

# *The Herald*

50p

February 2024

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

# 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

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The Herald is published monthly by Downham Parochial Church Council on behalf of the churches in Downham, Ramsden Bellhouse and South Hanningfield. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Downham PCC.

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## What's on when and where

### Sunday 4 February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

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 February - The Sunday next before Lent

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Morning Prayer

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

### Wednesday 14 February - Ash Wednesday

10.00am All Saints' Stock Holy Communion and  
imposition of ash

7.30pm St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist and  
imposition of ash

### Sunday 18 February - Lent 1

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Benefice Holy Communion

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

### Sunday 25 February - Lent 2

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

### Sunday 3 March - Lent 3

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

## Other dates for your diary

23 March Quiz night in aid of St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse  
7.30pm in Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

19 April Quiz night in aid of St Peter's South Hanningfield  
7.30pm in South Hanningfield Village Hall

## From the ministry team

It may seem like Christmas has only just gone (I must admit, I still have some Christmas decorations up as I write this in mid January!).

However, this year Easter is hot on Christmas' heels. It is one of the earliest dates it can be on 31 March (the earliest is actually 22 March); this means that Shrove Tuesday (AKA Pancake Day) is on 13 February and Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent - is on Valentine's Day!

Lent is a time traditionally associated with fasting - the act of giving something up, of voluntarily going without. It is when the church remembers the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert, without food or water. While we do not fast to such extremes, many Christians use the forty days to give up something they may consider a luxury, such as cake and biscuits, alcohol, or buying cut flowers; others may choose to take up something that helps their faith, such as a bible reading plan, or a Lent course. Some choose to give money to charity; some may do all three.

Lent can be a chance to deepen our relationship with God - whatever that may look like for you - remembering a time when Jesus withdrew from everyone to spend time with his Father, as he prepared for his life of service and ministry, leading to his death on the cross and his resurrection, that we celebrate at Easter.

The word 'Lent' comes from the Old English word for Spring. A time of new life and new beginnings. However we choose to mark this season, I pray that it is a time filled with the hope that the new life springing from the cold ground brings.

*The Revd Jacqui Pearson*

## St Valentine's Day

*Most people are probably aware that 14 February is St Valentine's Day, the day for lovers.*

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine's Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, '*For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.*' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia.

Valentine's Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day  
All in the morning betime  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

*The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you.  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine.*

## From the registers

### Downham

#### Baptism

17 December Josephine Grace Barber

#### Funeral

12 January John Coulter

### Ramsden Bellhouse

#### Funeral

4 January Margaret Anne Galley

## Our new Parish

The documentation creating our new combined parish of Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse was published on 14 December 2023 and came into force on 1 January 2024. By the time you read this we will have held a special Parochial Church Meeting to elect two churchwardens, who will have overall legal responsibility for the three churches. The only two nominations received by the closing date were Lee Baxter and Mike Roome, so we anticipate they will be elected and we thank them for their continued support. They will be ably assisted by Beryl Clements and Pauline Fordham who will continue to look after St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse as assistant churchwardens. For the past two years St Peter's South Hanningfield has been unable to elect churchwardens, but their 'Mission Control' team do excellent work looking after the church and its services.

The existing Parochial Church Council members from the three churches will

remain in office until the Annual Church Meetings which will be held sometime in May. We will then elect a new PCC for the new parish and we hope that all three churches will be actively represented on that new body.

The new parish remains part of the Reservoir Group of Churches with Stock and West Hanningfield. Going forward we hope to work more closely with them.

## **Lent 2024**

As the Revd Jacqui has said in her introduction, Lent this year starts on Ash Wednesday 14 February. There will be two services within the Reservoir Group that day. Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes at All Saints' Stock at 10.00am and Sung Eucharist with the imposition of ashes at St Margaret's Downham at 7.30pm. We hope to see you at one of the services.

### **Lent course**

The Revd Jacqui is planning a Lent course for the Reservoir Group at St Margaret's Downham on Thursdays during Lent. More details will be published on the churches' websites and Facebook pages. (see page 19)

## **St Margaret's Downham**

### **Looking back to Christmas**

The January edition of *The Herald* was printed before Christmas so we were unable to review our Christmas services last month. On 11 December we were able to welcome children from Downham school for their carol service. This was for the first time since Covid. Our ever popular Christingle service took place on Saturday 23 December. We are not sure if this confused some of our regulars because the number of worshippers was down a little on 2022, however, those who attended were generous with their giving and we were able to send £400 to The Childrens' Society. In a letter of thanks they indicated that they receive donations from over 2,000 Christingle services during the Christmas season. Whilst the totals for 2023 are not available yet in 2022 they received nearly £600,000 to help children and young people.

