

DECEMBER 2018



Dear friends,

As we head towards Christmas, a magical and wonderful season, it is a time for joy and celebration. It is also the time when all the shops and television adverts are aimed at getting us to part with more money on things that we probably don't need and is certainly not good for us in the belief that this is the way to celebrate Christmas. There are many commercial and religious enjoyments to be had, mince pies, carol singing, festive decorations and the extra love that we feel for each other. Forces are thrust upon us from many directions to enjoy ourselves but this is also a time of year when we should think of our fellow man.

I was watching Paul O'Grady on the "For the love of dogs" programme when he visited a number of homeless people in London who had dogs. He was with an organisation called, "street vets" who visit the homeless and check their animals. It was wonderful to discover that homeless people look after their dogs much better than some other pet owners and the bond between the dogs and their owners was clear to be seen.

The nights have drawn in to the point where if it is cloudy it is dark by four o'clock and the cold has also arrived. The churches have now started to provide night shelter for the homeless. A group of people which has expanded in the last year.

If you drive into Nuneaton early in the morning you will generally find at least three or four people sleeping in shop doorways. Did you know that the average life expectancy of a homeless person is forty-seven as opposed to around eighty for the rest of us?

A family is made homeless every eighteen minutes in this country and the number has risen by thirteen thousand in the past twelve months. Many are in emergency accommodation, which is of very poor quality. They have very little or no money. This is where the food bank is a lifeline. I know we have been doing very well lately in giving and supplying some little extras for Christmas but perhaps we can do tiny bit more to help.

I know the above sounds a bit grim and for many people Christmas will be.

We can all try to make it a little better for them. Let us not forget that Jesus was born in a stable and within a very short space of time had become a refugee running to Egypt.

I wish you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas whether it is your first or perhaps your last.

God protect you and keep you safe. Love from Eddie

SHOEBOX APPEAL

I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with the shoebox appeal in any way. It was done at short notice, and I expected to make up about 12 to 15, however, I had a wonderful surprise when we sent off 31 boxes to the collection centre last week.

I should like to do the same next year, and with your help I am sure we will be able to do many more than 31. I have already been offered assistance from the knitting circle, who have said that over the next 12 months will knit hats, scarves and gloves which we did not have time to do this year, and I should like to thank them for this kind offer. I have also received a box of 200 note pads from the company that my son works for, and a number of smaller gifts from other people that will be a great help next year.

I will keep you up to date with news of any other offers of help that we receive through the year, and I will from time to time bring them in to church so that anyone who wishes to pack their own box can help themselves to help them reduce the cost a little.

Thank you all once again, and I wish you all a happy Christmas.

God bless you all, love.

John.

HGC Jottings December 2018 David Bloodworth

Lists are very much in vogue at this time of the year - Christmas Cards, Christmas shopping etc. I've therefore built this month's challenge around another well known list.

There are two steps to the challenge. The first is to solve a series of anagrams and the second (easier one) is to complete the list of which the first group form part (NB Some items are spelled slightly differently in different sources but that shouldn't be a problem). So here are the anagrams:

a) Engage easily, b) Gin said Declan, c) I'm making dials, d) Loading pearls, e) Grind logs, f) Ulster voted

Hints: I assume you would like some help, so here is a list of clues, work down as far as you need.

1. Here are the word lengths of the answers

a) 5,1,6 b) 6,7 c) 5,1,7 d) 5,1,7 e) 4,5 f) 6,5

2. Here are some first letters

a) G ____ L ____, b) L ____ D ____, c) M ____ M ____, d) L ____ L ____,

e) G ____ R ____, f) T ____ D ____

3. In every case where there is a single letter word it is 'a'.

3. The last word in a, b, c and d ends in 'ing', whilst the second word in e and f ends in 's'

4. You are looking for a traditional seasonal list (of which I've given you exactly half!).

As ever, the answers can be found elsewhere in this issue of Jottings



31
BOXES

A JOB WELL DONE

JOHN

SAMARITANS SHOEBOX GIFTS

Horeston Grange Church has delivered it's first selection of gift shoe boxes which has been a great success - with thanks to John for taking the initiative on this project. Our 31 boxes were duly taken to our collection point and added to those already there to bring the total so far to 180 but I am told the final figure for this area will be over 1000. There are several collection places in the CV address areas that are taken on the final collection day to the distribution base in Coventry. From this point the many thousands of boxes will be taken by lorry/container to Eastern Europe, Africa and Central Asia.



THANK YOU!

SAMARITAN'S PURSE sends special thanks to



Horeston Grange Church

for sharing love and joy in the form of a simple shoebox gift through Operation Christmas Child.

Nick Cole

Nick Cole, Director of OCC UK

SHARE YOUR SHOEBOX PHOTOS WITH #PACKSHOEBOXES

Visit samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

 Samaritan's Purse | Making us better. Yours.



Smile-lines

What she wants for Christmas

A little girl was in the kitchen watching her mother busily preparing for the following day's Christmas dinner. She asked, 'Mum, can I please have a cat for Christmas?'

