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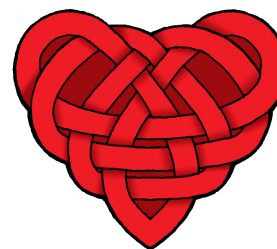
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# Challow News

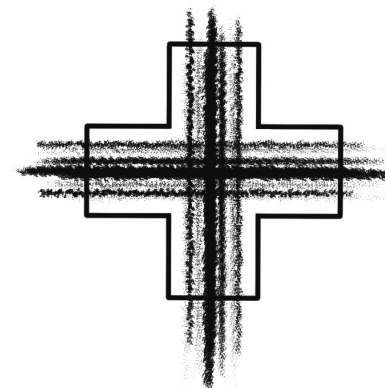
## February 2021



Valentines Day  
14th February

*Shrove*  
**TUESDAY**

16th February



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
17th February

'Challow News' is the Community Newsletter of St. Nicholas Church, East Challow

# St. Nicholas Church, East Challow.

OX12 9SH

(Vale Benefice)

## Parish Eucharist

Sundays: 11.15am

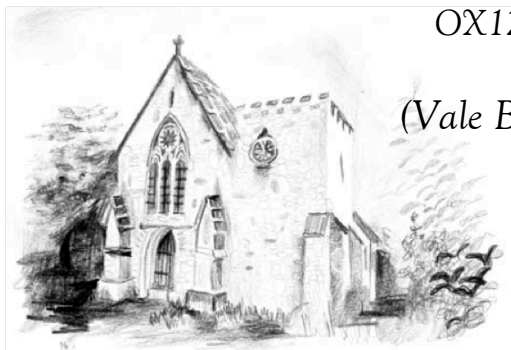
## Family Service

Temporarily Suspended

2nd Sunday 9.30am (Monthly)

## Weekday Eucharist

Thursdays 10am



**Vicar: Rev John Durant**  
**The Vicarage, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ**  
 01235 766484

Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

**Associate Vicar: Rev Alec Gill**  
 07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

## Curate: Rev Chris Ashton

Email: curatechris@valebenefice.org.uk

## Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

## Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00

Tel: 01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

## Churchwardens

Mrs Ruth Pepler: 01235 762197

Mrs Linda Hopkins: 01235 767121

## Pastoral Support

To help our Vicars Revd John Durant and Revd Alec Gill in the pastoral support of the village, Liz Belcher will be acting as the local contact within the village for those who are in need of a home visit, home communion or other support that we as a church may be able to provide.

If we can help, please contact Liz on 01235 763966



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**WANTAGE**  
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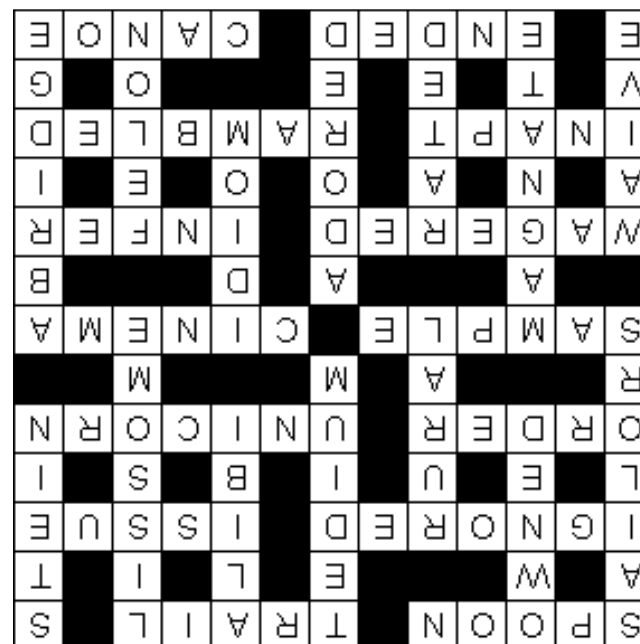
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## Solutions



## Quiz Answers

- 1) Kings Cross
- 2) Parsons Green
- 3) Swiss Cottage
- 4) Highgate
- 5) Victoria
- 6) Angel
- 7) Whitechapel
- 8) Mile End
- 9) Oval
- 10) Queensway

## PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting takes place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm  
on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

[www.eastchallowpc.co.uk](http://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk)

### REFUSE BINS

It has been reported that on several occasions waste/recycling has not been collected from properties on Old School Lane, this is due to the vehicle being too large to safely move along the access road from Hedge Hill Road because of parked cars. Could owners of vehicles that park there please remember that if in the event of an emergency vehicle needing to access Old School Lane it would not be able to. Please be considerate when you park your vehicle.

