

# The Herald

50p

Your steadfast love, O Lord  
is as vast  
as the heavens, your  
faithfulness beyond the clouds.



Psalm 36:5

August 2024

# Reservoir Group of Churches



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

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## Ministry Team

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

#### The Revd Jacqui Pearson

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#### The Revd Barry Hobson

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## Churchwardens

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

Marguerite Sharpe 8 Collins Close, Rayleigh, SS6 9UJ  
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# St Peter's Church

Church Lane  
South Hanningfield  
CM3 8HW

Invites you to our

## Flower Festival 2024 “Let's Celebrate!”



Saturday 31 August 12.00noon - 5.00pm with outside Fete

Sunday 1 September 12.00noon - 5.00pm with outside Fete  
with Songs of Praise service at 5.00pm

Monday 2 September 11.00am - 3.00pm

Light lunches and refreshments available each day

## What's on when and where

### Sunday 4 August - Trinity 10

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

### Sunday 11 August - Trinity 11

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

### Sunday 18 August - Trinity 12

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Group Holy Communion

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

### Sunday 25 August - Trinity 13

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 September - Trinity 14

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

5.00pm St Peter's South Hanningfield Flower Festival  
Songs of Praise

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

## Alpha Course

### Curious about faith?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you'll watch an episode on a different question of faith – then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

We are holding an Alpha Course this autumn at Downham Church. Sessions are every Wednesday, 7.00 - 8.30pm, from 11 September until 20 November, but you don't have to attend every session.

If you are interested, or just want more information, please contact Revd Jacqui on [revjacquipearson@gmail.com](mailto:revjacquipearson@gmail.com)

## From the ministry team

*Sun...sea...sand...shells...salty sandwiches...*

Millions of people, including myself, enjoy a trip to the seaside every year - be it Southend or Frinton, Bournemouth or Bognor Regis...or maybe even to beaches beyond our shores. There is something that draws us to this liminal space between the land and the sea.

August itself can feel like a liminal space - especially for those involved in schools and universities. One year has ended, but the next is yet to begin.

I have always enjoyed spending time on the beach, with happy memories of building sandcastles, or paddling in the sea, jumping over the small waves - as well as annoying my parents with all of the shells and stones I would insist on bringing home with me!

As an adult I still enjoy walking along the beach, especially at low tide; listening to the waves gently lapping the shore...and, yes, still collecting the odd stone or shell! I also find beaches, or indeed the coast in general, a good place to connect with God. There is something about the vastness of the body of water stretching out before me that reminds me of the vastness of God - creator and sustainer of the whole universe. Yes the comforting sound of the waves, and the pebbles being moved along by long shore drift, reminds me that though I am just one person - so small compared to God - God created me, loves me, and cares for me.

A few thousand years ago, in a distant land, someone was writing songs for worship in the Temple. Over the centuries the tune of the song has been lost, but the words remain. These songs are now called Psalms, and Psalm 139 says:

*How precious to me are your thoughts, God!*

*How vast is the sum of them!*

*Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand,*

*When I am awake, I am still with you.*

Sometimes in the vastness of our world we can feel insignificant - lost amongst the noise and the demands of modern life. Yet in sending his Son, Jesus, God showed his love for each one of us. When Jesus was teaching his followers, he said: *“Are not sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father...So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”*

So whatever your plans are for the summer, whether they involve a trip to the seaside or not, may you know how loved and valued you are by God.

God bless, from *Rev. Jacqui*

## **Raymond Nonnatus**

*Those of us who watch Call the Midwife on BBC1 will be familiar with the name Raymond Nonnatus. The nuns featuring in the series belong to the fictional Order of St Raymond Nonnatus, but he was a real person and was canonized in 1657. His feast day is 31 August. St Raymond Nonnatus is recognised as the patron saint of childbirth, pregnant women and midwives so it is fitting that his name was adopted for the programme.*

Raymond Nonnatus (1204–40) is a good patron saint for anyone who does not take life for granted. The account of his own life begins with the story of how his mother died just before his birth, and of how Raymond was somehow extracted from her dead body just in time to save him. ('Nonnatus' means 'not born').