Her mother replied, 'No, you'll have turkey like the rest of us.'

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Christmas present for dad

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on a shirt; others a pair of socks, and the agreement always ends in a tie.

**

Christmas pudding

BILL: "Can you tell me, what are the best things to put into a Christmas pudding?"

WILL: "Well, I should say your teeth, old chap."

**

This Christmas...

You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance.

There are only two things a child will share willingly around Christmas - communicable diseases and his mother's age.

Just been let down by the people who work at the fancy dress shop after I tried to order a shepherd's outfit for the nativity play. You just can't get the staff these days.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

**

Encouragement

The minister was having a tough time in the run-up to Christmas. He finally stretched himself out on the couch to do a bit of what he thought to be well-deserved self-pitying. He moaned to wife: 'Nobody in this church loves me ... the whole town hates me!'

His wife passed by with this encouraging word: 'That can't be true, Sam. I'm sure most people don't give you a second thought.'

Too long in the army

I knew I had been in the army too long when my five-year-old daughter sang her version of "Silent Night." It went like this: "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infantry, tender and mild ..."

**

Carol singing

Samantha decided to go carol singing on Christmas Eve. She knocked on the door of a house and began to sing. A man, holding a clarinet, opened the door to the house. In a few seconds tears were streaming down his face.

Samantha continued singing for at least a further 20 minutes. She sang every carol she knew. At last she stopped. 'I understand,' she said softly. 'You are remembering your happy childhood Christmas days.'

Choking back the tears the man replied, 'No...I'm a musician.'

**

Santa a man?

How do you know Santa is a man? Well, no woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

**

Pizza

Good King Wenceslas phoned for a pizza. The salesgirl asked him, 'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?'

**

Christmas stamps

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.' What denomination?' asked the clerk. 'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Church of England ones please.'

**

Poster found in a church in France *(translated)*

As you visit this church this Christmas, it is possible that you may hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile, so thank you for turning it off. If you want to talk to God, please choose a quiet corner here, and talk to Him. If you want to see Him later, send Him a text while driving.



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Thank you all so much

54.2kgs

The Nuneaton Foodbank gratefully acknowledges this wonderfully helpful donation of food from

Horeston Grange Church Centre

Thank you very much indeed for your gifts to support those in need in Nuneaton

24th November 2018

David Stanier

David Stanier

Chair of Nuneaton Foodbank Management Committee

How to survive Christmas

- *Remember the reason for the season.* It's Jesus' birthday, not yours!
- *Plan ahead.* How much can you realistically afford? Don't just head for the shops with your credit card.
- *Don't do the last-minute buying frenzy.* Shop early, when you can think clearly.
- *Christmas is an expensive time of year for everyone.* With some close friends and adults in the family you may be able to make a 'no presents' pact.
- *Try shopping with cash only* - that way you can't spend more than your budget.
- *Don't let children talk you into buying expensive items* you can't afford.
- *Don't go overdrawn* without telling your bank in advance. The penalties are high!
- *Don't go mad in the January sales,* and avoid the temptation of the numerous 'buy now pay later' offers.
- *Help other people whenever you can.* After all, it is the season of goodwill!
- *Be tolerant of visiting relatives.* They want to enjoy Christmas as much as you do, honestly. They don't mean to be quite *that* annoying.
- *Be grateful for your presents.* Even when they are hideous. Somebody, somewhere, will like them in the New Year.
- *Forget all of your worries for one day of the year.* Whatever they are, just relax and enjoy celebrating the birth of Christ!
- *Finally, if you do run into debt problems,* don't ignore them. Get advice as early as possible. Contact Christians Against Poverty or your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau for free, confidential, independent advice.

Don't cook and sleep at the same time

This is frightening: one in seven university students has fallen asleep with food cooking on a stove, thereby risking a potentially bad fire. Between 2012 - 2017, 911 accidental electrical fires took place in English halls of residence.

These figures, provided by the charity Electrical Safety First, help to highlight some of the dangerous quirks of student life. Such as: 56 per cent of students admit to having cooked while drunk, and 25 per cent per cent have put a knife or fork into a toaster. Really, it is a wonder that so many of them survive to graduate!

Shared meals are more fun

One in five people over the age of 70 in the UK eat all of their main meals alone. This can have a detrimental effect on their health, as they tend to skip meals, or eat erratically.

The survey was carried out by the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS), one of Britain's largest volunteering charities. Now the RVS has launched its Cooking for a Crowd campaign, which aims to praise the work of hundreds of volunteers across the country who run 76 lunch clubs and serve more than 50,000 meals each year.

The lunch clubs offer members a regular chance to eat a hot and healthy meal in the company of others, and provide an opportunity to make friends, build a support system and maintain social connection.