### **Churchyard tidy up day**

On Monday 12 February at 10.00am we will be gathering at St Margaret's for the annual clear up of Christmas wreaths and all the other debris which we seem to accumulate over the Christmas period. In addition to collecting rubbish we will prune plants and roses, as appropriate and cut back any bushes which need attention.

We will also give the kitchen, wash-rooms and windows a thorough clean.

Over the past few years we have had on average, about 15 members of the church family who have been able to turn up.

If you are able to give up a couple of hours, we will be very grateful. Please bring your secateurs or Marigolds, depending on the jobs you wish to undertake.

### **Fly tipping**

As we went to press we discovered that someone had dumped a load of rubbish in the church car park. We have reported this to the Parish Council and we hope that they will arrange for it to be removed.



## **Downham WI**

We are getting back into our Tuesday gatherings, whether it's the Tuesday Club ( coffee morning/art & crafts), or members' meeting on the third Tuesday of the month with a 2.00pm start.

We started our January meeting early as the committee decided that, as it was a social meeting to catch up after Christmas, we would do hot home-made soup and French bread for the ladies for lunch. There was a choice of cream of vegetables or broccoli and stilton. Then we had a quick meeting followed by a quiz from Sylvia..

Last Autumn, Essex Federation (HQ) got in touch with me to advise that an Eco-friendly house clearance company had got in touch with them as they had found a quilted quilt that was made by Downham WI in the 1970s, with the ladies' names stitched on the back of it. Whilst it was in need of some TLC we were happy to go and collect it. Our Tuesday Club ladies are in the process of repairing the quilt. It will be as good as new in no time at all.

Just a quick mention, Downham Village Hall have a quiz night on 15 March and I am pleased to say that Downham WI have two tables of 8 people attending. Thank you ladies for your support.

Contact Wendy on 07778 809723

*Wendy*

## **Ramsden Heath Social Club**

Our regular monthly BINGO EVENING is on Friday 2 February at 8.00pm.

Just £1.00 to play & £2.00 for each book you want to play. All welcome.

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

Next up is our QUIZ NIGHT on Saturday 17 February starting at 7.45pm.

Ticket prices: £3 for Members, £6 for Guests, £2 for Children.

Teams of 8 maximum or join a table on the night.

Please bring your own drinks & snacks.

For more information please contact:

Dave Quinney on 07950 309524 or Dave Charlton on 07940 540819

## **Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon**

**Tuesday 13 February 2.00 to 4.00pm**

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

Considering how chilly it was on our January Coffee afternoon we were so surprised how many people turned up to sit and have a chat and a nice piece of homemade cake for £1.50 and a cuppa for 50p. It was also good to see some new faces. As we always say everyone is welcome.

Aspire Cafe in Wickford was delighted to receive a cheque for £250 to support youngsters with Learning Difficulties to learn skills to use in a future workplace. We await to see what they spend the money on. Thank you all once again for your support.

Our next Coffee Afternoon is on Tuesday 13 February and look forward to seeing you all.

Best wishes

*Ramsden Cupcakes*

# **Downham Village Hall**

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**

**7.00 for 7.30 start  
in the Village Hall**

**Cost £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**

**The Village Hall is available for hire and if you would like further information  
please call 01268 711757 or e-mail [contact@downhamvillagehall-esssex.co.uk](mailto:contact@downhamvillagehall-esssex.co.uk)**

## Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

Our 2023 Christmas Party seems a long time ago, but the memories linger on. The food, as always, was superb and plentiful and thanks go to Rita Elcock and her team of helpers for putting on such a wonderful buffet which all ran like clockwork. Thanks also to everyone who helped in any way, making it such a great evening.

Following the meal we were entertained by 'Magic Dave' a professional magician who amazed us with his tricks, helped along the way by his young assistant, Douglas who proved to be an entertainer in his own right.



So now we look forward to another great year which began with our regular 'bring and buy' social evening to welcome in the new year. Thanks to Angela & Paul James for organising a very teasing quiz based on names of flowers. It was a fun evening which got everyone thinking, talking and laughing.

