



# Cobham & Luddesdowne News

February 2023

£1

**PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE**

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Church Office 01474 813495

**Pastoral Assistant**

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SUBMISSIONS *Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne.*

**Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month**

**preceding publication to [editorialcfn@gmail.com](mailto:editorialcfn@gmail.com)**

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Hello- Happy February everyone.

January always seems such a long month so as we arrive at February there is always a sense that Spring is just a little bit closer!

As you open your newspaper or turn on the radio or TV there seems to be nothing but bad news, the economy, health service worries, crime and general ugliness. I hope that our little parish magazine can bring a little bit of sunshine to your cold February! Nobody has the perfect life, despite what some people on social media might want you to believe, but we are lucky to live in a lovely environment and friendly community where we can make the most of each and every day.

Be lucky, be happy and healthy—Tina

### **ARKangel's Milonga del Angel An intimate story of Tango**

Through music and word, trace the rich and intimate story of Tango ..... from the slave plantations of the Caribbean to the stinking meat factories of Buenos Aires ... from the folk traditions that inspired this improvisatory art form to the stunning tangos of Guardia Viejo and the Golden Age ... from the oppression of the military junta to the explosion of late twentieth century Tango Nuevo.

Caminito, Malena, Jalousie, El Dia Que Mi Quieras, La Cumparsita, Nana De Sevilla, Adios Nonino, Cafe 1930 ...

Violin, Guitar and Voice

Having performed in venues and festivals across the UK, 'Lullaby of Andalusia' was premièred at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall as the scene setter for Paco Peña's 'Requiem Flamenco' and 'Histoire du Tango' was performed to a sell-out crowd at the prestigious Three Choirs Festival. 'Power and Passion'.....'Transported to another Time and Place'.....

7.30pm Thursday 16th March  
St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham  
Free Admission Retiring Collection  
01634 723027

**See the back page-**



## **Bell Ringing by Peter Hartley**

Probably Christmas Day starts a little later and more calmly in my corner of Cobham College than in many homes in Cobham with younger family members. But start it did and as I tucked into a slice of Melton Mowbray pork pie for breakfast, as Hartley family tradition dictates, I listened to the early Morning Service broadcast on the radio from Bath Abbey. The Service began with the 10 Abbey bells ringing out: Christmas and bells go together, along with pork pie, turkey, brussel sprouts, stilton cheese, tangerines and absolutely everything else. Gosh there are 9 ringing towers in Bath; Christmas must be magical.

In Cobham I hope we wove our own Christmas morning magic for we were a full team of 6 ringers to ring our 6 bells as they have rung out on Christmas Day for nigh on four hundred years.

Now Big Ben, atop the magnificently restored Elizabeth Tower, has struck twelve and a New Year has begun. Big Ben is the hour bell of the Westminster chimes. It was first cast by Warners of Stockton-on-Tees in 1856 and travelled by sea to the Pool of London. The 16 ton bell came across Westminster Bridge on a dray drawn by sixteen white horses.

The bell was mounted on a gallows and tested for most of 1857 when it developed a crack. Whitechapel Bell Foundry agreed to recast the bell in 1858 and the slightly lighter bell was hauled up the tower in October. Finally Big Ben boomed out the hours on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1859. But in September the bell again cracked. Furious controversy raged for three years. Eventually the bell was given a quarter turn and the weight of the clapper reduced. In 1862 Big Ben, with crack, sounded again.

On New Year's Eve 1923, with a line connected to the BBC studios in Savoy Hill, just off the Strand, Big Ben first broadcast worldwide and remains the most famous bell in the world. It is the beating heart of our national life and Big Ben tolled every minute for the State Funeral Processions of Queen Elizabeth II.

In this new month of January in this new year of 2023 we hope to ring on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> when the new Bishop of Rochester will be here for a Service to welcome our new Priests as they take up their time honoured duties of enhancing worship, fostering the life of our parishes of Cobham and Luddesdowne with Dode and being good shepherds to all who live here.

The bells constantly change their ringing order and 2023 continues to unfold.

## **WHO WANTS TO SEE A WEST END SHOW?**

CURRENTLY ORGANISING EITHER A MATINEE OR EVENING  
WEEKDAY OUTING  
FOR NEXT MAY/JUNE 2023.

