

Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

December 2020 / January 2021



For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
Prince of Peace

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NZ

Berkhamsted Team

Revd John Russell

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We are in the Berkhamsted Team Ministry with Great Berkhamsted, Great Gaddesden and Nettleden with Potten End. Enquiries regarding Baptisms, Banns, Weddings, Funerals and Memorials in the Churchyard should be made to the above-mentioned email address. Messages can also be left with the Churchwardens. If the Vicarage telephone is on the answering service please leave a message. It will be attended to as soon as possible. To contact The Berkhamsted Team, please call The Parish Office on 01442 878227.

All are welcome to our House of God. All have their place in His Kingdom and their part to play in His work

Phone numbers preceded by code 01442 except Heather Tisbury

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PCC OFFICERS:	Treasurer: Mr A Webster	843157
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SUNDAY SERVICES:

Due to the Covid pandemic, our normal timetable of services is disrupted. At the moment, we are hoping to provide a Joint Morning Worship at one of our churches at 9.30am or there will be a recorded service on-line.

Please check our website for the most up-to-date details.

The Midweek Podcast will be at 10.00am on a Wednesday and can be listened to via the website. There will be no midweek services in church for the moment.

BELL RINGING:	Sunday 8.30 am Practice: Tuesday 8.00 pm	
	Tower Captain – Mrs Virginia Westmacott	LG 842428
CHOIR PRACTICE:	Friday 7 pm – Mr John Leonhardt	LG 843550
LITTLE GADDESSEN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL:	We welcome all children aged 4 – 11. Contact the Head Teacher, for more information on 01442 842464 or admin@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk	
PARISH NEWS EDITORS:	Mrs H Hockings, Mr D Nowell-Withers, Dr N Murray, Mr M Walsham	
	See inside back page for contact details.	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:	Mrs Heather Tisbury	01582 842807
WEEKLY UPDATES:	PEW SHEET distributed each Sunday. Items for inclusion should be sent to Helene Hockings, a_dmin-church@outlook.com by 9 am on each Thursday	
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:	Helene Hockings on a_dmin-church@outlook.com or 01442 842493	

Vol 43 No.12

Dear Friends

As I write this letter we are in our second countrywide lockdown which is not due to be reviewed until 2nd December, after this is published. So at the moment we just don't know what restrictions will be placed on our celebrations of Christmas. What we do know is that they are very likely to be quite different from what we have become accustomed to in recent years. Hopefully the restrictions will be eased so that we can at least see some family and friends over the Christmas period. Hopefully it will be possible to hold services in our church buildings, though these will not be able to accommodate the large numbers of previous years. Hopefully our services will continue to be available on the church websites or via Facebook. In whatever way is permissible during this pandemic be assured.....we will be celebrating.

How Christmas is celebrated at home is not like it used to be when I was a child. The tree didn't go up and the house was not decorated until Christmas Eve. My sisters and I certainly did not get loads and loads of presents. Indeed presents were limited. Also the food we enjoyed at Christmas seemed only to be available at that time of year, usually a chicken which was a real treat as it was not regularly on the menu. Christmas specials on the television were 'special'; uplifting and not designed to send you into fits of despondency. I must stop reminiscing now as space is limited.

However, despite all the changes over the years, one thing has remained constant. At Christmas we celebrate the fact that over two thousand years ago, God, in the form of the baby Jesus became involved in the pain and the tears of ordinary human beings like you and me. Whatever Covid restrictions are in place for us this year, that still holds true, God is still involved, today and every day, in turning lives around. God joined our family at Christmas so that we can join His. The baby born in a stable was given two names: 'Emmanuel', meaning 'God with us', and 'Jesus', 'God saves'. That is something we can celebrate wherever we are this Christmas.

I have been reminded that this magazine covers two months, so here I am sitting at my laptop in mid-November thinking about 2021 and what it may hold for us all. On the 6th January 2021, in the Church calendar, we celebrate Epiphany, twelve days after Christmas, when we commemorate the visit of the Magi, the wise men, to the baby Jesus. But hold on, I hear you say – surely they came on Christmas Day evening? There are those that believe Christmas is over by Boxing Day or whenever they return to work - decorations are packed away – including the omnipresent crib scene with the baby Jesus. But, actually, Christmastime does not really start until Christmas Day. From 29th November, Advent Sunday, until 24th December we are in the season of Advent, a season of preparation, of making sure we are ‘ready’. Christmastime then lasts until Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on 2nd February, 40 days after Christmas Day, though Christmas decorations traditionally are taken down by 12th night.

