

# ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, STREATLEY *PROCLAMATION*

## FEBRUARY 2021



*Serving the Communities of Streatley, Warden H  
and Bramingham Park/Barton Hills*

[www.stmargaret-streatley.org.uk](http://www.stmargaret-streatley.org.uk)

40

### **Parish Announcement**

Due to current Covid19 restrictions there are some changes in the times we are able to gather as a community.

- The buggy group is sadly suspended until further notice.
- The youth group will share dates and times of one-off events shortly.
- We continue to share online worship every day on either the church or the Vicar's FB page.
- We continue to share Sunday Worship at 9.00 on the FB pages and from 10.00 on YouTube.

Please call Nigel for any further information.

<https://www.facebook.com/vicar.stmargarets.streatley/>

## **PRIVATE PRAYER**

The church is open on Monday and Wednesday between 11.00 and 1.00 for private prayer, and Sundays between 10.30 and 12.00 or privately by arrangement.

# From the Vicarage

## January 2021

Dear Friends

Firstly of course a very, very Happy New Year to you all. And while I'm sure it wasn't the Christmas you were looking forward to, I pray that you found some of it both restful and reflective. Christmas 2020 was undoubtedly unlike any we have known before and one I'm sure we will never forget.

Certainly, I know many of you are feeling a deep sense of frustration and loss, as we continue to face challenges and changes to so much of our normal life. But as people of faith we must also continue to diligently pray for all those who are ill, those who are detached from family and friends, those who have lost jobs, and of course, all who have been bereaved. We must continue to pray for people we know and also people we don't know. Sometimes it can feel overwhelming and a real struggle, but have faith that God is with us in all of this.

And yet, in all the gloom, there are still things we can be thankful for. In December we were still able to collect vast amounts of food for Luton Foodbank, go ahead with our wonderful toy collection for the Salvation Army, gift more great clothes to the refugees, enjoy a fabulous Christmas card collection raising much needed funds for Keech, and of course, the amazing shoe boxes of goodies given to the Luton refugee children by our own incredible youth leaders. Everything has been so kindly given and has been so gratefully received.

Over Christmas week, with a significant rise in Covid cases overwhelming the local hospitals, we took the very sad decision to scale back our plans. We cancelled our second carol service and our much looked forward to Christmas Eve community sing-song. This was an enormous shame as the choir had practiced hard and sounded wonderful. But I know you will agree that it was the right course of action. If things ease - and the vaccines kick in - I promise, (if we can) to retrospectively celebrate Christmas in August!

Sadly, for various reasons, I didn't get all of the break that I would traditionally have taken between Christmas and New Year, but I did manage to halt the 'live morning prayer' which will now recommence each day, along with Thursday evening prayer and anything else I can think of.

I'm still working in Keech and things remain tough. Like ourselves at St Margaret's, many events and fundraisers have had to be suspended and I would urge you to hold Keech in your prayers, not just the patients, but the amazing staff and volunteers.

We have continued to risk-assess our services as the tiers changed, and this allowed us to keep our Sunday services (and our occasional ministries) going. However, following

the Prime Minister's announcement of full lockdown, we might have to sadly close our doors again until this is lifted, (although I will await formal clarification from the Diocese). We will, of course, attempt to remain open if we are allowed to do so, but obviously everybody's safety is paramount. If we do remain open nobody should feel compelled to come and I will actively discourage anybody who is high risk or vulnerable.

Sadly, I suspect we will need to fully suspend all of our work at the Parish Centre including church services, until we hear we are out of lockdown. We will definitely close our midweek communion for this week to be on the safe side.

The Parish Centre committee have done a fabulous job keeping the Centre running safely and efficiently throughout 2020, and this is reflected in some excellent new groups choosing the Centre for their activities. I know when this passes, all of their hard work will pay off and the Centre will thrive again.

Finally, our food bank collection day every month offers a vital lifeline to the community in which we live, and I'm reflecting on how this might still go ahead. I will seek clarification on how this vital service could continue from the Diocese, and I will come back to you.

Again, it seems I'm the bearer of bad news and so give my huge apologies. This is not what any of us want, definitely not me. But always remember that you are the church, it's not just the wonderful building we call home. And while all of us can't currently meet in person, we are still a community of faith and we can continue to care and pray for one another - something that is so important at this time.

Be strong and stay safe, my friends, and I will post more news when I receive it.

