

The Herald

50p

You show me the path of life.
In your presence
there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are
pleasures for evermore.



January 2024

Psalm 16: 11

Reservoir Group of Churches
Downham Benefice
The parishes of St Margaret Downham
St Mary the Virgin Ramsden Bellhouse and
St Peter South Hanningfield

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St Peter South Hanningfield

Currently vacant

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Contents

What's on when and where	2
Pastoral reorganisation of our parishes	3
From the ministry team	4
Chelmsford Deanery Day - 24 February	5
St Paul, the first Christian intellectual	5
From the registers	6
St Margaret's Downham	6
St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse	8
Ramsden Heath Social Club	8
Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon	9
Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society	10
South Hanningfield Village Hall	10
All in the month of January	14
Puzzle corner	16
Children's pages	18
Smile lines	28
Contacting The Herald	29

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.

The Herald is on sale in St Margaret's, St Mary's and St Peter's at 50p per copy. Alternatively you may purchase an annual subscription for £5.00. If you wish The Herald to be delivered to you please contact Robert Andrews on 01268 733817 or email distribution.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk

What's on when and where

Sunday 7 January - Epiphany

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

Sunday 14 January - Epiphany 2

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Morning Prayer

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 21 January - Epiphany 3

11.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Benefice Holy Communion

Note: No services at Downham or South Hanningfield

Sunday 28 January - Presentation of Christ in the temple

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 4 February - 2 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

Other dates for your diary

Meeting of Parishioners to elect churchwardens for the new parish of Downham with Ramsden Bellhouse and South Hanningfield

Wednesday 24 January 7.00pm at St Margaret's Downham

Everyone is welcome to attend, but to vote at the meeting you must be on the electoral roll of the new parish, or be resident in the parish and on the local authority electoral roll.

Pastoral reorganisation of our parishes

Last year we reported on proposals to reorganise the administrative responsibilities of our three churches to make them easier to manage. Because of the Church of England's status as the established Church in England it was necessary to petition Parliament to seek permission for the reorganisation. At the time of writing (7 December) we haven't received the formal parliamentary approval, but Chelmsford diocese has told us to assume the new arrangements will be effective from 1 January 2024.

What does that mean for our three churches?

Those who worship at St Margaret's, St Mary's or St Peter's are unlikely to notice any changes. We already worship together at least once a month, and hopefully more people will venture from their "home" church to join us at these joint services. People living in the parish will now be able to get married or be buried, subject to space being available, at any of the three churches.

All Church of England churches are governed by a Parochial Church Council (PCC) which has the same legal status as a limited company. Members of the PCC act as its directors and also its charity trustees. The pastoral reorganisation will merge the PCCs of St Margaret's, St Mary's and St Peter's into a single PCC to be known as the Parochial Church Council of Downham with Ramsden Bellhouse and South Hanningfield. The first thing we need to do is to elect churchwardens for the new parish. This will take place at a special Meeting of Parishioners scheduled for 24 January. Members of the existing three PCCs will continue until the Annual Parochial Church Meetings which will take place after Easter when a new PCC will be elected.

From 1 January a single set of accounts will be maintained, but donations and fundraising activities will still be recorded against each of the three churches. Where restricted funds are in existence, for example the maintenance fund for St Margaret's, they will continue to be restricted for use on the designated church. As the combined income of the three churches is around £100,000pa, we will have to register the new PCC as a charity with the Charity Commission. This should make it easier to prove our charitable status when seeking funding.

The reorganisation was prompted mainly by the difficulty of recruiting people as churchwardens or PCC members. Since Derek Greasley's death in March 2022, St Peter's has had no churchwardens at all. However the past year has seen the creation of an active "mission control" team at St Peter's, people who are willing to look after the church, organise events, prepare the church for services and welcome visitors, but who don't want the legal responsibilities of being a churchwarden or PCC member. We are very grateful for everything they do and hope that this model can be replicated in the other two churches.

From the ministry team

Dear Brothers and Sisters

January is a time of both looking back and looking forwards - indeed it the very nature of the ancient Roman god, Janus, after whom the month is named, with his two faces; one looking back and the other looking ahead.

