

The Herald

50p

April 2024



**Rain in abundance,
O God,
you showered abroad;
you refreshed
your weary inheritance.**

Psalm 68: 9

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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The Herald is published monthly by the Parochial Church Council of Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Parochial Church Council.

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 April - Easter 2

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 April - Easter 3

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 April - Easter 4

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Parish Holy Communion

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

Sunday 28 April - Easter 5

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 5 May - Easter 6

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

Monday 29 April **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, 7.00pm at St Margaret's Downham. See page 3 for more details

Sunday 19 May **Pentecost service** conducted by the Bishop of Bradwell 11.00am at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

A special date for your diaries

Sunday 19 May is Pentecost Sunday when we will be welcoming Bishop Adam, the *newish* Bishop of Bradwell, for his first visit to our parish.

As it is the third Sunday of the month when we have a group service for all three churches Bishop Adam will preside at our Parish Eucharist which will be held at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse, then we will go to St Margaret's Downham for a buffet lunch.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)

Churches, like all charities, are required to hold an annual general meeting where trustees are elected and the officers present their reports. As mentioned in last month's edition of *The Herald*, the first AGM of the new combined parish of Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse will take place on 29 April at 7.00pm in St Margaret's church, Downham. We will be electing a brand new Parochial Church Council who are the charitable trustees and have the same legal status as directors of a limited company. To be a member of the PCC you need to be an actual communicant member of the Church of England and have been on the parish's electoral roll for a minimum of six months. You cannot be a member of a PCC if you have been debarred from acting as a company director. We are currently seeking nominations as PCC members. If you are qualified and wish to put your name forward for election please contact Mike Roome whose details may be found on the inside front cover.

We hope to see many of you at the AGM.

From the ministry team

April Fool's?

No one really knows the origin of April Fool's Day, though it is 'celebrated' (if that is the right word) across the world. In the UK, the custom dates back to at least 1698; a British Newspaper (Dawk's newsletter) reported several people going to the Tower of London to "see the lions washed" - a popular prank that continued into the 18th and 19th Centuries.

This year April Fool's day falls on the Bank Holiday Easter Monday, the day after we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead. Peter and John certainly thought that Mary Magdalene had somehow been tricked when, early in the morning, three days after Jesus was crucified and buried in a tomb, she came and told them that the heavy stone had been rolled away from the entrance of

the tomb; until they went and investigated themselves. Mary Magdalene must have thought someone was playing a cruel trick or had even stolen Jesus' body, until she heard her name, turned and saw Jesus himself - risen from the dead and much alive.

Over the next two thousand years more and more people have believed that Jesus really did rise from the dead - defeating death once and for all for everyone. On Easter morning, and every Sunday morning, we remember, celebrate, and give thanks in our church services. We give thanks that in Jesus' death there is forgiveness for all our wrongdoings, and in his resurrection the assurance that we will never be separated from the love God has for each one of us.

It still may be quite a difficult thing to believe - that Jesus, the Son of God, died for us and rose from the dead, but perhaps, as we see the April Fool Pranks on the news, that may make us smile and are quickly forgotten, what if the resurrection of Jesus - that around 2 billion people in the world still believe in today - is actually true? What would that mean to you if it were?

I wish you all a very Happy Easter

Jacqui

St George of the Golden Legend

We celebrate St George, patron saint of England, on 23 April.

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. Some stories say that he was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly on 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybya where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. St George charged forwards and drove his

spear into the dragon's gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and he is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

From the registers

Downham

Funeral & Burial

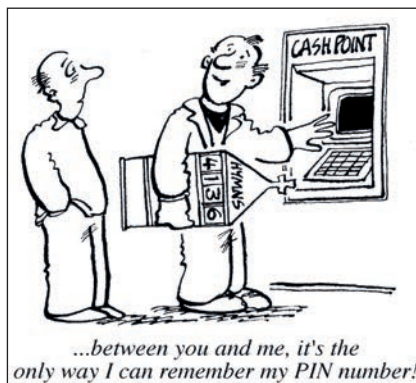
21 March Dennis Edward Webb

St Margaret's Downham

Lent course

About a dozen people attended the Lent course held at St Margaret's. We were pleased to welcome participants from Stock and West Hanningfield.