With much love,

Revd Nigel & Rosie

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

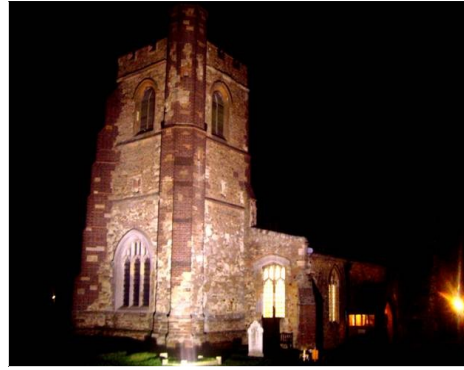
Roger and Ros would like to thank you for all your cards and

greetings

and would also like to wish Nigel, Rosie and all at St  
Margaret's a

happy and healthy New Year.

# St ***Margaret's Church, Streatley***



Wedding (under special  
licence)

2 January 2021    Ian Franklin to Julie Sloane

## Funerals/Cremations

Lucy Nuyk-Thye Wheelhouse (67)  
April Constance Hayward (82)  
Patricia (Pips) Pipkin (89)  
Margaret Honey (86)  
Cyril Vaughn (92)

## Interment of Ashes

## Tower Light Sponsorship

*To celebrate or commemorate a special occasion, please contact  
Clare Powell by 1<sup>st</sup> the previous month, on 01462 811165.  
Sponsorship £5 per week.*

## Altar Sponsorship

*Would you like to sponsor flowers for the Altar pedestal to celebrate a  
special occasion such as a special birthday, wedding, anniversary,  
christening, or any other celebration or may be in memory of a loved  
one?*

*There is a record of sponsorship in a book on the chest in the Cross Aisle in Church and as a token of thanks you will receive a commemorative card with a photograph. If you are interested, please contact Brenda on 01582 575 620 who will be happy to discuss your needs.*



# Buggy Group

Meets every Tuesday in term time  
10.15am-11.30am at  
St Margaret's Parish Centre  
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children ages 0-3 years welcome  
come along and make new friends

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee,  
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biscuit with a sing song to  
end the session. Different  
puppet visits every week.

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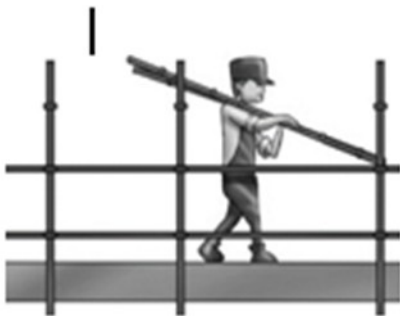
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## The Butterfly Tree Charity NEWS UPDATE

### BOREHOLES AND WATER RETICULATION SYSTEMS



**The Butterfly Tree** has installed over 40 boreholes in schools, health centres, and for communities. The boreholes provide safe clean water, reducing diarrhoeal disease cases and the hours women and children must walk to draw water. In addition, boreholes and water reticulation systems provide water for vegetable gardens and food production units during the dry season from April to November.

'The solar powered water supply system provides flowing water to our school at all times. Readily available water makes the food production unit viable, hence the production of vegetables and fruits for a sustainable school feeding programme.' Lloyd Kasela – Deputy Head Teacher, Singwamba School

### STORIES OF HOPE – CHRISTMAS 2020

With all the sadness and distress caused as a result of [COVID-19](#), I would like to bring you some positive news. Despite everything that 2020 has thrown at us, **The Butterfly Tree** continues to serve those most in need in Zambia and has been able to implement new projects, deliver vital services, and distribute food to orphans and vulnerable people suffering from food shortages. The combination of the tremendous support we have received from existing and new donors, and the dedication and commitment of our wonderful team of local volunteers has produced an entire new health post and staff house at Bunsanga, extensive expansion at River View and Musotowane Schools. In addition, we have installed boreholes for 7 schools and communities, and six solar-powered water reticulation systems for school production units, and two community projects for 400 women.

Malimba, Chilaba, Moomba, Siamasimbi, Ndele and Chuunga. Moomba Chieftdom has also been supplied with insecticidal coating and larvicide. Orphans, widows, and the elderly have received new homes and hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children have been sponsored at schools, colleges, and universities.



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# **DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2021 PROCLAMATION**

**Sunday 7 February**

but earlier if possible, please.

