

The Herald

50p



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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Keep up to date with events as they happen

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What's on when and where

Sunday 5 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 12 January - Baptism of Christ

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Morning Prayer

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 19 January - Epiphany 2

11.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Group Holy Communion

Note: No services at Downham or South Hanningfield

Sunday 26 January - Epiphany 3

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 2 February - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

(Candlemas)

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse



From the ministry team

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During Advent I have, in my lounge, a small nativity set - there's all the usual characters - Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. The set came from Peru, so instead of cattle and sheep there's a llama and an alpaca! There's also the little baby Jesus.

However, where are the Wise Men? The Kings from the East?

They are on the other side of the lounge, just by the TV. They do not join the rest of the Nativity set until 6 January.

Why? I hear you ask?

On 6 January the church celebrates the Feast of Epiphany (Well we actually celebrate it on the nearest Sunday, which this year is the 5th) - the day that the Wise Men (or Magi, or 'The Three Kings') meet Jesus.

We read about them in Matthew's account of Jesus' birth:

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

(Matthew 2. 1-2; 9-11)

These men (we don't know where they are from, or exactly how many there were) had travelled miles and miles, because the star had told them someone important had been born. So, naturally, they went to the main city, Jerusalem, first, for surely that is where a king would be born?

Yet they find Jesus born not in a palace but in a humble stable. Not in the capital city, but in the small provincial town of Bethlehem.

We may put the Christmas decorations away quickly after 'the big day', and usually by Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night), but the season of Epiphany, the season of celebrating the Good News that Jesus, the Son of God was born a human; the creator of the world became a small child, so that we might know God and know his love for us - this season of celebration extends all the way to Candlemas, on 2 February.

I may put my decorations away by the 6th, but my Nativity scene stays out

for a little longer. We enter the dark, dull days of January, when Christmas is done, and Spring seems far away, but this is the season of 'new starts', of resolutions, of 'Dry January' - surely it is the best time to remember that God gave humanity a new start - a new way for us to know Him, in his Son, Jesus Christ.

The Light of the World shines ever brighter, even when the tree lights are packed neatly away.

May your 2025 be filled with the Hope, Peace, and Love of Christ.

Happy New Year!

Reed Jacqui

PS. If you would like to learn more about Epiphany, and the Epiphany tradition of 'chalking the door' of your house, please do join us at St Margaret's for our Family Service at 11.00am on Sunday 5 January.

What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the sixth century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw

this response to Jesus: *'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.'* The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

New Parish Electoral Roll

Every parish in the Church of England is required to maintain an electoral roll. Your name can be on the electoral roll if you are baptised and live within the parish or, living outside the parish you have attended worship regularly for at least six months. Being on the electoral roll entitles you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, stand for election as a churchwarden or member of the Parochial Church Council, to be married in the church and, if there is a graveyard which is still open for new burials, to be buried in the churchyard.

During the year we encourage new worshippers to join the roll, and we remove the names of those who have died. However, it is recognised that people move house or may just drift away from worship, therefore every six years each parish is required to scrap its existing electoral roll and start afresh. Everyone who wishes to remain on the electoral roll must complete a new form.

The six yearly revision is due this year and must be completed at least two months before our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which has to take place by the end of May. It is convenient that we should be doing the revision now so that it truly reflects the worshipping community of our new combined parish.

In the coming weeks we will be approaching everyone who comes regularly to any of the three churches in our parish with a form for completion. If you have not been approached by the end of January and feel your name should be on the electoral roll, please email me at treasurer@downhamchurch.org.uk and ask for a form.

Robert Andrews
Electoral Roll Officer

From the registers

Downham

Burial of ashes

24 November Mary Barbara Pettitt

Ramsden Bellhouse Baptism

24 November Elsie Grace Hayes

St Margaret's Downham

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who braved storm Darragh to come and support our Christmas Bazaar on 7 December. Thank you to everyone who made cakes, jams, Christmas decorations etc. for us to sell. Thank you to Father Christmas who attended, not forgetting Rudolph and friends who had to battle the rain and high winds to get him there. We took a little over £1,300 on the day which has crept up to nearly £1,400 with further sales and donations.