Over the course of five weeks we explored how hear God, how to read the bible, how to meditate on its message, how to pray and how to contemplate. It was a good opportunity to meet together informally, read and pray together and we hope it may lead to further meetings.



Downham WI

It's lovely to see the spring flowers and blooms out this time of year.

Our speaker in February, Francis Sparrow, gave a talk on the Black Death. It was very interesting going back 100s of years and how it started and how it is still around in this day and age, in certain parts of the world. That's enough on that subject.

The March speaker, Brian Billings, spoke about London and the things you might not know. It was interesting to find out more about our capital city.

When certain buildings, bridges, statues were built, blown up and restored.

We had a fabulous turnout of members, new and old, for our March meeting. Subs were paid for the coming year. We now have over 40 members and rising!!

A few of us have booked for our County annual meeting in May. Sally Gunnell is the guest speaker so we are looking forward to it very much.

We are looking into a few coach trips this year as we enjoyed them so much last year. Our members are coming up with some great ideas.

Just a reminder, Downham Village Hall have a Race Night on 18 May which will be great fun. Anyone interested can contact me on the number below.

Contact Wendy on 07778 809723

Wendy

Downham Village Hall

We recently had another of our popular quizzes which was a great success. Thank you to all those who attended. Our next quiz is presently scheduled for 13 September.

It is pleasing to see an increase in the number of hirers of the Hall and this enables us to maintain it on behalf of our community. We have recently had Wi-Fi installed.

We have several other events planned for the year:

- the return of our ever popular RACE NIGHT on 18 May. Tickets on the door £5, bring your own drinks and nibbles. Why not sponsor a race for £20 or 'buy a runner' for £2? Contact Mike Roome at mikeannroome@msn.com or any Committee Member.
- on 8 June we will be holding a SUMMER BBQ. Food for sale and drinks will be available for a generous donation!
- we will again be having a CHRISTMAS EVENT this year on 30 November. It was a great success last year and Father Christmas

has agreed to pop in! Food will be available for sale together with some stalls to help you with your Christmas shopping.

If you would like to hire Downham Village Hall for any regular activities or special events, please call our Bookings Secretary, Viv Fawkes, on 01268 711757 for availability. The standard hire rate is £22 per hour Monday to Friday and £25 per hour on Saturdays and Sundays (minimum 2 hours for all bookings). For regular hirers special arrangements are available and in certain circumstances a £200 deposit may be required. Full Terms & Conditions etc. are on our website. (Registered Charity No. 296139)

Web site: www.downhamvillagehall-essex.co.uk
email: contact@downhamvillagehall-essex.co.uk

Downham Village Hall

join us for a fun

RACE NIGHT

SATURDAY 18th MAY 2024

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

- pay on entry £5

- bring your own food and drinks

**- why not sponsor a race for £20 or
'buy a runner' for £2**

- and there will be a raffle

everyone welcome

to book in please contact: mikeannroome@msn.com

**Our thanks to 'On Course Race Nights'
All proceeds will contribute to the cost of maintaining the Village Hall
(Registered Charity No. 296139)**

**The Village Hall is available for hire and if you would like further information
please call 01268 711757 or e-mail contact@downhamvillagehall-essex.co.uk**

Easter Celebration at Downham Church of England Primary School

At Downham Church of England Primary School, we have been preparing for Easter throughout this half-term, not least with our Easter Celebration at Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday 11 March. It was truly wonderful to see the cathedral so full of our school families and friends. Both the children and school staff had worked incredibly hard to prepare for this special event.

For me, like many in our school community, our Easter Celebration has been a highlight of the school calendar for several years now. I will always remember the heaviness of heart I felt when we had to cancel the celebration just before the school closed for the first Covid lockdown in 2020. It felt as if the world was tilting out of control and yet, even then, the Easter message of hope and love could not be quenched. As a school community, we rallied together on the front playground and sang our special Easter songs.

This year, at the cathedral, each class told a different part of Easter story. The youngest children started the retelling with a song about Palm Sunday and the service culminated with the Year 6 children reflecting upon Easter Sunday and Jesus' resurrection. In between, the Year 1 – 5 classes shared about the Last Supper, Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and his subsequent arrest, Peter's denial and Jesus' crucifixion.

