

# The TOGETHER Sheet



## From the Rectory...

*Reverend Chris Childs*

In a debate about the future of the church at General Synod on the 24th November 2020, the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell is reported as saying

‘The key performance indicator will be the number of feet we wash, not the number attending our services, though we hope by faith both will grow’

As I led a funeral in St Andrew’s this morning my eye was constantly on the stained-glass representation of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet in the window opposite. I knew that behind me was the marble representation of the Good Samaritan. There seems no way the Christian can avoid the call of service to humanity yet somehow we do.

It is all too easy for those of us in positions of responsibility either as Churchwardens or clergy to hide behind the administrative role our work calls us to. That work is important and God knows we all try and get it right. I have tried



over the years to balance the expectations of Churchwardens and PCC's to provide written reports, reduce Benefice meetings, organise the church heating, find PCC Secretaries who know where to put commas, and ensure the candles on the altar are lit in the correct order(!) etc. Thank you all for your generosity when I have failed, but I did have a good head start knowing so many people around here and my successor will not. I make a plea that you will be as kind to my successor – who will come with different skills and I doubt the high degree of 'interfering' which marks me out!

As I sat there, I reflected on the time I had spent on those duties and on the funerals I have conducted over many years. I wondered if perhaps I could have spent more time on the 'kindly and pastoral work' to which I am called with you all following that image before me. I wondered if our concern for administrative perfection and beautiful well-maintained buildings had not outweighed our love of the people we are called to serve. There are plenty of lonely people in these parishes – often our next-door neighbours in fact – there is need around us and there are plenty of people with time to help and support them.

It's too late now for me with you all but COVID has stirred many to see what is important in their lives personally and as churches. I hope that it will cause you all to think and pray and wonder as you enter this New Year and a Vacancy, what is important in your life and what should your churches be trying to do. You will then be in a good position to engage in the process of appointing my successor and shaping the focus of Ministry in these parishes in the years to come. It is a wonderful opportunity and should be seized. Nothing will be the same again.

A poignant thought – but it is Advent and we are supposed to examine ourselves aren't we?

With prayers and every good wish for your future and a new Rector  
Chris

### **THANK YOU**

- to all those who contributed in any way to the **Cake Sale** in Aid of St Mary's Combs. The profit was over £200.
- to the Stowmarket Concert Band and Head Teacher and Staff of Trinity School who assisted so well at **St Mary's, Combs, Carol Service**. The attendance was 192 and the offering of £85 for the Children's Society. We were pleased to welcome local councillor and Town Mayor Keith Scarff.
- to the bandsmen of Battisford Free Church for providing the music for **Carols at St Mary's, Little Finborough** and to Dean Hearn of Harleston for his production of the Nativity figures around which we gathered for our worship attended by 58.

*Editor: 'From the Rectory' was written by Rev. Chris in December.*

## Services in the Benefice

To facilitate safe seating arrangements, numbers may need to be limited. Please ensure you book with the churchwardens if you would like to attend a service inside a church.

### 3 January: Christmas 2, Celebrated as The Epiphany

*Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.[1-9]10-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12*

11.00 am Holy Communion Buxhall

### 10 January: The Baptism of Christ, The First Sunday after The Epiphany, Plough Sunday

*Genesis 1.1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11*

11.00 am **CHRISTINGLE** Combs  
3.00 pm Evening Prayer Little Finborough

### 17 January: Epiphany 2, The Second Sunday after The Epiphany

*1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20]; Psalm 139.1-5,12-18\*; Revelation 5.1-10; John 1.43-51*

11.00 am Holy Communion Great Finborough  
3.00 pm Evening Prayer Onehouse

### 24 January: Epiphany 3, The Third Sunday after The Epiphany

*Genesis 14.17-20; Psalm 128; Revelation 19.6-10; John 2.1-11*

11.00 am Holy Communion Combs  
3.00 pm Evening Worship Harleston

### 31 January: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas), Septuagesima

*Malachi 3.1-5; Psalm 24.[1-6]7-10; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40*

11.00 am Holy Communion Great Finborough  
3.00 pm Patronal Festival Shelland

**Precautions against coronavirus transmission will be in place. Face coverings must be worn, and attendees must be seated where instructed. The precautions may change as the regulations and best practice are modified.**

## **Booking** in is essential with the Churchwardens

Combs	Jenny 615956	Buxhall	David 737405
Great Finborough	Nigel 675344	Little Finborough	Cheryl 774027 or 0770 849 8364
Shelland	Lisa 01359 245013	Onehouse	Mary 615203
Harleston	Michael 736331		

## **Services on-line**

The following services will be held by Zoom meeting

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION for the benefice every Sunday at 9.30 am**

**Morning Prayer on Wednesday and Saturday at 10 am.**

**Bible Study on Wednesday at 4 pm.**

Log in details will gladly be given by Rev. Chris as well as the weekly Pew Sheet and Orders of Service. Please ask.