Please remember to return bins to the curtilage of your property as soon as possible after they have been emptied. Please do not leave them on the footway.

### FOOTPATH CLOSURE

Reminder – Footpath 196/5 (The Park footpath) remains closed. The work has been delayed by COVID-19 and the anticipated completion date is now 31 August 2021. Persons are temporarily prohibited from proceeding on footpath 196/5 between the A417 Challow Road and Canal Way by order of Oxfordshire County Council. The Parish Council is aware of the inconvenience caused to parishioners.

### BARRIER GATE

Many thanks to County Councillor Yvonne Constance for providing money from her priority fund for the barrier gate that has been installed in the parish council car park which is adjacent to St Nicholas C of E Primary School.

### CHRISTMAS CHEER

Many thanks to all villagers who provided extra Christmas cheer by putting up lights and displays. It was appreciated.

**We would like to wish you all a very happy 2021**

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

Vanessa Bosley: (Chair) 01235 764068

Frances Webb: (Vice Chair) 01235 765176

Sarah Parker: 01235 762565

Iris Game: 01235 770412

Trevor Hayes: [trevorhayes805@btinternet.com](mailto:trevorhayes805@btinternet.com)

Paul Barrow: [Paul.Barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Wende Blowfield:

**Sheryl Sanders: Clerk to East Challow Parish Council.**

e-mail: [eastchallowpc@gmail.com](mailto:eastchallowpc@gmail.com).

Tel: 01235 760394

## VICAR'S LETTER - A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends

On New Years Day I was read Psalm 62 and verse 8 says :

Trust in the Lord at all times O people

Pour out your hearts to Him

For God is our Refuge

I wanted to share this verse with you because even though by the time you read this we will be several weeks into the new year and I hope it will encourage you as we face another series of disruptions, apprehension, readjustments and inconvenience due to the Covid -19 and our country's attempts to control its spread.

David who is credited for having written this Psalm was finding life tough; he'd been tricked and cheated; he was under attack, definitely emotionally and possibly physically too. He was feeling vulnerable, weak and helpless. Yet he advocates trusting God who he claims is both loving and strong. In fact when he calls God our refuge he believes God gives rest, protection, security, honour and purpose. In comparison with his enemies God is a solid rock compared to their puffs of air.

As a Christian minister may I encourage you to pour out your hearts to Jesus Christ – express how disturbing and frustrating the restrictions are; how demanding it is to constantly be assessing whether it is safe to go out or not; how unsatisfactory it is to be forced to make another unwelcome decision. But not stop there; rather to go on and trust his promises of protection, believe his assurances of ultimate victory and freedom and hope for a year of peace and prosperity. Discover he is your refuge.

May the year result in you praising God, just like King David

God bless

John

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Happy New Year to One and All and may we take this opportunity to wish you all a Healthy New Year.

It has been a Christmas, not one we wish to remember, but will for many reasons. Thank you to all the faithful volunteers who helped decorate and make our Church look Christmas ready under the restrictions.

We managed a truly lovely service of Celebration on December 20th finishing with a Carol outside with us all scattered around the Graveyard. This was before more restrictions were introduced it was a delight to see others and hear their voices.

Midnight Mass was also a special service and attended by a small number.

We managed a Church Service on the 3rd January which was good, however as you will already now know we have reluctantly decided to use Zoom again. This decision was not made lightly and will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

As we observe these new tighter restrictions I have included a quiz as there isn't much to report.

I hope you will all stay safe, and keep well.

Linda Hopkins

Churchwarden



### From the Registers

Confirmation  
Jemma Thompson

All Information / details are held as Public Records within the Vale Benefice



### London Underground Stations

~ Solve the Clues below ~

- 1) Angry Sovereign.
- 2) Clergy's Meadow
- 3). Alpine Chalet
- 4). Tall Entrance
- 5). Queenly Station
- 6). Heavenly Body
- 7). Clean Place to Worship
- 8). Where to finish the 4 minute .
- 9). It's not round
- 10). Royal Route

Answers on page 22

## Councillor for Ridgeway Ward

### Vale of White Horse District Council - Paul Barrow

#### Covid-19 vaccination update

It will still take several months for the whole population to be vaccinated and people are asked to be patient and be reassured that they will be invited for a vaccination as soon as possible.