Our Easter Celebration was a great reminder of God's great love as demonstrated through the cross and Jesus' sacrifice to bring about reconciliation between God and humans. We remembered that death has indeed lost its sting and that Jesus' resurrection demonstrates his victory over death and gives us hope and assurance of better things to come.

As a school, we wish everyone in our local community an Easter season filled with love, hope and peace.

Lynne Boyd

RE & Collective Worship Leader Downham Church of England Primary School

St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

St Mary's News

Quiz Update - Unfortunately, I have had to cancel the quiz on Saturday 23 March. The schools break up and it is too near Easter and people are going away. It is hoped to run the quiz in the Autumn. Look out for details in *The Herald* nearer the time.

Audrey Pegrum

History of Ramsden

A local history of the Ramsdens (Crays, Heath, Bellhouse) and the local area

Documents



Maps



Pictures



This annual exhibition takes place in **Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall** over the two days of a weekend towards the middle of April. Entrance is free – all are welcome.

The big feature for this year is the decennial censuses from 1841 to 1921 and how the households of the Bellhouse have changed and matured during the 80 years which encompass its development through the early years of the 20th century.

We are always on the look-out for historical artefacts – pictures, documents, maps, magazines, newspaper cuttings – in fact anything to enlarge and enrich the collection. Items do not have to be of a certain age – anything from the present day back to the dawn of time!!

If you have anything that you would be willing to donate or let us copy, please email the **History of Ramsden Archive Team** at history@ramsdenbellhouse.info.

This year's event will be over the weekend of
13th and 14th April 2024, 11am – 5pm.

Home-made refreshments are also available –
come along and delve into the past!

Ramsden Heath Social Club

Our monthly BINGO EVENING will be on Friday 5 April 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.

Also in April is our VILLAGE HUNT on Saturday 20 from 1.30pm approx. Starting outside the Village Hall in Dowsetts Lane and finishing at The Nags Head. Now in its 3rd year – take a leisurely stroll around Ramsden Heath and Downham answering questions along the way. All ages welcome (children MUST be accompanied). PLEASE NOTE: THOSE TAKING PART DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK. Ticket prices are: £5 Members, £7.50 Non-members, £2.50 Children. The ticket price includes a FREE drink at the Nags. We will also have a £1per ticket raffle.

For more information please contact:

Dave Quinney on 07950 309524 or Dave Charlton on 07940 540819

Community Cuppa & Cake afternoon

Tuesday 9 April - 2.00 to 4.00pm

Ramsden Heath Village Hall
Dowsetts Lane CM11 1HX

What a lovely turnout we had for our March Coffee Afternoon considering what a wet day it was. We have sent £100 each to the following charities. **Carli Lansley Foundation.** Karl Lansley set up this charity after his wife passed away with a heart issue at such a young age. He has set up a free ECG for people between 14 and 35 in the Southend area. **Brain Tumour Support Group.** This is held in Romford and supports people suffering with brain tumours and is the only one local to this area. The money helps with the letting at the Salvation Army hall, refreshments and gifts for people going in hospital and constant support.

If it wasn't for the support of our lovely 'customers' we would not be able to raise so much money for charity every year so thank you to all and it is always nice to welcome new people to join us in a very friendly atmosphere.

Ramsden Cupcakes

Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

Our March meeting was attended by 49 people with lots of entries for the mini show. The star of the show was Jenny Tillyer's magnificent cyclamen.



Our speaker was Alan Clark and his subject was *'It's not rocket science'*. It's difficult to know what to say about the subject of the meeting except to say that it was 'rocket science' to most of us linking gardening with nuclear science. The actual title of Alan's talk is *'It ain't Rocket Science - No, it's far more complicated'*, listed as a complete run down on how plants grow with some laughs and lots of info! Alan is certainly a very knowledgeable speaker with a great passion for his subject.

SPRING SHOW Our Spring Show this year will be on Saturday 6 April. Are you ready?

What can we say about the effect of the weather on our plants and vegetables except to say that they have certainly not been short of water throughout the winter months.

For those who haven't ventured outside much yet, there are plenty of other classes in the Schedule for cookery and various types of handicraft. Only Horticultural Society members may enter the show, but there will be a public viewing at Ramsden Heath Village Hall at 2.30pm, so even if you aren't a member please come along and have a look at what your friends and neighbours have produced. There is always plenty to see and admire, and you may be inspired to come and join us.