COACH LEAVING FROM COBHAM AND DROP OFF CLOSE  
TO THEATRE.

GROUP BOOKING THROUGH "JEWELS TOURS" SO THE  
SEATS WILL BE

DISCOUNTED. A DEPOSIT OF £25 WILL BE REQUIRED.

CONTACT ME IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

CHRIS BROADLEY 01474 247632.

NEW COLLEGE OF COBHAM/chrisbr48@hotmail.com.

## **THE TUESDAY POP-IN**

**Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second  
Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon;  
everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and  
coffee.**

**Next pop-in Tuesday 14th**

**CONTACT: MARY PALMER -**

**01474 816788**





## **February - Spring is in sight**

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

## **RHS – Top 10 Jobs this month**

- 1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover
- 2 Chit potato tubers
- 3 Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
- 4 Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
- 5 Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- 6 Divide bulbs such as snowdrops & plant those that need planting 'in the green'
- 7 Prune Wisteria
- 8 Prune hardy evergreen hedges & renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
- 9 Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
- 10 Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

## **Gardeners 2023 expert speaker talk Wednesday 15th March 2023, 7.30pm at Meadow Rooms in Cobham, Kent**

### **Growing In A Greenhouse**

Caroline Halfpenny looks at the benefits of a greenhouse, poly-tunnel or even cloches to extend the growing season, grow tender plants or just to protect you from the weather so you can garden in the rain! Her talk will look at where to place a greenhouse, growing techniques and plant husbandry (including common pests and diseases)

Free entry for Society members, non-members welcome and pay only £3. For more information email [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01474-363315 You can buy Membership of Cobham Gardeners at any time ... and get savings at local garden centres straight away to help with all those garden jobs. You can apply for membership at the talks or via email [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk) It is only a modest £8 for the year – money you get back from free entry into all Gardeners' expert speaker talks and massive savings of up to 50% on quality plants at local garden centres.

## SOLE STREET WI

Sole Street WI members were delighted to accept the invitation to the welcoming and commissioning of The Reverend Canon Alyson Davie and The Reverend Pamela Davies in Cobham Church.

Our Institute meetings in St Mary's Church Room are continuing but to allow for winter weather and road conditions the February meeting on Tuesday 28th was changed to 2pm (instead of our usual 7.30pm).



The subject of the day : Gift Bag Making Workshop. It can be very economical and eco-friendly to make these from recycled paper, ribbons and other materials.

Weekly walking departing from Jeskyns car park continues in what seems exceptionally mild weather for this time of year.

The next Book Club meeting in Meopham Library will be held on 6th February and the book under review is "Moon Tiger" by Penelope Lively.

The Craft Group meetings are on 1st February - glass confetti small picture then 8th Feb - stencil cards. These are led by our talented Min who recently created the most elegant banner for her church in Meopham. The photograph does not do it justice, especially the stars which are three dimensional and very elaborate.



Our Institute meeting on Tuesday 28 March in the St Mary's Church Room reverts to usual time of 7.30pm. Our speaker will be Delia Taylor on the subject "That's Entertainment", about the glory of the MGM musicals.

For information on this and all our activities, please contact our President, Yvonne telephone 01474 813455.

## North Kent Embroiderers

Happy New Year to all our readers. This month's report and photos come from Veronica.

It may have been bitterly cold outside Southfleet Village Hall where we met for our December Christmas meeting but inside, it was warm with Christmas trees and decorations!

Fourteen members braved the weather and certainly made their presence felt. There was much fun and laughter as, divided into tables, they attempted the quiz which Veronica had compiled. As we are an embroidery group, she even included some embroidery questions! One slight problem though, she got into a muddle with the answers - do we sack her or do make her do the job again? Watch this space!



Tea and coffee were on tap as were the light refreshments including crisps, savoury sticks, mince pies, and rocky road cake, a perennial favourite.

Members participated in the Secret Card and Secret Santa sacks with much hilarity as well as much admiration for the cards that others had made!

The banner of North Kent Embroiderers' Guild was on display for members to decide as to what happened next to it as we are no longer NKEG. Those present decided that they wished it to be disassembled and made into a book or some sort of a working format so that members can refer to it. It is too large and cumbersome in its present form. Another case of 'watch this space'.