Our next meeting on Thursday 1 February is the AGM when we elect the coming year's Committee. This will be the chance to vote in your 2024 Committee, so if there is anyone who would like to join the committee in any role, please let one of the current committee members know.

This year our Chairman, Terry Lowing, is standing down after five years in the role. Terry has been an outstanding Chairman and was instrumental in managing the demolition of the old Trading Hut, ensuring that it was carried out safely and securely.

Following the formal proceedings there will be time for a chat with a glass of wine and cheese and the 2024 Society Schedule will be available for collection on receipt of your annual subscription. We will also be presenting the 2024 Banksian Medal for the most points awarded in all the Shows in 2023.

Our speaker on 7 March meeting is Alan Marsh and his subject is *'It's not rocket science'*.

## **Ramsden Heath Luncheon Club**

On 19 December the Over-60s Luncheon Club had their annual Christmas dinner in Ramsden Heath Village Hall. We had the largest number of diners ever (55) and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Our guests were welcomed with a festive glass of wine whilst being entertained by Downham Church of England School choir who sang a collection of Christmas carols and songs. Many thanks to Shirley Gowland for organising this and for choir mistress, Rebecca, for arranging such a lovely concert.



Our diners were then served a roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies, fruit and chocolates – a feast indeed.

We would like to thank The Parish Council for their very generous donation and the Village Hall Committee for letting us have the Hall rent free for the occasion, all of which made it possible to provide a lunch free of charge. Last, but by no means least, our splendid team of helpers who worked so hard to make the day go smoothly.

This year the Luncheon Club has celebrated birthdays and, in May, the Coronation of King Charles III when everyone wore some red, white and blue.

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

If you are interested please contact Barbara Stanton on 01268 710642.

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

By the time you read this we will be well into 2024, I didn't realise the print deadline was extra early for the January 2024 edition of *The Herald*..... So this will be appearing in February when we will all be looking forward to spring, but we had such a lovely time in South Hanningfield in December, I just couldn't not write about it.

The festivities started off with our best ever attended coffee morning, we had about 50 people who came for mulled wine and mince pies and cake - all funded by a generous donation from the local parish council. It was so fabulous to see so many people getting into the festive spirit.

Then our next event was a group from the village who entertained diners at The Old Windmill Pub, by singing carols - this was much appreciated by everyone in the pub.

We had great fun singing carols on the Tye on Friday 15 December, the weather was very kind to us, it was dry and actually not really very muddy! I came prepared with my waterproof trousers and boots but not sure I really needed them. Clive and Geraldine set up a great sound system complete with lights and microphone. There were about 20 of us singing carols and drinking mulled wine. It was all great fun and very Christmassy.

Then on Sunday 17 December we had our service of 9 lessons and carols. There was a great attendance and there was plenty of mulled wine, and cheese and biscuits, mince pies and Christmas cake to eat afterwards.

On Christmas Eve we had our 'Midnight Mass' service, held at 9.30pm. There was a lovely atmosphere in church as we all drank more mulled wine and

admired the lovely Christmas flowers and decorations while we waited for the service to start.

I know it is now February - but I couldn't let the year go by and not report what a lovely time we all had in South Hanningfield at Christmas.

Thank you everyone who helped

Happy New Year 2024

*Anne-Marie and Sascha*

### **Upcoming event**

Save the date - Annual Quiz Night Friday 19 April in aid of St Peter's Church, details to follow in next month's edition of *The Herald*.

## **South Hanningfield Village Hall**

Thank you to everyone who turned up to the January Coffee Morning. Thank you to Essex Police - Chelmsford District Fraud and Scam awareness team who gave a very interesting talk.



Thanks also to the funding from Home Instead Charities, Reg no. 1156700 which paid for the refreshments, treats and blinds to complement the new projector which was in operation.

Our next events coming up:

**Table Top/Boot Sale Sunday, 25 February from 9.00am to 1.00pm.** Most of the tables inside the hall are now sold. We are hoping to combine a Table Top Sale with a limited number

of outdoor Car Boot Sale spaces to make for a more varied, interesting event. The Boot Sale spaces cost £15 each. Maybe you have items to sell after doing a clear out after Christmas and are interested in booking a space, please get in contact. There will be a variety of crafts, preloved items, bric-a-brac and food/drink stalls. Entry will be free for shoppers and there will be refreshments and breakfast sandwiches available for sale. For more information, email [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com) or phone 07891 653238.

