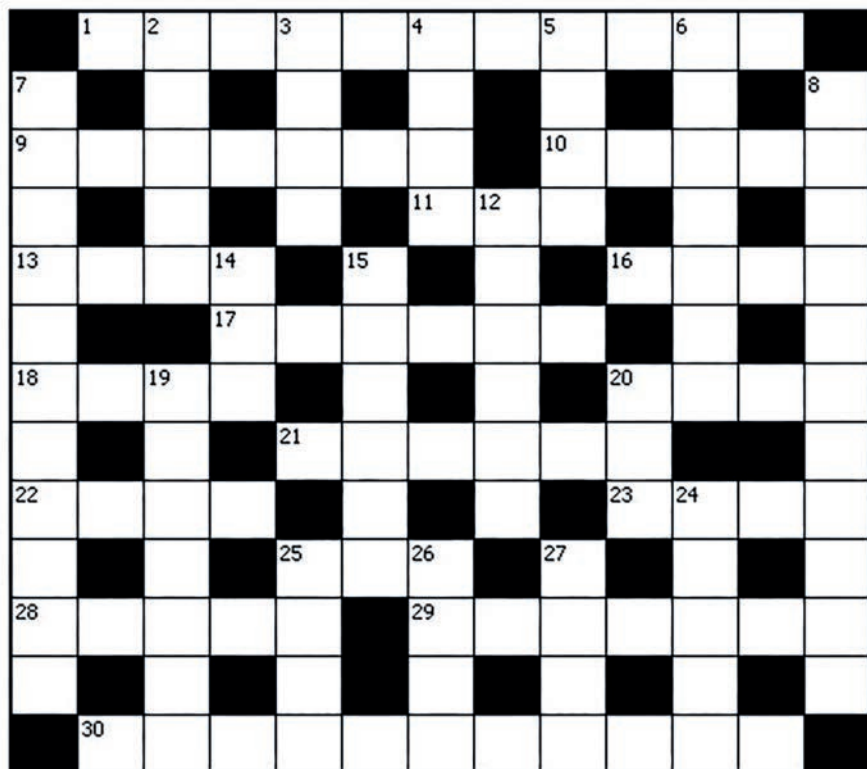
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## Puzzle corner



### Across

1 and 20 Down

‘Lord of all \_\_, Lord of all \_\_, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy’ (11,3)

9 Moses’ question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: ‘Why are you \_\_ your fellow Hebrew?’ (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline \_\_ (2,3)

11 ‘At even \_\_ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay’(3)

13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)

16 ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but \_\_ for the gift my Father promised’ (Acts 1:4) (4)

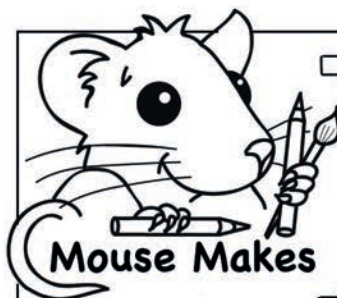
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must \_ God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, \_ Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat \_ \_ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should \_ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

## Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem how \_ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the \_ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)

## Answers on page 33

## Children's pages



**Remember**  
the words Jesus said:  
*"It is more blessed to give  
than to receive."*  
*Colossians 3:25*

**Remembrance Sunday** is the day  
we remember the sacrifice of those  
who gave their lives so that we  
could live in peace, it mirrors what  
Christ did for us when he gave his life  
so that we could live in peace with God.

Jesus said:  
*"No one can have  
greater love than  
to give his life for  
his friends."*  
*John 15:13*



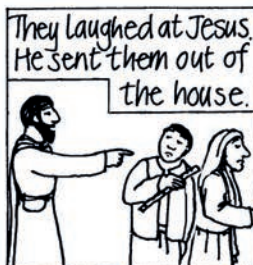
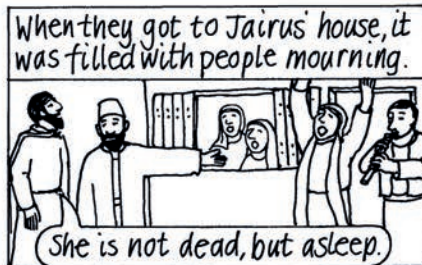
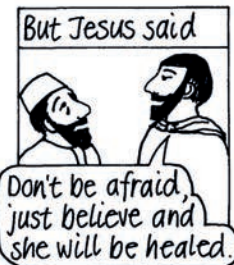
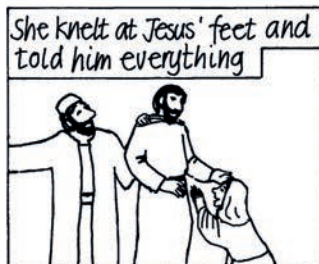
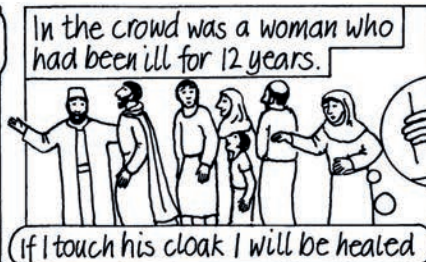
REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE  
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD  
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

# Bible Bite

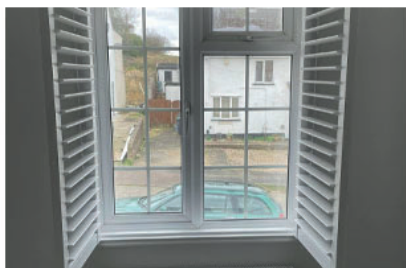
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...



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Look out for our new website: [www.ramsdenheath.org.uk](http://www.ramsdenheath.org.uk)

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# Smile lines

## Explaining those words used in church

- **BULLETIN:** Your receipt for attending a service.
- **PROCESSION:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.
- **USHERS:** The only people in the parish who don't understand the seating capacity of a pew.
- **PEW:** A medieval torture device still found in many churches.
- **CHOIR:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.
- **HYMN:** A song of praise, often sung three octaves higher than the congregation's range.
- **AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.
- **HYMN, RECESSIONAL:** The last song, often sung a little more quietly, since some of the people have already left.

## Still waiting

A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the minister went to see him.

He found him in excellent health, so the minister asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man lowered his voice. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and now I don't want to remind Him!"

## When children tell Bible stories

- St John, the blacksmith, dumped water on Jesus' head.
- Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says: 'Do one to others before they do one to you'.
- Jesus ruled that 'a man doth not live by sweat alone.'
- It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off of the entrance.
- The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
- One of the opossums was St Matthew who was also a taximan.

# Contacting The Herald

## Contributions to the December 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 19 November**. 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)

Advertising rates are currently:

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## Answers to the Crossword puzzle

**ACROSS:** 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16, Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

**DOWN:** 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

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