Closing date for entries is Monday 1 April for the children and Wednesday 3 April for members.

If you have any queries or would like any further information about the show please contact the Show Secretary: Brenda Burnell, 2 Allens Road, Ramsden Heath, CM11 1JF.

Phone: 01268 710904, email: blburnell48@gmail.com

APRIL MEETING Our next meeting on Thursday 4 April will be a fun quiz, hosted by Paul and Angie James. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks. Maybe these will help stimulate the 'little grey cells'.

Please remember there will be no mini show at our April meeting.

St Peter's South Hanningfield

Margaret Radford RIP

I am sure that most of you have heard that Margaret died in February, just after the March edition of *The Herald* went to print. We send our condolences to Roy and their family. Margaret was cremated at a private ceremony on 12 March, but there will be a memorial service for her in the church at 2.30pm on Tuesday 2 April, followed by a reception in the village hall. All are welcome to attend.

Churchyard tidy up

Thank you to everyone who attended on Saturday 16 March to help with tidying up the churchyard ready for spring.

South Hanningfield Village Hall

Litter Pick some of our committee held an impromptu litter pick a couple of weeks ago on a Saturday afternoon to mark Great British Spring Clean month. Even though there were only six of us, we did a great litter pick around the village as well as tidying up the footpath. Thank you to those who helped us (you know who you are!) as well as to Chelmsford City Council for the loan of the litter pick kits and picking up the 20 full bags afterwards.



St Patrick's Ceilidh

Our St Patrick's Ceilidh Dance on Saturday 16 March was a great success.

We decorated the hall inside and outside to mark the occasion.

The Yardarm Ceilidh Band entertained us with their music while the caller put us through our paces with the various dances.

We had over 80 people attend our event and made over £1,000 for the village hall through the tickets, bar and Raffle. Thank you to our volunteers who helped set up and down the hall as well



as working at the hall bar. Thanks to everyone who attended and or donated raffle prizes including from Beauvoir Arms; The Old Windmill; Tesco Basildon and Chelmsford; the Co-op in Great Baddow; Sainsbury's in Chelmsford; Asda in South Woodham Ferrers; Call of the Wild Zoo and Buckhatch Nursery and Garden Centre. We have had a lot of positive feedback about the Ceilidh.

Thank You A big thank you to printers Monster Parties CM3 8EB who have designed and supplied free of charge the lovely colourful display banners outside the village hall promoting our Table Top Sale and Ceilidh events.

Improvements to the hall Recent improvements to the hall are the new lettering outside with South Hanningfield Village Hall and inside the new LED lights replaced the old lamp shades on the main hall walls paid for with monies received from recent fundraising events. We already have had positive feedback from residents and hirers to the latest improvements made.

Our next hall events coming up

St George's Day on Tuesday 23 April from 7.30pm South Hanningfield Village Hall have returning the wonderful "Cockney Pride" for an evening of sing along and flag waving with the Pearly King and Queen. Tickets cost £15 each. Bring your own drinks and party food. For tickets, please call Emma on 07961 963914.

80th D-Day Anniversary Cinema at the Hall. The South Hanningfield Village Hall will be hosting a film morning on Saturday 8 June from 11.30am where we will be showing *The Great Escaper* which is based on a true story about a war veteran who escaped from his care home to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy, starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. Suggested donations of £3 are welcome towards the upkeep of the hall. Event contact is Clive who can be contacted on 07891 653238 or vallisc@aol.com

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

Christmas Fayre on Saturday 23 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 visits South Hanningfield Village Hall every three weeks.

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

Next visit dates are 9 April and 30 April.

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm (Wednesday, 10 April)

Please call the listed contacts below to book a place.

Kids Role Play (children 0 to 6 years)

Kids Role Play are available for exclusive meet ups and parties at the village hall

For more information, visit the Facebook page

Next sessions are Tuesday, 9 April 10.00am to 12.00noon and 1.00pm to 3.00pm

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

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

Art Class – Creative Space Through Intuitive Art

Saturday, 6 April 2.00pm to 4.00pm

All materials provided, small groups (over 18s only) and refreshments provided and for each two-hours workshop is £16. Please email Sue for more information and to reserve your place on

sue.creativespace@outlook.com

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

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

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 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>

All in the month of April

It was:

300 years ago, on 7 April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

Also 300 years ago, on 22 April 1724 that Immanuel Kant, the German philosopher was born. One of the leading philosophers during the Age of Enlightenment.

