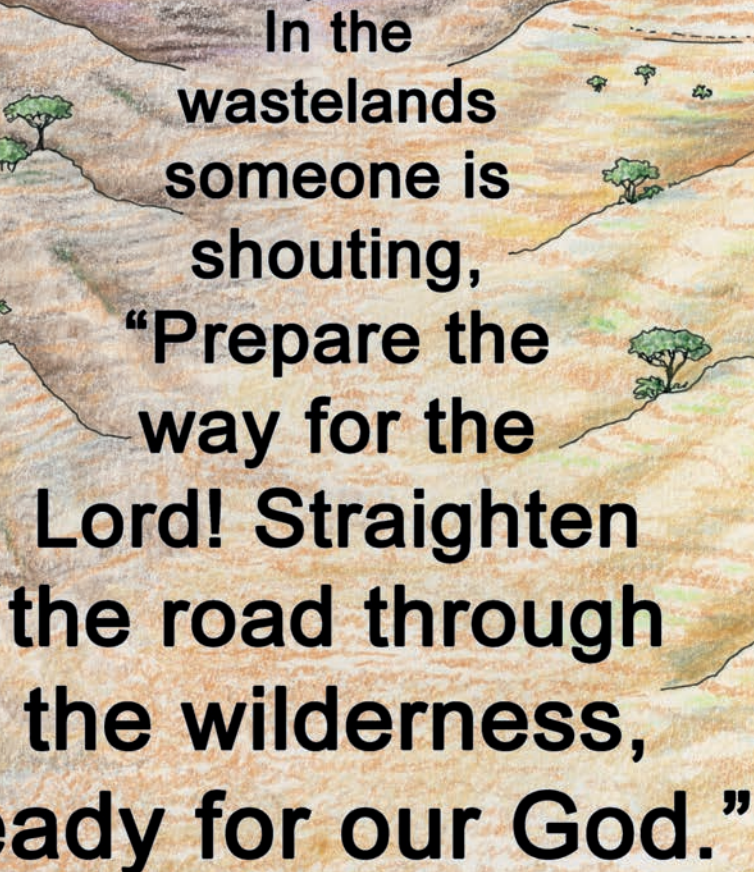


The Herald

50p

February 2025



In the
wastelands
someone is
shouting,
“Prepare the
way for the
Lord! Straighten
the road through
the wilderness,
ready for our God.”

Is 40:2, Mt 3:3, Mk 1:3 Lk 3:4, Jn 1:23

Reservoir Group of Churches



The Parish of
St Margaret, Downham with
St Peter, South Hanningfield and
St Mary the Virgin, Ramsden Bellhouse

www.downhamchurch.org.uk

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Keep up to date with events as they happen

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What's on when and where

Sunday 2 February - Presentation of Christ

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

Sunday 9 February - 4 before Lent

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

Note: *change from normal service at Ramsden Bellhouse*

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 16 February - 3 before Lent

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Group Holy Communion

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

Sunday 23 February - 2 before Lent

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Morning Prayer

Note: *change from normal service at Ramsden Bellhouse*

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 2 March - 1 before Lent

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday

Note: There will be no services at Downham, South Hanningfield or Ramsden Bellhouse on Ash Wednesday. Last year the Ash Wednesday service for the Reservoir Group of Churches was held at Downham, so this year it is Stock's turn to host the service.

There will be a service of **Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes** for all the Reservoir Group churches at **All Saints Stock at 7.00pm.**

We hope you will join us there.

From the ministry team

An Invitation to the Feast

Today I was having lunch in one of our local pubs and - now that Christmas is done for another year - there were roses and hearts everywhere, with a big board reminding you that Valentines Day is fast approaching, and it is the perfect opportunity to treat that special person to a special meal. Social media is similarly full of lovely ways to show just how much they mean to you.

They say food is the language of love (or at least I feel like someone has said that at some point), which may be true.

And it appears to be true for God as well.