**St Patrick's Ceilidh.** We are planning a Ceilidh on Saturday 16 March from 7.00pm with The Yardarm Ceilidh Band in attendance, ceilidh dancing and a Raffle. Tickets cost £8 per person.

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

**Magic Evening on Saturday, 28 September.** More details to follow in future editions of *The Herald*.

**Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 23rd November.** More details to follow in future editions of *The Herald*.

**Raffle Prizes Needed** If anyone has any suitable items for raffle prizes they can donate to us for use at future events, please let us know. The committee would be very grateful.

### **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 6 February and 27 February.

### **Regular Activities**

#### **Coffee Morning**

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

#### **\*\*New\*\* Art Classes**

An Introductory Workshop starting on Wednesday, 31 January and Wednesday, 7 February from 10.00am to 1.00pm. All materials provided, small groups (over 18s only) and refreshments provided and for each three-hour workshop is £24.

Please email Sue for more information and to reserve your place on [sue.creativespace@outlook.com](mailto:sue.creativespace@outlook.com)

#### **Kids Role Play (children 0 to 6 years)**

Special Valentine's Kids Roleplay on Tuesday, 13 February 10.15am to 12.00noon

Kids Role Play are available for exclusive meet ups and parties

For more information, visit the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094542279687>

To book, visit <https://bookwhen.com/kidsroleplay>

#### **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 6.20pm to 7.15pm 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

### **\*\*New\*\* 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)

Please call the listed contacts to book a place.

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>

SOUTH HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE HALL

# INDOOR TABLE TOP SALE



Sunday, 25th February 2024 - 9am to 1pm

**Sellers £15 per table**  
**Craft, Bric-a-Brac and Preloved items**

Refreshments and breakfast sandwiches available for sale.

To book a table or for more information scan the QR code or  
Email: [vallisc@aol.com](mailto:vallisc@aol.com)  
Phone: 07891 653238  
(Outside car boot pitches also available)



**FREE ENTRY  
TO BUYERS**

South Hanningfield Village Hall,  
South Hanningfield Road,  
Chelmsford, CM3 8HL  
**Registered Charity No. 301402**



## All in the month of February

It was:

150 years ago, on 15 February 1874 that Sir Ernest Shackleton was born. This Irish-born British polar explorer was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

100 years ago, on 5 February 1924 that BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time.

Also 100 years ago, on 12 February 1924 that George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue was performed for the first time, in New York.

90 years ago, on 23 February 1934 that Edward Elgar, the British composer, died.

75 years ago, on 22 February 1949 that Niki Lauda, Austrian racing driver was born. He was Formula One World Champion in 1975, 1977 and 1984. He was severely injured and burnt in a crash at the 1976 German Grand Prix. (Died 2019.)

70 years ago, on 23 February 1954 that the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh. It grew into a year-long national trial involving 1.8 million children.

65 years ago, 3 February 1959, became 'the day the music died', when American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

60 years ago, on 7 February 1964 that the Beatles arrived in New York for their first US tour. They were met by thousands of screaming fans.

50 years ago, on 7 February 1974 that Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.

40 years ago, on 14 February 1984 that figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice-skating at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.

30 years ago, on 25 February 1994 that serial killer Fred West was arrested in connection with the disappearance of his daughter. Police then discovered human bones buried in his garden. He was eventually charged with 11 murders, and his wife Rosemary with ten murders.

25 years ago, on 1 February 1999 that the International Maritime Organisation stopped using the Morse code 'SOS' distress call. All sea-going vessels were

required to have a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) fitted by this date.

20 years ago, on 4 February 2004 that Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

15 years ago, on 7 February 2009 that the Black Saturday bushfires took place in Australia. The worst in Australia's history, they destroyed 1.1 million acres of land, killed 173 people, injured 414, and burned down more than 3,500 buildings, including 2,000 houses.

## **What do you know about the church organ?**

Over the Christmas period, if you count carol singing in the Old Windmill pub, I played the organ for 10 services across our three churches. Christmas is a busy time for church musicians, but also very rewarding. During that period, I had two conversations about church organs with members of the congregation and I thought it was worth sharing them with you.