Please send usual/potential contributions to  
[magazine@stmargaret-streatley.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stmargaret-streatley.org.uk)

*I would be grateful to receive contributions, where possible, in Word.*

Thanks, Cathy Aizlewood

## **Make a Joyful Noise!**

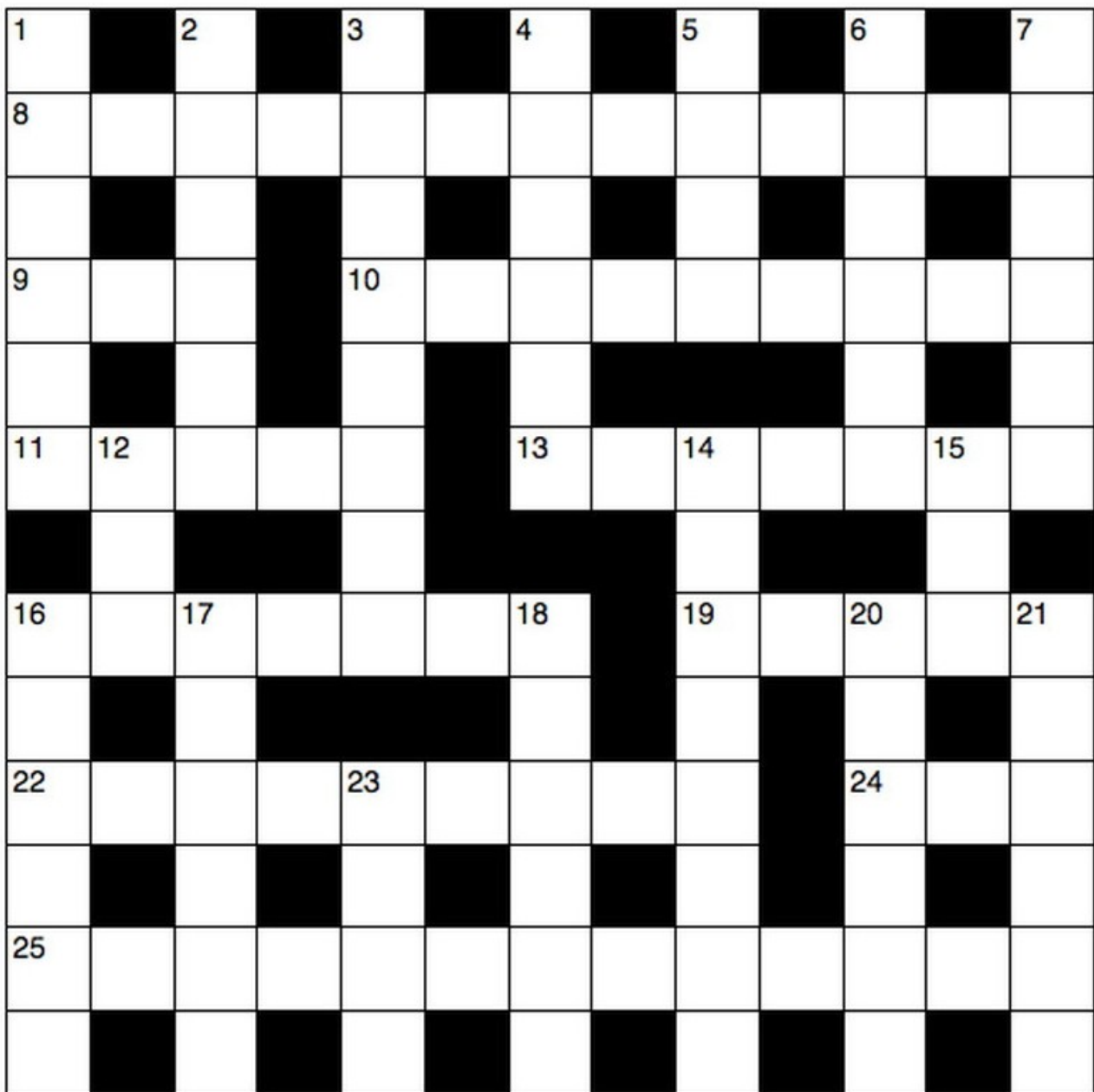
St Margaret's Church Choir meet on Friday evenings at 7.00 pm. We would like to widen our membership to include those who think they can't sing and those who do not read music, so that more of us can enjoy the fellowship of singing in a group.