So as we welcome in a new year, what will be my resolution for 2021 – to be less grumpy; to complain less; to be a calmer person; to exercise more; to lose more weight some hope! So maybe I will just stick first with something I know I need to work on – placing more trust in God.

I hope and pray you all have a peaceful and happy Christmastime and please spare a moment or two in all your busyness to ponder on what I, and many like me, know to be the true meaning of Christmas.

Please also pray for all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit as a result of the pandemic, and continue to pray for and give thanks for, all those in the medical professions and in social care and voluntary organisations who are working tirelessly to save lives at this time.

With very best wishes for Christmas and for 2021 from me, Gill Moore, and from Rev John Russell and my fellow Readers, Anthony Archer and Heather Tisbury.

PUZZLE: Cut out the squares below.

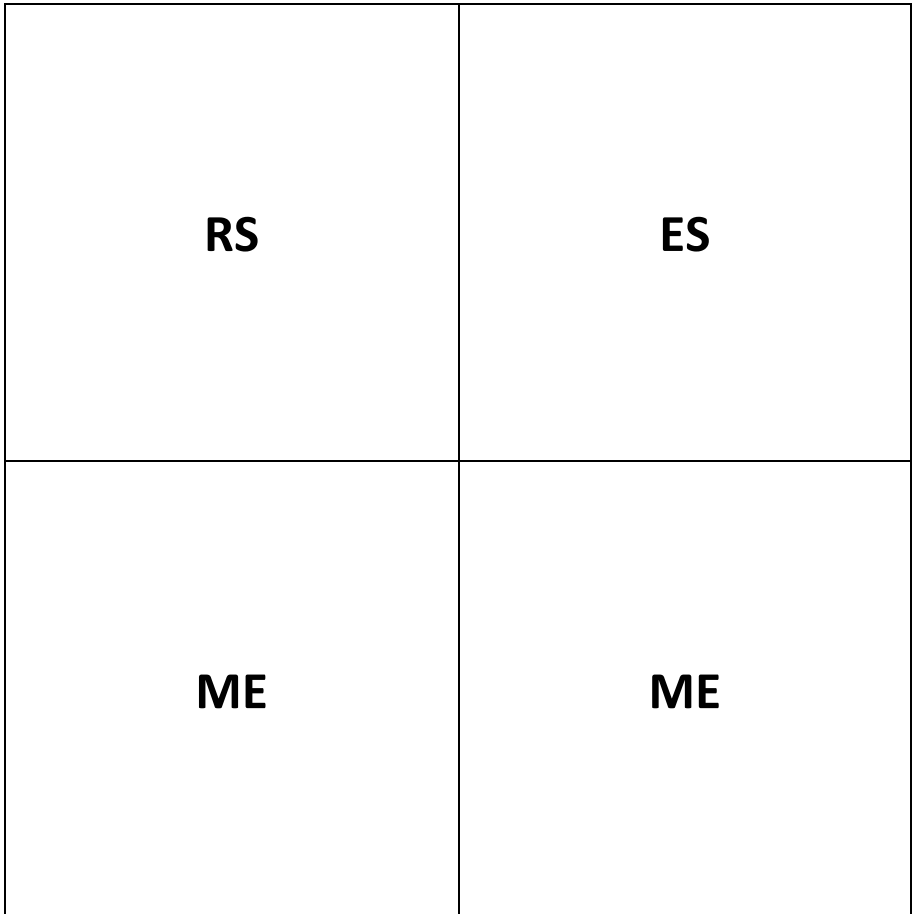
Turn some over.

Arrange four squares to make an eight-letter word or name.

Then turn them all over carefully.

If you are right, you will find another eight-letter word.

That's all!



(Apologies – this puzzle in the printed edition is impossible as I put the letters in the wrong boxes and the wrong way up! It is correct on this web page. Good luck! – HH).