The first question was *"why do we use organs in church, why not the piano?"* The organ is an ancient instrument. It is believed they were invented by the Greeks around 200BC and later developed by the Romans. We may have heard the story that Emperor Nero fiddled whilst Rome burned. That would have been impossible because violin type instruments did not appear until around the eleventh century, so perhaps he was an early organist. It is thought that organs were first introduced into churches in the eighth century and by the time of the Renaissance they had developed into the instrument we know today. The piano is a much newer instrument, having been invented during the eighteenth century. The organ has the power to fill a large space, such as a church, with sound. The early pianos, and other keyboard instruments such as the harpsichord could not do that. It was only in the nineteenth century that cast iron frames were added to pianos enabling them to produce a greater volume. Perhaps I am biased, but I still don't think the piano works well when accompanying traditional hymns in church although it has its place with modern worship songs.

The second question was *"how old is the organ?"* The instruments at both Ramsden Bellhouse and South Hanningfield date from the late nineteenth century and instruments of around this date can be found in many of our local churches. We probably remember from history lessons at school being told that Oliver Cromwell closed theatres and abolished Christmas. Whilst that is a general misconception, the Puritan movement in the Church came to prominence in the 1640s at the time of the English Civil War and England certainly became more austere. Organs that were then in parish churches were ripped out. Whilst singing in church was not forbidden, it was severely

restricted. In the meantime, chorales, what we now know as hymns, were being composed and sung in Europe, especially in Germany where composers such as JS Bach rose to prominence during the seventeenth century. John Wesley broke away from the Church of England in the eighteenth century to found the Methodist church with his brother Charles who was a prolific hymn writer. It is not surprising that worshippers in Methodist churches found hymns more inspiring to sing than the metrical psalms that were the mainstay of Church of England worship. With worshippers drifting away to the Methodists and other free churches Church of England clergy started to introduce hymns into worship, much to the chagrin of churchwardens at the time. In 1819 the churchwardens of St Paul's Sheffield so objected to their vicar's wish to introduce hymn singing that they tried to deprive him of his living by bringing an action against him in the York Consistory Court (Holy & Ward v Cotterill). Although they won their case no penalty was imposed on him, and he remained as their vicar. Tacit approval for hymn singing was given by the Archbishop of York and in 1861 the first edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern was published. This was so popular that within a few years most Church of England churches were introducing pipe organs, or harmoniums (reed organs) to accompany hymn singing. Unfortunately, there was no ready supply of trained organists therefore they were often played by mediocre pianists, giving the organ a somewhat tarnished reputation amongst musicians which sadly remains to this day.

*Robert Andrews*

## **20 years of Facebook**

Twenty years ago, on 4 February 2004, Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

Originally known as thefacebook.com, it was intended by Mark Zuckerberg and four other Harvard students – Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes – to create “a directory of information for college students”, but it soon expanded, and each of the five co-founders developed different roles. All except Moskovitz are now not part of the Facebook empire, but all are extremely rich.

A year after it was launched, Facebook lost the “the” from its name, and the following year it got rid of its students-only restriction. In its new form Zuckerberg, from an early stage the main man of Facebook, said the original aim was for Facebook users to take their online identities with them around the internet without having to register individual accounts for each website or app.

The swift development of Facebook, which went public in 2012, has involved Zuckerberg in many lawsuits, and he has demonstrated a wide-ranging ability to win people over. He is also extremely clever. He has never revealed his own political affiliation or voting history, and is hard to pin down. He was raised as a Reform Jew, went through a period when he espoused atheism, but more recently has said he “believes religion is very important”.

In September last year his net worth was estimated at not far short of £50 billion, but he receives a one-dollar salary as CEO of Facebook, and he and his wife Priscilla Chan give away huge amounts of money, some of which goes to fighting antisemitism and backing educational and community initiatives. Facebook is banned in China.

As of late September 2023, Forbes estimated Zuckerberg’s net worth at about \$64.4 billion, making him the 16th-richest person in the world.



Facebook is now an important communication channel. Each of our three churches has its own Facebook page where you will find up to date information about what is happening. If you haven’t already found us do have a look. If you follow us you will receive notification when the appropriate page is updated.