The Sermon and a Reflection are uploaded onto YouTube each week as well.

**Please join us for our worship in person or on-line. All are welcome.**

---

From the 24th all Pastoral matters are to be referred to Pauline at Onehouse Rectory 01449 771791 or as above.

All matters relating to the churches, Churchyards and PCC's to the Churchwardens please as above during the Vacancy

---

## **A New Year's resolution-prayer - following in His footsteps**

Almighty eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

*St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226)*

# Sudoku

Solution on page 16

## Easy

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

## Intermediate

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

## Raise a smile: The cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

## Live streamed church

My grandson, Justin, watched a live streaming service with his dad one Sunday morning. His mum wanted to know how it went. He said, "The music was nice, but the commercial was too long."

## Numbers

A little boy had been immersed in on-line schooling during the pandemic, so when the Rector announced the first hymn on Zoom, "Ten thousand times ten thousand!" he turned anxiously to his father. "Does he want us to work that out?"

## Wordsearch

The Christmas story carries on into the New Year, with Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men, led by the Star in the East. Through the eyes of faith, they saw Messiah in that small baby, and worshipped him, giving gifts that foresaw his life and work. New Year is also a time of new beginnings for us – resolutions about diets and paying the bills and doing better at work... Happy New Year!

Epiphany	Baby	Worship	Myrrh	Work
Wise	Jesus	Gold	New	Study
Men	Star	Frankincense	Resolutions	Running
Camels	Herod		Bills	Gym



Solution on page 16

## Winter Wanderer

*Kenneth Mudd*

A few days ago a ragged flock of about a dozen birds flew over. Their flight calls announced what they were: the chack-chack-chack call clearly identified them as fieldfares. These are handsome birds of the thrush family; slightly larger than a blackbird, with blue-grey heads, chestnut-red backs and black tails. Their chests are deep buff shading to a white belly, all heavily speckled with browns and blacks. When they fly, their white underwings can be seen.



Fieldfares visit us from Northern Europe and Scandinavia. They start to arrive in autumn, to avoid the cold northern winter, and to exploit our crops of berries. The last part of their journey, which they usually do at night, is the hardest. Already tired, they must fly across the North Sea, often into a prevailing wind. Many are too exhausted to make it to safety; they fall into the sea, and their bodies are washed onto the beach. Those that get close to the shore are still far from safe. Great black backed gulls, massive strong birds, and some of smaller gull species lie in wait to prey on the fatigued fieldfares, and force them into the water. They drown and become easy food for the gulls. Happily though, most of the fieldfares get through.

We know that they have been coming for a very long time. Historical records as far back as the Norman period refer to these birds visiting in winter, although we have no way of knowing how many came then. The winter

population will have varied as the weather changed in Europe throughout the centuries. In the early 1980s the British Trust for Ornithology estimated the winter population in the United Kingdom as 720 thousand. More recently the RSPB has quoted a figure of 680 thousand. East Anglia, where most make landfall, is where fieldfares are most numerous in the winter. They are common in the Suffolk countryside in flocks which range in size from ten or so, to several hundred. Around our villages there are often several flocks.

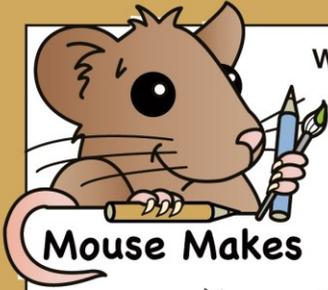
A flock of fieldfares will often descend on a patch of berry bearing trees or shrubs and rapidly strip off the whole crop, after seeing off the local blackbirds and mistle thrushes, who usually try to protect their food supply in vain against the larger numbers of these northern visitors. They are mostly seen in fields throughout the winter, but in cold weather will sometimes visit gardens to eat berries and any apples that are left on the ground.

This may make it seem that fieldfares only eat berries and fruit, but they have a marked preference for food with more protein. They are omnivorous and, like our native thrushes and blackbirds, their favourites are insects and their larvae, earthworms, slugs and snails. In winter these are usually in short supply so they change to eating food with a high sugar content, berries and fallen fruit. This year there are abundant crops of fruit and berries so there should be plenty for them to eat.