The vaccination programme is being phased in across the county following the national guidance on prioritising patients. For your information, the guidelines can be found at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/948353/Priority\\_groups\\_for\\_coronavirus\\_COVID-19\\_vaccination\\_advice\\_from\\_the\\_JCVI\\_2\\_December\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948353/Priority_groups_for_coronavirus_COVID-19_vaccination_advice_from_the_JCVI_2_December_2020.pdf). Some people have already been vaccinated and others are waiting to be invited.

The groups in order of priority are:

1	Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2	All those 80 years of age and over Frontline health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years of age and over Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals*
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years of age and over
9	All those 50 years of age and over
*	Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are described <a href="#">here</a> . This advice on vaccination does not include pregnant women and those under the age of 16 years (see above)

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19> for description of clinically vulnerable individuals.

- Please do not contact your GP or another NHS service to seek a vaccine – GP practices are still open for providing care to patients and their phones could become swamped, please wait until the NHS contacts you.
- When the NHS does contact you, please be ready and attend your booked appointments
- Please continue to follow all the public health guidance to control the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives.
- A set of FAQs about the vaccine and the vaccination programme is available (<https://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/documents/COVID%2019/Advice/Patient%20FAQ.pdf>). You can also find further information about the vaccine on the [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) website.

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## All entries for the March

### Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by 15th February 2021

Email: [nigel.langford@me.com](mailto:nigel.langford@me.com)

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E: [caroline@ackrill4488.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:caroline@ackrill4488.fsnet.co.uk)

DATE	READER	READINGS
<b>February 7th</b> 2nd Sunday before Lent [Green]	A. Tranter	Proverbs 8: 1 & 22 - 31
	R. Pepler	Colossians 1: 15 - 20
<b>February 14th</b> Sunday before Lent [Green]	P. Rumsey	2 Kings 2: 1 - 12 2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6
<b>17th February</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7.30pm Holy Communion (ZOOM SERVICE)		Isaiah 58: 1 - 12 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10
<b>February 21st</b> 1st Sunday of Lent [Purple]	J. Penfold	Genesis 9: 8 - 17 1 Peter 3: 18 - 22
<b>February 28th</b> 2nd Sunday of Lent [Purple]	G. Parker	Genesis 17: 1 - 7 & 15 - 16 Romans 4: 13 - 25

**All Readers must bring their own Bible to read from**

Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Organist	Cleaning
07-Feb	P. Pepler	F. Webb N. Langford	R. Pepler	L. Belcher L. Hopkins
14-Feb	M. Mann	P. Rumsey V. Brewster	R. Pepler	
21-Feb	J. Penfold	J. Penfold L. Belcher	G. Parker	J. Penfold M. Perkins
28-Feb	N. Langford	T. Shand S. Giles	G. Parker	
07-Mar	P. Pepler	F. Webb N. Langford	R. Pepler	L. Belcher L. Hopkins

**Face coverings must be worn or an exemption badge worn & clearly visible**

Date	Intercessions	Flowers	Thursday	Sacristan
07-Feb	P. Pepler	H. Smith	04-Feb	M. Mann
14-Feb	M. Mann	M. Mann	11-Feb	J. Penfold
21-Feb	J. Penfold	NO FLOWERS	18-Feb	J. Teare
28-Feb	J. Teare	NO FLOWERS	25-Feb	M. Perkins
07-Mar	P. Pepler	NO FLOWERS	04-Mar	M. Mann



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## LADIES, EAST CHALLOW WI NEEDS YOU

EAST CHALLOW WI NEEDS NEW MEMBERS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE.

The village WI will be 90 years old in 2023 but the pandemic, house moves and other factors will see our numbers drop to a level that isn't viable by the time renewal subscriptions are due in April.

We have not been able to have face to face meetings since last April but have ensured that our members have been supported with a monthly newsletter, telephone calls, Zoom meetings and a lovely Summer Afternoon Tea in August delivered to every members door. Being part of the WI opens opportunities to under take on line courses with the Oxfordshire Federation and Denman at Home.