The Bible talks a lot about food - and Jesus is recorded as eating a lot of food. Luke's account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, is full of Jesus joining others for meals - and not just his friends either. On one occasion he is invited to a meal by a man called Levi. The people there - "tax collectors and sinners" - were not considered by many at the time to be the "right" sort of people for Jesus to be hanging out with, but he did anyway (Luke 5.27-32).

More than that, we are all invited to a feast with Jesus. When the Bible talks about Heaven it often likens it to a banquet - a huge feast where all are welcome.

If food really is the language of love, then Jesus invites all to sit at the table with him and know that they are loved. That invitation is open to all, regardless of your own plans for Valentines Day!

God bless,

The Revd Jacqui

Valentine's Day - 14 February

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods

honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

From the registers

Downham

Funeral & Burial

18 December Roy William Howell

Ramsden Bellhouse

Burial of ashes

11 January Alfred William Vaughan

St Margaret's Downham

Christmas at St Margaret's

Because our printers were closed between Christmas and the New Year the January edition of *The Herald* went to press on 15 December, too early to report on our Christmas services. Firstly, thank you to Freda Lynch and her team of flower arrangers who made the church look so beautiful for Christmas.

On 16 December we were pleased to welcome children from Downham school, along with their families, for their annual Christingle service. The children led the service and received many compliments for their efforts. Our own Christingle service took place at 3.00pm on Christmas Eve and we were delighted to see 193 people in church. This is always a popular service, but we haven't seen so many people since before Covid. The collection taken at this service was £312, and with a further £152 from St Mary's Carol Service we were able to send £500 to the Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.

We were a little disappointed by the attendance at our Midnight Mass which was down on last year.

A poem about the church, contributed by a regular visitor

*Downham village "Homestead on the hill"
Where the Normans built their church
On Essex heights it stands commanding
For knights and the common man to fill
Stone and flint honed by mason's hand
Crafts walls nave, choir and chancel
Tudor tower reaches up and skyward
Rooted permanence in this sacred land
Sentinel Maple sees centuries passing
Bare to witness joy, birth and marriage
Sorrow of our loss and their final resting
Ever unshaken through feast and fasting
Six bronze bells call an eager congregation
Beckoning faithful back home to worship
Pealing lives, deaths, union and end to wars
Tolling hope, peace to mankind and nation
Three crosses silhouette the Easters dawn
Painted in this morns early golden light
Encircled in awe by these braving souls
To celebrate this day resurrection reborn
Like Phoenix flight from the flames is risen
Charred wood and blackened ash no more
Now new life breathes in this hollow shell
St Margaret's sanctuary to us all re-given*

Downham School

At Downham Church of England Primary School, we have begun a new Collective Worship series about Jesus and the People He Met. We started with Epiphany, remembering the visitation of the Wise Men and the subsequent flight to Egypt. We considered how Jesus knew what it was like to be a stranger in a different land – a refugee. At this time when there is so much conflict around the world and so many people are fleeing from war and natural disasters, it is very important that we prepare the children and ourselves to welcome refugees into our local community and to consider how we can go about sharing God's love.

Before Christmas, some of the Year 5 children made cards to send to the Seafarers Christian Friends Society in Cork, Republic of Ireland. Many of the

seafarers who pass through that busy port are away from their homes and families for long months on end. It was wonderful to receive news this week that our cards had been delivered and had brought joy and reassurance that these seafarers are not merely invisible members of our global community.

As we move through 2025, we will continue to look for ways to bring hope and God's love to our local and our global communities.



Lynne Boyd

RE and Collective Worship Leader at Downham C of E Primary School

Ramsden Heath Social Club

Our regular monthly BINGO NIGHT will be on Friday 7 February at 8.00pm. Just £1.00 to play plus £2.00 for each book you would like to play with. 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 in February is our first QUIZ NIGHT of 2025 which is on Saturday 15 February, start time 7.45pm.