Raymond grew up in Portello, Catalonia and became a monk, joining the Mercedarian Order. Perhaps because of his gratitude for his own life having been spared, Raymond developed a passionate desire to see other people set free to live the lives God had given them. Whatever the reason, Raymond made the difficult and dangerous journey out to Algeria in order to redeem many slaves from a living death. So passionate was he to free them, that he even offered himself as a ransom for others' liberation.

While in Algeria, Raymond preached Christianity to the Muslims, and was put into prison, before eventually being sent back to Spain. The Pope sent for him, but Raymond was so weakened by his suffering in Algeria that he died on the way to Rome. But by then Raymond was content. Just as his life had been given back to him, so he had used it to give life back to others.

## **We are now a registered charity**

I have written before about the reorganisation of our three parishes. Effective from 1 January 2024 the three churches of St Margaret's Downham, St Peter's South Hanningfield and St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse were joined together into a single parish managed by one Parochial Church Council. We have held two formal public meetings, the first in January to elect two churchwardens and the second in April to elect members to the new Parochial Church Council. Creation of the new PCC has required many administrative changes which have included, a new bank account, registration with HMRC to enable us to claim Gift Aid on eligible donations and registration with the Charity Commission. We have been on something of a merry-go-round because we couldn't register with HMRC or the Charity Commission until we had a new bank account, but banks generally require a registration number before opening accounts for charities. Having exchanged copious letters and

documents everything is finally in place and we are now registered as “*The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse*” Charity Registration no 1209033. NatWest Bank couldn’t cope with such a long account name and I am sure that few people would want to write all that on a cheque, consequently the Charity Commission and the bank have accepted the working name of *Downham Group PCC*. If you have occasion to write a cheque to any of the three churches please make it payable to “*Downham Group PCC*”.

*Robert Andrews*

## **Our Churchwardens**

Although we elected new churchwardens at our meeting in January, they represent the Bishop within the parish and therefore have to receive the Bishop’s licence. During June/July churchwardens from across the diocese attend one of a series of services where they present their credentials and receive their licence.



Churchwarden/assistant churchwarden team  
Marguerite, Lee, Pauline Beryl and Mike after their licensing



# From the registers

## Downham

### Burial of Ashes

14 July Sylvia and Daniel Gill

## Ramsden Bellhouse

### Baptism

21 July Elsie Maria Louise Chapman

### Funeral and Burial

9 July Dennis Albert Warwick

### Wedding

20 July Paul Michael Delaney & Hayley Amanda Milbank

## South Hanningfield

### Burial of Ashes

30 June Elizabeth Mary Shannon

7 July Richard Alan Marlow

## St Margaret's Downham

Over the past few weeks you may have seen workmen and women working in the churchyard. Having been in place for nearly twenty years some of the posts supporting the wooden rail around the Easter Garden cremated remains area had started to rot. The rotten posts have been replaced and the whole rail has been repainted.

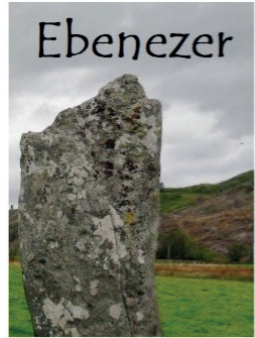
At the same time the metal seat around the tree and the lytch gates have also been repainted.

Thank you to Shaun and his team from Est Décor Ltd for their hard work.



## Downham School

At Downham Church of England Primary School, as the academic year drew to a close, we had a short Collective Worship series focused on “Ebenezer” – up to now, God has helped us. At a time of change and transition, it is important to look back and reflect on the help we have received in the past. This help comes in many shapes and sizes; friends who ease our journeys simply by being there for us, teachers and teaching assistants who support our academic progress, and midday assistants (“dinner ladies”) who keep us safe and sort out squabbles and injuries. At the end of the school year, we also look forward. There may be many changes ahead – teachers, classrooms, even schools – but we can fix our eyes on the One who is unchanging. God’s promise to never leave nor forsake us is as true today as when it was first made to the Israelites on their way to the Promise Land.



In other news, it has been great to spend our last few days of term counting 5p coins from our Jars of Change. As a school, we have collected £180 in small change. Each class has chosen at least one charity to receive their donations. These charities include pet rescue centres, Essex Wildlife Trust and medical research and support foundations. How wonderful to be able to share our blessings with those in need!