For the Parishes of St Margaret's Downham, St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse, and St Peter's South Hanningfield, the new year represents a significant moment in their history, as the three parishes legally become one. Over the last few years the churches have been working together, and worshipping together, more and more. Becoming one parish will enable the practical aspect of church life, such as PCC (Parochial church council) meetings to be more efficient and less demanding on time. It will, I pray, continue to foster a sense that we are all part of one community, whichever village we live in, or church (or churches) we attend. A community that looks out for one another, supports one another; that celebrates the good together and sees us through the difficult times together. Modern life spreads beyond the traditional boundaries of parishes and villages, yet the need to be a part of a close knit and supportive community is as important as ever.

The reorganisation is a time to look forward to the future, but also to look back and celebrate the past. Each of the three churches, and their communities, have a rich history. We are truly blessed with three beautiful, unique, churches. Each one needs love, care, and many people generous with time and money, to maintain the buildings and churchyards. The churches will continue to strive to be places where people can come together, to connect with God and with each other, as they have been doing for hundreds of years.

We will be formally marking the joining of the three parishes at Pentecost in May (look out for more information to follow!). At Pentecost, Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to his disciples. He then sent them out, to spread the Good News of his love as far and wide as they could. They founded church communities all over the known world, and the message continued to spread - and our ancient churches are a testament to the faithfulness of those who spread that news. As the three parishes join together, our mission remains the same. To herald the Good News of Jesus Christ - of his forgiveness, of his hope, of his love - to all the villages and beyond.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed 2024!

Jacqui Pearson

Chelmsford Deanery Day - 24 February

Our three churches are part of the Chelmsford deanery, which consists of 37 churches in and around Chelmsford. The Area Dean and Lay Chair invite all members of the churches in the deanery to join together in a day of encouragement and sharing at Meadgate Church, Mascalls Way, Great Baddow on Saturday 24 February.

- Worship and pray together
- Hear about what is happening in other churches and share your own stories
- Get useful advice from people who have had success with outreach, finance, Ecochurch and much more
- Have space to reflect and recharge your batteries!

More details to follow in the February edition of *The Herald*.

St Paul, the first Christian intellectual

This month, on 25 January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to

set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge that Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25 January.

From the registers

Downham

Burial of ashes

9 December Stephen Graham Fawkes

Funeral

20 November Rose Marie Weymouth

St Margaret's Downham

Confirmation at Chelmsford Cathedral

Four people from our Reservoir Group of churches were amongst over thirty candidates confirmed by Bishop Guli in the Cathedral on 26 November.

Amongst them was Peter Livermore from Downham.

We wish them well as they commence the next stage of their Christian journey.





L to R Peter from Downham, Daniel from Stock, the Revd Jacqui, Grace & Stella from Stock

Christmas Bazaar on 2 December

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Bazaar on 2 December. Unfortunately the day was very cold and foggy which probably caused some people to stay at home by the fire. About an hour after we opened, suddenly the lights went out. We eventually ascertained that there was a power cut in Castledon Road. The power was off for about 2 hours, but we carried on with no lights, no heating and we couldn't serve hot refreshments. Our visitors didn't seem to mind. The semi-darkness added to the festive atmosphere. After we closed at 3.00pm the power went off again and we understand it was off and on intermittently until about 2.30am Sunday morning.



We are pleased to say that the lack of power didn't stop people from spending their money and we raised nearly £1,500 for church funds.

Christmas services

This edition of *The Herald* goes to press before any of our Christmas services, therefore we will report on them in the February edition.

St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

Shoebox appeal

81 Christmas Shoeboxes have left me to go to Ukraine. They are for adults (men and women), elderly adults, teenagers and children.

Thank you to all who filled a shoebox and for those who gave me items to put in them. Thank you too to Beryl and Ray for covering the boxes with Christmas paper.

Unfortunately, I was very unwell but my daughters helped me finish them off in time.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 23 March - Quiz night

Saturday 1 June - Strawberry Cream teas

Saturday 29 June - Sid Bolan Big Band concert

Please make a note of the dates. Further details will follow in future editions of *The Herald*.

Audrey Pegrum MBE

Ramsden Heath Social Club

Our first monthly BINGO EVENING of the New Year is on Friday 5 January 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.