Using card payments for the collection

When we reopened the church following the Covid pandemic we introduced a card machine to accept payments by card. The machine has been well used since its introduction, but the battery only powered it for about 90 minutes, the internet connection was flaky and it was not that easy to use. Technology is always developing so people who have attended our services over the Christmas period will have found a brand new machine with a battery life of several hours, which we hope will be much more convenient to use.

St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

Christmas Shoeboxes

My last collection resulted in 51 boxes going to Ukraine to vulnerable people caught up in war. Thank you to all the people who filled a shoebox, giving joy to the people at Christmas and also to those who gave money for the transport.

Audrey Pegrum MBE

Ramsden Heath Social Club

Our regular monthly Bingo Night will be a SUPER BINGO on Friday 3 January at 8.00pm. Still only £1.00 to play plus £2.00 for each book you want to play. All ages welcome.

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

Our next event of 2025 is a BARN DANCE on Saturday 18 January, also at 8.00pm. Featuring a live band & caller. Tickets for this event will be extremely limited. Tickets are priced at £8.00 for Members & £10.00 for Guests.

Please bring along your own drinks & snacks.

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

For more information or to buy tickets 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 14 January 2.00 - 4.00pm

Looking forward to seeing you all again after what we hope was a very Happy Christmas and a good time had welcoming in the New Year. To keep you up to date our Christmas Coffee afternoon on 3 December was fantastic. So many people came and enjoyed watching and listening to the Choir from Downham Primary School. The children were brilliant and very enthusiastic. We have already booked them for 2 December 2025. Thank you to the staff for bringing them along. We managed to raise £300 for the Lennox Children's Cancer fund which is based in Laindon and supports children through the difficult times. We could not do it without all our 'customers' support.

We hope to see many of you back on Tuesday 14 January. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a cuppa for 50p and a piece of homemade cake for £1.50.

Happy and Healthy New Year

Best wishes

Ramsden Cupcakes

Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

2024 Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party was held on 5 December. We had a wonderful turnout with 67 people sitting down to eat our Christmas fayre. 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, cooking food, putting up and taking down chairs and tables or the mammoth task of clearing away all the dishes. This all added to making it such a great evening.



Following the meal we were entertained by 'The Ladybirds' a group of four singers who entertained us with songs ranging from the 1950s to present day. They then led us into our finale, the usual rousing 'Twelve days of Christmas'.



So now we look forward to another great year which will begin on 2 January with our regular 'bring and buy' social evening to welcome in the New Year. This is a time to catch up with friends, plus 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. Our AGM will be held on Thursday 6 February. We are always looking for new faces to join our Committee. If anyone is interested, please contact a member of the Committee.

St Peter's South Hanningfield

Carol Service

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Carol Service on 15 December. We hope you enjoyed the updated format.

Charity Fundraising Ball

South Hanningfield Village Hall committee is organising another Charity Fundraising Ball on 25 January with the proceeds split between the Village Hall and St Peter's church. We hope you will support this event. See details on page 13

South Hanningfield Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who came to our recent Christmas Fayre at the hall.



Our grateful thanks to The Mayor of Chelmsford Councillor Janette Potter and Mayoress Councillor Jackie Galley for opening the event.