St Margaret’s Downham - [www.facebook.com/DownhamChurch](http://www.facebook.com/DownhamChurch)

St Mary’s Ramsden Bellhouse -  
[www.facebook.com/RamsdenBellhouseChurch](http://www.facebook.com/RamsdenBellhouseChurch)

St Peter’s South Hanningfield -  
[www.facebook.com/SouthHanningfieldChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SouthHanningfieldChurch)

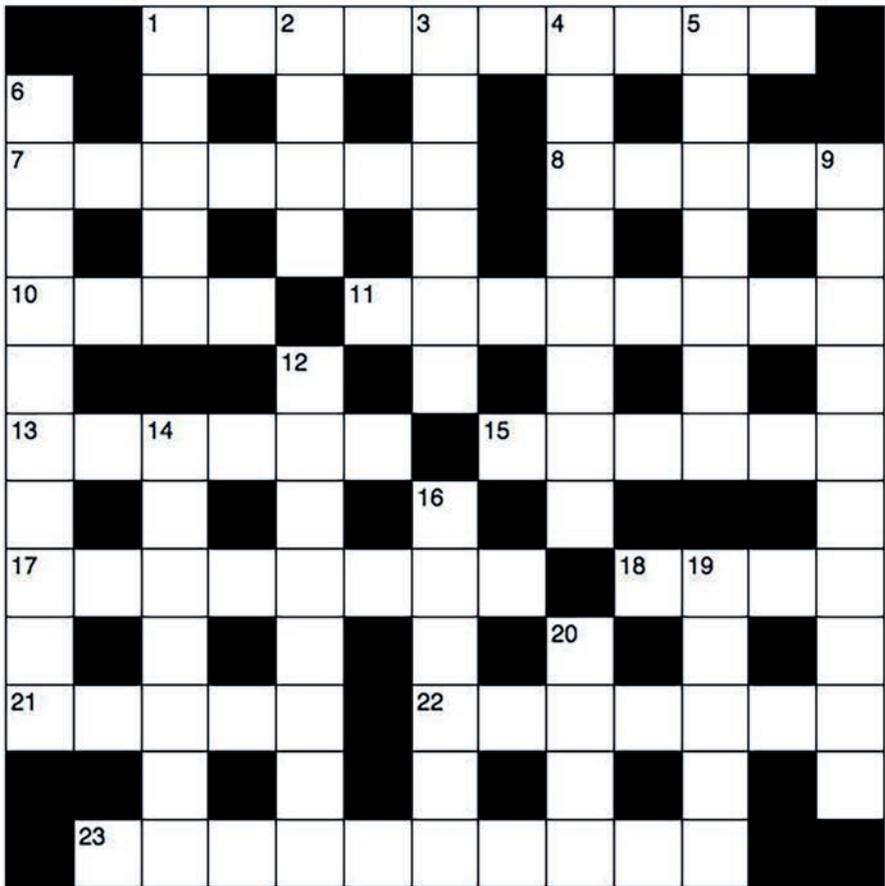
Remember we also have church websites where you can find a regularly updated diary of services and events as well as contact details and information about baptisms, weddings and funerals.

St Margaret’s Downham - [www.downhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.downhamchurch.org.uk)

St Mary’s Ramsden Bellhouse - [www.ramsdenbellhousechurch.org.uk](http://www.ramsdenbellhousechurch.org.uk)

St Peter’s South Hanningfield - [www.southhanningfieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.southhanningfieldchurch.org.uk)

## Puzzle corner



### Across

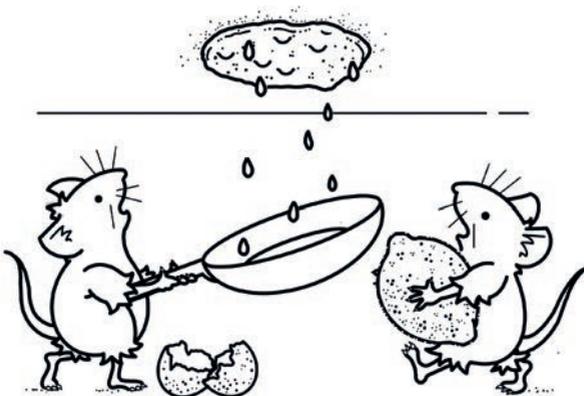
- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)

- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

**Down**

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

**Answers on page 33**



# Children's pages



Who were the first couple?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
MFU OPU NBO  
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL  
UFO WFTF  
OJOF

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God  
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