If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please look at our website <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/>

or email us at: [info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk](mailto:info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk)  
or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734  
Happy stitching, Karen





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## **COBHAM & LUDESDOWN W.I.**

Sadly we do not have a report from our Cobham and Luddesdowne WI this month—but watch this space for their update in next month's magazine!

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



## **Cobham Gardeners' Society**

Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent  
SatNav DA123BZ Registered Charity No 228007



## **Wednesday 15th February 2023 - 7.30pm From Owletts To Stockbury**

**Chris Spree** tells the story of the family sadly departing from the National Trust property, Owletts, Cobham returning to their old home and developing the "New Garden"!

**Members free - non members £3**



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## **With Valentine's Day in mind...how do you define love?**

*A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: "What does love mean?" The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....*

- "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

- "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

- "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

- "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6 (We need a few more Nikka's on this planet)

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day" Mary Ann - age 4

## Cobham's Register



### Funeral

**Geoffrey Ivan SELBY (known as Geoff)** was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1952 and died on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 aged 70 years old. Geoff's funeral took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 in Cobham church followed by burial, in existing grave, of wife Karen, in the churchyard. The service was conducted by Licensed Reader, from Northfleet and Rosherville, Marion Fielder-White. Our sympathy and prayers go to Geoff's partner Clare, sons Geoffrey John, Glen and Keith, their families and friends.

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### Funeral

**Kathleen Helen Joyce PAINTING (known as Kath and Great Gran)** was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1926 and died on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 aged 96 years old. Kath had lived in Cobham College for 30 years. Kath's funeral took place at the Church of the Holy Family, Gravesend followed by Thames View Crematorium. The service was conducted by Rev'd Ted HURST. Our sympathy and prayers go to Kath's children Ray, Jamie, Mick, Ruth, Conway, Richard and their families and friends.

### **Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.**

We are a small friendly group that usually walks from The Cock Inn, Henley Street, Luddesdown, Gravesend DA13 0XB, at 11am on Wednesdays. We walk at a gentle pace for some 90 minutes in beautiful countryside. Occasionally we lead weekend walks.

With four Socials a year in Luddesdown Village Hall and a twice yearly Newsletter, we would be delighted if you joined us for a walk or two. Becoming a member costs £7 per person a year.

Please contact Walks Co-ordinator Janet Ferguson, preferably by email [janetferguson@hotmail.fr](mailto:janetferguson@hotmail.fr) . Or Chairman Gerry Minister on 01474 813 376.

**Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street Church**  
**Services during February**



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

**10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham**

**Ash Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

**7pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion, Cobham**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne**

**Midweek services**

**9:30am 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion, Sole Street Church**

**8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Informal Morning Prayer**

***(Venue in peoples homes,***

***phone Pat on 01474 814343 for details)***

**Ash Wednesday**

**9:30am 22<sup>nd</sup> Informal Morning Prayer, Sole Street Church**





TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:



**Thursday 2nd March 2023**

**St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham Kent**

Tickets £25.50 in advance, £28 on the door

Book online on [www.twowomenevents.com](http://www.twowomenevents.com) or come to Cobham  
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## **Gardening for a Wilder Kent** Cutting down on Chemicals

We are exploring and spreading the word of how we can all make a difference to the wildlife in Kent. Last month ponds were our focus and this month our focus is the resolution we can all make to stop using chemical poisons in our gardens.

Pesticides and other harmful chemicals are designed to kill a wide range of organisms including insects and plants. Weed killers and insecticides are freely available to buy but they harm insects and destroy the habitat they rely upon. Growing without harmful chemicals takes a bit more thought and planning, but by harnessing nature's natural defences a happy balance between predator and prey can be found.

Healthy growing works on the principle of prevention, rather than cure. Always maintain a healthy, active soil with plenty of nutrients, using compost and manures. Crop rotation helps to prevent diseases from building up in the soil so vary where you plant your vegetables year after year. Growing flowers with vegetables attracts beneficial wildlife, such as caterpillar-eating birds and aphid-eating insects. Using toxic chemicals kills not only the pest, but creates health hazards for the beneficial wildlife that play a part in controlling the pests in your garden. Choose plants and varieties that are suited to the site and soil as they will have a better chance of being strong enough to fight off pests and diseases. Finally, be vigilant, keep out pests, such as slugs, caterpillars and pigeons, by constantly checking your barriers, traps and covers. Especially after rain or in damp conditions. Remember we need caterpillars to have butterflies!