Thank you to our volunteers who helped us set up the day before including decorating the hall for Christmas; on the day with car parking for stallholders and the public; helping during the event and clearing up after the event (you know who you are!) We are also very grateful to the stallholders especially those who donated prizes for the Raffle including Agatha Crochet; Anna Hughes Crafts; Austin book corner Independent Usborne seller; Borderland Crafts; Brock Hill Honey; By that girl Eve; Calico Mosaico; Dewin Pren Woodworking; Handmade by SueVic; Hanningfield Treat company; Hounds of

Hanningfield; Joanne Harris - Crafty Jo's; John Bishop Wood Turning; Leigh Bees; Lillybelle Bracelets; Lincrafts; Liv's Crafts; Liz Goodall Cards and Gifts and Marlin Woodcrafts. We raised over £1,100 which was a fantastic achievement and will go into the upkeep of the village hall. The photos can be viewed on our website <https://e-voice.org.uk/shanningfieldvillagehall>

Our next events for this year are:

Charity Ball Fundraising Ball at Stockbrook Manor on the evening of Saturday, 25 January. After the success of last year's event, bookings are being taken for another event! £80 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, Raffle. For more information and to book, call Emma on 07961 963914. See page 13.

St Patrick's Ceilidh We are planning a Ceilidh Dance on Saturday, 15 March, doors will open from 7.00pm. The Yardarm Ceilidh Band will be in

attendance, with a caller to show dancers the steps to the music. Tickets cost £8 per person and there will also be a Raffle. For further information and to book, email vallisc@aol.com or phone 07891 653238.

Sponsorship from Pronto Training Thank you to Pronto Training who will be sponsoring their First Aid services on the day of the South Hanningfield Summer Show on Saturday, 12 July from 12.00noon to 6.00pm. Further details of the Summer Show will be in future editions of *The Herald*.

Raffle Prizes Needed If anyone has any suitable presents left over or unwanted from Christmas, please can you donate them to us. They would be used as Raffle prizes at future fundraising events for the hall. The committee would be very grateful.

No Parking on Pavement by South Hanningfield Village Hall

A reminder that vehicles should not park outside the Village Hall. Once the car park is full, please park in the street down Middlemead.

If you see cars parked outside the village hall please alert the volunteer committee on 07891 653238.

Mobile Library

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

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

Next visit dates are 7 January and 28 January.

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm

Wednesday 8 January

Please call the listed contacts below to book a place.

Pilates & Keep Fit

Monday 9.45am – 10.45am

Thursday 10.30am – 11.30am

Contact Hayley on 07758 427379

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 6.00pm and 7.00pm

Dog training for puppies of all ages

Contact Rachel on 07484 706085

or email Rachel@PuppyPotentialDogTraining.co.uk

Karate and Kick Boxing

Tuesday evenings:

5.30pm Children's Karate

6.30pm Advanced Children's Karate

7.30pm Senior Karate

7.30pm Kick Boxing

Free first classes at all sessions

Phone number to contact for Leah and Richard is 07934 213010

1-1 Ballroom and Latin lessons and wedding dance lessons

available with Callie every Wednesday afternoon and evening from 3pm
£30 for a 45-minute lesson.

Please contact Callie on 07885 630241

Yoga and Zumba Thursday night

Zumba 6.30pm to 7.20pm

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

Zumba Saturday mornings

Zumba 9.20am to 10.20am

Pay as you go

Tel: Charlene on 07772 443028 or email info@sakurayogastudios.co.uk

If you would like to book the South Hanningfield Village Hall for any regular activities or events, please call Sandra Graves, our Bookings Secretary on 07396 546050 or email shvhall@gmail.com to check availability and prices.

Please continue to support our local village hall in 2025 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

Charity Ball

£80 PER HEAD THIS INCLUDES
PRE DINNER DRINKS

4 COURSE LUXURY MENU
HOUSE TABLE WINES AND BEERS
HOUSE BAR 10:30 TILL 12:30

AFTER DINNER ENTERTAINMENT:
DJ & 2 GAMES HEADS+TALES (CASH PRIZE)
RAFFLE WILL BE HELD

DRESS CODE :BLACK TIE+EVENING DRESS
£30 NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT

CONTACT EMMA
07961 963914

25
JAN

Stock Brook Manor
Queens Park Ave,
Billericay CM12 OSP

7:30
PM

Raising money for South Hanningfield Hall charity number 301402
St Peter's Church charity number 1209033

All in the month of January

It was:

400 years ago, on 13 January 1625 that Jan Brueghel the Elder, Flemish artist, died.