Always a popular event. Maximum teams of 8 people or join a table on the night. Tickets are priced at £3.00 for Members, £6.00 for Guests & £2.00 for Children.

Prizes for the winners (and losers!)

Please bring along your own drinks & snacks.

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

For more information/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 11 February 2.00 to 4.00pm

Thank you to everyone who came along to our January Coffee Afternoon. We had an amazing turnout and managed to raise £300 for the Headway Charity based at South Benfleet which supports people with any kind of brain trauma. They were delighted with that amount of money. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy an afternoon chatting and making new friends for the grand sum of £2.00 (50p a cuppa and £1.50 for a piece of lovely homemade cake).

Ramsden Cupcakes

Ramsden Heath Luncheon Club

On 17 December the Luncheon Club had their annual Christmas dinner in Ramsden Heath Village Hall. We welcomed 54 members, village guests and representatives from the Parish Council and Village Hall. Our guests were welcomed with a festive glass of wine before enjoying a traditional roast turkey dinner, followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies, fruit and chocolates – a feast indeed!

Our diners were then entertained by Downham Church of England School choir who sang a collection of Christmas carols and songs. Many thanks to Shirley Gowland for organising this and for choir mistress, Rebecca, for arranging such a lovely concert.

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



Our membership has grown over the past year or so and we now have 31 people coming along to enjoy a full roast dinner and dessert followed by tea and coffee.

Our thanks to Ralph Thomason for organising our raffle throughout the year, all of which helps boost funds.

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

If you are interested please contact Barbara Stanton on 01268 710642. Email: barbarastanton950@btinternet.com

Barbara Stanton

Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

So the horrible month of January is nearly over and we can now start thinking about longer days and plans for the Spring.

Our horticultural year got off to a lively start in January with our usual 'welcome the new year' social evening and bring and buy sale. The evening continued with a light-hearted quiz organised by Angela and Paul James. It was a fun evening which got everyone thinking, talking and laughing. Many thanks to Paul and Angie for coming up with a quiz which had everyone talking about long after the evening was over.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 6 February is the AGM when we elect

the coming year's Committee. This will be the chance to vote in your 2025 Committee, so if there is anyone who would like to join the committee in any role, please let one of the current members know. Following the formal proceedings there will be time for a chat with a glass of wine and cheese and the 2025 Society Schedule will be available for collection on receipt of your annual subscription.

We will also be presenting the 2025 Banksian Medal for the most points awarded in all the Shows in 2024.

St Peter's South Hanningfield

By the time you read this we will be into February. We had such a lovely time over Christmas with all the events which had been arranged by the Village Hall and Mission Control at St Peter's Church.

The festive season started with the Village Coffee Morning on Wednesday 11 December. This was generously funded with a grant from the Parish Council, so everyone enjoyed mulled wine, tea and coffee with mince pies, stollen and sausage rolls. There were so many people that we had to get out extra chairs and tables, it really was lovely to see so many enjoying the start of the festive season, the Hall was buzzing.

Everyone is really welcome to come to our Village Coffee Morning, which is held on the second Wednesday of the month, if you are new to the area or just haven't been before we would love to see you. We know it might be a bit tricky to walk into the Hall by yourself but just come to the counter in the kitchen so you can choose your cake and drink and we can introduce you to everyone. Please come and make some new friends, we would love to see you.



Then we had the Carol Service on the afternoon of Sunday 15 December. The Revd Jean put together a lovely service with a slightly more modern twist than in previous years, which was very entertaining. The Church was beautifully decorated by Sylvia Roberts and her team, with Mission Control sorting the decorations on the large Christmas tree and the nativity scene. Afterwards we all enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and cake. Attendance was up on last year which was so lovely to see.



On 17 December a group of carol singers, from the choir, went to The Old Windmill to entertain the diners.



Then on 24 December, The Rev Barry took our Christmas Eve service where we had more mulled wine! Attendance on Christmas Eve was considerably higher than previous years and almost beat attendance at St Margaret's.