Fieldfares move around during the day searching for food. The name 'fieldfare' is thought to originate from the Anglo-Saxon word 'feldfare' which describes this behaviour and meant something like 'field wanderer'. Working as a group they forage systematically, usually heading into the wind. Each bird pauses frequently to stand erect and have a good look around. This vigilance by the individuals provides protection to the whole flock. When danger threatens one bird raises the alarm and the call is taken up throughout the flock. They all take off and wheel to fly away down wind. Their quick reactions and numbers confuse most ground and aerial predators and so the flock escapes. Once the danger is past, they land again to continue the vital task of finding more food.

So, as the year turns, please take some time to have a look out for the fieldfares. You may also see redwings, which are Britain's smallest thrush and are here for the winter as well. They are a little smaller than a song thrush with a noticeable cream coloured stripe over their eyes, and a red-brown patch under their wings. They often flock with the fieldfares. In addition to these winter visitors, enjoy watching the other birds that are more obvious at this time of the year when they visit our gardens in search of food.

Have a Happy New Year! Let's hope and pray that it is better than 2020.



# Mouse Makes

What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?

READ Matthew 2:1-12

Who came from the East? ☆

☆ Why had they come? ☆

What were they following? ☆

Who was alarmed by their arrival?

Who had the prophet written about?

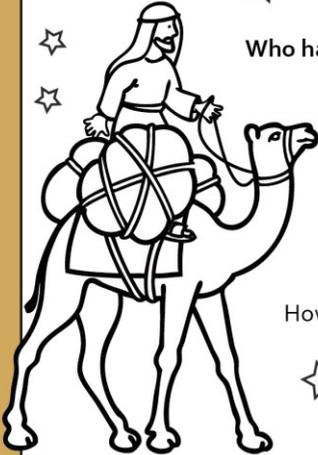
Where were they then sent?

What were they to look for?  
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them?

Who did they see? ..... What did they do?

How were they warned to go home another way?



READ Matthew 2:13-23

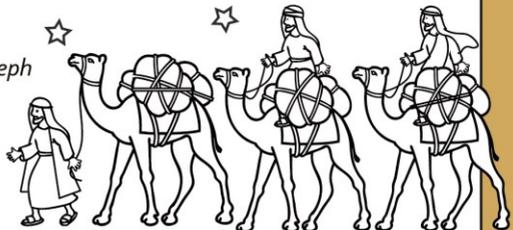
Who appeared to Joseph?

What was he told? .... Why? What did he do?

Who then became angry? .... and why? What horrible thing did he then do?

When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family?

Where did Jesus finally grow up?



What is your village made of?

## MAKE, DO & FRIENDS

NEWS ABOUT VILLAGE RESPONSES MEET THE ARTISTS POSTCARDS OTHER CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES GET IN TOUCH

<https://makedoandfriends.blog/>

### At last—a blog site that makes telephone calls and posts out letters.

Make, Do & Friends has created a brand new blog site, inviting adults living in rural communities to tell us about their villages.

Each week, we post a new activity, from mobile phone photography to creating a dramatic monologue about a local feature, all intended to build up a picture of what's special to you about the place where you live.



But not everyone uses the internet—and so we are also posting out materials and even having 'creative chats' on the telephone. To find out more, either text or call 07857 002974 and we will call you back.

suffolkartlink

Make, Do & Friends is one of many projects devised and managed by Suffolk Artlink, a participatory arts charity. We produce inclusive arts programmes led by experienced arts practitioners and encompassing a rich variety of art forms.

Suffolk Artlink, Units 13 & 14, Malt Store Annex, The Cut, 8 New Cut, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8BY, [www.suffolkartlink.org.uk](http://www.suffolkartlink.org.uk) Charity number: 1110898



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



## Letter from Uncle Eustace

Reverend Dr. Gary Bowness

### On how to deal with your church's correspondence

#### The Rectory, St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

You may have had several years of intensive training on biblical interpretation, preaching and church history, but that doesn't cover the really important matters in parish life: how to evade disgruntled parishioners, run a brisk Summer Fete and, in your case at present, deal with correspondence, either by letter or email.

My regular practice, which I recommend to you as a New Year Resolution, is to read all the letters/emails you receive and then discard them. If the matter is truly important, you will receive a second message, to which you respond; more likely, the sender will either have forgotten all about his first letter/email after the second month or will write to some other cleric instead. In either case, you will be saved a great deal of trouble.

