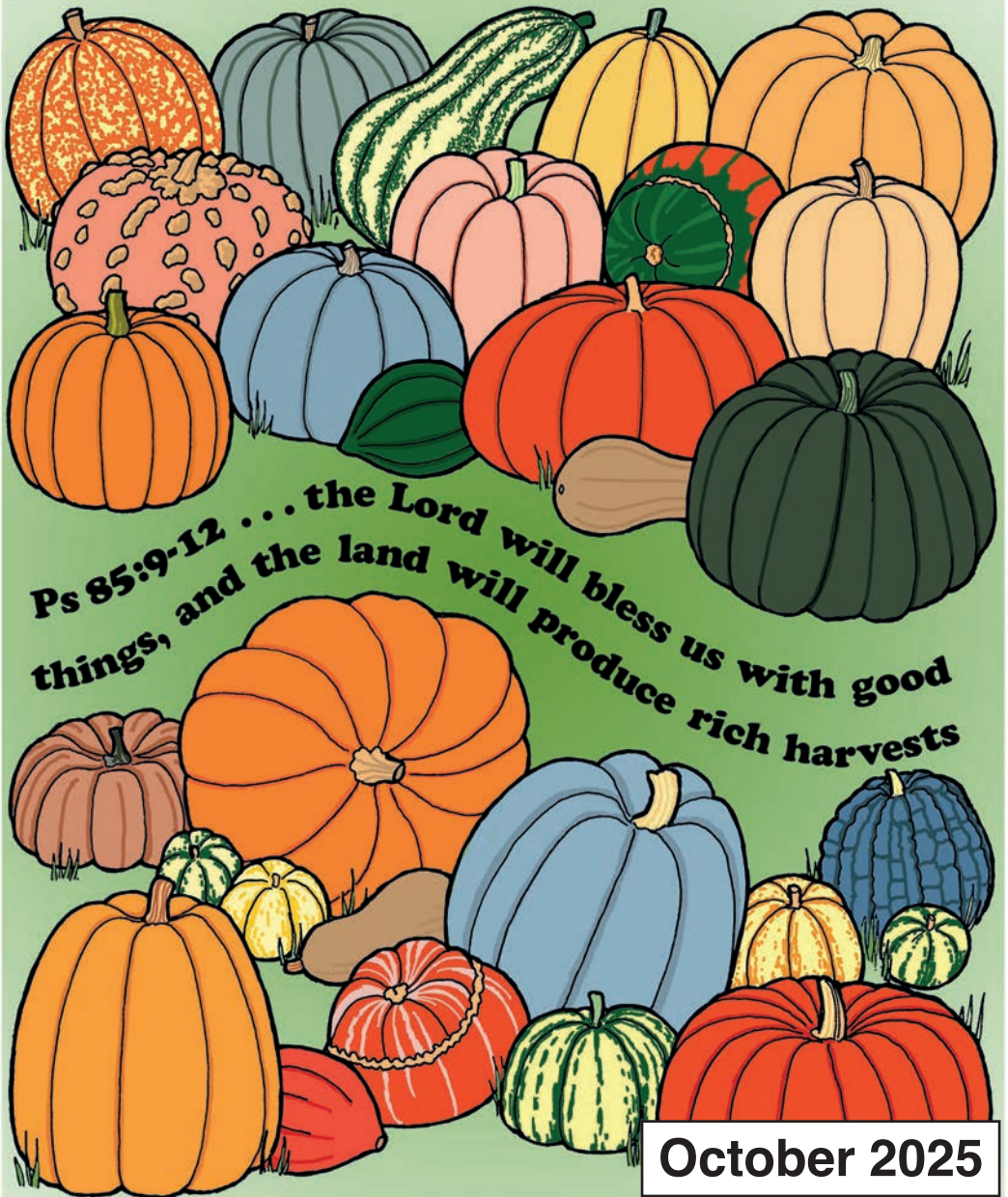


The Herald

50p



**Ps 85:9-12 ... the Lord will bless us with good
things, and the land will produce rich harvests**

October 2025

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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www.facebook.com/ramsdenbellhousechurch