As a school, we would like to thank all members of our local community for their support and encouragement over the past academic year and to wish everyone a relaxing summer.



*Lynne Boyd*

RE & Collective Worship Leader  
at Downham Church of England Primary School

## St Mary’s Ramsden Bellhouse

### Sid Bolan Big Band concert

Thank you to everyone who supported our Big Band concert on 28 June. We were blessed with a fine evening, but were a little disappointed by the numbers attending. The event raised £500 for church funds.



Sid Bolan Big Band at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

## **Ramsden Heath Social Club**

Our monthly BINGO EVENING will be on Friday 2 August at 8.00pm. This month is going to be a SUPER-BINGO night, still just £1.00 to play & £2.00 for each book you want to play but with additional prize money! All ages welcome. FREE tea & coffee at the half-time break, but please feel free to bring other drinks/snacks of your own.

The club will then have its annual summer break before continuing events in September.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the club please note our AGM is scheduled for Friday 13 September at 8.00pm. Annual membership is just £12 per adult.

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

For more information 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**

**Tuesday 13 August 2.00 to 4.00pm**

Would just like to thank the ladies who stepped in to help at the July coffee afternoon as five of the cupcakes were away and they did a grand job.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone in August. Let us hope that Summer returns before then.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for a cuppa for 50p and a piece of homemade cake for £1.50 and as always we donate to local charities. Next one to be decided on and if anyone has a worthwhile local charity they support please let us know.

### *Ramsden Cupcakes*

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

### **Allotment Evening**

Once again we were blessed with good weather for our annual drinks and nibbles around the old Trading Hut.

There was plenty of food and drink to enjoy whilst walking around the allotments or just sitting and enjoying the lovely English village atmosphere. We are very fortunate to have such a haven of tranquillity (except on allotment evenings that is) to enjoy.

Thank you to all those who helped set up the tables and bunting, and for making sure that everyone had a drink. Our donations box took £92.30, so thank you to all our members who contributed.



## Summer Show

Our Summer Show this year will be on Saturday 3 August. We've had lots of rain and hot sun so far this summer, so the flowers and vegetables in our gardens and allotments are growing really well. For those who prefer indoor activities there are also classes for handicraft and cookery, even one especially for the men (sunshine bars, class 56).

There are also classes for children up to age ten – a pot of dwarf sunflowers, grown from seeds distributed earlier in the year, and a wind chime. Hopefully the sunflowers will be growing well by now. The wind chime may be made of anything that comes to hand, but preferably not too big. It will be interesting to see what our junior entrants come up with. Don't forget that a prize is awarded to every child who enters.

Only Horticultural Society members, and children related to them, may enter the show, but there will be a public viewing at Ramsden Heath Village Hall at 4.00pm, so even if you aren't a member please come along and have a look at what your friends and neighbours have produced. There is always plenty to see and admire, and you may be inspired to come and join us.

The closing date for members' entries is Wednesday 31 July. Please note that the closing date for children's entries is Monday 29 July, to allow time to purchase the prizes.

Full details of all the classes are in the Schedule, but if you have any queries or would like any further information about the show please contact the Show Secretary.

Brenda Burnell (Show Secretary)

2 Allens Road, Ramsden Heath, CM11 1JF

Telephone: 01268 710904

[email: blburnell48@gmail.com](mailto:blburnell48@gmail.com)

## Charity event - Thank you

On 21 June my daughter, Samantha, and I held a 'Cuppa and Cake' fundraising event for Southend Hospital Radiotherapy appeal. We could not have asked for better weather! A total of just under £2,000 was raised.

A very big 'Thank you!' to local businesses and friends for their kind donations of raffle prizes. Also, another big 'Thank you!' to everyone who came and ate cake, drank tea or coffee and supported our fundraiser. We couldn't have done it without you all.

*Sharne Gregory*

# St Peter's South Hanningfield

## Flower Festival - 31 August to 2 September

By the time you receive this copy of *The Herald* our Flower Festival will be less than a month away. We trust you have the dates firmly in your diary and that you have been encouraging your friends and family to come along. There are A5 leaflets available to collect in all three churches. Please help us to distribute them. We have received a few sponsorship donations to help with the upfront costs, but we would still like more. If you are able to help please email [treasurer@downhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@downhamchurch.org.uk) for further details.