Thank you so much to

everyone who came and supported us, and thank you to everyone who helped arrange everything.

Anne-Marie and Sascha X

South Hanningfield Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who came to carols on the Tye on 22 December (which got relocated to the village hall because of the weather) . The entertainment was provided by Rayleigh Brass Band and the Maldon Grinch who certainly provided all the festive cheer!



Thank you to Denise Fleming who organised the event and secured the sponsorship from the National Lottery Community Fund. A fantastic £300 was raised at the event for St Peter's Church. More photos from the event can be viewed on the website <https://e-voice.org.uk/shanningfieldvillagehall>

Our next events for this year are:

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, cheap bar open and there will also be a Raffle. For further information and to book, email vallisc@aol.com or phone 07891 653238.

St George's Day We have booked Chas and Dave tribute act for Friday, 25 April, doors will open from 7.00pm. Tickets are £15 each and bring your own drinks and food. To book, please call Sandra on 07396 546050 or email

shvhall@gmail.com Further details to follow in the next edition of *The Herald*.

To commemorate the **80th Anniversary of VE Day**, the village hall is hosting Wartime Newsreels on Thursday, 8 May, using funding from National Lottery Community Fund. Free event. Further details to follow in the next edition of *The Herald*.

South Hanningfield Summer Show on Saturday, 12 July from 12.00 noon to 6.00pm. This year, it will be the 40th Anniversary year of the rebuilding of South Hanningfield Village Hall so there will be even more reason for a celebration and bringing the local community together. This Free Entry village event will be outside either on the Tye green (by kind permission of South Hanningfield Parish Council) or in the field beside the village hall by kind permission of the landowner. The village hall will also be open to showcase its use on that day. There will be local entertainment as well as various crafts, traders, community stalls, children's activities and food and drinks stalls. Thank you to Pronto Training who will be sponsoring their First Aid services on the day of the event. If anyone would like a stall space, could provide entertainment or help in anyway, please let Clive know on email vallisc@aol.com or phone 07891 653238. Further details of the Summer Show will be in future editions of *The Herald*.

Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 22 November from 10.30am to 4.00pm. There will be lots of Christmas crafts and gifts on sale as well as festive refreshments and a Raffle. Free entry. Further details about the Christmas Fayre will be in future editions of *The Herald*.

Raffle Prizes Needed If anyone has any suitable items that could be used as Raffle prizes, please can you donate them to us which would be used 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: 11.25am to 11.55am (change of time)

Next visit dates are 28 January and 18 February.

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm

Wednesday, 12 February

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

Also wedding dance lessons available with Callie every Wednesday afternoon and evening from 3.00pm

£30 for a 45-minute lesson. Please contact Callie on 07885 630241

Yoga and Zumba Thursday night

Zumba 6.30pm to 7.20pm 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 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>

All in the month of February

It was:

175 years ago, on 23 February 1850 that Cesar Ritz, the Swiss hotelier, was born. He founded several notable hotels including the Ritz and Carlton Hotels in London, and the Hotel Ritz in Paris.

125 years ago, on 27 February 1900 that the Labour Party was founded in the UK.

Also 125 years ago, on 27 February 1900, that the German football club FC Bayern Munich was founded.

90 years ago, on 22 February 1935 that US President Franklin D Roosevelt banned aircraft from flying over the White House – because the noise kept him awake at night. The ban remains in place today, but mainly now for security reasons.

Also 90 years ago, on 26 February 1935 that British radio engineer Robert Warson-Watt demonstrated a working radar system for the first time, in Daventry.

80 years ago, during February 1945 that Anne Frank died . The young Dutch Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the age of 15, probably from typhus.

Also 80 years ago, from 4 to 11 February 1945 that the Yalta Conference

took place in Crimea. US President Franklin D Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin met to plan the final defeat of Nazi Germany. Stalin also agreed to enter the war in the Pacific, within three months of the war in Europe ending.