150 years ago, on 14 January 1875 that Albert Schweitzer, German theologian, philosopher, physician, musicologist, writer and humanitarian, was born. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

125 years ago, on 14 January 1900 that the première of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's opera Tosca, took place in Rome.

100 years ago, on 3 January 1925 that Benito Mussolini declared himself dictator of Italy.

90 years ago, on 8 January 1935 that Elvis Presley ('The King') was born. An American rock and roll singer, guitarist and actor, he died in 1977.

80 years ago, on 16 January 1945 that Adolf Hitler took up residence in the Führerbunker, a subterranean bunker complex in the garden of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. It became the headquarters of the Nazi regime, and he remained there for the rest of his life. He committed suicide there in April 1945.

Also 80 years ago, on 27 January 1945 that the Soviet Red Army liberated Auschwitz Concentration Camp in southern Poland. It was the largest Nazi concentration camp and at least 1.1 million prisoners died there.

75 years ago, on 6 January 1950 that the UK officially recognised the Republic of China and established diplomatic relations.

Also 75 years ago, on 23 January 1950 that Israel declared Jerusalem was its capital city. Palestine also claims it as its capital.

70 years ago, US President Dwight D Eisenhower gave the first televised presidential news conference. It was filmed in the morning and broadcast that evening. The first live conference was given by John F Kennedy in January 1961.

60 years ago, on 4 January 1965 that T S Eliot, American-born British poet, playwright, literary critic and editor died. He won the 1948 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Also 60 years ago, on 24 January 1965 that Winston Churchill died. He was Prime Minister 1940-45 and again in 1955, and one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century. He was named as 'the greatest Briton of all time.' He won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature "for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."

50 years ago, on 20 January 1975 that Bob Dylan's album Blood on the Tracks was released.

40 years ago, on 1 January 1985 that the first mobile phone call in the UK was made by comedian Ernie Wise. He rang Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katherine's Docks in London.

Also 40 years ago, on 23 January 1985 that a debate from the House of Lords was televised live for the first time.

30 years ago, on 1 January 1995 that the World Trade Organisation was established.

Also 30 years ago, on 3 January 1995 that the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that the cumulative total reported AIDS cases had passed the one million mark, with cases in 192 countries. (Including unreported cases, the total was estimated to be about 4.5 million.)

25 years ago, on 1 January 2000 that the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K 'Millennium Bug'.

Also 25 years ago, on 5 January 2000 that Steve Jobs announced that he had again become the CEO of Apple Computer. (He had been ousted from the job in 1985.)

Also 25 years ago, on 13 January 2000 that Bill Gates announced he was stepping down as chief executive of Microsoft. Company president Steve Ballmer took over, while Gates remained as chairman and chief software architect.

15 years ago, on 4 January 2010 that the Burj Khalifa in Dubai opened. It is the world's tallest structure, standing 2,722 feet (829.8 metres.)

Also 15 years ago, on 12 January 2010 that the Haiti earthquake took place. The capital, Port-au-Prince, was devastated and at least 100,000 people were killed and buried in mass graves.

10 years ago, on 7 January 2015 that the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris took place. Two Muslim brothers forced their way into the offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine and opened fire. 12 people were killed and 11 injured. The brothers were shot dead on 9 January. The magazine had published images of the Islamic prophet Muhammad in 2011 and 2012, and its offices had been fire-bombed in November 2011.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

It is now 1,700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. Not many people know that.

Anyway – so what?

Because the Council of Nicaea, in 325, was the very first ecumenical council that the Christian Church ever held. A serious heresy had crept into the Eastern Church: Arianism, which taught that Jesus Christ was not divine, but only human.

To resolve the crisis, the Emperor Constantine called a council and summoned both the Western Church and the Eastern Church. Constantine knew that the Church had to get together and pull in the same direction. They did, and out of that Council came the Nicene Creed.