If you are interested in joining you are welcome to join our next Zoom at 19.30 hours 9th February 2021 and you can have a copy of our next newsletter.

For more information contact Avril Pile [avrilgpil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:avrilgpil@yahoo.co.uk) mobile 07790568238 also look on the East Challow WI Facebook page for more details.

## St. Nicholas Church East Challow

*Would like to extend a warm welcome to  
all of the new residents who have recently moved into the Village  
including those on the new Fullers Grove and Childrey Park  
decelopments.*

## Councillor for Ridgeway Ward

### Vale of White Horse District Council - Paul Barrow

Please don't forget that if you have any issues that need taking up/addressing, please feel free to contact me at [paul.barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:paul.barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) or on 07557 953862

#### Health

- You may have seen in the local paper that Oxford Health have assured the future of Wantage Hospital with a range of services which will be run at and from the hospital. The sticking point is the future of in-patient beds which is currently being discussed with Wantage Town Council. The review of health services in OX12 is being replaced by a full county-wide review. More on this in due course.
- Our county test-and-trace is working better than the national scheme picking up a lot of cases missed by the government system. Vaccination has started to be rolled out in Oxfordshire as you read this! Some good news!

#### Electric vehicle charging problems

One of the problems of increased use of electric vehicles is charging where no off-road parking is available. The Park and Charge Oxfordshire project offers an initial alternative solution with free overnight parking in council-owned car parks, whilst giving access to top-of-the-range electric charging points. This is being rolled out initially in Bicester and West Oxfordshire.

#### Speeding

Many will have noticed already that the speed limit between East Challow and Wantage is now 30mph for the whole stretch! Speeding through East Challow is something which the parish council is getting to grips with. More in due course!

A new speeding taskforce group has been established involving Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police and the Thames Valley Crime Commissioner. It aims to educate drivers about the dangers of breaking the speed limit and help communities to tackle the issue.

#### Tackling illegal parking in the Vale

The Vale has / is moving forward with Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). Parking enforcement will transfer from the police to OCC by the end of 2021. This is more relevant to towns. Following approval by the Vale, South Oxon DC, Cherwell DC and OCC, the proposals will now move forward with OCC submitting a joint CPE application to the government for approval.

#### Roads and flooding

We have had more heavy rain which has led to localised flooding on the A417 and in some of the villages. We are going to put some serious pressure on OCC to resolve some of these problems, some at least of which results from years of neglect of drainage! Watch this space.

#### Old Abbey House, Abingdon

You may have heard that the Vale has been through a tendering process to dispose of Old Abbey House in Abingdon. This has now been completed and the scrutiny committee was completely satisfied that this had been done properly.

#### Vaccination update - page 20

This has also been posted to the [www.challownews.org](http://www.challownews.org) website. Please see for further information.

## St. Nicholas Church 200 Club - Monthly Draw

### December Results

£100 - N° 14 - Mr W. Oakes

£50 - N° 54 - Mrs L. Rowe

£20 - N° 15 - Mrs E. Redford

£10 - N° 66 - Mrs L. Belcher

### January Results

£50 - N° 32 - Mr G. Shand

£20 - N° 92 - Mrs Lidsey

£10 - N° 145 - Mrs R. Pepler

**We are looking for more members ~ Would you like to join?**

Subscriptions to the 200 Club contribute towards the £20,000 which is required annually to keep our village Church open, in good repair and available for all who wish to use it.

**The 200 Club is a monthly draw with 3 prizes each month - £50, £20 and £10**

**There is an additional prize of £100 in December.**

The draw takes place on the first Sunday of every month, during coffee after morning service.

The cost is £2 per number per month, which can be paid monthly, 6 monthly or annually, and can be paid for by Cash or Standing Order.