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What's on when and where

Sunday 5 October - Trinity 16

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion & Harvest Festival

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

Sunday 12 October - Trinity 17

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist & Harvest Festival

Followed by Harvest Lunch

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 19 October - Trinity 18

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No services at Ramsden Bellhouse or South Hanningfield

Sunday 26 October - Bible Sunday

***** don't forget the clocks go back today *****

10.00am St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse Morning Prayer

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Sung Eucharist

Note: No service at South Hanningfield

Sunday 2 November - All Saints Day

10.00am St Peter's South Hanningfield Holy Communion

11.00am St Margaret's Downham Family Service

3.00pm St Margaret's Downham Memorial & Thanksgiving service

Note: No service at Ramsden Bellhouse

Sunday 9 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.45am St Margaret's Downham Act of Remembrance and Sung Eucharist

10.45am Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Act of Remembrance

12.30pm St Peter's South Hanningfield Act of Remembrance

Tuesday 11 November - Armistice Day

10.45am Ramsden Heath War Memorial Act of Remembrance

From the ministry team

The end of September/beginning of October is traditionally when churches celebrate their Harvest festivals. It is a time to give thanks for the good provision of food and other resources, and to particularly give thanks for all those who work hard so that food is available to us, from farmers to those manning the tills at the supermarket. Many churches will collect donations of food which can be taken to a local food bank, as we recognise that there are many people who do not have enough to eat, both in this country and around the world.

The Harvest Festival recognises the important part that having good food plays in our overall well being. It reminds us that having food in the cupboards is not something which should be taken for granted and that, if we are able, it is important to give what we can to those who are struggling.

Food is very important in churches - admittedly that food is often cake and biscuits! Jesus so often gathered with other people around food (he once fed 5,000 people with just five loaves and three fish!). One of his final instructions to his closest friends was for them to remember him, and the sacrifice for us that he was about to make, by eating a meal of bread and wine - that meal is what we remember every Sunday at Holy Communion.

What food are you most thankful for? How many people are involved in making that food? Does it come from abroad? Spending time thinking about our food and where it comes from can be really eye-opening. But also, could you donate some food or money this month which supports people who do not have enough to eat?

Whatever you are doing (and eating) this month, I hope you have a blessed October.

God bless

The Revd Jacqui

Guardian Angels – keeping an eye on us

The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe in guardian angels. He once said, 'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18:10)

The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12:15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was

strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were then seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2 October.

From the registers

Downham

Burial only

27 August Mohammed Tasneem

Funeral

3 September Pauline Redgewell

St Margaret's Downham

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Service takes place on Sunday 12 October at 11.00am and will be followed by Harvest Lunch in the church. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. For catering purposes, if you intend to stay for the lunch, please put your name on the list in church or advise churchwarden Mike or Lee. You will find their contact details on the inside front cover of this magazine. As usual we will be inviting donations of packet, dried or tinned food that will be taken to the Wickford Food Bank after the service.

Memorial & Thanksgiving Service

We are holding our annual Memorial and Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 2 November at 3.00pm. This is an opportunity to remember our loved ones

who have gone before. There is a list in the church for you to record the names of anyone you wish to be remembered at that service.

Christmas Bazaar

We will be holding our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 6 December in Downham Village Hall. Please make a note of the date. More details to follow next month.

Quinquennial architect's inspection

Our recently appointed church architect undertook his first five-yearly inspection of the church at the end of August. We are pleased to say that he found little work needs to be done and remarked in his report to the diocese *"There is very little wrong with the church and it is clearly maintained by a dedicated team, who are congratulated. There are no major works needed at this stage."*

The Jam Factory

The Jam Factory will be starting producing for the Christmas Bazaar in the next few weeks.

Firstly I need more jars now and secondly I need help as am feeling the strain as I get older! Could anyone from the Downham family please help with the jam making? I have equipment and can give instruction.