DATE	SERVICE	PREACHER	STEWARDS	LEADER	READER 1	READER 2
2/12/18	Communion	Judith Wilson	Diane & Eddie Reubens	Brian Cartwright	Jean Roper	Cath Taylor
9/12/18	Morning worship	David Kershaw	Mary Howley, Sylvia Griffin, Alan Cook	Judith Wilson	Judith Wilson	Mary Howley
16/12/18	Communion	Rev Allan Smith	Brian Cartwright, Judith Wilson, Jean Roper	Cath Taylor	Diane Reubens	Eddie Reubens
23/12/18	Candlelight Evening Service 9 lessons & carols 6-30pm	Brian Cartwright	Eddie & Diane Reubens	Eddie Reubens	Nine readers	
24/12/18	Community Carol Service 6-30 pm	Eddie Reubens	Max & Mary Healey	Judith Wilson	A selection of readers and performers	
25/12/18	Communion	Judith Wilson	Eddie & Diane Reubens	Cath Taylor	Cath Taylor	Jean Roper
30/12/18	Café Church Combined service with Atherstone	Judith Wilson	Mary Howley Sylvia Griffin	Brian Cartwright	No readers required	

Light refreshments will be served after the Candlelight Service and the Community Carol Service.

In addition to our church services we will be singing carols at the Co-op on December 24th at 12-30pm in aid of The Mary Ann Evans Hospice. Please come and join us if you can.

Bible study... Wednesday 5th December & 19th December at 12-30pm

Fun Club Friday 14th Dec 7.00pm

Future events

Bible Study for January 2019 will restart on Wednesday 2nd January and 16th January at 12-30pm. All are welcome.

Puzzle Corner Answers

The solutions to the anagrams are:

Geese a laying, Ladies dancing, Maids a milking, Lords a leaping, Gold Rings, and Turtle Doves.

These of course all feature in 'The 12 Days of Christmas' along with:

Drummers drumming, Pipers piping, Swans a swimming, Calling birds, French Hens and a Partridge in a pear tree

A big warm hello from Kate and all the Team at DACS (Domestic Abuse Counselling Service). This year has seen a few changes!

As you know from your Christmas kindness to our service users over many years – DACS has operated over the last 12 years as a specialist domestic violence counselling service, delivering tried and tested therapeutic counselling programmes to more than 100 victims each week across the county of Warwickshire.

This January we knew we would face our most difficult year. The Police Crime Commissioner reduced our funding. Our five-year lottery grant that enabled us to provide free counselling services across Warwickshire, ended in July and many funders changed their priorities, meaning domestic violence is now off their list for funding!

Where there used to be maybe 30 funders willing to fund domestic violence there are now only 10. Many funders believe that domestic violence is a government responsibility. The problem is - the government have a certain budget and it only stretches to crisis work such as Refuge etc.

We took stock and evaluated our legacy and looked at the facts of who we are as a charity and evaluated all the work we have done to protect vulnerable people. We realised that our work covers many areas, including sexual, financial, psychological and physical abuse, isolation, mental health, suicide, poor physical health, discrimination, poverty and social exclusion.

From our evaluation - we realised we have the skills and experience to broaden our area of work and we can help more people who are marginalised in our community. For example - we have an increase in referrals for those with learning disability experiencing domestic abuse and also an increase in victims who care for a disabled child.

So – with renewed passion and determination to help our community we made the decision to broaden our constitutional objects and change our charities name - to allow us to expand and work with more people in our community in need of support.

We have always been very proud to say that 'The domestic abuse counselling service' does exactly what it says, but after 12 years - our name blocked us from growing and developing as a charity and also cut us off from other funding sources.

I confirm that the charity commission have agreed our new name and the new additions to our constitutional objects.

I am delighted to formally announce that 'The Domestic Abuse Counselling Service' is now

'INSIGHT' COUNSELLING COACHING & SUPPORT SERVICES

CONT-

The Domestic Abuse Counselling Service (DACS) from July this year - became a service provided under the umbrella of **'INSIGHT' CCSS**.

We remain very committed to reducing domestic violence in our community and I confirm that domestic violence remains our main area of work.

I also confirm there are absolutely **No Changes to DACS Services** - The DACS website remains independent, simply stating it is now a service provided by **'INSIGHT' CCSS**

It is early days – we answer the phone as DACS – my email is still DACS.

We intend to expand into projects for those who are marginalised in our community through mental health issues and we are in talks with funders who want to help us expand our work. I hope to keep you updated on our progress next year.

In the meantime – God Bless you All for your kindness and I wish you all a very happy Christmas. We will be handing out gift bags from you to our service users.

I would like to thank you all on behalf of our board of Trustees for the kindness and support you have given to victims of domestic violence over many years and hope this will continue into this exciting phase of our development as a charity.

Kind Regards

Kate Farmer – Chief Officer of
'INSIGHT' COUNSELLING COACHING & SUPPORT SERVICES
Formerly known as DACS

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Fun Club: Zoe 07868 132 147

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Jan 2019 Jottings deadline Dec 30th 2018 wendycook402@gmail.com