ET	RI
OS	MO

Parish News Subscription

If you would like to take out a subscription for the Parish News, or you would like to renew your subscription for another year, please complete the form below and return it, together with a cheque for £5 (payable to PCC of Little Gaddesden Parish) or £5.00 cash to:

Helene Hockings, Marian Lodge, The Green, Little Gaddesden HP4 1PH
or hand it to your distributor.

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If you pay by this method, please let Helene Hockings know on editor-pn@littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk or by using the form below with your address details.

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- I have paid the person who delivers my Parish News**

Name:

Address
.....
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When Icicles Hang by the Wall
(Winter from Love's Labour's Lost*, Act V, Scene II)
William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)

When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipp'd, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl, Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who – a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw,
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl, Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who – a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

I seem to have known this poem all my life, it really is up there with 'They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace' by A A Milne. I've no idea quite where or why I was introduced to it so early but I've always remembered and liked it. The poem, actually a song, comes at the very end of the play, which I've never seen.

Quite a lot of what Shakespeare described here seemed more normal in winter to a child in the 1950s than it would in the age of global warming and central heating of course – we were all too familiar with icicles, red noses and coughing, sermons too. I had an Aunt Joan, which not many children have nowadays, but she was unequivocally not greasy and even then I knew that she would not be keeling any pots, whatever keeling meant. I thought of saucepans used to make porridge in the proper way, and what was left stuck to the pot after

breakfast, but perhaps there was more to it than that. I knew that it was crab-apples, not sea-side crabs, hissing in the bowl, though we only ate crab-apples as jelly and not a sort that was particularly exciting either; we ducked for apples in a bowl at Hallowe'en but they were ordinary apples and not cooked.

I had one major disagreement with Shakespeare, not that I'd heard of him when I first encountered the poem, still less knew of his importance - I was perfectly familiar with the sounds owls made, but I didn't then and don't now regard it as a merry note. Perhaps the meaning of 'merry' was different then, but I don't know of any evidence for that.

*Apparently the use of apostrophes was at least as idiosyncratic in Shakespeare's day as nowadays, but this is the most frequent placement.

Nick Murray

Church Humour:

A Sunday school teacher was speaking to a group of four-year-olds about Jesus, Joseph and Mary. After the lesson the kids were to draw a picture depicting their favourite part of the story. The teacher shared the pictures the children drew with the entire class. She got pictures of the Baby Jesus in the manger with animals, she got pictures of the three wise men and the like. Then she got to a picture from little Jimmy, a picture of an airplane with four people on it. She called Jimmy up to explain his picture. She told Jimmy that she could see Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus, obviously in their 'flight' to Egypt. She didn't understand why there was another man on the plane. Jimmy quickly explained, 'That's Pontius, the pilot.'

Church Bulletin Bloopers:

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

THOMAS FIELD HALL

Great progress has been made this month. The glazing to the Ambulatory has been finished and the entrance door fitted in the glazed screen, then the steelwork painting will be finished. The slate roof to the Hall is finished except for the hip and ridge tiles. The plumbing first fix has been installed as has the underfloor heating pipework. The floor is screeded and the plasterboard fixed internally ready for the plaster skim coat. A loft ladder giving safe access to our roof storage space has been fitted.

We are waiting for the windows and external doors to be delivered and fitted and then the building will be weatherproof. The kitchen will be measured up this week for the units to be finalised. The floor finishes have been selected and ordered, as have the light fittings. Cabling has been installed to enable audio visual equipment to be used as and when we need, and we will be able to feed sound and vision from the church into the vestry if required.

The builders are experiencing some delays due to disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and they have estimated that the works will not be finally finished until the third week in January 2021. We will then have to commission some internal joinery and cupboards for storage, as they are not now included in the builder's work. However, that means we will have an encouraging start to the New Year and will be able to move in and begin using the facilities, subject, of course, to any Covid-19 restrictions which may be put in place, by the middle of February.

There are still some further costs to be incurred for furnishings and fitting out, to provide curtains, blinds, kitchen equipment, maybe new or extra chairs and tables and we are looking for ways for these to be covered, but we will have achieved the building.