**If you would like to join the 200 Club, please contact Tricia Shand**

**Email: [the.shandies@btinternet.com](mailto:the.shandies@btinternet.com)**

**Telephone: 01235 764222**

## St. Nicholas Church - Service Information

*Please be aware that we may have to cancel at short notice.*

*We would like to continue our normal pattern of Services on*

*Sundays at 11.15am and Thursdays at 10am*

*but we are also aware that we need to act responsibly, so it is*

*likely that we may have to cancel our services*

*Please help us to comply with the restrictions by letting us know*

*if you intend to come along.*

## St Nicholas Church, East Challow.

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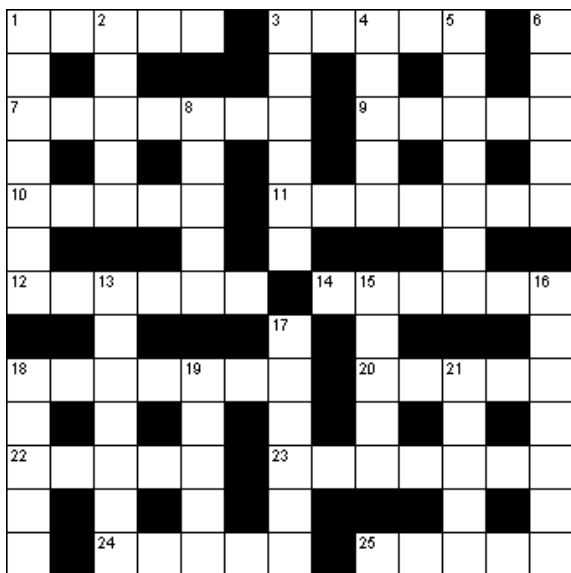
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## Crossword Puzzle



Solutions on Page 22

### Across

1. Utensil (5)
3. Path (5)
7. Disregarded (7)
9. Send out (5)
10. Military command (5)
11. Mythical beast (7)
12. Taste (6)
14. Movie house (6)
18. Bet (7)
20. Deduce (5)
22. Unsuitable (5)
23. Roamed (7)
24. Finished (5)
25. Small boat (5)

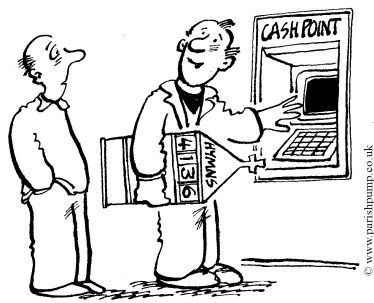
### Down

1. Mariners (7)
2. Possessed (5)
3. Boredom (6)
4. Legal excuse (5)
5. Svelte (7)
6. Beer mug (5)
8. Relating to country life (5)
13. Tycoon (7)
15. Dialect (5)
16. Condense (7)
17. Worshipped (6)
18. Forgo (5)
19. Graded (5)
21. Criminal (5)

## Cartoons



"Don't worry, I'm not getting Covid - I didn't realise the sign meant a low door..."



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



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

## TOPICAL TALK

### 14<sup>th</sup> Feb: St Valentine's Day, a poem

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day  
All in the morning betime  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

*The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you.  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine.*

### Mountains make you feel better

The natural environment can make a real impact on your mood. Mountains can leave you feeling more optimistic, while the ocean can help boost your inspiration.

A recent study at Goldsmiths University of London found that water is most effective at increasing positive emotions, such as happiness and inspiration. Woodlands can help you forget your worries, and fields and meadows can enhance your energy levels.

### National Nestbox Week – time to help your garden birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14<sup>th</sup> February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nest boxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nest boxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

## Shrove Tuesday: Who's for pancakes?

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The 'Lent Fast' was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn't keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it 'Fatty Tuesday' – Mardi Gras.

So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? 'Shrove' is an old word for 'forgiven' and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party.

The answer is quite simply about enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to 'give up something for Lent'. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 12<sup>th</sup>!

---

## Rising demand for leggings

The popularity of leggings soared last year. They became the must-have fashion garment to see out Covid-19.

John Lewis reported sales of leggings and loungewear had increased by 1,303 per cent. Sweaty Betty was selling a pair of Power Leggings (£75) every 90 seconds. Julia Straus, CEO of the brand, explained: "Good quality leggings transform the way you feel."

Even Lucas Hugh, the retailer that made the £175 leggings Jennifer Lawrence wore in *The Hunger Games*, saw a 100 per cent increase in sales last year, despite shutting down its King's Road boutique. Leggings are "a nesting thing", according to Anjhe Mules, the co-founder of the brand.

## All in the month of February

It was:

**200 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1821 that John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25.**

125 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1896 that the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La boheme*, took place in Turin, Italy.

**75 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.**

70 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1951 that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It limits the President to two terms in office.

**65 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.**

50 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1971 that the UK's currency was decimalised.