We also need practical help in the days leading up to the festival and also over the three days. Whether that is helping to tidy up the churchyard, erecting the marquees, making cakes to sell, helping to serve the refreshments, washing up, helping to park cars, the list is endless. If you are able to volunteer your services, please contact Sascha Spriggs on 01268 711059.

## South Hanningfield Village Hall

**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. Neighbouring residents will have seen hi vis volunteers outside the hall supervising parking at our own fundraising events. Unfortunately, recently there have been some private party/events hirers of the hall who have allowed some of their attendees to park on the pavement even though on the booking form that they signed they have agreed that once the car park is full, they park on the street down Middlemead. The committee have put up signage as well as other measures to stop this from happening. Please alert the volunteer committee if you see such vehicles parked in this way outside the hall on 07891 653238.

**Funding Successes** our committee has been successful in our recent funding applications to Bernard Sunley Foundation and ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) who have granted £5,000 and £2,904 respectively towards our much-needed improvements which are on our Wish List for improvements outside the hall. Thank you to both of those funders for their funding and we hope to do these works in the very near future. We will be updating on further improvements next month!

**Tesco Tokens** we have also been chosen as one of the three charities at the Tesco stores in and around Chelmsford during July, August and September in the blue tokens scheme. The funding raised will also go towards improvements at the hall. The next time you are in Tescos doing your shopping, please support us and put the blue token in our box!

**Annual General Meeting** At the time of writing, we have also had our South Hanningfield Village Hall's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 16 July. The same committee remains for another year, Clive as Chairman; Debbie as Treasurer; Sandra as Bookings Secretary; Richard and Geraldine. We also have our representative on the committee, Brian from St Peter's Church.

**CPR/AED First Aid Talk** As you know we have a defibrillator installed outside the village hall and when it was first installed, Pronto Training kindly put on a talk at the time on how to use it. We now have another offer of a two hour talk on Tuesday, 6 August from 7.00 to 9.00pm on how to perform CPR and the use of an AED (Defibrillator). The talk is sponsored by a local charity, The Carli Lansley Foundation and this is a free event.

To book which is essential, contact Sandra Graves, our Bookings Secretary on 07396 546050 or email [shvhall@gmail.com](mailto:shvhall@gmail.com) or Pronto Training on [joanne@prontouk.co.uk](mailto:joanne@prontouk.co.uk)

### **Events later in the year are:**

**Magic Evening** on Saturday, 28 September from 7.00pm. The tickets cost £8 each adult and £3 for children over 10 years. Bring your own drinks and snacks. There will also be a Raffle.

For further information, email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com) or phone 07891 653238.

**Race Night** on Saturday, 19 October from 7.00pm. Tickets cost £5 per person to attend. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Would any local businesses or family like to support the hall and sponsor one of the eight races? Sponsorship of one of the races costs £25 and your support will be publicised on the night and after the event. The sponsorship will publicise your business to local people attending the event or why not have a nice memory of the evening in print for your family.

To book tickets and or to sponsor a race, please contact 07396 546050 or email [shvhall@gmail.com](mailto:shvhall@gmail.com)

**Christmas Fayre** on Saturday, 23 November from 10.00am to 4.00pm. There will be lots of Christmas crafts and gifts on sale as well as festive refreshments and a Raffle. Free Entry. More details to follow in future editions of *The Herald*.

**Christmas Shopping Trip to Ashford Outlet** on Saturday, 30 November. We will be going to Ashford Outlet for Christmas shopping! The cost will be £25 per person and include a seat on the coach as well as Prosecco and mince pies! Pick up and return to South Hanningfield Village Hall.

To book, contact Sandra Graves, our Bookings Secretary on 07396 546050 or email [shvhall@gmail.com](mailto:shvhall@gmail.com)

## **Mobile Library**

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

Day of visit: Tuesday Time of visit: 12.25pm to 12.55pm

Next visit dates are 13 August and 3 September.