This will be followed by a BARN DANCE on Saturday 20 January again at 8.00pm. Limited tickets: £8.00 for Members, £10.00 for Guests (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY: please book in advance). Featuring a LIVE band & caller, sure to be a fun evening! Please bring your own drinks & snacks.

If anyone would like to join the Social Club, membership at just £12 per adult is now available.

For more information please contact:

Dave Charlton on 07940 540819 or Dave Quinney on 07950 309524

Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon

9 January 2.00 to 4.00pm

Ramsden Heath Village Hall
Dowsetts Lane CM11 1HX

Our last meeting in December was our special Christmas afternoon when we invite the children from Downham School to come along and put us all in the Christmas spirit singing their lovely songs. They did not disappoint - we think they get better each year. We had over 70 'customers' come along and enjoy a piece of homemade cake for £1.50 and a cuppa for 50p followed outside with the lighting of the Christmas tree with mulled wine and shortbread. The charities, Aspire Cafe and Teddies for Loving Care, will do well thanks to the support from everyone.



Our dates for 2024 are as follows:

Tuesday afternoons 2.00 - 4.00 pm

9 January 13 February 12 March 9 April 14 May 11 June 9 July
13 August 10 September 8 October 12 November 3 December

Everyone is welcome to join us in a very friendly atmosphere.

Ramsden Cupcakes

Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

Our annual Christmas party was held on 13 December. Unfortunately, it was too late to be included in this month's Herald, but we will have full details and a couple of photos no doubt in next month's edition.

It has been a great year with excellent monthly meetings including speakers – the Morris Men in November were very entertaining – social evenings, plus an outing to Wisley on a beautiful summer's day and, of course, our very successful Spring and Summer Shows.

So now to a new year and a new day for our monthly meetings. We are going back to meeting on the first Thursday of the month, 8.00pm at Ramsden Heath Village Hall.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday 4 January. This is a social evening to catch up with friends, and a light-hearted quiz just to get the brain cells back into gear after the celebrations. Please bring along any items you don't want for our 'bring and buy' sale and maybe pick up a bargain of your own. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles and a glass to drink from.

The AGM is on Thursday 1 February. This is the time to vote in the 2024 Committee. We are looking for people to join the Committee and maybe bring fresh ideas to keep the Society thriving. The Committee meets around five times during the year.

This year we will be electing a new Chairman, as Terry Lowing has decided to stand down, so we welcome nominations for this post. A form will be sent to members in January, together with the Agenda and minutes of the 2023 AGM.

The formal part of the meeting will be followed by a cheese and wine buffet, during which time members will receive a copy of the new Society Schedule and membership card.

We look forward to another great year with the Horticultural Society.

South Hanningfield Village Hall

Our **Christmas Crafts & Gifts Table Top Fayre** at the hall on Saturday, 25 November was a great success and we couldn't have asked for better weather. Thank you so much to our volunteers for all your hard work setting up the day before, for helping on the day and setting down after the event. Thank you to all our stallholders who attended our event especially those who kindly donated Raffle prizes which raised some further funding for the hall. They were Alan Designs, Beautiful U by Tan, Daisy Studio Gems, Daisy Glass Art, Dewin Pren Woodworking, Paul Graves, Hayley's Party Treats, Helen Finch, Hounds of Hanningfield, Jules Gift Creations, Linpincrafts, Mike

Holmes, Missy Moo and Resin by Jen. Thank you to everyone who visited our event and we have had some lovely positive feedback from stallholders and visitors to the event. We would also like to thank Bond Estate Agents for the use of their letting boards for publicity of the event. We raised just over £1,000 which is a fantastic sum that will go towards the upkeep of the village hall.



The **Coffee Morning Club** were granted £100 funding thanks to South Hanningfield Parish Council for our December Christmas coffee morning, so they were able to give out some complimentary festive treats and a tippie to those attending.

January Coffee Morning We are delighted to announce that the hall committee have received £250 thanks to being funded by Home Instead Charities, Reg 1156700 to have a special post-Christmas Coffee Morning from 10.30am (Wednesday, 10 January) especially for older people within the area. We will be able to have complimentary treats, cakes, refreshments, and a tippie to celebrate the festive season and 2024. We will have a visit from the Essex Police Fraud Officers to give advice and information on scams to those attending. To finish the event, we will be showing a film to showcase our new projector and if it is a success, we hope to have regular film afternoons in 2024.