You only need two folders for your filing system, either for post or emails. The first is for complaints; they are to be filed and ignored, no matter how many duplicates you are sent. Should you be confronted personally, you simply say that the matter has been passed on to the bishop. Those truly dogged complainants who pursue the matter will eventually receive an episcopal reply saying he knows nothing of the matter, for which you then blame the postal system/spammed email. After letters and emails have ricocheted round the country for many months, the person complaining will either have lost energy to pursue the matter, or the will to live.

The second file receives all other correspondence/emails chronologically. The earliest letters and emails will be at the bottom of the pile and the most recent on the top. In my experience, the postal file only needs attention when it reaches a height of about two feet and becomes unstable. The practice then is to discard the lower six inches and allow it to continue its steady growth. If the stack is kept in the church vestry, then mice usually attend to the papers on the bottom of the pile.

Sadly, your own church, with its electronic systems for filing, sorting and retrieving correspondence and with your parish secretaries, removes all of these blessings at a stroke. You have therefore no excuses for not dealing instantly with every note that comes your way. As ye sow, so shall ye reap.

May I also remind you that not even St Paul, that unflagging letter-writer, ever ended one of his letters with a request for a prompt reply. Need I say more?

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

# ST MARY'S COMBS CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 11 AM

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Email : [revcchilds@aol.com](mailto:revcchilds@aol.com)

## Crossword

Solution on page 16

### 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

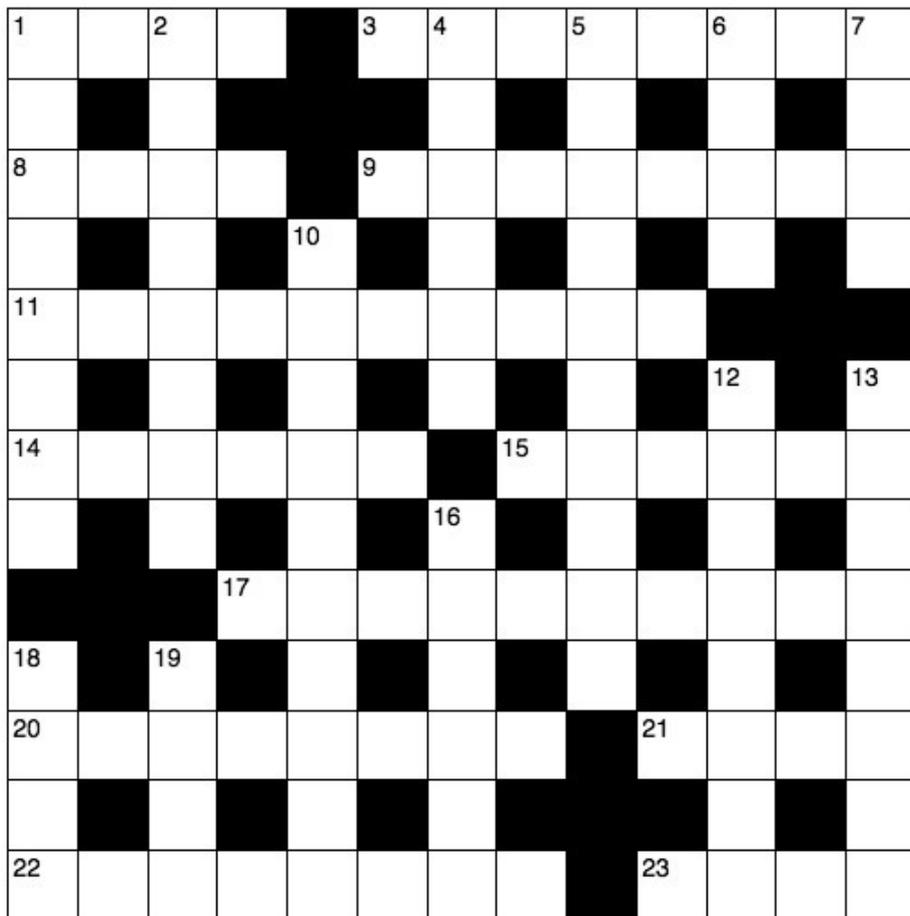
- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's 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)

---

### A thought for the year ahead...

It is what we do with our solitude that makes us fit for company.