**TOP TIPS** • Plant the right thing in the right place. A plant grown in the wrong conditions will be stressed and more likely to succumb to unwelcome garden insects or disease. Choose plants suited to the site and the soil. • Keep your soil healthy and well fed with peat-free compost, green manure and/or natural fertilisers. Good soil is full of worms and other life that make the nutrients available to support healthy plants. Wildflowers, however, thrive in nutrient-poor soils, so make sure you leave a patch of unfertilised soil. • Mix your planting. Growing flowers amongst your veg or locating a weed patch nearby will attract beneficial insects, such as hoverflies, lacewings and ladybirds. These will act as predators on sap-sucking aphids. • Create barriers. A barrier of coarse bark or sharp gravel around veg or flower beds helps deter slugs and snails. If you have raised beds, try running some copper wire around the sides to form a ring. • Be vigilant! To keep out slugs and snails, keep checking your barriers, traps and covers, especially after rain or in damp conditions.

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**Meopham Library Writing Group** meets again on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023** at **10am** until midday in Meopham Library. Each month, everyone is invited to write a short story, poem or article based on a writing theme such as “Phobia” or “New Start”.

There is also a writing challenge each month, which involves using a selection of words to write a few short sentences. The Rolling Story takes place every couple of months, where each person contributes 150 words to a story and passes it on to the next person on the list. The finished story may have a very surprising ending!

You are invited to join the writing group, if you are interested in writing in any of its many different forms, such as poetry, short stories or articles suitable for magazines. Writing about special memories is enjoyable as well as being appreciated by family and friends. In difficult times, writing can also be very helpful. The following writing group meetings will be on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May. For more information about the group, please ring **01474 813379** or just turn up at Meopham Library on the first Thursday of each month.

**“Everything is possible for those who believe” Mark 9:23**

**South Street Baptist Church** Sunday morning services start at 10.45am and finish by midday, with tea and coffee afterwards. There are visiting preachers each week and some of their sermons can be found on the church website. Holy Communion will be celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February. Our young people will be taking part in the Family Service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February. **Song Time** meets every **Monday morning** during term time, from 9.45am until 11am, for families with babies and children under five. There is a varied selection of toys, musical instruments and creative activities. Admission is £1 for each family. Half term is on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

The **Family Film Night** is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm. Hot dogs and popcorn are served in the interval and the film will end at about 6pm. All are welcome and admission is free. The 1<sup>st</sup> **South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday evening during term time, from 6pm until 7.30pm, for young people aged 5-18 years old. There are games, creative activities, cooking, outdoor activities and badge work. New members are always welcome to join in the fun. The weekly subscription is £2. Half term is on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The Boys Brigade **Water Activities Centre** in Tonbridge opens in May and has canoeing, kayaking and stand up paddle boards with a team of fully qualified leaders. Please visit the website for more information: [www.thewac.org.uk](http://www.thewac.org.uk) The Boys Brigade **Honey Hill Camp Site** in Maidstone is also very well equipped. For info please visit [www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk](http://www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk)



**DON'T MISS**  
**THE FRIENDS'**  
**QUIZ-NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY, 22 APRIL**

**7.30 PM AT THE MEADOW ROOM**

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Bring your own drinks*

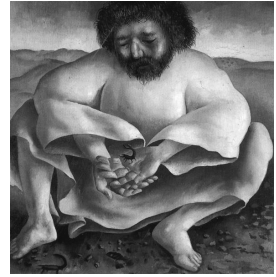
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raises funds to maintain the fabric of the village church  
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\* Please advise us when booking if you have any special dietary needs

## **GOD IN THE ARTS**

At the end of this month we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the Wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory.



In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this painting from 1939: ‘Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.’ It is held in a private collection. Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village’s inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. ‘Angels and dirt’ he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with His head, His hands and His feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about Him, apart from His tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert?

During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

[www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion](http://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion)



Cobham  
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# Wednesday 15th March 2023 - 7.30pm

## Growing In A Greenhouse

**Caroline Halfpenny** looks at the benefits of a greenhouse, poly-tunnel or even cloches to extend the growing season, grow tender plants or just to protect you from the weather so you can garden in the rain! Her talk will look at where to place a greenhouse, growing techniques and plant husbandry (including common pests and diseases) .