Many thanks

Jean Paveley

Note from the editor: Jean does a wonderful job making jam for sale at our various parish events. At the recent South Hanningfield Flower Festival jam sales contributed £735 to the overall total.

News from Downham School

At the start of the new academic year at Downham Church of England Primary School, we are excited about the changes afoot. This September, we welcomed Miss Johanna Bailey as our Executive Deputy Head, and we are also preparing to formally join Berlesduna Trust in November. These changes signal positive steps forward in our school's journey. We have also welcomed a new cohort of EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) children to our school. The Year 6 children have been working alongside Mrs Applewhite (our EYFS teacher) and her team to ensure that our new starters feel like part of our school family as quickly as possible. Indeed, as the Year 6 children have embarked on their final year of primary education, there have already been

many opportunities for them to take on new challenges and responsibilities. Downham Church of England Primary School is ever-changing and we embrace the challenges that come with those changes whole-heartedly. Our one constant, however, is our Christian ethos. We are proud to be a Church of England school and this will never change. Our vision “Inspiring All to Soar to New Heights” is taken from Isaiah 40: 31: “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” We encourage everyone at Downham to consider, reflect upon and develop their spirituality. We want to raise up a school community which will soar, tackling challenges with confidence and creativity. We want to inspire critical thinking as we work collaboratively and courageously to make our world a better place, starting where we are and working outward.

Over the coming months, we hope to share more about our school life with you and we thank you for all of your support and encouragement. We value your support and your prayers for our school community. Thank you.

Lynne Boyd

Humanities and RE Leader at Downham C of E Primary School

Governor Vacancy at Downham CofE Primary School

Would you be interested in joining our school’s Governing Body, to learn how our Church school is managed and be part of its decision-making process?

Governors oversee the school’s strategic direction, vision and ethos, hold executive leaders to account on all matters relating to the education and well-being of our pupils and staff and oversee its financial performance, spending money wisely.

This role would suit a retired professional who has not necessarily worked in the education sector but has some expertise or skills to offer and up for a challenge!

Full Governing Body meetings are held termly, in school at Church Road, Ramsden Heath CM11 1NU from 4-6pm. Future dates scheduled are 11 November, 10 March 2026 and 30 June 2026.

If you would like to know more, please email me at lwright@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk.

Thank you very much.

Linda Wright

Chair of Governors

Downham Village Hall

QUIZ?NIGHT

? Friday 3rd October 2025 ?
? 7.00 for 7.30 start ?
? in the Village Hall ?

Cost £10 per head (tables of 8)

Bring your own food and drinks

Raffle

To book please call:
Mike Roome 07770 795388

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 01277 413343 or e-mail contact@downhamvillagehall-sses.co.uk



DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL PRESENTS...

PIE AND MASH NIGHT

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

7PM-10PM

MAUREEN'S DOUBLE PIE, MASH AND LIQUOR
(VEGGIE PIES AVAILABLE)

A BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE DRINKS

TICKETS £20
(NO ADMISSION WITHOUT A TICKET)

LIVE SINGER PLUS MUSIC

CONTACT WENDY 01770 509723

St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse

Change to services during October

The Revds Jacqui and Barry are both away on Sunday 26 October, therefore during October there will be a Holy Communion service at St Mary's at 10.00am on Sunday 12 October and Morning Prayer at 10.00am on Sunday 26 October.

Ramsden Heath Social Club

Our regular monthly BINGO will be on Friday 3 October at 8.00pm. Just £1.00 to play plus £2.00 for each book you would like to play with. All welcome. FREE tea/coffee/biscuits at the half-time break, but please feel free to bring other drinks/snacks of your own.

Our second event in October is a QUIZ NIGHT which is on Saturday 18 starting at 7.45pm. £3.00 for Members, £6.00 for Guest & £2.00 for accompanied Children. Make up a team of 8 people maximum or join a team on the night. Come along & test your general knowledge. There will be a prize for the winning team. Please bring your own drinks & snacks to this event.