**40 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1981 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.**

30 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1991 that the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

**25 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.**

20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

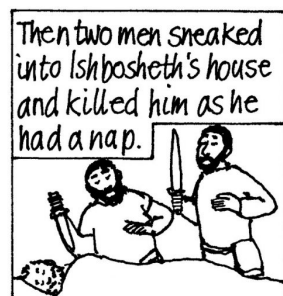
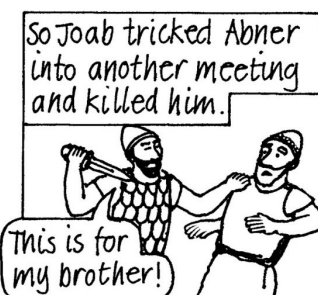
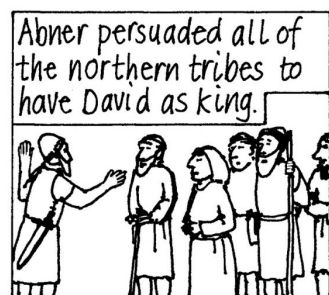
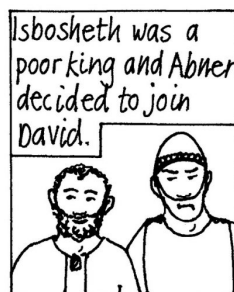
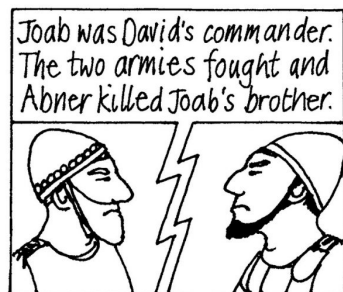
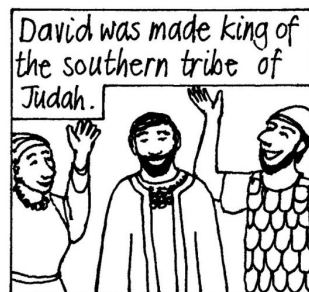
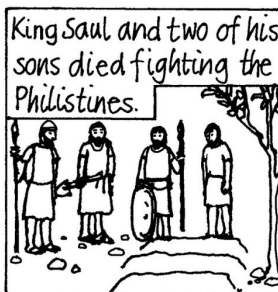
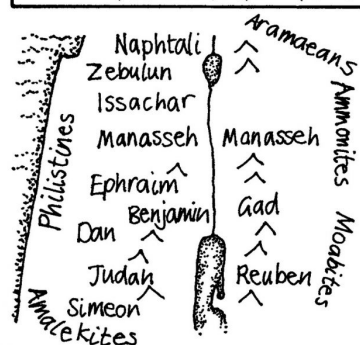
**10 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2011 that the Canterbury earthquake in New Zealand took place. 185 people were killed and up to 2,000 injured., and there was widespread damage across the city.**

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh 13:8-20:48  
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4, 5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies..



## Ash Wednesday: Mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 - 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*



### Wantage Community First Responders

Residents may have noticed an unusual car parked in East Challow recently.

The colourful Dacia is used by the Wantage Community First Responders. We are a team of volunteers, trained by South Central Ambulance Service, to provide life saving critical care to 999 emergencies in the local community. Our team come from a wide variety of professional backgrounds, giving their spare time to be on-call and ready to be dispatched when needed. The car carries vital life-saving equipment to deal with medical emergencies including trauma, chest pain, breathing problems, falls and cardiac arrests.

Since the beginning of the national lockdown in March 2020, the Wantage Community First Responders have attended more than 300 local 999 emergencies. Responding within our own community allows us to reach patients as quickly as possible whilst the ambulance is already en route. The off-road ability of our car also means we can access remote locations and provide a wider level of cover across the region.

The car and our medical equipment is funded from donations to South Central Ambulance Charity, from a variety of local individuals, groups and fundraising events. This continued support ensures our life-saving team can continue to remain active with the local community whenever needed.

**Lee Shann**



## Challow News - Advertising Rates 2021 / 2022

### The following prices are for 10 Issues

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Landscape	1 x Half Page	£63.00
Landscape	1 x Third of Page	£45.00
Portrait	1 x Quarter Page	£25.00

Contact: [nigel.langford@me.com](mailto:nigel.langford@me.com)

*The 'Challow News' is the Community Newsletter of  
St. Nicholas Church, East Challow*