Barbara Sheard

A Village in Quarantine

It would be odd to write a series of articles for 2020 without some reflection of the extraordinary circumstances we have been faced with. Lockdowns and other measures have been used to check the number of infections and deaths from Covid-19 but we will be dealing for some time with the huge costs of all this at a national and personal level. Fortunately in the twenty-first century we can hope that medical science will come to our aid in the form of an effective vaccine and/or new ways of treating those who are ill. We no longer expect centuries of recurrent waves of infection with high mortality rates, which was what happened world-wide between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries, when plague was an ever-present risk. There was a First Pandemic that lasted from the late sixth century to around 750 but in our history, it is the Second Pandemic that had the greatest impact. It began in or near China and travelled along the Silk Road or by ship. We know it as the Black Death. By 1400 it had probably reduced the world population from an estimated 450 million to around 350-375 million and it had an enormous effect on the economies and social structures of the medieval world. It recurred in waves, with varying geographical distribution until, in the British Isles at least, it died out in the mid-seventeenth century. The last occurrence in England was the The Great Plague of London in 1665-1666; it killed 70,000-100,000 Londoners out of a population of about 220,000-250,000, a really terrifying death-rate. The rich fled to the country, as they had always done when there was a new wave. Otherwise, families with infected members were boarded up in their houses.

Eyam, in Derbyshire, provides us with a striking example of social responsibility in times such as these because, when the plague arrived in 1665, the whole village decided to quarantine itself in order to stop the disease spreading to the countryside around it. The church in Eyam has a record of 273 individuals who fell victim. This represents a huge proportion of the total population. But they did not waver and the villages surrounding them were spared.

Fleas were the transmitters of this form of plague. The story goes that in 1665 a flea-infested bundle of cloth arrived from plague-ridden London for Alexander Hadfield, the local tailor. A few days later, his assistant, George Viccars, noticed that it was damp and opened it up, so releasing the fleas. He very quickly died and so did more members of his household. As the plague

began to spread, the villagers turned for leadership to their rector, William Mompesson, and also to their recently ejected Puritan Minister, Thomas Stanley, who between them, from May 1666, introduced stringent measures to control the spread. This included special measures for disposing of the bodies, the relocation of church services to an open-air natural amphitheatre so that villagers could observe social distancing, and the quarantining of the entire village, which no one could enter or leave. Whether or not you caught the disease seemed unpredictable. Elizabeth Hancock remained uninfected despite burying six children and her husband within eight days; and Marshall Howe, the village gravedigger, survived despite handling many infected bodies. But at last it died out. It is an inspiring example of social responsibility and the village to this day, honours the memory of their sacrificial decision. A visit to Eyam is a moving experience.