At the recent Ramsden Heath Social Club AGM, Richard Jerrom (left) was presented with a commemorative tankard from Club Chairman Dave Quinney. Richard is stepping down from the Social Club Committee having been instrumental in forming the Club in 1999.



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 14 October 2.00 to 4.00pm

Looking forward to welcoming you all to our next Community Cuppa and Cake afternoon where you can sit for a couple of hours catching up with friends and having a chat with new people. A piece of homemade cake for £1.50 and a cuppa for 50p in a lovely friendly atmosphere..

All proceeds go to local charities.

Ramsden Cupcakes

Ramsden Heath Horticultural & Allotment Society

We had an excellent turnout for our first meeting after the summer break. Our speaker was one of our members, Maria Carter, who gave a talk and demonstration of various cultures for preserving your harvest and health. It was a lively and interesting evening and we tried some very interesting tasters.

We had a good variety of entries for our mini show, with beautiful dahlias and vegetables. Thank you to all those who took part. It helps to build points for the Banksian medal at the end of the year.

Our next event is the annual Harvest Supper on Thursday 2 October. Start time is 7.30pm. This is the chance to bring something to eat for the table as well as sample other people's delights. You can make savoury or sweet dishes and if you don't feel like cooking, bring cheese, fruit, paté or something from the supermarket shelves. Don't forget to bring your own choice of liquid refreshment and a glass to drink it from.

Our November evening on Thursday 6 November is Marion Scott talking on 'Wickford in bloom'.

St Peter's South Hanningfield

Yet another successful year with our talented Sylvia and her team of ladies who created the most beautiful displays for the 2025 Flower Festival "A Posy of Poetry". The months and months of preparation they all put into their displays is amazing. We are so lucky to have them and we really hope they know how much we appreciate them all. They had additional challenges this year with the local wholesaler no longer being available. Luckily Debbie Sharpe was able to use her contacts and literally the most spectacular flowers arrived straight off a boat from Holland!! A huge thank you to Debbie for all her help and hard work with making this happen. We were also extremely lucky with the weather which poured down either side of the weekend but somehow managed to stay dry the whole of the weekend itself!! We had an excellent attendance on all days, we think in the region of 600 visitors in total over the weekend.

We cannot include photographs of all the flowers in this magazine, but we have produced a photo album that you can view at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/799065cb-f5f7-44c1-988e-9c743e5e96fe> or via the church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/southhanningfieldchurch. We have also produced a printed copy that will be available to view in the church.

We just wanted to say a huge, huge 'thank you' to the many, many people that supported the Flower Festival this year. The event involves an enormous

amount of work and planning and without the support of our local community it just wouldn't happen. It starts with the signs needing to be put up in the local area, the churchyard needing to be mowed and tidied, the bunting appearing at the end of church lane, the many people who came to help Ralph put up all the marquees and gather the many chairs and tables from neighbouring village halls. Then there are so many people involved helping Garry with directing traffic and the parking of cars. The organisation of the refreshments for our many visitors is a mammoth task achieved by our talented caterers Barbara and Beryl, Marguerite and Louise and of course Sandra on the Monday. Finally a huge thank you to our team of washer uppers who agreed to appear with their marigolds to assist over the whole weekend.



Thank you to everyone who organised a stall this year as well as those who were able to spare time to help out on manning the raffle, plants and produce and games and to The Sullivans for organising tours of their beautiful garden to the delight of many of our visitors. To all our stall holders who gave up their whole weekend to be at the festival as well as the time they spent preparing, an example being our resident Jam Lady who spent months preparing 300 jars of jams and chutneys from local produce! Thank you to the generosity of those that donated our fantastic raffle prizes, plants, produce and cakes. A special thank you must go to one of our most treasured senior local residents who again appeared the day before the flower festival with a white transit van full of plants and produce she had grown herself to donate to the flower stall!