200 years ago, on 19 April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

175 years ago, on 10 April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to

made millions from it.

150 years ago, on 5 April 1874 that Johann Strauss II's operetta Die Fledermaus was performed for the first time, in Vienna.

125 years ago, on 29 April 1899 that Duke Ellington, American jazz/swing pianist, composer and orchestra leader, was born.

100 years ago, on 17 April 1924 that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (MGM) was founded when Metro Pictures, Goldwyn Pictures and Louis B Mayer Pictures merged.

Also 100 years ago, on 23 April 1924 that the British Empire Exhibition opened in Wembley, London.

90 years ago, on 3 April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

75 years ago, on 4 April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

Also 75 years ago, on 7 April 1949 that the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific was opened in Broadway.

70 years ago, on 7 April 1954 that in a news conference about Communism in Indochina, US President Dwight D Eisenhower explained his 'domino theory'. He said that if one country in a region came under the influence of Communism, then the countries surrounding it would follow. He and later presidential administrations have always believed this.

Also 70 years ago, on 26 April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally, and a number of sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result.

65 years ago, on 9 April 1959 that Frank Lloyd Wright, American architect and writer, died. Regarded as 'the greatest American architect of all time.'

60 years ago, on 15 April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6 April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

40 years ago, on 17 April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London.

This led to an 11-day siege by the police.

30 years ago, on 6 April 1994 that the Rwandan genocide began, when a plane carrying Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down by extremists. Civil war broke out the following day, and between 500,000 and one million people were massacred during the next 100 days.

Also 30 years ago, on 26 April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10 May.

25 years ago, on 5 April 1999 that Libya handed over to the United Nations two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. They were taken to the Netherlands to face trial. One was found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released in 2009 because he was dying of cancer. The other suspect was acquitted.

20 years ago, on 1 April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.

10 years ago, on 14 April 2014 that the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.

Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

Three hundred years ago, on 7 April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the Brandenburg Concertos and his Mass in B Minor – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The St John Passion, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John

18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the St John Passion is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach’s lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.

Prayer Walking in our community

Prayer walking is just what it sounds. You pray as you walk.

What is the point? Think of it as stepping out as God’s children, to intercede for those who are living in your community. Be intentional about praying for God’s blessings on what you see and feel.

Simply praying: “Your Kingdom come, your will be done...” is an excellent start.

Prayer walking is NOT about being seen to be praying, you are not doing it to ‘show off’. It is about seeing your neighbourhood with compassion, and then praying for God’s mercy and blessing to be upon it.

So, as you go along, you can pray quietly, or in silence. If you do want to pray out loud, take a friend along, so that it will seem merely as if you are chatting. In fact, when you do a prayer walk, it is best not to do it alone. Always try and go with someone else. After all, Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs.

On your prayer walk, try and be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around the community. As the former Archbishop of York, Lord Sentamu, once advised: *“If any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any pictures, visions or words of knowledge, turn these into prayer.”*

At the end of the prayer walk, share with others what you prayed for, and heard from God. Write any impressions down, so you can keep track of how you have prayed for your area.

Again, to quote Lord Sentamu, *“If you feel that God has highlighted specific needs or challenges, think about how to take action. Could you or the church be part of God’s solution practically, as well as prayerfully?”*

With Annual General Meetings at church in mind...

It was not an accident that 17 of the 36 parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship.