Joyce Hill
Two Valleys Parish News

CIRCULAR ARITHMETIC PUZZLE

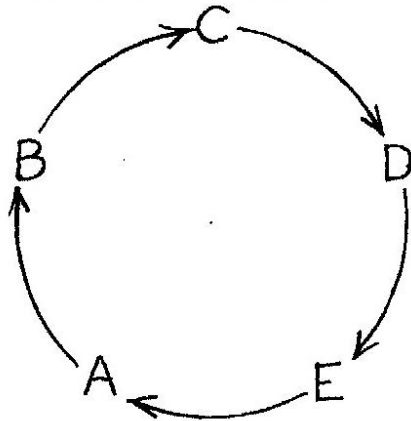
$$A = D \times E$$

$$B = A - 6$$

$$C = B \text{ squared}$$

$$D = C - 3$$

$$E = C / D$$

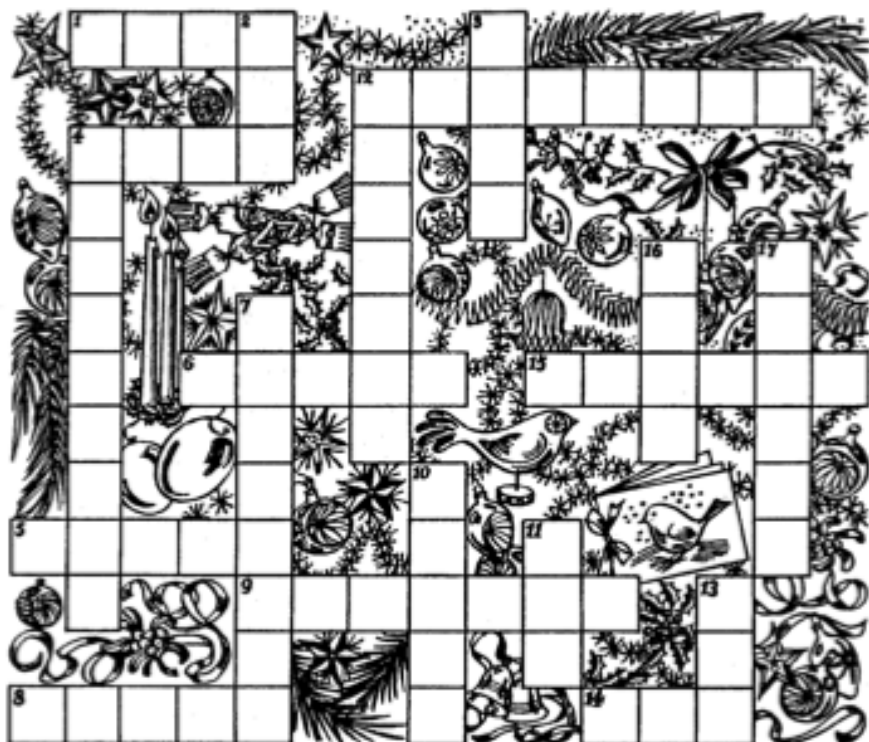


A,B,C,D and E are all SINGLE digit WHOLE numbers which can be either positive, negative or zero. They are not necessarily all different. Find the value of each.

(Only if you are baffled, there are some hints on page 18. Answers on page 21).

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Here is a CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD. All the answers describe someone. Who is it?



Across

1. Acts 17. 7.
4. St John 1. 14.
5. 2 Timothy 4. 8.
6. St Matthew 1. 21.
8. Micah 5. 2.
9. St John 1. 41.
12. St John 10. 11.
14. St Matthew 8. 20.
15. St Matthew 16. 16.

CLUES



Down

2. St John 20. 31.
3. Ephesians 1. 22.
4. Isaiah 9. 6.
7. Job 19. 25.
10. Acts 7. 55.
11. St John 14. 6.
12. St Luke 2. 11.
13. St Luke 9. 35.
16. St Matthew 3. 3.
17. St John 13. 13.



GRAND FAMILY CHRISTMAS QUIZ

NATURE

1. Which of the following would list worms as its favourite food?

- a. Buzzard
- b. Gizzard
- c. Lizard

Answer: a. 1 point.

2. What is a joey?

- a. 20p piece
- b. Retired wrestler
- c. Young kangaroo

Answer: c. 1 point.

3. How many grey squirrels are estimated to be in the UK?

- a. 2.7 million
- b. 2.0 million
- c. 1.5 million

Answer: a. 1 point.

4. Where do crows and rooks hang out?

- a. Rookery
- b. Turned ground behind the plough
- c. Crowbar

Answer: c. Obviously, but have a point whatever you got. It's Christmas.

5. Which of these is a native of UK?

- a. Wallaby
- b. Sika deer
- c. Grey squirrel

Answer: None of them. 1 point if you got it. Deduct 1 point otherwise.

6. Which of these is a native of UK?

- a. Beaver
- b. Lynx
- c. Red squirrel

Answer: Ha! You get 1 point for each of them.

7. Why are horse chestnuts known as the Roman Nut?

- a. Trees imported by the Romans
- b. Caligula's go- to nut
- c. Julius Caesar. "I came, I saw, I conkered"

Answer: c. Obs. But just for the hell of it. 1 point for any.

8. Which of the below does not contain oil?

- a. Walnut
- b. Sweet chestnut
- c. Peanut

Answer: b. The only nut not to. 1 point.

9. What do collective nouns bevy and wedge relate to?

- a. Boxers
- b. Swans
- c. Pub landlords
- d. Bankers

Answer: b. Prize question. 2 points.