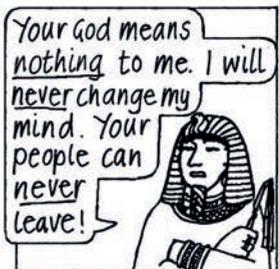
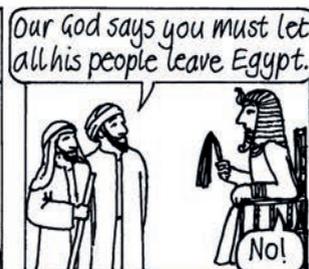
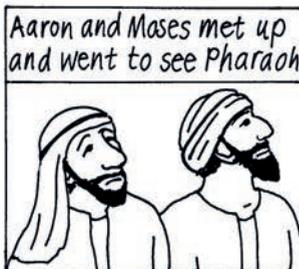
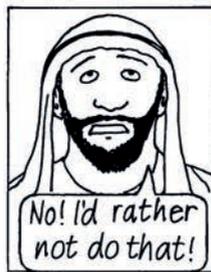
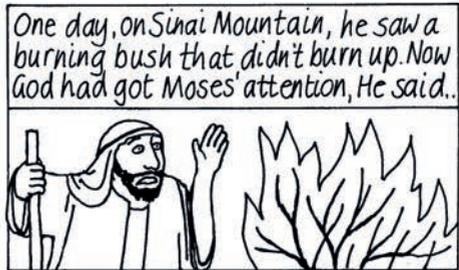
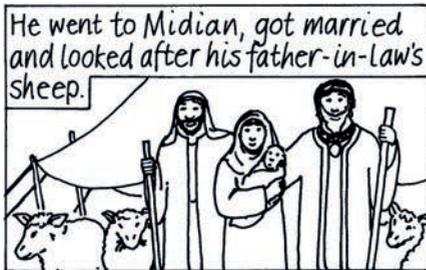
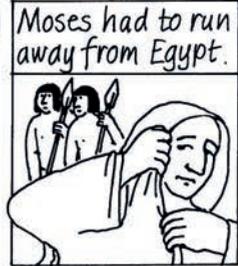
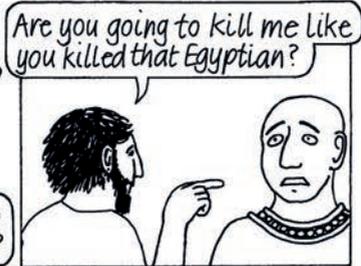
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S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.



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# Downham Village Hall

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## Downham Village Hall is available for hire

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

# South Hanningfield Village Hall

South Hanningfield Road, South Hanningfield, CM3 8HL

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

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

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## Smile lines

### **Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands...**

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. *"You're running around with other women,"* she charged.

*"You're being unreasonable,"* Adam responded. *"You're the only woman on earth."* The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. *"What do you think you're doing?"* Adam demanded.

*"Counting your ribs,"* said Eve.

### **Do what we can to help...**

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: *"We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."*

*"Thank you,"* she said. *"But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."*

### **Unhappy in love**

I think my girlfriend's hallucinating. She keeps telling me she's seeing other people.

### **And if love should die....**

While we were working at a men's clothing store, a customer asked my colleague to help her pick out a tie that would make her husband's blue eyes stand out. *"Ma'am,"* he explained, *"any tie will make blue eyes stand out, if you tie it tight enough."*

### **Definition of old**

Grandchildren don't make a man feel old; it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother.

### **Family**

Last night our wifi stopped working, so I had to spend a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

### **Muddy woof**

What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog? *A Land Rover.*

# Contacting The Herald

## Contributions to the March edition

Copy for the next edition of The Herald should be sent by email to Robert Andrews at [theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk) by **Thursday 15 February**. Please send files in .doc, .docx or .rtf format. Because we wish to maintain a common house style please keep any formatting to an absolute minimum and do not embed photographs or other artwork. If you wish to include photographs or other artwork they should be sent separately in .jpeg or .pdf format. If you are unable to use email or are unsure about file types please telephone Robert on 01268 733817, but be aware that the telephone line has BT Call Guardian installed to deter nuisance callers, therefore you may have to announce your name and press the # key in order to be put through.

## Advertising in The Herald

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

Advertising rates are currently:

Full page	£100 for 12 insertions
Half page	£60 for 12 insertions
Quarter page	£40 for 12 insertions

We will accept one off or limited run insertions on a pro rata basis

If you have existing artwork your advertisements should be emailed to [advert.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:advert.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk) preferably in .jpeg or .pdf format. If you wish us to produce artwork for you this can be arranged for a small one-off fee.

## Answers to the Crossword puzzle

**ACROSS:** 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13 Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

**DOWN:** 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.

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