We extend an open invitation. This is not committing singers to "robe" or sit with the Sunday choir. It is an opportunity to share the joy of music making and explore our beautiful sacred music with others. I hope you will try us out.

A warm welcome awaits you each Friday.

Barbara Donaldson

# CROSSWORD



## 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)



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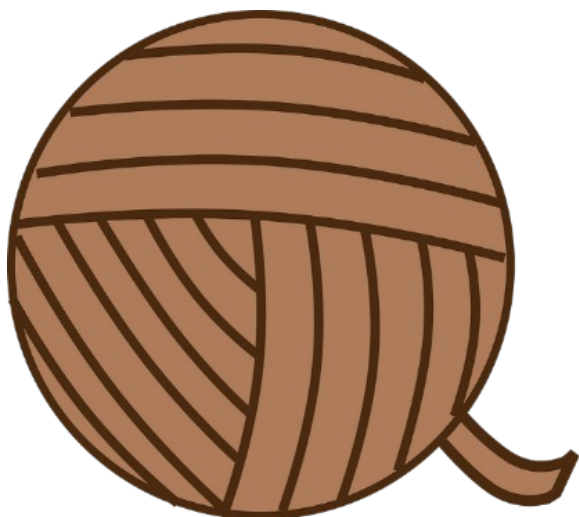
## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

*Our loyal and regular subscribers will be expecting a reminder that subscriptions are overdue for another year's worth of Proclamation.*

*Obviously in these strange times, the magazine is not being printed by the usual group of helpful ladies but the contributors and the Editor trust that many of you are getting to read it on line.*

*A decision on subscription renewal will be made when we see what happens next!*

## *Wool please*



*If anyone has spare wool which might be used  
by the blanket knitters, can you please pass it  
to Jean Flower.*

*Thanks*



### **Earlier this March...**

we were going  
Ives,  
started leading  
different lives.  
Church and  
and boccia  
stopped,  
spoke, down  
were locked.

indoors, no  
longer free,  
for walks  
beside the sea.  
Home to

*A parcel for Justin! Now lockdown at  
home would be more bearable.*

Hepworth, roads were clear,  
2020, what a year!



Around the village, walking daily,  
Ian learning ukulele.  
Using Zoom and online Apps,  
Joining in the weekly claps.

Keeping busy, doing lots,  
Booking online shopping slots.  
Painting fence and staining wood,  
Staying indoors, being good.

Come September we took flight,  
Two weeks on the Isle of Wight.  
Lovely walks, our hearts did sing,  
Always social distancing.

Watching Lily turn sixteen,  
Her youthful looks make us both green.  
Missing friends and family,  
Now we're stuck in tier three.

Decs up early, same next door,  
It's never been like this before.  
Go away, this year be gone!  
Our fingers crossed for '21.

Sent by Ian Woodward  
Former Editor of Proclamation  
(moved to Hepworth, Yorks, mentioned above)



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# **Jesus is everything**

Jesus, be my heavenly friend. Help me when the times get tough.

Give me strength to carry on, even when the going's rough.

Jesus, be my friend and guide, always, always, on my side.

Chorus.

Jesus is good, Jesus is great  
Jesus is everything!

Jesus, shine on us we pray. Warm the hearts of those forlorn.

Comfort us and give us hope that we'll see a bright, new dawn.

Jesus is our friend and guide, always, always, on our side.

Chorus.

Jesus is etc

Jesus is our heavenly friend, giving love to everyone.

'specially to the loveless, so they may feel we all are one.

Jesus is our friend and guide, always, always on our side.

Chorus.

*Composed by Linda Stephenson and set to music  
by Barbara Donaldson*



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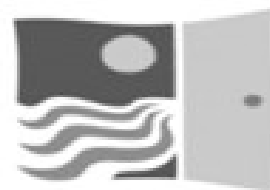
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## **TIME LOCK**

*A cautionary tale of bad manners and their consequences.*

*( An audio version of this story is available on audible, narrated by Julia Eve.)*

## **CHAPTER ONE**

"I want you to sort out Great Gran's box room," said Mum. Danny looked up from his phone and groaned.

"Why me?"

"Because I'm helping your Great Gran with her shopping. She says there might be some things up there we can take to the charity shop and the rest we can take to the tip. So, put your phone away, please and get on with it. The sooner it's done the better."