Get together and pull in the same direction. That is a good description of what Christ's Church on earth should be doing. That is the hope of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

For 2025, the theme of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity focuses on belief, in commemoration of the Council of Nicaea, held so long ago.

The Scripture passage chosen for the worship service is Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, as narrated in John 11:17-27. Jesus had said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

Jesus is the Messiah. He is divine. Mary believed in Him, and so did the Council of Nicaea in 325. And so do hundreds of millions of Christians today.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18 to 25 January – the 'octave' of St Peter and St Paul.

Play The Organ Year 2025

**PLAY THE
ORGAN
YEAR 2025**

The Royal College of Organists has designated 2025 as "Play the Organ Year". It is designed to inspire a year-long effort by the whole organ-playing community, not just to increase the number of people learning to play the organ, but also the number enjoying live and recorded organ music.

The organ is a magnificent instrument unlike any other – powerful, versatile, visceral and enormous fun to play. At the heart of Play the Organ Year will be an attempt to open this experience to as many people as possible - to encourage them to take a step towards the organ, to lay hands on it wherever possible, and to discover for the first time the unique and thrilling experience of playing this remarkable instrument.

My own organ playing career started by accident at the age of 14 when the elderly organist of the church I attended was suddenly taken ill and was unable to play for several weeks. The organ there was very basic, similar to

those at South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse, and because I played the piano regularly for morning assemblies at school I was “volunteered” to have a go at the organ. Subsequently the church helped to pay for a short course of lessons allowing me to appreciate the important differences between playing the piano and the organ and I have been playing regularly ever since.

Having had no formal musical education since completing Grade 8 on the piano soon after leaving school I was encouraged by a previous Learn the Organ Year, about 30 years ago, to return to more formal organ tuition. Under the guidance of one of the RCO’s teachers I progressed to gain an advanced diploma in organ playing (LTCL), as well as a Master’s degree in music theory, so it is never too late to learn.

There can be no doubt that there is currently a severe shortage of organists in our local churches. It is difficult to find a replacement when I am on holiday and I am frequently asked to play for weddings or funerals at many different churches in the area. In recent weeks Wickford RC church approached me to see if I would be willing to play every week for their Saturday evening Mass. I politely declined!

I recently turned 76 and whilst I hope to continue playing the organ for a few more years yet, none of us know what is ahead of us health-wise. It would be good if there were people out there with at least basic keyboard skills who might be interested in learning more about playing the organ. If that is you, or you know someone who might be interested, please contact me.

email: robert@rjandrews.me.uk

Robert Andrews

How to make the most of your New Year resolutions

What are your New Year resolutions for 2025?

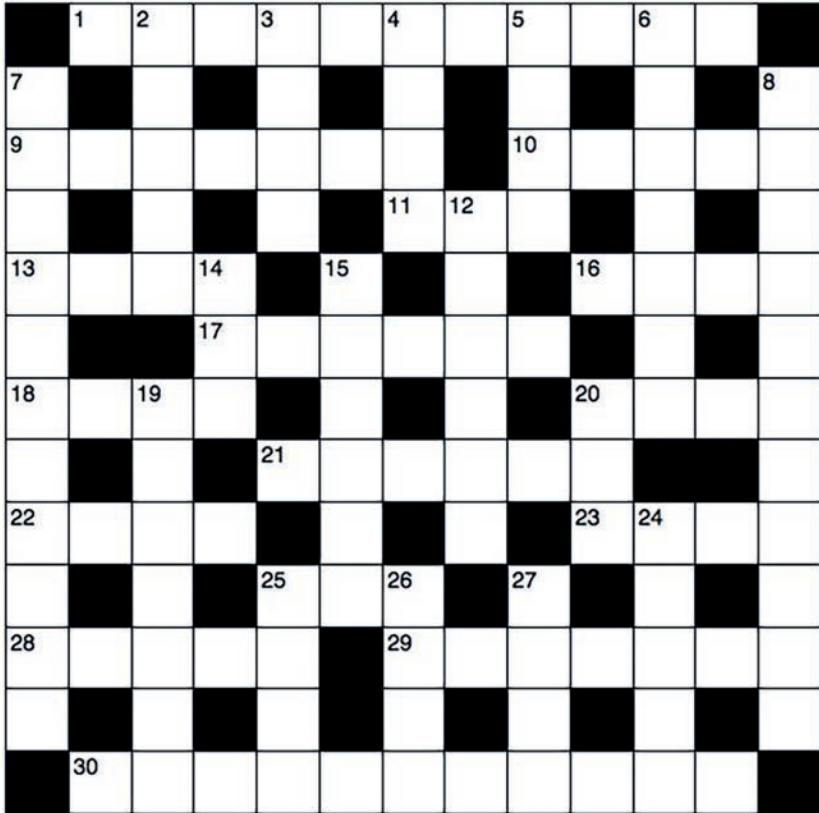
Sadly, one in four of us will give ours up by Epiphany, on 6 January.