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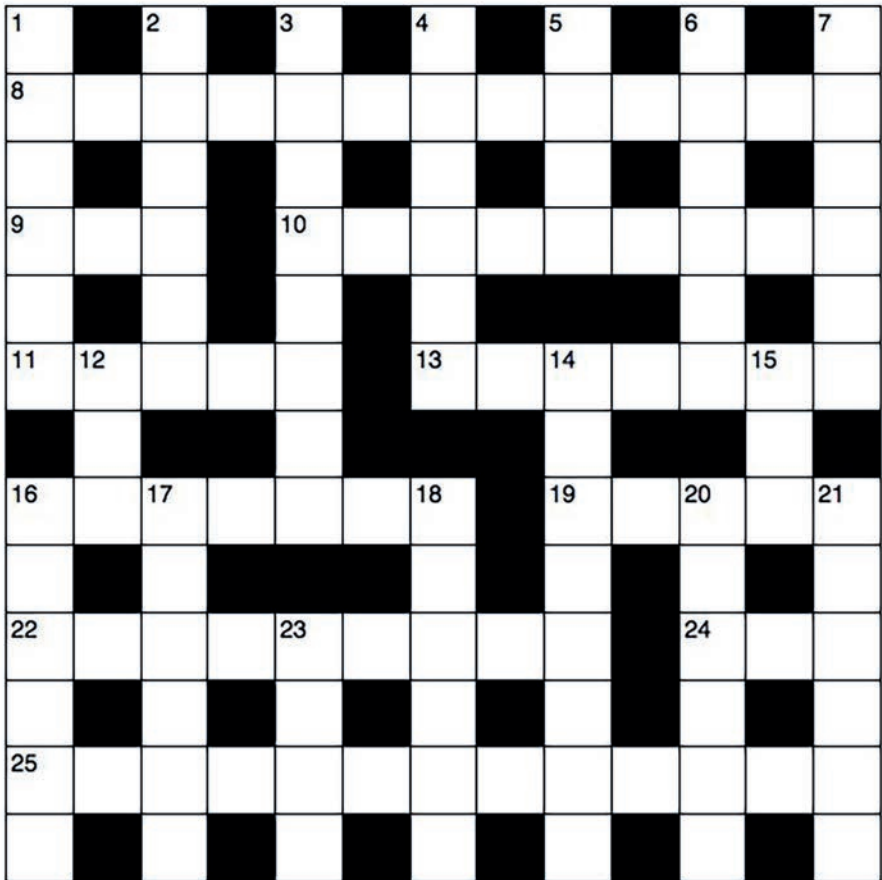


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Puzzle corner



ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — '
(Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives
(Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

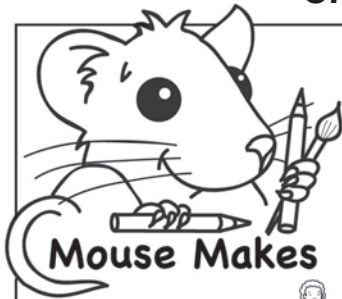
- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Answers on page 33

With the coming General Election in mind...

There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both.

Children's pages



Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.



Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ

the story in **John 21**

How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read

John 21:14

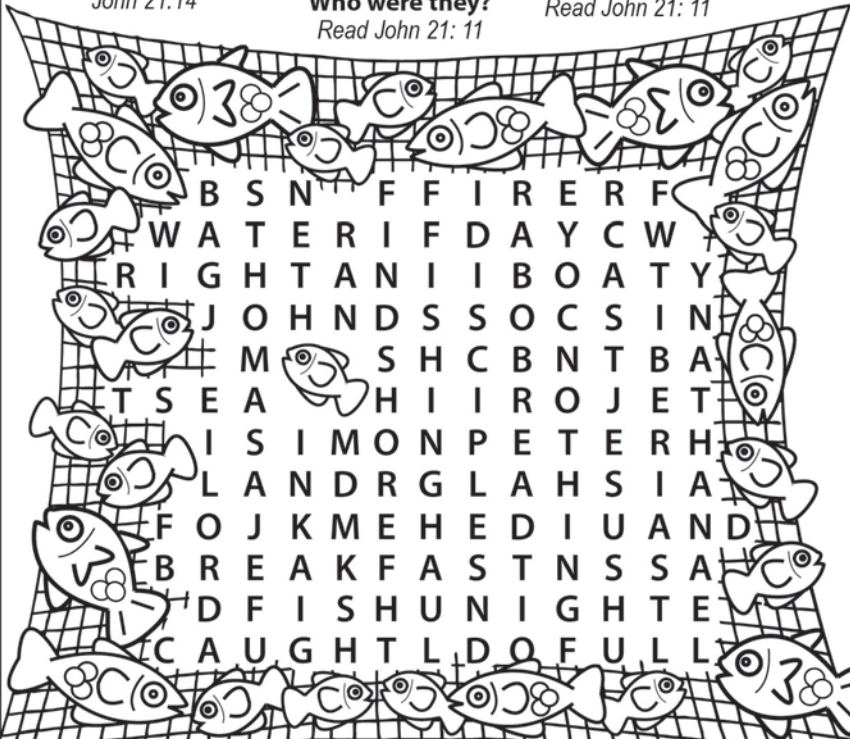


How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?