10. What is a copse?

- a. Refers to King Henry V111 royal codpiece
- b. Popular medieval soap opera, Ye Copse & Ye Robbers
- c. Ancient cycle of cutting certain shrubs/trees (eg. Hazel, Hornbeam) to ground on 10 year cycle, coppicing, the woodland area known as a copse

Answer: c. Obs. No points. At least you have learnt something if you didn't already know.

MUSIC

11. Why is catgut used for violin strings?

- a. It isn't, it's nylon
- b. It isn't, it's more likely sheep or goats intestines
- c. Cats were considered musical, due to midnight caterwauling

Answer: b. 1 point.

Bonus question: Are there any vegan violinists?

Answer: I don't know, just asking.

12. Elvis Presley famously sang 'Jailhouse Rock'. Was this,
- Like Blackpool rock, but with Jailhouse through the middle
 - Appertaining to prison punishment involving the breaking up of rocks
 - Because the Warden threw a party in the county jail, the prison band was there and they began to wail. etc, etc

Answer: c. 2 points.

13. Which was The Beatles home city?
- Bootle
 - Ullapool
 - Liverpool

Answer: c. 1 point.

GEOGRAPHY

14. Which country is kept viable from sea encroachment by a system of canals, dykes and barriers?
- The Netherlands.
 - Holland.
 - The low countries.

Answer: You may take a point for a, b & c.

15. What is the highest mountain in Holland?
- Dalsersberg
 - Kneiff
 - Signal de Botrange

Answer: a. 1 point to wikipedia.

16. Which country is known as Aotearoa to the native people?
- Hawaii
 - New Zealand
 - Neverland

Answer: b. 1 point.

LITERATURE

17. Which is the JK Rowling book title?
- The Philanthropist's Stone.
 - The Philatelist's Stone.
 - The Philosophers Stone.

Answer: c. 1 point , 2 if you have a pointy hat.

18. Who wrote Grimms Fairy Tales?

- a. Sisters Grimm
- b. Brothers Grimm
- c. Donald Grimm Trump

Answer: b. 1 point. (deduct a point if you answered c.)

FOOD

19. Who do most Italians seem to credit for teaching them to cook?

- a. Their Mama
- b. Their Nonna
- c. Inspector Salvo Montelbano.

Answer: b. Tricky one, take 2 points.

SHOW BIZ

20. Chris Packham. Choose the most loveable thing about him.

- a. The posing in really, really cool anoraks.
- b. The enthusiastic slobbering over red kites.
- c. All the extra wood pigeons since he got shooting banned.

Answer: Difficult, this one. Just pick out your favourite, but no points unfortunately.

21. Who famously said, "We're young, we're rich, we're full of sugar"?

- a. Tiny Tim.
- b. Famous Five.
- c. Bart Simpson.

Answer: c. 2 point answer.

HISTORY

22. Which king burnt the cakes.?

- a. Henry V1
- b. Berewulff the Braiser
- c. King Alfred the Great

Answer: c. 1 point.

EXTRA XMAS BONUS QUESTION

BELGIUM

23. Which is the most famous Belgian?

- a. Plastic Bertrand
- b. Rene Magritte
- c. Hercule Poirot

Answer: Trick question! As any fule no, it's Stella Artois. If you got it – 10 pints. Otherwise Nul pointe.

Total points. 32 (and 10 pints). You are top of the SMUG-O-METER! Congratulations. You may award yourself first 3 dibs in the Quality Street tin.

Up to 15 points. 2 dibs. Well done!

5 to 14 points. A damning with faint praise 1 dibs.

Under 5 points. Your problem is you are too honest. Special consolation prize. You may challenge top prize winner to a Christmas pudding fight.

Disclaimer: if I have totted the points up inaccurately (as if!) do add them to your score. However, in the event of the SMUG-O-METER busting a gut the Management take no responsibility.

Josie Jeffrey

From the Registers:

3rd November

Funeral

Sarah Woods

Hints for mathematical puzzle on page 12.

- Squares cannot be negative, but square roots can be.
- Start at C.
- A negative multiplied by a negative makes a positive.

Christmas in church will be different this year

As we go to press, your editors are aware that this is a very unusual December Parish News with no small notices giving details of the usual Christmas services, family workshops and carol services. However, we are hoping to be able to have some of our usual festivities and services, but with social distancing likely to be still in place (always assuming that we are not still in lockdown), it is very difficult to know what will be allowed and what will not.