Also 80 years ago, on 6 February 1945 that Bob Marley, the Jamaican reggae/ska/rock steady singer, songwriter was born. He became a musician and cultural icon (died 1981).

Also 80 years ago, from 13 to 15 February 1945 that the bombing of Dresden took place. The Allies carried out four massive bombing raids, completely destroying the inner city, and killing about 25,000 people.

Also 80 years ago, from 19 February to 26 March 1945 that the Battle of Iwo Jima, Japanese volcanic islands, took place. The iconic photo of US Marines triumphantly rising the American flag on top of Mount Surabachi was taken on 23 February.

Also 80 years ago, on 21 February 1945 that Eric Liddell, Scottish athlete, died. An Olympic gold medallist in 1924 (400 m), he had withdrawn from the 100m heat because it was held on a Sunday and entered the 400m instead. The story is featured in the film Chariots of Fire. (Liddell died in a WWII internment camp in China, aged 43.)

75 years ago, on 8 February 1950 that the world's first payment by credit card took place. The founders of Diners Club (now Diners Club International) used it to pay their restaurant bill at Majero's Cabin Grill in New York City.

75 years ago, on 9 February 1950 that the Red Scare began in the USA. US Senator Joseph MacCarthy announced that he had a list of "known communists" who worked in the US State Department. He went on to make further sensational claims that Communists, Soviet spies and sympathisers were in the federal government and US Army. None of these claims could be substantiated.

70 years ago, from 24 February 1955 to March that Britain's Big Freeze took place. Deep snow and freezing temperatures caused havoc, with many places cut off. The RAF dropped food and medical supplies to affected areas, while thousands of sheep died from exposure.

65 years ago, on 8 February 1960 that the Hollywood Walk of Fame was established in Hollywood. It consists of more than 2,700 stars embedded in the pavement, that bear the names of notable figures from the entertainment industry.

Also 65 years ago, on 8 February 1960 that Queen Elizabeth II issued an Order-in-Council stating that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants would use the surname Mountbatten-Windsor.

50 years ago, on 11 February 1975 that Margaret Thatcher became the first female leader of the Conservative Party. She became Britain's first female Prime Minister in 1979.

Also 50 years ago, on 14 February 1975 that P G Wodehouse died. This well-loved British-born American comic novelist, short story writer, lyricist and playwright is best known as the creator of Jeeves.

40 years ago, on 7 February 1985 that the Mayor of New York City, Ed Koch, adopted the song New York, New York by Frank Sinatra as the city's official anthem.

Also 40 years ago, on 16 February 1985 that the Islamic militant group and political party Hezbollah was founded in Lebanon.

30 years ago, on 2 February 1995 that the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation held an emergency summit in Cairo, where they reaffirmed their commitment to the Middle East peace process.

Also 30 years ago, on 16 February 1995 that the environmental campaign group Greenpeace discovered Shell's plan to dump its defunct Brent Spar oil rig in the Atlantic. It launched an international campaign to stop it, and the rig eventually was taken to Norway where it was dismantled and parts of it were used to extend a quay.

Also 30 years ago, on 23 February 1995 that James Herriot, veterinary surgeon and best-selling author, died. Best known for his autobiographical book All Creatures Great and Small, which was adapted into a popular TV series.

Also 30 years ago, on 26 February 1995 that Barings Bank, the oldest merchant bank in London, collapsed after its chief trader in Singapore, Nick Leeson, lost £827 million on unauthorised transactions.

25 years ago, from 11 February to 29 May 2000 that the British government suspended the Northern Ireland Assembly, after it failed to strike a deal on decommissioning IRA weapons.

20 years ago, on 7 February 2005 that yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur broke the record for the fastest solo circumnavigation of the globe, gaining international renown.

Also 20 years ago, on 10 February 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales, and Camilla Parker Bowles announced their engagement. They were married on 9 April 2005.