Danny saw he had no choice. He had hoped mum would give him a lift into town. Perhaps she would later, if he was good. He wanted to look for some new trainers. Reluctantly, he set off up the stairs. Great Gran lived in a large Victorian Terrace, too big for her now and she wanted to downsize. It was red bricked and had the number 1886 set in the wall above the front door, so Danny assumed that was when it was built. She

was putting the house on the market in the next few days. The box room was at the back of the house and Great Gran admitted it was more of a store room now.

"And no skiving and playing on your phone!" added mum. "You spend too long on that thing."

"Yeah, yeah," replied Danny, rudely. He *would* rather be playing on his new phone. His mum didn't understand how great it was.

He opened the door of the box room. It was crammed full of rubbish, old wooden chairs, an upturned table and piles of boxes. Great drifts of cobwebs covered everything. Obviously Great Gran hadn't thrown anything away for years. Some of it looked as old as the house. And there was a cold draught coming from somewhere. He glanced at the window and saw that the fanlight was swinging open.

"I'll shut that for starters," he said. He clambered across the rubbish, getting cobwebs all over his t-shirt and went to close the window but couldn't, as the screw on the catch was loose.

Typical, he thought. He turned to climb back towards the door and stubbed his foot on one of the wooden boxes. He kicked at it angrily and it fell over. Out tumbled a small pack of postcards, tied in a red ribbon and a small old photograph of a girl sitting in a chair. It was housed in a tatty frame and looked as if it was printed on a gold metal background. The girl was pretty and wore old fashioned clothes. She had a small cloth horse on her lap and her wrists were fixed to the arms of her chair by ribbons. There was a faint smile on her face.

Weird he thought. What's with the ribbons?

He sat down on the box, put the photograph beside him and looked at the postcards. There seemed to be some sort of picture on the top one. He tried to undo the ribbon but it was tied very tight. He gave another, harder pull and it suddenly came apart, almost on its own. For some reason he felt a rush of cold air and the postcards fell into his lap. He saw the top one was a delicate water colour painting of a maid washing up a pile of dishes. Underneath the picture was the word '*Flinders*' written in old fashioned handwriting. He picked them up but, before he could examine any of the others, a voice said:

"Hello."

He jumped and looked up. A girl about his own age stood in front of him. He hadn't heard her come in.

"Who are you," he said. "Has mum sent you up here to spy on me?"

"No," said the girl. "My name's Kitty." She smiled at him. He didn't return the smile.

"So, what are you doing here?" She didn't answer but just said:

"Do you like my postcards? I painted them all myself."

"Dunno," replied Danny. "I haven't really looked at them."

"Shall we play a game with them?"

"A game?" said Danny. "Why?"

"It'll be fun," she replied. His brow creased.

"As if. I'd rather play on my phone." He pulled it out of his pocket and showed her. "Lots of great games on here, much better than soppy postcards. And I am supposed to be tidying up this stupid room." He paused. "Hang about, you look familiar."

"Do I?"

She looked like the girl in the photograph. She wore the same old-fashioned clothes but she held her hands behind her back. It couldn't be her. He grabbed the frame to check. It showed just an *empty* chair with the ribbons dangling from the arms. What? He felt a deep shiver tingle down his back. Where had the girl gone? He looked up at her.

"Is this some kind of joke?"

The girl smiled and pulled a small, pink cloth horse from behind her back.

"No joke, Danny."

Danny's eyes opened wide in alarm. What was this?

"And how do you know my name?" he demanded.

"I know all about you," said Kitty.

"No you don't!" he growled. "Who are you?" He went to grab her.

"Don't touch me!" she warned. "I'm from another time!"

"Ha, as if," said Danny. "What are you saying; you're a ghost or something? Sorry, I don't believe in ghosts, fairies or beasties! It's a load of rubbish!" The girl gave a faint smile.

"Really? You are a very rude boy, aren't you?" Danny just shrugged. "Very well," she said. "Let's see if it is rubbish."

There was a sudden gust of wind from the window. The postcards all flew out of Danny's hand and whirled round his head.

"Just a minute!" cried Danny. "How are you doing that?" He made a grab for the girl. "I said how are you doing that?"

The girl and the postcards just disappeared and he fell off the box and landed upside down on a pile of old, wooden chairs. When he looked up, he found he was no longer in the box room but in Great Gran's front garden, outside her front door.