*C. S. Lewis*

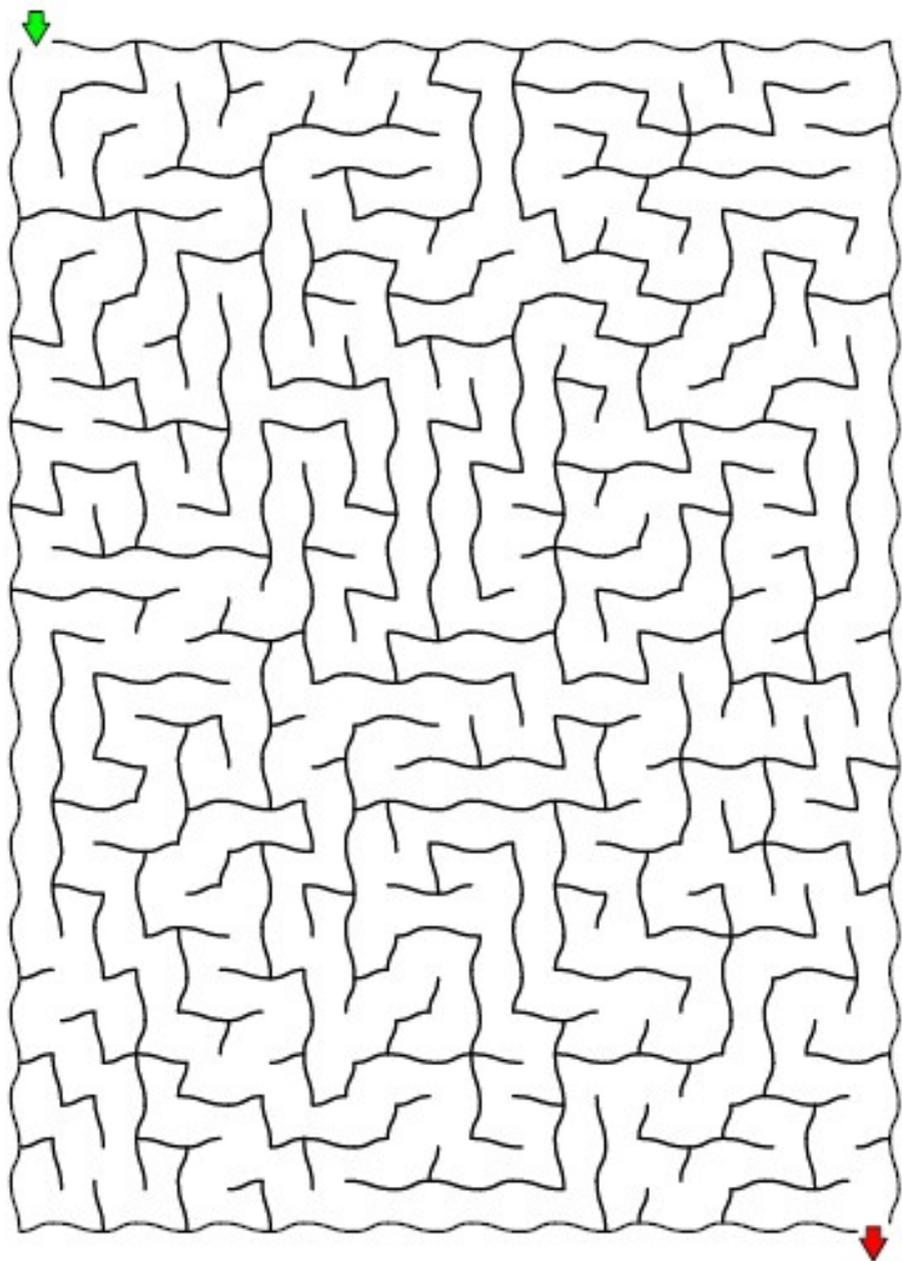


**Contacts**

**Rector**                      **Rev. Chris Childs**                      Tel.    01449 673280  
The Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill,  
Combs, IP14 2AY  
email: revcchilds@aol.com

**Associate Priest**            **Rev. Canon Pauline Higham**            Tel.    01449 771791  
The Rectory, Woodlands Close,  
Onehouse, IP14 3HL  
email: [paulinehigham@googlemail.com](mailto:paulinehigham@googlemail.com)

# Maze



I am a keen young gardener, being tutored by a retired head gardener with 50 years' experience. I am self-employed and happy to undertake any gardening jobs, large or small.

Contact me, Owen Gillespie, on 07811078100.

### Solutions to Sudoku: Easy

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

### Intermediate

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

### Solution to Crossword

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

### Solution to Wordsearch

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

### Raise a smile: After Christmas

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