Then, of course, thank you to all those who appeared on the Monday to help tidy up and take down marquees etc. we hope we kept you fed and watered enough! A final thank you must go to Mr Roy Radford for his invaluable advice and continued support, which usually involves us calling him at least once a day!! All the money raised, which will be in the region of a record £8,000, we will repeat that again £8,000, will go straight to the upkeep of our historic church and its grounds, particularly the steeple which is in need of repairs.

We truly think we are extremely lucky to have such a supportive community, there are so many wonderful people who helped us, we cannot possibly name you all, but we say a huge and heartfelt 'Thank You'.

We truly hope you enjoyed the weekend as much as we did.

Your "Mission Control" ladies -

Marguerite, Deidre, Rosemary, Anne Marie and Sascha x

Harvest Festival - Sunday 5 October

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival during the Holy Communion Service on 5 October. The church will be beautifully decorated and there will be tea/coffee and cakes served after the service.

South Hanningfield Village Hall

Our next event is the **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday, 22 November from 10.30am to 4.00pm. There will be lots of Christmas crafts, gifts, festive refreshments and a Raffle. Free Entry. The tables inside have already been booked up as this is becoming one of our popular annual events with only a few outside spaces available! There will be over 30 craft and gift stalls with a wide range of items for sale as festive gifts and handmade crafts such as Wooden items, Usborne books, Fabric crafts, handmade Candles, hair accessories, Stained glass items, Beaded jewellery and accessories, Christmas sweets and gifts, Cakes, bakes and cookies, Gin gift sets, Resin items Hand-knitted baby and toddler items, personalised Christmas items, Canal art, Skincare and makeup, local Honey and Christmas decorations.

South Hanningfield Charity Ball will take place on Saturday, 24 January 2026 which includes pre-dinner drinks, 4-course luxury menu, after dinner entertainment and a Raffle at Stock Brook Manor, Billericay in aid of South Hanningfield Village Hall and St Peter's Church charities. For further information, contact Emma on 07961 963914.

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 Hall South Hanningfield Village Hall Management Committee requests that vehicles don't park up on the pavement outside the village hall because of the health and safety risks. Please alert the volunteer committee if you see such vehicles parked in this way outside the hall on 07891 653238.

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library visit South Hanningfield Village Hall every three weeks.
Day of visit: Tuesday Time of visit: 11.25pm to 11.55pm
Next visit dates are 7 and 28 October.

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning

Second Wednesday of each month from 10.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesday, 8 October

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

Puppy Dog Training Classes

Monday from 6.00pm
Dog training for puppies of all ages
Contact Rachel on 07484 706085
or email: Rachel@PuppyPotentialDogTraining.co.uk

****New** Personal Trainer**

Tuesday mornings - Personal Trainer available from 9.30am during Tuesday mornings. For more information, contact Rachael, BoxFit instructor on 07912 344560.

Line Dancing

Tuesday afternoons 12.30pm-1.30pm (beginners) and 1.30pm to 2.30pm (more advanced)
Contact Richard from the Super Troupers Line Dance Club
email: thesupertrouperslldc@gmail.com or tel 07740 360554

Dance lessons

1-1 Ballroom and Latin lessons and wedding dance lessons available with Callie every Wednesday afternoon and evening from 3pm £30 for a 45-minute lesson. Please contact Callie on 07885 630241

Tai Chi Beginner Class

11.45am to 12.45pm Thursdays (started 4 September)

Tel Sen 07853 239103 or email: senfitness@outlook.com to find out more information.

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 October

It was:

750 years ago, on 27 October 1275 that the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25 October 1825 that Johann Strauss II, was born. This

Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including The Blue Danube. 125 years ago, on 20 October 1900 that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills, in North Carolina.

100 years ago, on 13 October 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013.)

90 years ago, on 12 October 1935 that Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born. Considered one of the finest tenors of the 20th century, and one of the most commercially successful of all time. (Died 2007.)

80 years ago, on 12 October 1945 that US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions. He saved the lives of 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa. The film Hacksaw Ridge told his story.