What, he thought. How did that happen? I'd better get back inside before that spooky girl comes back.

Then he noticed a brass plaque beside the door, which read:

W.R.GOGGLY-NOSEBAG  
DENTIST

He chortled. Goggly-Nosebag, who on earth had a stupid name like that? Suddenly the door opened and a man stood in the hallway. He was tall and thin with a bald head and a big nose. He had a small moustache, wore a white jacket and held up a small pair of nasty looking pliers.

"Ah, you must be my next patient," he said. "Do come through. Toothache isn't it? I may have to take it out!"

"Um, no," gasped Danny, eyeing the pliers warily. The man gave a weak smile.

"Then you must be one of Augusta's friends." He pointed across the hall to another open door. Danny could hear some awful, tuneless singing coming from the room. "She's just in there, finishing her latest masterpiece. She's very good."

Danny nodded and decided to pretend he was a friend. He sauntered across the green linoleum on the floor, into the room. A podgy, pasty girl with red hair in ringlets and crooked front teeth was painting a picture on an easel, whilst loudly singing a song he'd never heard before. Paint was everywhere, all over her and on the carpet. The actual picture was a mass of jumbled splodges that didn't look like anything in particular. She stopped singing, turned and picked up a sticky iced bun from a plate on the table behind her. She took a huge bite and then saw him.

"Hello," she said, spraying crumbs down the front of her purple dress. "Have you come in to see my latest painting? Marvellous isn't it?"

"Hardly," said Danny. Augusta didn't seem to hear him.

"Yes. Papa thinks I have a great talent." She took another huge bite from the bun. "Would you like one?" She pointed to the other buns on the plate and sprayed crumbs all over her painting. He shook his head. "All the more for me then," she said, grinning and showing off her crooked teeth, now covered in sticky icing. She finished it and picked up another.

She's nuts he thought. Suddenly there was a cry from another room and the sound of something smashing on the floor.

"What's that?" asked Danny, remembering this was a dentist's house.

"Only Flinders," said Augusta, nodding to a half open door. "She's probably dropped another plate. Papa gets so cross with her, as she's dreadfully clumsy."

*Flinders!*

He looked across to the door and caught sight of Flinders. It was the maid from the painting on the top postcard and she looked *real*.

What? I'm out of here thought Danny. This is crazy.

He ran out of the room and back through the front door. He found himself in the small front garden again. The door slammed behind him. He glanced around. It looked like the road where Great Gran lived but it was different. He pulled out his phone. The screen was blank. There was no signal. Then, to his surprise he found the postcards in his jeans' back pocket. They just fitted inside. Flinders was on the top.

This isn't happening, he thought but a movement by the front gate made him look up. There stood Kitty and she was smiling at him!