## **Regular Activities**

### **Coffee Morning**

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm (Wednesday, 14th August)

*Please call the listed contacts below to book a place.*

**\*\*NEW\*\***

**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

### **Pilates & Keep Fit**

Monday 9.45am – 10.45am

Thursday 10.30am – 11.30am

Contact Hayley on 07758 427379

### **Strollercise Dance**

Monday 11.15am – 12.15pm

Tel: 07952 791183

Email: [lynne.strawford@sky.com](mailto:lynne.strawford@sky.com)

No booking is required, just turn up.

### **Puppy Dog Training Classes**

Monday from 6.00pm and 7.00pm

Dog training for puppies of all ages

Contact Rachel on 07484 706085 or

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

### **Yoga and Zumba Thursday night**

Zumba 6.30pm to 7.20pm and

Vinyasa Flow Yoga 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Pay as you go

Tel: Charlene on 07772 443028 or email [info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk](mailto:info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk)

### **Upholstery Class**

Friday morning 9.30am – 1.00pm

Contact Fiona on 01621 776586 or 07887 507208



## **Zumba Saturday mornings**

Zumba 9.20am to 10.20am

Pay as you go

Tel: Charlene on 07772 443028 or email [info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk](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 2024 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>

## **Mayflower Morrismen**

### **Morris Taster Sessions for Beginners Your Chance To Have A Go**

We are running two sessions for beginners on 21 September 10.00am -12.00noon and 2.00-4.00pm. They will be held at Stock Village Hall, Common Road. Stock CM4 9LY. All are welcome.

Mayflower Morrismen have been dancing at events in and around Billericay for over 50 years including local fetes, The Rotary Christmas Market, events at Lake Meadows, The Stock Flower Festival and Open Days at Ingatestone Hall. We have also represented Billericay in Europe. Our most recent visit was to Ypres where we laid a wreath for all the Morris dancers who had fallen in The First World War. We donate to local charities such as Billericay Food Bank and Baby Basics as well as the national charity Help for Heroes.

Our regular practices are on Thursday evenings at Mary Magdalen Church, Billericay. They will start again after the summer dancing season from 12 September.

For more information see our website [www.mayflowermorris.com](http://www.mayflowermorris.com) or email us [bagman@mayflowermorris.com](mailto:bagman@mayflowermorris.com)

## All in the month of August

It was:

300 years ago, on 25 August 1724 that George Stubbs was born. This British artist is best known for his paintings of horses.

250 years ago, on 1 August 1774 that oxygen was discovered by British chemist Joseph Priestley. He was the first scientist to publish his findings on the discovery.

125 years ago, on 13 August 1899 that Alfred Hitchcock was born. This British-born American film director, producer and screenwriter was known as the Master of Suspense. Known for his films The 39 Steps, Dial M for Murder, Rear Window, Vertigo, Psycho, The Birds, and many more.

100 years ago, on 11 August 1924 that the first newsreel of US presidential candidates was filmed. The candidates who appeared included Calvin Coolidge, John W Davies and Robert La Follette.

Also 100 years ago, on 15 August 1924 that Robert Bolt, the British screenwriter and playwright was born. Known for his screenplays for the films Lawrence of Arabia, Doctor Zhivago, and A Man for All Seasons.

90 years ago, on 19 August 1934 that in a referendum in Germany, voters approved the creation of the position of 'Führer', which combined the roles of Chancellor and President into one and gave Adolf Hitler sole power.

80 years ago, on 1 August 1944 that 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank made the final entry in her diary while hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam. On 4 August her hiding place was raided by Nazi police following a tip-off. She and her family were taken to Auschwitz concentration camp, and she was transferred to Belsen in October. She died in February 1945.

Also 80 years ago, on 25 August 1944 that Paris was liberated from the Nazis. The Germans had occupied the city for four years. General Charles de Gaulle (later President of France) entered the city in triumph.

75 years ago, on 24 August 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty came into effect, establishing NATO.

65 years ago, on 7 August 1959 that the USA launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back the first images of the Earth from space.

60 years ago, on 12 August 1964 that Ian Fleming, British novelist and creator of the character James Bond, died.

50 years ago, on 8 August 1974 that US President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective from noon the following day. He was facing impeachment over the Watergate scandal.