70 years ago, on 20 October 1955 that The Return of the King, the third and final part of J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, was published.

65 years ago, on 12 October 1960 that, at a meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have removed his shoe and pounded his table, in protest at a speech by another delegate.

Also 65 years ago, on 30 October 1960 that Diego Maradona was born. The Argentine football player, manager and coach is regarded as one of the greatest football players in history. (Died 2020.)

60 years ago, on 8 October 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.

50 years ago, on 9 October 1975 that the IRA detonated a bomb near the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly. One person was killed and at least 20 injured.

40 years ago, on 1 October 1985 that riots broke out in Toxteth in Liverpool and Peckham in London. Five days later (6 October) Met Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed in the Broadwater Farm housing estate riot in Tottenham. He was the first British constable to be killed in a riot since 1833.

Also 40 years, on 26 October 1985 that the Australian government returned the ownership of Uluru / Ayers Rock to the local Pitjantjatjara people, on condition that they lease it to the National Parks and Wildlife Agency for 99 years and allow it to be jointly managed.

25 years ago, on 26 October 2000 that the BSE Inquiry Report was published in the UK. It concluded that the BSE (Mad Cow Disease) epidemic was caused by the use of infected meat and bone meal in cattle feed.

20 years ago, on 3 October 2005 that Ronnie Barker, TV comedian, actor and writer, died. Known for The Frost Report, The Two Ronnies, Porridge, Going Straight and Open All Hours.

Also 20 years ago, from 18 to 26 October 2005 that Hurricane Wilma, the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, hit the Caribbean, Central America and the eastern USA. 63 people died. The storm caused £18.1 billion worth of damage.

15 years ago, on 13 October 2010 that 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued. Around one billion TV viewers around the world watched them being pulled to the surface one-by-one, in a specially designed capsule.

10 years ago, on 26 October 2015 that the Hindu Kush earthquake hit Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. At least 399 people were killed, and 2,536 more injured.

Share a little light this Halloween

Some parents aren't sure quite what to feel about Hallowe'en – is it just harmless fun, or are there aspects of it that don't fit in with how we want to see the world?

A child's christening service is very honest about the reality of good and evil, and Hallowe'en can be a good time to talk about those things and how the love of Jesus can be a 'Light in the darkness' for everyone.

The word 'hallowe'en' actually means 'the eve of all hallows' day' – in other words, the night before the church's festival celebrating All Saints. A Saint is sometimes thought to be an exceptionally holy person – someone really special, who did extraordinary things because of their faith in God.

The famous saints are all amazing examples of what it's like to live God's way. But in the Bible, St Paul calls all Christians saints – a saint is simply a friend of God, who seeks to live their life according to God's purposes. When someone is christened, they truly become a Saint, so All Saints' Day is a celebration of the whole family of God.

If you'd like to mark Hallowe'en, these are some ideas that will bless others as well as being fun too.

What's happening in church? Some churches hold special events around this time of year. There might be a 'Light Party' with fun activities for children and young people – these events are a lovely way to focus on all that's life-giving and positive around All Hallows.

Some churches also have a special service for All Souls Day – a time when we remember our loved ones who have died. There might be an opportunity

to go and light a candle to remember someone – even small children grieve in their own way and may find comfort in this simple action.

Why not pop into our local church, or look up on their website, to find out what's happening in our local area?

Carve a pumpkin. Did you know that gargoyles (the scary looking faces carved in stone on churches) were originally made in medieval times to scare away evil spirits? The pumpkins with scary faces carved into them at Hallowe'en are a bit like that.

But Christians believe that you can't fight evil with evil – you can only fight evil with good, and that good will always win in the end. So why not see if you can carve a friendly looking pumpkin this year, as a sign that you and your family are going to be a force for good this Hallowe'en? (And you can always use the offcuts from your pumpkin to make delicious soup!)

You can do the same with Hallowe'en costumes. Superheroes make a great, positive alternative to scary witches and ghosts.

Give a treat. Not everyone is comfortable with the idea of children going round to neighbours' and just asking for treats. But if you don't want them to miss out on something their friends are doing, why not have a family baking session, and take a tray of cookies with you if you go out with them? Even little children can help stick a smiley face on an iced biscuit. That way, you have something lovely to give away to your neighbours, too!

Safety first. Many children's fancy dress costumes are highly flammable. Please, don't ever use real candles around your front door or in your pumpkins; use the small battery-powered candles instead. If you can afford to buy a multi-pack of these electric candles, you could lend them to your friends and neighbours.

Say a goodnight prayer. Even if you've steered clear of scary costumes, and even if your child has loved the evening, it can be reassuring to have a goodnight prayer that reminds them that love, and light, and good, are always going to be stronger than fear and evil.

The ancient service of Compline (Night Prayer) has been used as this reminder for centuries, and many of its prayers are still well known today: 'Visit this place, O Lord, we pray and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be upon us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

Or, in a simpler children's version: 'Be with us, Lord, and take away all fear, may your angels protect us and give us peace. And bless us always. Amen.' You can use these lovely prayers any time when you need a reminder that God is with you – especially at the end of a difficult day, or when something sad has happened, or when your family is worried about something.

Know why you believe

St Michael's Galleywood, the church where the Revd Jacqui's fiancé David is Rector, is holding a series of discussions entitled "Know why you believe". You may find it interesting. Please see full details below.



St Michael's and All Angels, Galleywood

"Know Why You Believe"

St Michael's, Galleywood is starting a new monthly teaching series on Saturday mornings on 18th October called "Know Why You Believe", and we would like to extend an invitation to anyone from the local churches who might be interested in attending – you will be warmly welcomed!

Our faith is rational and reasoned and can robustly withstand intellectual challenge.

When someone says to you, "Why do you believe all that stuff?", or "Why do you go to church?", or "Come on, Jesus didn't *really* rise from the dead, did he? – It's all a myth!", maybe you've not been too sure of how to answer. Having a response is important because as the apostle Peter in his first letter says, *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."* (1 Peter 3:15)

So, after an introductory session, in "Know Why You Believe" we'll be looking at questions which include:

- Before modern printing was invented the books of the OT and NT had been passed down over thousands of years through hand-copying, so how can we be sure the copies we have today faithfully represent the original authors' words?
- How do we really know that Jesus was raised from the dead, and not something added on to the story later to give it a happy and inspiring ending?
- How do we know that Jesus really was the Son of God, and not just a good man?
- How can there be a powerful, loving God when there is, and always has been, so much evil and suffering in the world?
- Are science and faith in conflict?

Maybe you feel in need of some answers to these types of questions. Or, maybe right now you are seriously considering what the Christian faith is all about, and this might help you address some of your concerns. Or maybe, (as we are sure you will!) you will just find all this very interesting. Whatever your reason, you will be very welcome.

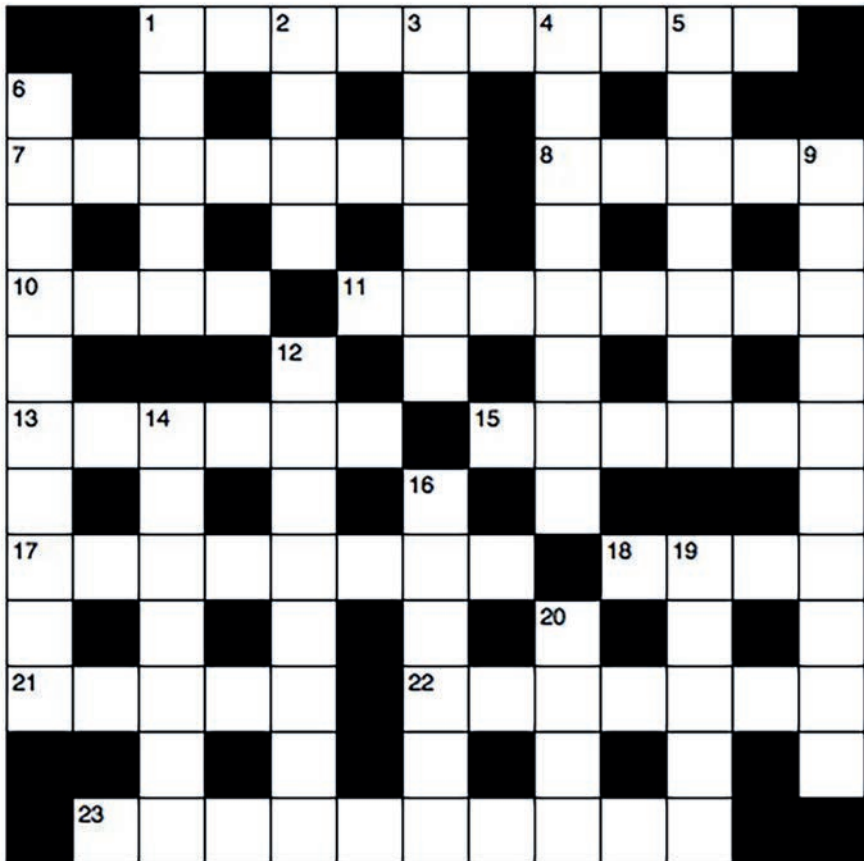
Each week, we will be supporting the talk with a PowerPoint presentation, and concluding each time with opportunities for questions. The entire session will last no more than one hour.

"Know Why You Believe", will be starting on **Saturday October 18th at 10:00 am**, then mostly every month after that, on the third Saturday in the month.

It would help us with the logistics of the arrangements if you could let Geoff Windus (geoffwindus@gmail.com) know if you intend to come, or if you seek further information.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Puzzle corner



Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down
- 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

Answers on page 33

Children's pages



Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him

with the sounding trumpet,

Praise Him

with the harp and lyre,

Praise Him

with tambourine and dancing,

Praise Him

with the clash of cymbals,

Praise Him

with the resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath

PRAISE THE LORD!

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

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:36 - 7:8, 16-22

God had told Gideon he would drive the Midianite invaders out of His country. 32000 men had come to fight with Gideon.

Gideon asked God for proof.



God did as Gideon had asked.



Could you show me again, but with the wool dry and the ground wet?



God said

The army is too big. They will think that they beat the Midianites, not Me.



So Gideon sent home all who were afraid - 22000 of them



There were still too many, so Gideon told them to drink from the spring.



300 scooped up water to drink, and the rest were sent home.



Each man was given a jar with a lit torch in it and a horn.



That night they surrounded the Midianite camp.



At the signal, they blew the trumpets, smashed the jars and shouted a war cry



The Midianites were so shocked they attacked each other, and then ran



The Israelites won without having to do any fighting.



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Smile lines

Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. “I’m so tough,” said the first boy, “that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week.”

“Well,” said the second little boy, “I’m so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day.”

“That’s nothing,” said the third boy. “When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour.”

If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it’s probably obsolete.

Ouch

A lady who had been absent from church for some weeks, due to an illness, proudly told her new doctor: “The Vicar dropped on me.”

Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him ‘maybe one day, but we can’t afford one yet.’ Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church and announced: ‘Children: free’.

Who is God?

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: “Isn’t God the man who saves the King?”

Truths about children

- A young child is a noise with dirt on it.
- An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
- A child will not spill on a dirty floor.
- Having children is like having a bowling alley installed in your brain.
- Having children will turn you into your parents.
- If you have trouble getting your children’s attention, just sit down and look comfortable.
- Avenge yourself; live long enough to be a problem to your children.

Golf

A golf player is a person who can drive 70 miles an hour in traffic with perfect ease, but who goes to pieces on a two-foot putt if somebody coughs.

Contacting The Herald

Contributions to the November edition

Copy for the next edition of The Herald should be sent by email to Robert Andrews at theherald@downhamchurch.org.uk by **Thursday 16 October**. 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
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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: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

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