Also 20 years ago, on 10 February 2005, that North Korea confirmed it had nuclear weapons.

Also 20 years ago, on 14 February 2005 that YouTube, the online video-sharing service, was founded. It was purchased by Google in 2006.

Also 20 years ago, on 16 February 2005 that the Kyoto Protocol came into effect. The international treaty obliges industrialised nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

15 years ago, on 18 February 2010 that Wikileaks published the first classified documents leaded by US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning. In total, she sent Wikileaks nearly 750,000 sensitive documents. She was arrested and served seven years in prison.

10 years ago, on 27 February 2015 that Leonard Nimroy, actor and film director, died. Best known for his role as Spock in the Star Trek films and TV series.

The new trend of clapping in church

Some people are beginning to clap in church, if they are pleased with something.

For tired vicars and timid curates, having a sermon greeted with warm clapping might be an encouragement, if also a complete surprise.

But the applauding of sermons, or applause at the end of services, also reveals a dark side: churchgoing has now declined to such a degree in the UK, that even the knowledge of 'how to behave' in church is fading.

That leaves some people unaware that in the UK, aside from a few 'mega churches' where American style singing, dancing and clapping is the norm, applause is not something we 'do' in church.

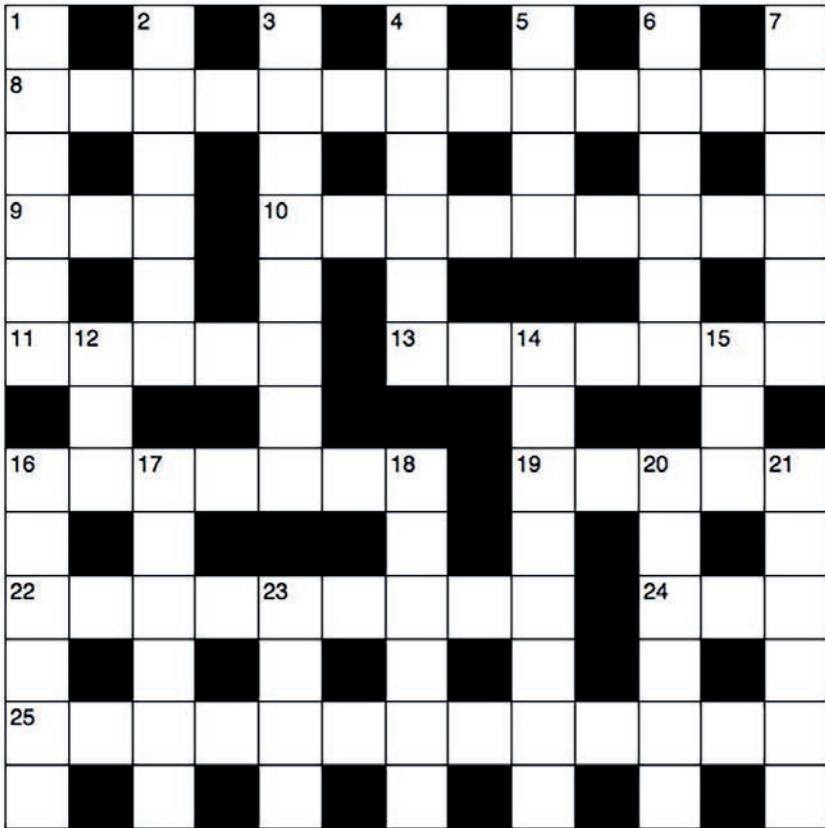
As one vicar puts it: "I think it has to do with cultural expectations. People are less and less familiar with acts of worship directed to God. Instead, they have a sense of a performance."

This article has appeared in the Press recently. What do you think about clapping in church? As organist of our three churches, I sometimes get applause after my final voluntary, especially when I play something perhaps a little more showy than normal. I'm pleased when I get it. It shows appreciation for the work I have done to prepare it.