40 years ago, on 1 August 1984 that the preserved body of Lindow Man

(informally known as 'Pete Marsh') was found in a peat bog in Cheshire. It was nearly 2,000 years old. He had suffered a violent death, which may have been part of a ritual.

30 years ago, on 28 August 1994 that Sunday trading was legalised in England and Wales.

Also 30 years ago, on 31 August 1994 that the IRA agreed to a complete ceasefire after 25 years.

25 years ago, on 16 August 1999 that Vladimir Putin became Prime Minister of Russia. He became President in May 2000.

20 years ago, on 11 August 2004 that Britain issued its first license for cloning human embryos, after becoming the first country in the world to allow therapeutic cloning in 2001. Researchers hoped to produce stem cells to treat diseases. They created their first cloned human embryo in May 2005.

15 years ago, on 20 August 2009 that Libyan intelligence offer Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, who was convicted of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which crashed onto Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988, was released from prison on compassionate grounds after being diagnosed with terminal cancer. He died in May 2012.

10 years ago, on 24 August 2014 that Richard Attenborough, Lord Attenborough, died. This British film actor and director was best known for his roles in Brighton Rock, The Great Escape, Jurassic Park, and Miracle on 34th Street. He directed films including Oh! What A Lovely War!, A Bridge too Far, Cry Freedom and Gandhi.

## **International Bat Night - 24 August**

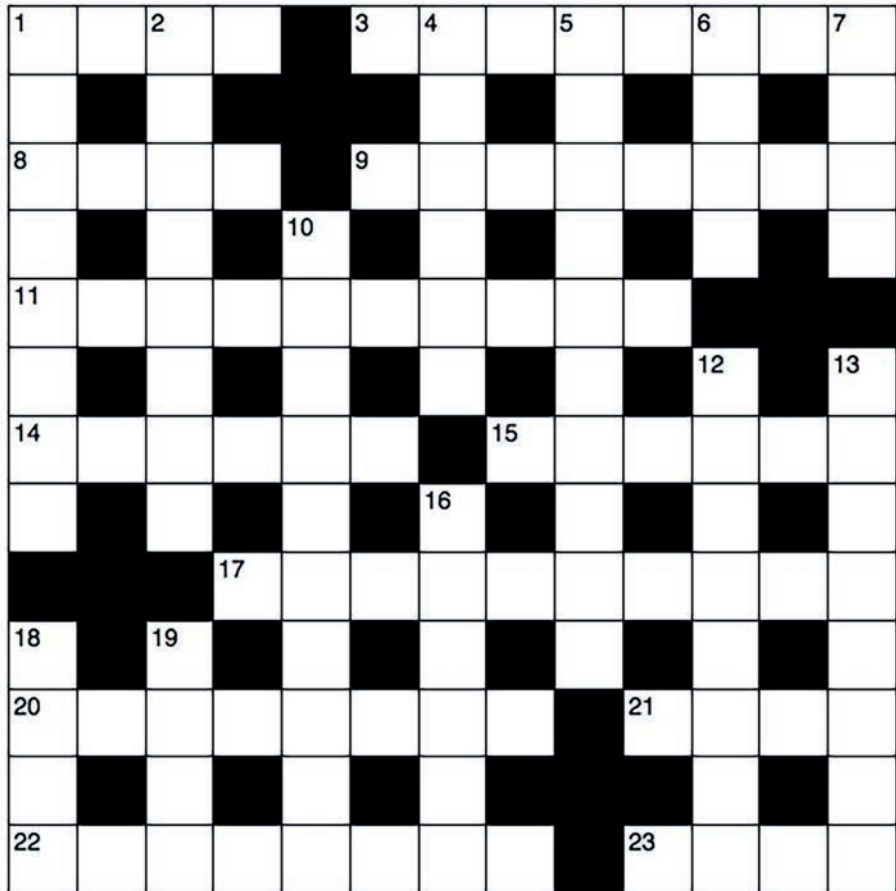
*Members of the congregation at St Peter's may not welcome this as they have a colony of bats in the church and have to protect the interior furnishings from bat droppings.*

August is the perfect month to look out for bats, when our soft, warm twilight evenings are full of the tiny flying insects that attract them.

But these days bats need our help, and so this annual celebration will include a good few 'bat events' this month. If you like bats, you may enjoy one of the events being arranged by local bat groups, wildlife trusts, countryside rangers and other organisations across the country.