Our next events coming up:

Fundraising Ball at Stockbrook Manor on Saturday, 27 January

There are some spaces still available if anyone else is interested in this charity event. £77 per person Posh Evening Frocks and Dinner Jackets.

Proceeds to South Hanningfield Village Hall and St Peter's Church. Tables of 8-10 and cost includes pre-dinner drinks reception, after dinner all-inclusive evening bar including house spirits, wines, beers, lagers & soft drinks; 4 Course Luxury Dinner Menu including wine, beers and soft drinks; DJ entertainment. To book, call 07396 546050 or email shvhall@gmail.com

Table Top/Boot Sale We have reintroduced Table Top Sales which were popular a number of years ago at the village hall. We are hoping to combine a Table Top Sale with a Car Boot Sale to make for a more varied, interesting event. The date of the event will be Sunday, 25 February from 9.00am to 1.00pm. There will be a variety of crafts, preloved items, bric-a-brac and food/drink stalls. If you have items to sell and are interested in booking a table, please get in contact. The cost is £10 for 4ft table, £15 for a 6ft table and £15 for one of a limited number of outdoor boot sale spaces for cars. Entry will be free for shoppers and there will be refreshments and breakfast sandwiches available for sale. For more information, email 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 or phone 07891 653238.

A Magic Evening on Saturday, 28 September. 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

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm

Pilates & Keep Fit

Monday 9.45am – 10.45am

Thursday 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Contact Hayley on 07758 427379

Strollercise Dance

Monday 11.15am – 12.15pm

Tel: 07952 791183

Email: lynne.strawford@sky.com

No booking is required, just turn up.

Puppy Dog Training Classes

Monday from 6pm and 7pm

Dog training for puppies of all ages

Contact Rachel on 07484 706085

or email Rachel@PuppyPotentialDogTraining.co.uk

Kid's Role Play (children 0 to 6 years)

Tuesdays and Wednesdays (except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

9.45am to 11.30am

For more information, visit the Facebook page

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

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

Sakura Yoga Studios

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

Upholstery Class

Friday morning 9.30am – 1.00pm

Contact Fiona on 01621 776586 or 07887 507208

Please call the listed contacts above 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 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>

***Happy New Year
from South Hanningfield Village Hall Management Committee***

All in the month of January

It was:

700 years ago, on 8 January 1324 that Marco Polo died. This Venetian/Italian merchant, explorer and writer is best known for his book *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which detailed his travels along the Silk Road in Asia.

200 years ago, on 8 January 1824 that Wilkie Collins, British novelist and playwright was born. Best known for *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*, which is regarded as the first modern British detective novel.

175 years ago, on 13 January 1849 that the Colony of Vancouver Island was established. It became part of Canada in 1871.

150 years ago, on 25 January 1874 that Somerset Maugham, British playwright, novelist and short story writer, was born. One of the most popular writers of his era.

125 years ago, on 20 January 1899 that Clarice Cliff, British ceramic artist, was born.

100 years ago, on 21 January 1924 that Vladimir Lenin, Russian Communist leader, died. He was the architect and first head of the Soviet Union.

Also 100 years ago, on 22 January 1924 that Ramsay MacDonald became Britain's first Labour Prime Minister.

Also 100 years ago, on 26 January 1924 that the Russian city of St Petersburg was renamed Leningrad. Its name was changed back in 1991.

80 years ago, on 17 January to 18 May 1944 that the WW2 Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy, took place. This Allied victory is regarded as the hardest-fought and bloodiest battle of the war, with around 250,000 casualties.

Also 80 years ago, on 23 January 1944 that Edvard Munch, Norwegian artist, died. Best known for *The Scream*.

75 years ago, on 10 January 1949 that RCA launched the 7-inch 45-rpm vinyl record, commonly known as the single.

Also 75 years ago, on 26 January 1949 that the 200-inch (five metre) Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory in California was used for the first time. It was the world's largest optical telescope until 1976, and it is still in active use.

65 years ago, on 12 January 1959 that the Motown record label was founded in Detroit, Michigan by Berry Gordy.

60 years ago, on 11 January 1964 that the US Surgeon General published a report which concluded that cigarette smoking caused lung cancer and chronic bronchitis. This was the first official US government report on the health issues of smoking.

50 years ago, from 1 January to 6 Mar, 1974, a three-day working week was introduced in the UK, in order to conserve coal supplies (used by power stations) during a miners' strike.

40 years ago, on 22 January 1984 that the first Apple Macintosh computer went on sale.

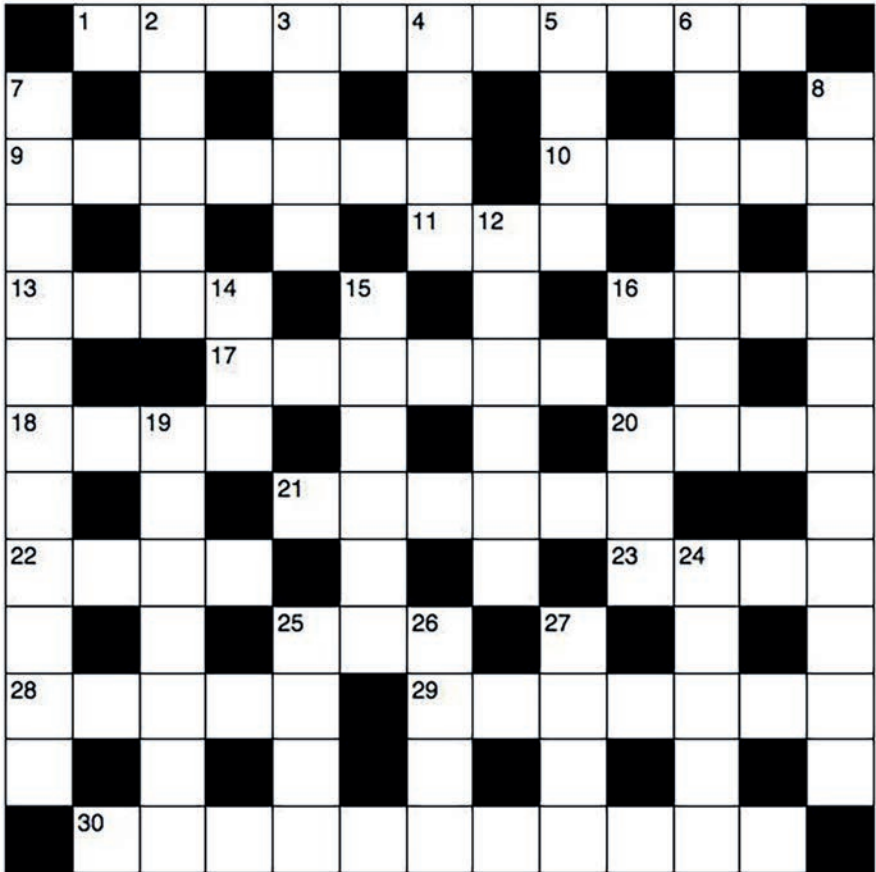
25 years ago, on 1 January 1999 that the euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries.

15 years ago, on 3 January 2009 that the cryptocurrency Bitcoin was launched.

10 years ago, on 27 January 2014 that Peter Seeger, American folk/protest singer died. Best known for 'Where Have All the Flowers Gone' and 'If I Had a Hammer'.



Puzzle corner



ACROSS

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee'(Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)
- 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)

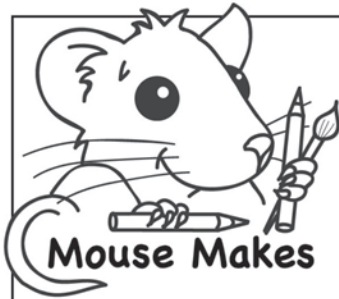
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

DOWN

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5 Tidy (4)
- 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)
- 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)
- 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
- 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)
- 24 Rarely used musical note (5)
- 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26 and 27
 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)
- 27 See 26 Down

Answers on page 29

Children's pages



EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.



Where was Jesus born?

 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?

 and -----
 Luke 2:11



Who was the king?

 Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?
 the -----
 Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
 In a -----
 Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a -----
 Luke 2:2



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

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

JESUS
 WISEMEN
 WORSHIP
 SHEPHERD
 KING • JEWS
 CHRIST • CHILD
 BORN • RULER
 ISRAEL • REJOICE
 JOY • HOUSE • MARY
 GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapter 2 verses 1 to 12

In Egypt the Hebrew people flourished so well that the new Pharaoh grew scared and ordered all their new-born boys to be killed.