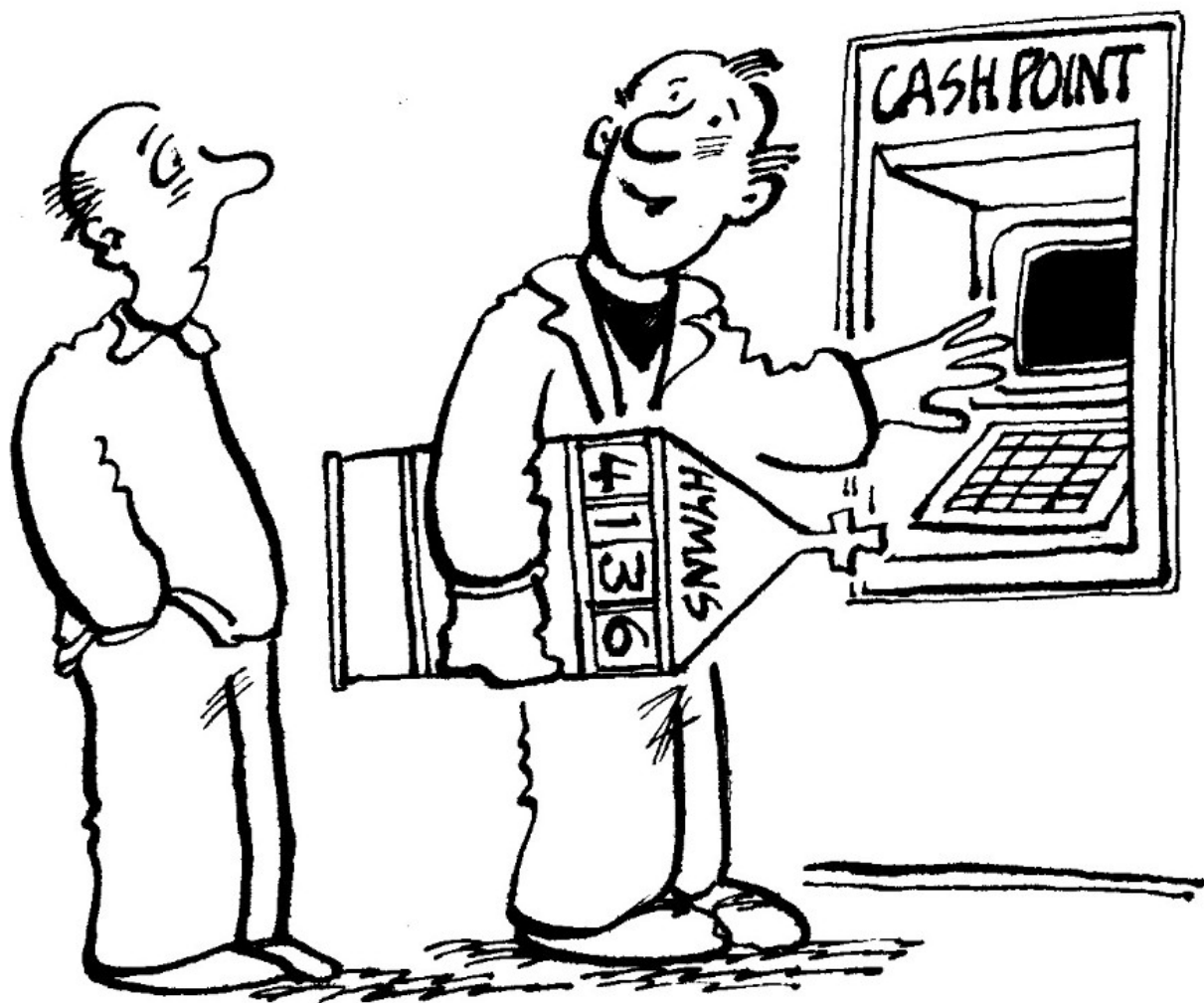
## **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

### **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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*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*



## Christmas at St Margaret's Church, Streatley

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our appeals for the Luton Foodbank, Luton Refugees and Asylum Seekers, the annual Toys for disadvantaged children and the overwhelming and humbling response to the shoebox Christmas presents for the refugee children. You have all helped to put some very big smiles on many many faces at Christmas.



Wishing you and all those you love, peace, health, happiness  
and prosperity for 2021



## Have you herd?

Keech Hospice Care is bringing something BIG to Luton.



### Can you spot the elephant?

**From 3 July to 18 September 2021, Luton will come alive with a perfect parade of vibrant and beautiful, uniquely decorated elephant sculptures as The Big Trunk Trail arrives in town!**

Over 30 giant elephants will form the biggest and most unique outdoor public art event Luton's ever seen. These stunning sculptures will trumpet along the free, fun and family-friendly art trail around Luton's key landmarks, streets and open spaces, bringing together the community for one unforgettable jumbo event. Smaller sculptures – adopted and decorated by schools, colleges and community groups – will also be displayed as part of the big adventure.

The Big Trunk Trail will bring together communities and visitors. Trail explorers young and old will have fun rediscovering Luton, learning about the artwork and spending time together.

**Join the herd, get outdoors, walk more and #SpotTheElephant.** Share your stories on social media via @bigtrunktrail and download The Big Trunk Trail app (launching 2021) for even more fun!

After entertaining and bringing people together, the legacy of The Big Trunk Trail continues as many of the sculptures will be auctioned to raise vital funds for Keech Hospice Care.

### Why an Elephant?

**An elephant is the perfect match – after all, everyone knows an elephant never forgets. We know The Big Trunk Trail is going to be a fantastic opportunity for you to make amazing and unforgettable memories as you enjoy exploring this vibrant and family-friendly free art trail.**

The money raised from the auctioning of the elephants will help raise vital funds for Keech Hospice Care. As the children's hospice for Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes, and the adult hospice for Luton and south Bedfordshire, so much of the charity's work continues to be around helping patients and families create wonderful memories and make the best of their time together.



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