To help you get started, the website, <https://www.bats.org.uk/support-bats/international-bat-night>, is full of useful information. It explains the natural environment that bats need, and how you might help to conserve their dwindling numbers.

## Puzzle corner



### Across

1 and 3

Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus  
(Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

3 See 1 Across

8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith'  
(Hebrews 10:22) (4)

9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)

11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)

18

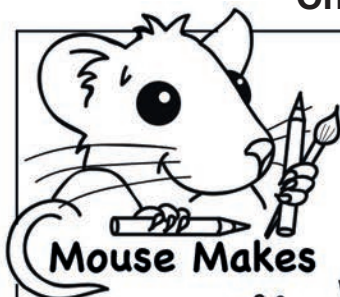
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

### Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

### Answers on page 33

## Children's pages



**"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,  
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."**

Where does Jesus say  
to go to pray?  
*Matthew 6:6*



What does God know  
before you ask Him?  
*Matthew 6:8*



What can we ask God  
to deliver us from?  
*Matthew 6:13*

If you forgive others  
what will God do?  
*Matthew 6:14*



"Always be full of **joy**.  
**Never** stop praying.  
Whatever happens,  
always be **thankful**."  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

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



ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS

LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED  
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE  
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS  
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mk 4:35-41, Mt 8:23-27, Lk 8:22-25

Jesus had spent the day teaching big crowds by Lake Galilee, and when evening came he told his disciples..

We'll sail over to the east side of the lake



Suddenly a massive storm blew up



Even the experienced sailors panicked



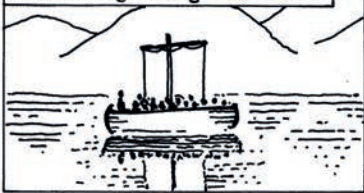
But Jesus was fast asleep at the back of the boat



Be quiet!



Immediately the wind stopped and everything was calm.



Why were you afraid? Don't you trust me?



Now the disciples were even more afraid.





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For viewings, availability and rates please contact our Bookings Secretary, Viv Fawkes on 01268 711757 or 07732 709926 (also on our web site). For other enquiries email us at [contact@downhamvillagehall-esssex.co.uk](mailto:contact@downhamvillagehall-esssex.co.uk)

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

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## David Barrow Garden maintenance

You will notice that David's advertisement is missing this month. Unfortunately he has had cease his activities because of ill health. David was already advertising here when I took over as editor of *The Herald* in 2015.

We wish him well.

Robert Andrews - Editor



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/runwell art club](http://www.facebook.com/runwellartclub)

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# Smile lines

## Game rules

During the local football game, the coach asked one of his young players: *“Do you understand what cooperation is?”* The little boy nodded yes. *“Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?”* The little boy nodded yes. *“Okay,”* the coach continued, *“do you also understand that when the referee makes a decision, you don’t argue or curse or threaten to attack him, right?”* Again, the boy nodded vigorously. *“Good,”* said the coach. *“Now go over there and explain all that to your mother.”*

## Grave warning

Road sign outside the gates of a cemetery:  
Drive carefully. We don’t mind waiting for you.

## Fearless in the line of fire

A six-year-old girl was taken by her grannie to a very ‘high’ Anglican church. Afterwards she tried to explain to her father what it had been like. *“They tried to run us out – they brought in a smoke bomb and shook it at all the people in the front row. But grannie wasn’t scared one bit. We stayed until the very end.”*

## What ushers do

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud during the service. Finally, his big sister had enough. *“You’re not supposed to talk out loud in church.”* *“Why? Who’s going to stop me?”* Joel asked indignantly. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, *“See those two men standing by the door? They’re hushers!”*

## Miscellaneous observations on life

- Weight loss goal: To be able to clip my toenails and breathe at the same time.
- On TV, people can flip a whole house in a month. Meanwhile, I’ve been ‘getting ready to vacuum’ for a week now.
- We’ve got stained glass windows in our house. Stupid pigeons.

# Contacting The Herald

## Contributions to the September 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 15 August**. 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:

Full page	£100 for 12 insertions
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## Answers to the Crossword puzzle

**ACROSS:** 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

**DOWN:** 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.

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