Please do look at the back page for the services that **we are hoping** to have over the festive season. Posters will be up by the shop and in the church porch giving up-to-date details of what will be happening and our website will also be up-dated regularly. Please do keep in touch with us and forgive us if we cannot provide what we would normally.

In the meantime, we hope that you all stay safe over the festive period and that you have a Happy Christmas. Let us all hope and pray for a much more sociable and enjoyable 2021.

The Editors

RNLI SOS LUNCH

As you will probably be aware, it is very unlikely that our usual lunch of delicious soup and crumble will be able to go ahead in January 2021. However, all things being equal, we'll be back with a vengeance in 2022 when we hope that you will support us as usual.

Gardening Humour:

Did you hear about the man who was taken to hospital after he ate 100 daffodil bulbs?

Doctors say that he's recovering and should be out in the Spring.

THE LENGTH OF DAYS

We look forward to the turning of the year with hope, but the process seems very drawn out. We can mark several milestones and feel regret at those which hasten the approach of the dark times and joy at those which tell the approach of spring.

Those which involve astronomy, calendars and clocks vary, especially due to the leap year cycle, so anything to which I state a date or time may not be exact for this year. I am using London as the location more or less.

About September 1st. (Meteorologists call this the first day of autumn.) Mid-day by the sun and by the clock (1pm BST but 12 noon GMT) agree – one of those days when sundials are “correct”. Since about July 27th when natural mid-day was at 12:07 GMT mid-days have been getting earlier, and will continue doing so by a minute every 3 to 4 days for a time.

September 22nd, about 2.30 pm BST this year, Autumnal Equinox. 12-hour day. Sunrise 5:52 am, Natural mid-day 11:52 am, Sunset 5:52 pm. The sun was overhead at the equator and our days (from sunrise to sunset) started getting shorter than our nights.

October 11th. An 11 hour day (sunrise to sunset).

About October 22nd to November 14th. The time of natural mid-day grinds to a standstill at 11:44 GMT every day. By “Natural Mid-day” I mean the time half-way between sunrise and sunset when the sun is due south and has reached its highest point in the sky. (Incidentally Little Gaddesden is about 2 minutes later than Greenwich.)

October 24th-25th this year. At midnight the clocks went back an hour to Greenwich Mean Time.

October 26th. A 10 hour day, about 6:44 am to 4:44 pm GMT.

From about November 15th Mid-day starts getting later again.

December 1st to 30th. The time of mid-day now gets later at the much faster rate of one minute every 2 days, reaching 12 o'clock just in time for Christmas. One of the reasons for this is that the earth is MOVING FASTER in its orbit but the speed of rotation on its axis STAYS CONSTANT. The earth is getting a little bit closer to the sun, which is slightly to one side of the centre of the ellipse. The orbit of the earth is not quite an exact circle.

December 5th. An 8 hour day.

About December 13th. The darkest evening reckoning by sunset (ignoring the comings and goings of thick black clouds!). Sunset has got only 4 minutes earlier since December 1st whereas sunrise has got 15 minutes later. It's the racing mid-day which they depend on. The evenings start getting later. Hooray.

But the days still get shorter.

December 21st. about 10 am GMT this year, Winter Solstice. The sun is overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn. The shortest day, 7 hours 45 minutes, after the longest night. Sunrise about 8:06, sunset about 3:51.

About January 1st. The darkest morning reckoning by sunrise (ignoring clouds again). The time of natural mid-day continues to get later but gradually slows down.

January 2nd. THE EARTH IS AT ITS CLOSEST POINT TO THE SUN. This has got nothing to do with the changing seasons, but does cause the discrepancy between natural events and rigid speed clocks; for instance from January 1st to 31st sunrise gets 26 minutes earlier but sunset gets 47 minutes later.

February 1st to 22nd. The time of natural mid-day has reached its turning point of 12.14 pm where it stays for the whole of this time.

February 15th. A 10 hour day.

February 23rd to April 15th. mid-day slides slowly back to 12 o'clock.