Why so soon? According to behavioural scientists at University College London, we make our goals both too big and too vague. So, instead of resolving to ‘lose a lot of weight’, decide to ‘lose three pounds in the next month’. With ‘success’ not far off, you will be motivated to keep going.

Another way to keep your New Year’s Resolution is to involve a friend to aim for the same thing. As one scientist puts it: “the involvement of a partner has a sustained effect.”

As for the time involved in reaching your New Year’s Resolution, new habits are hard to build. Behavioural scientists say that on average, it takes 66 days to form and imbed a new healthy habit into your life. So be patient, keep going, and look for some success in mid-March.

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)

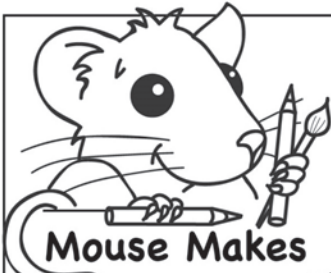
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 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 33

Children's pages



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.

J E W S
M A R Y
W S O N
O T N A




How many other words can you make from:
EPIPHANY

EPIPHANY is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

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

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe.
Where did Jesus finally grow up?


READ
the story of the wise men in *Matthew 2:1-23*

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

E G O D
B O R N
F L E E
L D G E



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



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

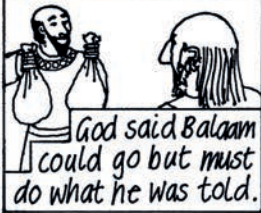
It can be read in the Bible in
Numbers 22: 2 to 24: 25

The Israelites camped across the river Jordan from the kingdom of Moab. King Balak was sure they were going to invade.

Balak told Balaam he would pay him to curse the Israelites, but...



Balak asked him again.



On the way, Balaam's donkey saw an angel and wouldn't move.



The donkey was stopped by the angel again, and then a third time.



God let the donkey speak.



Then Balaam saw the angel...



King Balak was ready to pay Balaam.



Look, there they are. Now curse them.



Balaam tried to curse the Israelites but he could only say a blessing.



Again, Balaam could only bless, not curse.



A third time, Balaam could only bless.



I told you I had to say what God wanted me to say.





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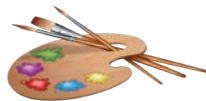
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Our mothers taught us TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

Our fathers taught us RELIGION: "You better pray that, that will come out of the carpet."

Our mothers taught us LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

Our fathers taught us MORE LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

Our mothers taught us about CONTORTIONISM: "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

Our fathers taught us about the science of OSMOSIS: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Our mothers taught us about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

Our mothers taught us about ESP: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

And finally, our fathers taught us about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

Moses revisited

Young Joseph was asked what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When Moses got to the Red Sea, his engineers built a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across it safely. Then Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to blow up the bridge, and so all the Israelites were saved."

"Did your teacher really say that?!" asked his mother, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Bible

A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I now know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and asked him to explain. "It's easy. It stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

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 16 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.

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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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