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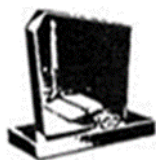
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## **COBHAM PARISH** **COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023**

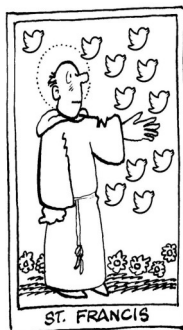
8pm on Tuesday 7th February at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on Tuesday 7th March at the St Mary's Church Rooms

## **LUDESLOW PARISH** **COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023**

20 March 23 Annual Parish Mtg.  
Luddesdown Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Cobham Youth Club will be meeting at 7pm at the Meadow Rooms on Fridays 4th February, 10th February, 24th February, 10th March and 24th March. For ages Yr6 – Yr 11.**



*He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!*

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### **Used Postage Stamps**

Please may I ask everyone who reads our lovely magazine in the Parish of Cobham, Luddesdowne and beyond for your used postage stamps as I am collecting for the R.N.I.B and I need to fill my boxes! If possible the stamps need a border of about 1cm' all round.

There will be boxes in both Cobham and Luddesdowne churches, or you can send or deliver them to me at The New College of Cobham,  
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Thanking you, Mrs Dorothy Gee

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# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus...



Lost and found, what a wonderful sound  
To a little dog like me,  
I slipped my lead, I gave no heed  
It felt so good to be free.

It's getting dark, I'm lost in the park  
It's cold and starting to rain,  
I should have stayed and never strayed  
I'll never do this again.

Footsteps I hear, 'please do come near',  
On my collar they see my name,  
I'm put in a car, we're travelling so far,  
Will life be ever the same?

A knock on the door, kisses galore,  
Cuddles and pats on the head,  
No more will I roam, I'm now safely home  
And warmly curled up in my bed.  
By Megan Carter



I hope I never get lost!  
It is nice to run free but it is  
always nice to come home.

That's why I will stay close  
to my new home! Paddy

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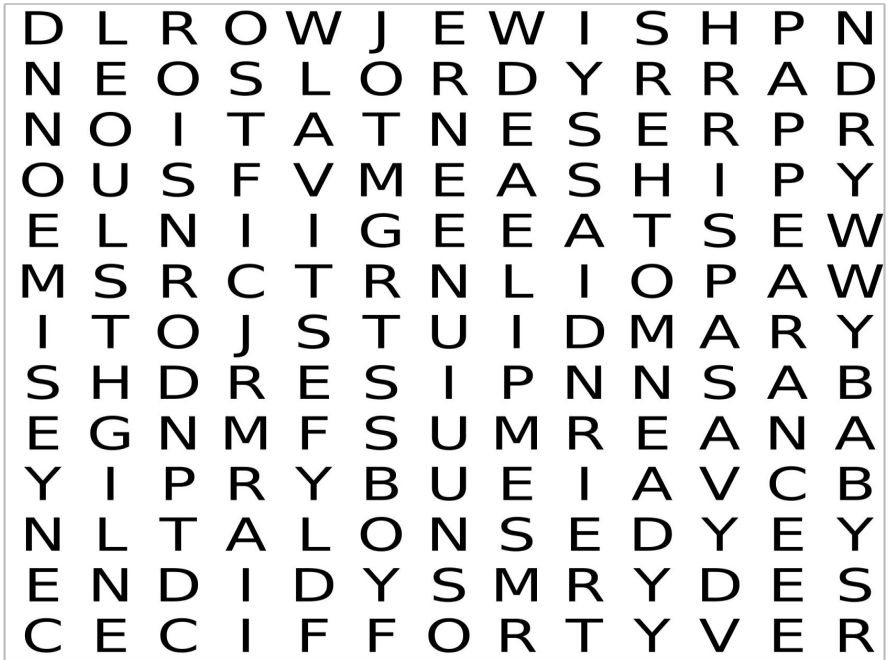
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**Wordsearch Clues and Answers for February 2023**

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to ‘present him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40, where Simeon makes his great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. Simeon’s ‘Nunc Dimittis’, is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer.

Forty Days Baby Boy Public Appearance Mary Jewish Mothers Temple Jesus Purified Present Lord Festival Presentation Light World Candlemas Simeon Nunc Dimittis Office Evening Prayer West

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