Read John 21: 11



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

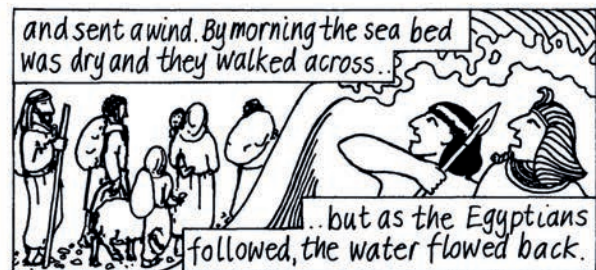
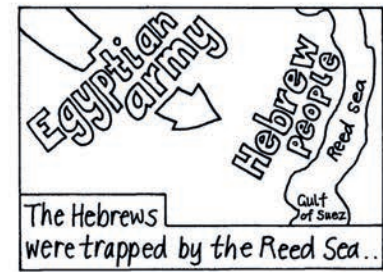
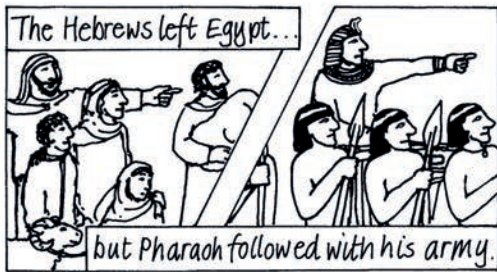
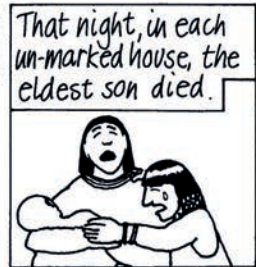
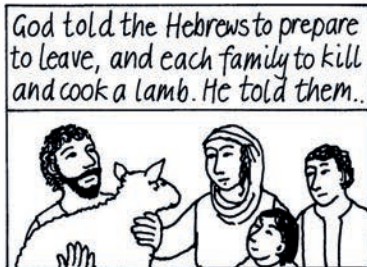
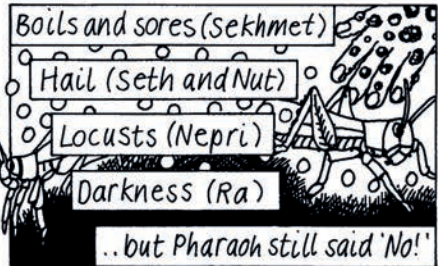
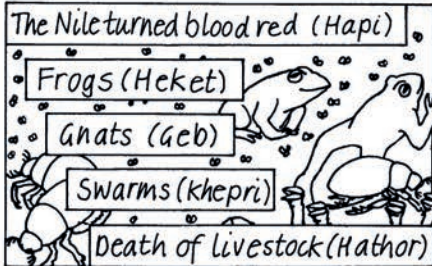
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...



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Smile lines

Who?!

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Seen in a parish magazine (hopefully not in *The Herald!*)

Heaven We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be '*Heaven - how do we get there?*' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

Choir Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.

Choir (again) More sinners wanted for the choir.

AGM The church's AGM will be hell on 22 April.

Holiday While the Vicar is on holiday, massages can be given to the church secretary.

Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "*He looks a tough customer,*" she whispered. "*Whatever has HE done?*" The Governor paused and smiled. "*Ah, actually, he is the chaplain.*"

Wages

Seen on a church notice board: '*Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.*'

What am I?

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrraaaaaaacccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!

Up or down?

Is this apisdn umop or am I just standing on my head?

Long prayer

A friend took her small daughter to church. The vicar's prayer had gone on for several minutes when suddenly a small voice piped up: "*Has he forgotten how to say Amen?*"

Contacting The Herald

Contributions to the May 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 April**. 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

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Answers to the Crossword puzzle

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

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