Moses' mother hid him when he was born, but he grew too big.



She made a basket from reeds for him and put it in the grass by the river Nile.



She told Moses' sister Miriam to keep watch.



Pharaoh's daughter found Moses



Shall I get someone to look after the baby?



So Miriam got her mother.



The princess adopted Moses as her son.



When Moses was grown up he went to see where his people worked as slaves.



Perhaps I will be the one to save my people.



Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave.



Moses checked no-one was looking and...



He hid the body in the sand.



DOWNHAM HALL

Castledon Road, Downham, Essex, CM11 1LG



Boutique country house hotel & restaurant
Introducing our new Autumn/Winter menus
and new tasting experiences

We can host the following occasions:

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Downham Village Hall

School Road, Downham, CM11 1QN
Registered Charity No. 296139



Downham Village Hall is available for hire

Rates are on our web site: downhamvillagehall-essex.co.uk

- full kitchen facilities
- air conditioning and air filtration
- ideal for wedding receptions; christening/children's parties etc. and can accommodate 80 people comfortably seated and up to 100 for buffet style events
- perfect for small meetings and events e.g. yoga, pilates etc.
- a large car park opposite the Hall

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-essex.co.uk

Ramsden Heath Village Hall

Dowsetts Lane, Ramsden Heath, CM11 1HX

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1070622



The Village Hall Committee would like to remind you of the excellent facilities available for hire within your village:

- **Large Hall, ideal for family / children parties**
- **Small Hall, ideal for meetings or small groups**
- **Kitchen facility**
- **Car Park**
- **Picturesque surroundings**

For further information: availability, rates or request a viewing
Please contact either the Chairman, Gary on 01268 710791
or Letting Secretary Kerry on: **07875 761243**

Look out for our new website: www.ramsdenheath.org.uk

South Hanningfield Village Hall

South Hanningfield Road, South Hanningfield, CM3 8HL

Registered Charity No. 301402



Available For Hire within the village hall:

- Main Hall
- Small Hall
- Kitchen
- Toilet facilities in Main and Small Halls
- Bar facility in small Hall
- Car park
- Wi-fi, projector and PA system

Our village hall is available by the hour or day.

It is suitable for weddings, christenings, birthdays, parties, clubs and societies.

Website <https://e-voice.org.uk/shanningfieldvillagehall>

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

For bookings and further information, call our Bookings Line 07396 546050 or email shvhall@gmail.com to check availability and prices.

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RUNWELL ART CLUB



Downham Village Hall,
50 School Road,
Downham, CM11 1QN

We are a group of talented, friendly amateur artists working in various mediums, from Acrylics, Pencils, Pastels, to Water-mixable Oils, and Watercolours.

We meet every Friday, 10am to 1pm

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

Contact: Carole Wellby – 01268 560005

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

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Smile lines

Some of you have noticed a few typos in the magazine now and then. To improve this, for 2024 I am using a new set of rules for editing. They are as follows:

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat.)
6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. One should NEVER generalise.
15. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
16. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
17. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
18. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
19. The passive voice is to be ignored.
20. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary.
21. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
22. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
23. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.
24. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
25. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
26. Puns are for children, not groan readers.
27. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
28. Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
29. Who needs rhetorical questions?
30. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

And the last one...?

31. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Contacting The Herald

Contributions to the February edition

Copy for the next edition of The Herald should be sent by email to Robert Andrews at theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk by **Thursday 18 January**. 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

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 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, Godlessness. 9, Egotism. 10, After. 11, Eat. 13, Sort. 16, Plan. 17, Escape. 18, Odds. 20, Idem. 21, No fear. 22, Idle. 23, Abet. 25, Ail. 28, Eaves. 29, Achieve. 30, Grasshopper.

DOWN: 2, Odour. 3, Lair. 4, Same. 5, Neat. 6, Settled. 7, Gershonites. 8, Grandmother. 12, Apples. 14, TES. 15, Octopi. 19, Deliver. 20, Ira. 24, Breve. 25, As is. 26, Lash. 27, Whip.

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