March 20th about 9 am in 2021, Spring Equinox. 12-hour day. Sunrise 6:08, Mid-day 12:08, Sunset 6:08 GMT. The sun is overhead at the equator and our days (from sunrise to sunset) start getting longer than our nights.

March 27th-28th 2021. At midnight the clocks go forward one hour to British Summer Time.

You may well ask why the clocks go back in autumn when the day is just over 10 hours long, but don't go forward in spring until the day is over 12 hours long.

John Leonhardt

THOSE WINTER MONTHS

Partially leaved December, (save for khaki liveried mighty oak),
January, celebrations over; now resolutions self denial must invoke
Relief as February starts to stir and snowdrops shine in secret places,
As garden bright violas and pansies boldly flaunt their funny faces,
All of nature stirs when unreliable, headstrong March blows by,
Casting winters shades aside, it seems at last, that Spring is nigh,
And could that dark tunnel's end be breached?
And could those sunny uplands again be reached?

Josie Jeffrey

Answer to mathematical puzzle on page 12:

A=4 B= -2 C=4 D=1 E=4

New Year's Resolutions

Resolutions are usually quite mundane, but somebody has produced a different slant – aimed at the young, but relevant to us all.

‘In the New Year, be sure to LIE, CHEAT, DRINK, SWEAR and STEAL more than you did last year.

LIE back and relax just a little more this new year. Let a little more life happen to you without so much worry.

CHEAT failure. Don't be afraid to try something new because you think you may fail. It is through failure that we learn the most valuable lessons.

DRINK from the fountain of knowledge. Many people around you have already been down roads you are about to travel. Learn from mistakes they have made. Take what they have learned and use it.

SWEAR to do your best – all the time and in every situation. That is all anybody will ever ask.

STEAL a little time for God. Every day take a little more time to develop your relationship with God.

So, if you lie, cheat, drink, swear and steal just a little more in 2021, you will have a profitable and enjoyable year ahead! God bless you.

Parish News Editors:

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Deadline Date for next edition of Magazine: Sunday 25th January 2021

PRAYER PAGE

Love never fails

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.
Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our
sisters and brothers living in poverty.
Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours
near and far.
Love compels us to give and act as one.
Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together
more tightly than ever before.
As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation
and around the world – we are united as one family.
So, let us pause and find a moment of peace,
as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

Amen

The boat of injustice

Vulnerable God,
as we contemplate the wonder of your birth,
stir in us the desire to cradle those who have nowhere to lay their head,
that together we may rock the boat of injustice.
Give us grace to offer our hands to those who reach out
that with faltering steps we may find a way home
and kindle our hearts to embrace the rejected and dispossessed
and so meet you face to face.
We ask this in your name.

Amen

The hope of Christmas

God, our dayspring and our dawn,
we turn to you when we fear the dark
and all around us weep.
We pray you greet us with your shining light
that we may spread your warm embrace
and kindle the hope of Christmas
in all whose lives remain in shadow.
Come and be our strength O Lord, our hope and our salvation.

Amen

CHURCH SERVICES – DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

I Sunday 6th December, Advent 2 / St Nicholas		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Little Gaddesden
II Sunday 13th December, Advent 3		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Nettleden
III Sunday 20th December, Advent 4		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Great Gaddesden
3.00pm	Carol Service (or recorded if unable to be in church)	Little Gaddesden
24th December, Christmas Eve		
2.00 -5.00 pm	Churches open for Crib Storytelling. Families welcome to come and listen to the Christmas story throughout the afternoon.	Little Gaddesden Great Gaddesden
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Great Gaddesden
25th December, Christmas Day		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Nettleden
9.30am	Joint Family Worship	Little Gaddesden
IV Sunday 27th December, Christmas 1		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Great Gaddesden
I Sunday 3rd January 2021, Epiphany		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Little Gaddesden
II Sunday 10th January, Plough Sunday / Baptism of Christ		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Great Gaddesden
III Sunday 17th January, Epiphany 2		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Nettleden
IV Sunday 24th January, Epiphany 3		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Little Gaddesden
V Sunday 31st January, Presentation of Christ in the Temple		
9.30am	Joint Parish Worship	Great Gaddesden
Mid-Week Service		
Wednesday	10.00am on-line Podcast	

ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE