



One Church 4 Parishes

Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon with Winwick

January 2025



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6



Services This January

Sunday 5th January

9am, Holy Communion (BCP), St Lawrence, Long Buckby
10:30am, The Breakfast Service, St Lawrence, Long Buckby
10:30am, Morning Praise, All Saints, West Haddon

Wednesday 8th January

9:30am, Midweek Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Sunday 12th January

9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford
10:30am, Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon
10:30am, Morning Praise, St Lawrence, Long Buckby
4pm, Tea Time Together, St Lawrence School Rooms, Long Buckby

Sunday 19th January

10:30am, Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon
10:30am, Family Service, St Lawrence, Long Buckby
6pm, Holy Communion, St Michael and All Angels, Winwick

Sunday 26th January

9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford
10:30am, Holy Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby
10:30am, The Family Service, All Saints, West Haddon

Everyone is welcome!

Opening Times across our churches

St Lawrence, Long Buckby
Open Monday-Saturday 10am-3pm

All Saints, West Haddon
Open Monday-Sunday, 9am-4pm

St Peter and St Paul, Watford
Open Monday-Sunday, 10am-4pm

St Michael and All Angels, Winwick
Open 24 Hours

The Vicar Writes

I hope that a good Christmas and New Year was had by all, I know for many it is a time of great joy, for others perhaps a little more of a struggle.

A new year often brings with it the thought of reflecting on the year just gone or indeed looking to the year ahead and all that might bring. I look back at 2024 and think of all the things that have gone on in the parishes this year, my first full year here and am grateful for all of the people involved in our churches and the life they bring to it.

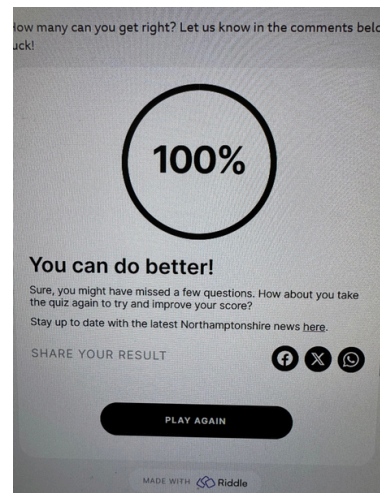
This month also marks the first anniversary of this Monthly newsletter, which started as a twelve page edition in January 2024 in hopes of communicating something of the life of the parishes both to our own congregations but also any who might come into our churches and pick up a copy.

As I look forward to 2025, I haven't made any of the new years resolutions that many of us do other than to keep seeking God's best for us and our parishes and that we would see our churches flourish in the year to come.

Do join with me in prayer for that over these coming weeks and months, for our churches to be an integral part of the life of our communities.

*Every blessing
Kevin*

P.S. On a side note, I recently completed a quiz about Northamptonshire News on the BBC News website. I managed to score 100% but the message told me "You can do better!" and "Sure you might have missed a few questions. How about you take the quiz again to try and improve your score?", so if you every feel you're not getting it all right, don't worry - even if you get 100% you're still not!



Opening Hours at St Lawrence, Long Buckby
have returned to winter hours.

ST LAWRENCE, LONG BUCKBY COMMUNITY SHELF

**COMMUNITY SHELF
AVAILABLE DURING
OPENING HOURS**



**For those in need, help yourself to
essentials such as food and toiletries.**

**Donations to the Community Shelf
always welcome.**

WHAT CAN I DONATE

Canned food
Pasta, Sauces
Packet Mixes
Toiletries
Nappies and wipes
and more!

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED SO FAR,
PLEASE DO CONTINUE TO DONATE IF YOU CAN!

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GO IN THE
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?
TO DISCUSS YOUR IDEA**

EMAIL: HELLO@ONECHURCH4PARISHES.CO.UK

**FINAL SUBMISSIONS FOR EACH MONTH SHOULD
BE IN BY THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.**

The Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January



On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany – the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them ‘Magi’, and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn’t until the third century that they were called kings – by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three – to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing – and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things.

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

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

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

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

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus’ kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God’s promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: ‘Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.’ The Magi’s eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

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

Bishop Debbie Sellin visits Long Buckby and the Brixworth Deanery

Story by Chris Banks



Bishop Debbie began her Deanery visit at Welford Truck Stop (near the A14) where she had breakfast with Revd Graeme Anderson (Rural Dean), Revd Tom Grant (new incumbent of the Naseby Group) and Chris Banks (Deanery Lay Chair).

We were the only non-truck drivers having breakfast – it was a good opportunity to show how the major trunk roads, the M1/A5 and A14, run across the northern and western boundaries of the deanery.

Long Buckby was the next stop where Bishop Debbie presided at the monthly midweek communion service in St Lawrence. The local team was delighted to welcome colleagues from across the Deanery who swelled the normal congregation. Afterwards Bishop Debbie saw the Community Shelf which has provided food and other essential household items in the past year to local people struggling due to rising costs and prices. Church members and residents work together to supply all the items.

Bishop Debbie and Chris Banks were shown around Spratton CE Primary by Mrs Liz Crofts (Executive Head) where there are very good outside facilities for the children. After the act of worship, which included the team at St Andrew's Spratton enacting the story of feeding the five thousand, the children enjoyed questioning Bishop Debbie about what a bishop does. There was great engagement between the children and the Bishop.

The Deanery Clergy joined us at St Andrew's Church for lunch. The food was excellent and plentiful, which helped the conversation flow as Bishop Debbie gained greater insight into parish ministry across the nine benefices. Brixworth Deanery is entirely rural and encompasses 43 villages with a combined population smaller than that of Daventry. Only Long Buckby (4,700) and Brixworth (6,000) have populations in excess of 2,000.

Bishop Debbie and Chris attended the After School Club at Yelvertoft Primary School at the invitation of Revd Jo Ognanovic. Jo has formed an excellent relationship with the staff at this non-Church school. We participated in colouring rainbows with the children before Jo read a bible story about the Tower of Babel and asked them questions about the key aspects. Then we had great fun making our own versions of the Tower of Babel using cardboard boxes and tape.

In the evening, All Saints Brixworth hosted a social event for us at the George Inn, which was attended by more than 70 people from across the Deanery. This enabled Bishop Debbie to meet a good number of Church members and interact with people in a more informal setting.

Bishop Debbie told us her impression is that it is a happy deanery with real potential to reach out to its rural communities.

Eleven years of flowers!



Val Hardwick and Sue Plant have decided to step down from arranging the flowers at St Lawrence after 11 years of dedicated service and much skill in creating beautiful displays, which have enhanced our worship.

We are very grateful indeed for their commitment and contribution to the life of the Church at St Lawrence.

We presented them with a gift as a token of our appreciation at the service on 29th December.

Thank you Val and Sue!

Taking down the Christmas Decorations



Many churches keep their decorations – or at least their nativity scene – in place until Candlemas at the beginning of February, but most of us take our domestic ones down around Epiphany, on 6th January, when we recall the arrival of the Three Kings.

But how do we manage them for the rest of the year, after we have taken them down?

Our Christmas ‘baubles’ come in all colours, in matt and shiny, in all shapes and sizes. They can remind us of people, who also come in all shapes and sizes, colours and tones. Baubles are very fragile, like we are sometimes.



This year as you take down your decorations, have a good look at them and think about the care that you take to store them safely, so that they will not break.

How much more care do you take in looking after the people who make up your life? Your family, friends, neighbours, church, colleagues, local shop keepers, and so on?



It’s quick and easy to pick up the decorations and just drop them in a box, but without some gentle care, will they be okay for next year?

It’s too easy to pass folk by, and get on with what we are doing for ourselves, our own plans and goals; but aren’t people worth more than that?

Who do we know that would greatly benefit if we gave them just a bit more time, a bit more consideration?

Not too serious



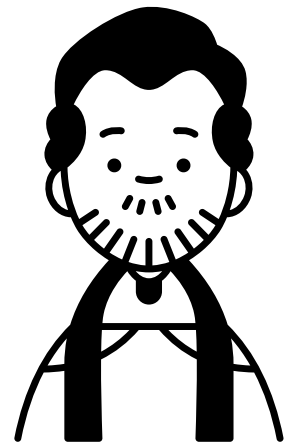
A Sunday school teacher was telling her youngsters about Daniel and the Lion's Den. To illustrate the lesson, she drew a picture of Daniel standing, brave and confident, with a group of lions around him. Suddenly, one little girl started to cry. The teacher said, "Don't cry. Daniel is going to survive."

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."

Policeman to the vicar, found pacing outside the vicarage at three o'clock in the morning:

"What are you doing here?"

Vicar: "I forgot my key, officer, and I'm waiting for my children to come home and let me in."



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 course on Wednesday nights. She's used the programme herself and has been growing like crazy!

Volunteers are needed to spit up food for distribution.

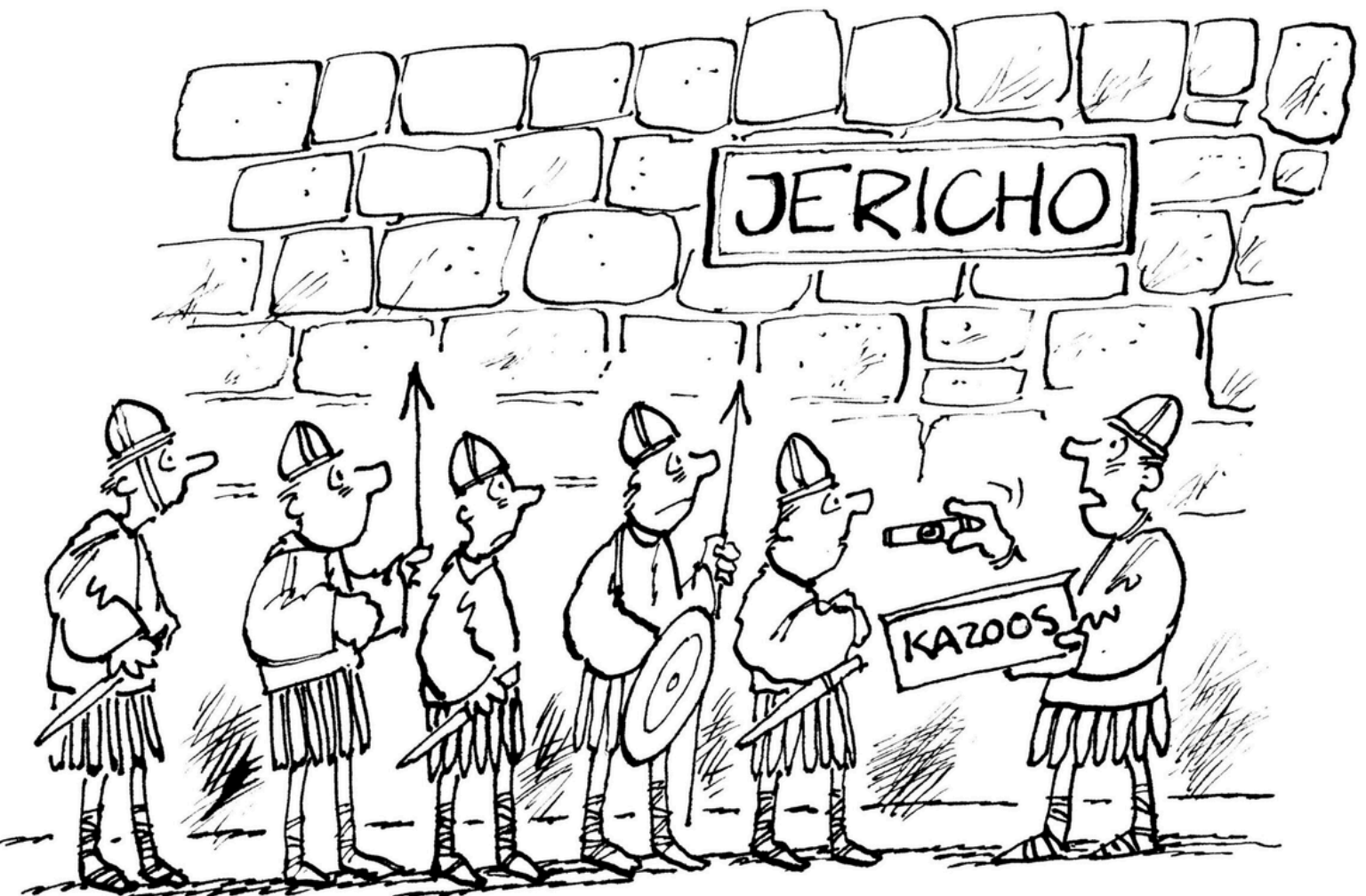
This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



Day & Night Blessing

May God's blessing be yours,
And good be it sent;
May Christ's blessing be yours,
And good be it meant;
Spirit's blessing be yours,
For life's good intent,
Day arising indoors,
Night lying down spent.

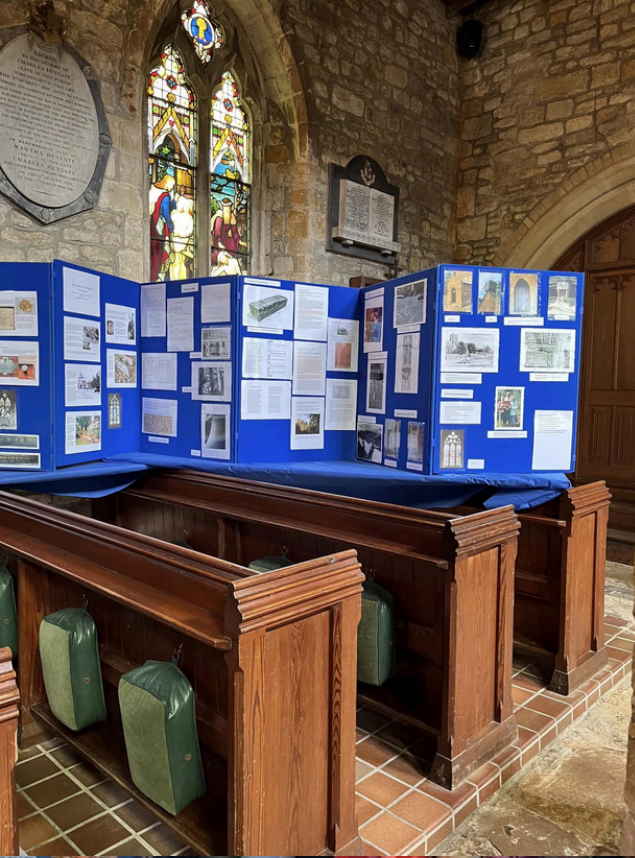
Ancient Celtic Prayer



...Joshua says he's very sorry - but it's something to do with the recent weapons procurement review...

Pictures from 2024 - what do you recognise?





Ridgeway Mothers' Union visit to Coton Manor Garden, June 2024



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

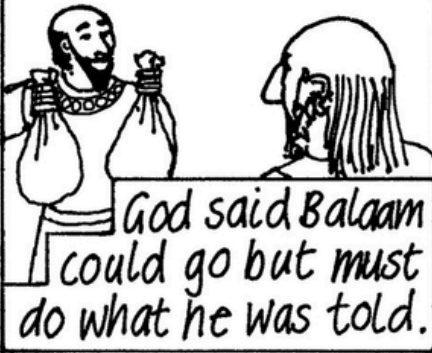
It can be read in the Bible in Numbers 22:2 to 24:25

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

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



Balak asked him again.



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



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



God let the donkey speak.



Then Balaam saw the angel...



King Balak was ready to pay Balaam.



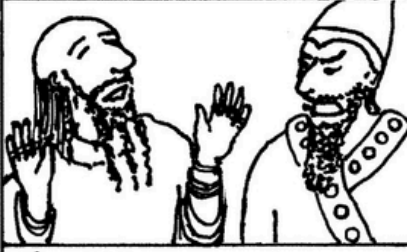
Look, there they are. Now curse them.



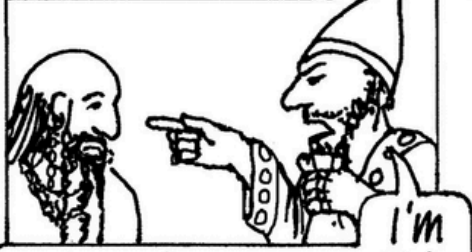
Balaam tried to curse the Israelites but he could only say a blessing.



Again, Balaam could only bless, not curse.



A third time, Balaam could only bless.



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



v	h	k	q	h	l	r	j	v	m	h	q
b	s	z	w	a	n	t	e	d	g	e	n
b	a	l	a	a	m	c	a	m	p	e	d
z	i	l	w	b	b	k	s	b	b	g	h
i	s	r	a	e	l	i	t	e	s	g	o
n	d	o	n	k	e	y	o	f	s	r	m
v	m	x	t	l	s	e	p	o	k	i	e
a	h	n	e	h	s	t	p	r	i	v	l
d	a	r	d	r	i	k	e	e	n	e	p
e	p	e	u	h	n	r	d	h	g	r	p
y	p	c	o	x	g	o	d	n	f	z	a
p	y	q	j	o	r	d	a	n	g	r	y

donkey

angry

before

third

Israelites

Moab

hit

curse

blessing

wanted

pay

angel

Balaam

home

God

camped

happy

Balak

wanted

invade

Jordan

King

river

stopped

Double Sudoku!



EASY

			7		8	1	5	
1		7	2					6
				5		9		7
				8		5	6	3
	1	3	6		7	2	4	
8	4	6		2				
7		4		1				
9					6	8		2
	2	1	8		5			

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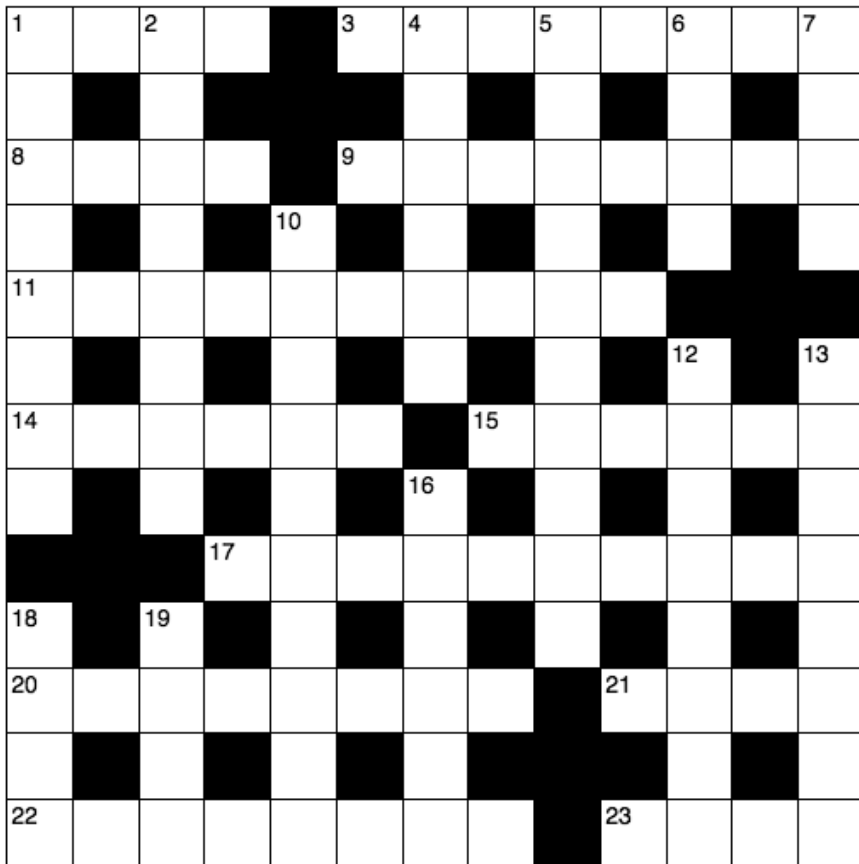
			6				7	
		7			3	5		
3					7		4	
					2	6		
8	5						1	7
		9	3					
	9		5					3
		4	1			8		
	2				9			

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HARD

Bible Crossword



Across

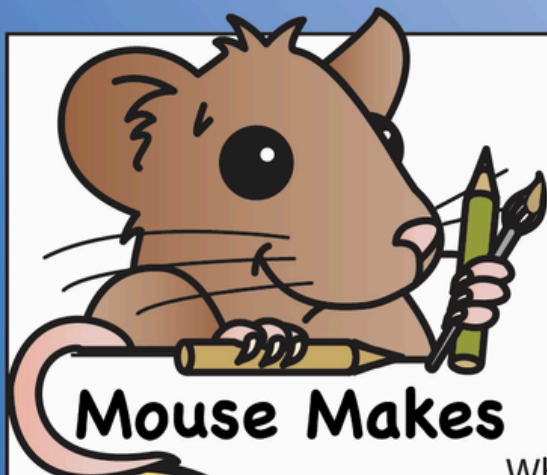
- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric



Mouse Makes

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



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




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

How many other words can you make from:
EPIPHANY

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

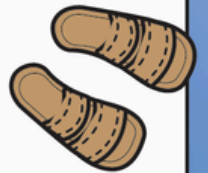
EPIPHANY is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

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


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

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

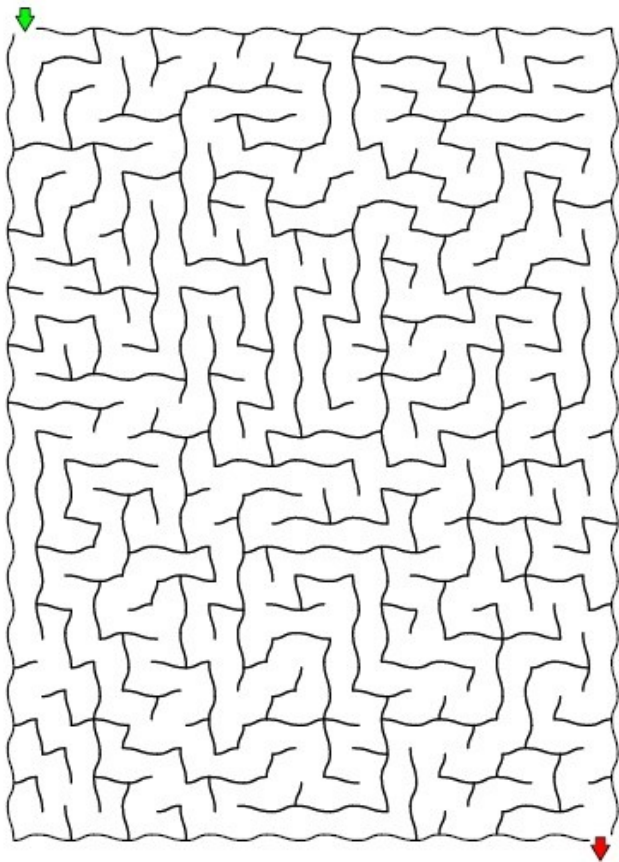
E G O D
B O R N
F L E E
L D G E



- WISE • MEN • EAST • STAR
- REST • BETHLEHEM
- VISIT • JESUS • GIFTS
- GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH
- WORSHIP • SON • CHILD
- BORN • KING • JEWS • CHRIST
- SHEPHERD • JOY • GOD
- HEROD • KILL • BOYS • TWO • CRY
- ANGEL • DREAM • JOSEPH • MARY
- FLEE • EGYPT • LAND • NAZARETH

The Maze

CLASSIC



Spot the Differences but this time we're not telling you how many!



Wordsearch

- Gifts
- Gold
- Frankincense
- Myrrh
- Henry
- Hopkins
- Carol
- Three
- Kings
- Orient
- Worship
- Temple
- Spice
- Ancients
- Bodies
- Burial
- Honoured
- Divine
- Sacrifice
- Die
- Gentile
- faith

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

Answers

CROSSWORD ANSWERS:

ACROSS: 1, Cock, 3, Shackles, 8, Play, 9, Paradise, 11, Faithfully, 14, Emmesh, 15, Unseen, 17, Armageddon, 20, Benjamin, 21, Beri, 22, Capitals, 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea, 2, Charisma, 4, Heap up, 5, Challenged, 6, Lois, 7, Slew, 10, The Servant, 12, Lewdness, 13, Unending, 16, Daniel, 18, BBFC, 19, Snap.

Hard Sudoku

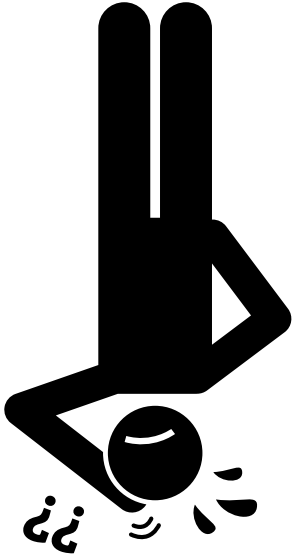
9	4	2	6	8	5	3	7	1
6	1	7	4	9	3	5	8	2
3	8	5	2	1	7	9	4	6
4	7	1	8	5	2	6	3	9
8	5	3	9	6	4	2	1	7
2	6	9	3	7	1	4	5	8
1	9	6	5	4	8	7	2	3
7	3	4	1	2	6	8	9	5
5	2	8	7	3	9	1	6	4

Easy Sudoku

3	9	2	7	6	8	1	5	4
1	5	7	2	4	9	3	8	6
4	6	8	3	5	1	9	2	7
2	7	9	1	8	4	5	6	3
5	1	3	6	9	7	2	4	8
8	4	6	5	2	3	7	9	1
7	8	4	9	1	2	6	3	5
9	3	5	4	7	6	8	1	2
6	2	1	8	3	5	4	7	9

Wordsearch

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





BAPTISMS

Interested in getting your child baptised?

Whether you call it christening or baptism we are here to welcome you and those being baptised as part of our church family. A baptism service is a special service where those being baptised will be prayed for, where parents and Godparents will make important promises, water is poured over the person being baptised to signify being made clean and often a sign of the cross is made, a candle is given to you in the service to help remind you to “Shine as a light in the world to the Glory of God”. It’s a special day for not only the person being baptised but all those family, friends and church members who are there to be part of it. Please do contact us and we’d be happy to talk with you about baptism.



WEDDINGS

Have you considered a church wedding?

We are blessed to have wonderful church buildings in our benefice, in beautiful surroundings, where you can have a wonderful wedding as you make promises to God and each other in front of family and friends. Wedding services have declarations, vows, exchanging of rings, blessings and can include your own choice of readings, music and more, they are a joy to be part of. Church weddings are also surprisingly inexpensive and can help you have a very special wedding without breaking the bank. Contact us to find out how you can have your very special day with us.



FUNERALS

We are here for you.

Firstly our sympathies for your loss. We know how hard times like this are and we as the church can be here to support you, not only with the funeral service itself but also afterwards with pastoral support and special services to help you commemorate and remember your loved ones life. We are happy to liaise with you and funeral directors to help you say goodbye to your loved one, services can be tailored to help reflect the life of the deceased so that even in the sadness of loss you can remember the love, the times you had together and look to the hope that a church funeral services gives. Do contact us or ask your funeral director to be in touch with us and let us support you in this difficult time.

CONTACTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE



Vicar - The Revd Kevin Montgomery
Email: vicar@onechurch4parishes.co.uk
Tel: 01327 577244

Safeguarding Officer - Julie Mousley
Tel: 01327 843459
Email: safeguarding@onechurch4parishes.co.uk

St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Church Warden - Chris Banks
Tel: 07968 075465

Email: chris.banks@onechurch4parishes.co.uk

School Rooms Bookings - Helen Baker
Tel: 01327 843123

Email: helen.e.baker@btinternet.com

St Peter and St Paul, Watford

Church Warden - Ken Brand
Tel: 07762 600047
Email: kbrando1@hotmail.com

Church Warden - Bernadette Frost
Tel: 07525 017151
Email: bjfrost@yahoo.co.uk

All Saints, West Haddon

Church Warden - Julie Morgan
Tel: 01788 226226
Email: juliemmorgan63@gmail.com

St Michael and All Angels, Winwick

Church Warden - Bruce Green
Tel: 01788 510415
Email: bg@brucegreenfoundation.co.uk

For further contact details visit our website



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