Just before Christmas the Revd Jean and I attended a carol service in the City of London organised by my City Livery Company. At the end of the service the organist and choir received loud applause for splendid music. A bishop and other senior clergy who were there did not appear to object, they joined in. Perhaps if the clapping occurred during the service they would have been less accommodating.

Robert Andrews

Puzzle corner



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Answers on page 33

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

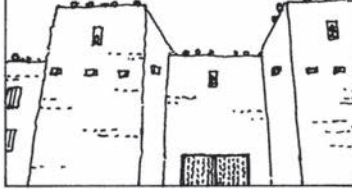
It can be read in the Bible in
Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

The people in Jericho
locked the town gates.



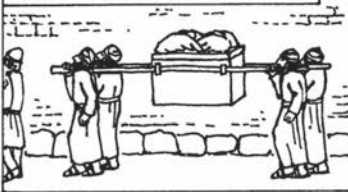
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua
what to do.



On the first day, the priests
carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets,
and walked round
Jericho once.



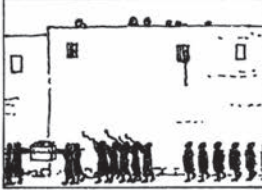
The army followed
not saying a word.



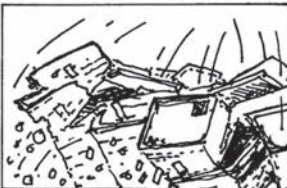
They did this
for 6 days.



On the 7th day they
walked round 7 times.



The army gave a victory shout!



The walls
of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into
the town and
captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.



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Smile lines

Those notices which didn't come out quite right...

- Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.
- Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.
- In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.
- This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.
- When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.
- Jean will be leading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the programme herself and has been growing like crazy!
- Volunteers are needed to spit up food for distribution.
- This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The King's Bras will present a concert at our church this evening at 6:00pm.

Lion

A Sunday school teacher was telling her youngsters about Daniel and the Lion's Den. To illustrate the lesson, she drew a picture of Daniel standing, brave and confident, with a group of lions around him. Suddenly, one little girl started to cry. The teacher said, "Don't cry. The lions are not going to eat Daniel."

Snuffling back the tears the girl replied: "That's not what I'm crying about. That little lion, over in the corner, isn't going to get anything to eat."

Wedding dress

When my sister Andrea got married, she asked to wear my mother's wedding dress. The day she tried it on, Mother's eyes welled with tears. "You're not losing a daughter," I reminded her in time-honoured fashion. "You're gaining a son." "Oh, forget about that!" she said with a sob. "I used to fit into that dress!"

Church service

An auntie took her very young niece to church. When they returned home, her parents asked how it had gone. The little girl replied: "Well, the minister prayed, and I prayed. The minister sang, and I sang. The minister speaked, and auntie brought me home."

Contacting The Herald

Contributions to the March edition

Copy for the next edition of The Herald should be sent by email to Robert Andrews at theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk by **Thursday 13 February**. Please send files in .doc, .docx or .rtf format. Because we wish to maintain a common house style please keep any formatting to an absolute minimum and do not embed photographs or other artwork. If you wish to include photographs or other artwork they should be sent separately in .jpeg or .pdf format. If you are unable to use email or are unsure about file types please telephone Robert on 01268 733817, but be aware that the telephone line has BT Call Guardian installed to deter nuisance callers, therefore you may have to announce your name and press the # key in order to be put through.

Advertising in The Herald

All general enquiries about advertising should be addressed to Mike Roome on 07770 795388 or email advert.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk

Advertising rates are currently:

Full page	£100 for 12 insertions
Half page	£60 for 12 insertions
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If you have existing artwork your advertisements should be emailed to advert.theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk preferably in .jpeg or .pdf format. If you wish us to produce artwork for you this can be arranged for a small one-off fee.

Answers to the Crossword puzzle

ACROSS

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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