

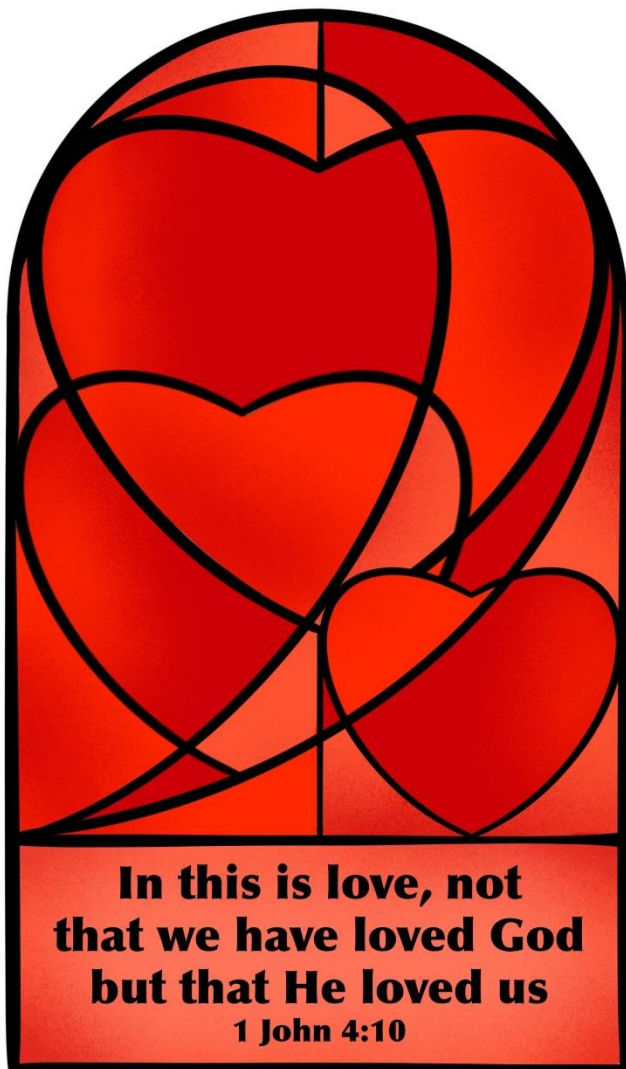


CROSS*Bridges*

Magazine for the Parishes of SS Philip and James, Whitton
with St Stephen's, Hounslow

No.17

February 2023



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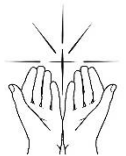
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INTERCESSIONS – FEBRUARY 2023

For daily prayer intentions, please see the [calenda](#) on the Ss Philip & James website.



For ourselves:

- 5th For our Pilgrim Groups
- 12th For those who clean our churches
- 19th For inward peace
- 26th For focusing our thoughts and prayers during Lent

For others:

- 5th For those serving in the Armed Forces
- 12th For the work of SPEAR
- 19th For the work of Hounslow Community Foodbox
- 26th For our neighbouring parishes

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

All services listed are in person with some being live-streamed in addition.

Sundays 9:30am - Eucharist at Ss Philip & James + Live-stream
Sundays 11:15am - Eucharist at St Stephen's
Mondays 9:30am – Morning Prayer – Live stream on Facebook
Tuesdays 9:30am - Holy Communion at St Stephen's + Live-stream
Wednesdays 9.30am – Morning Prayer – Live stream on Facebook
Thursdays 9:30am – Holy Communion at Ss Philip & James + Live stream

First Sunday in each month **All Age Service** at each church ie. 09:30am at SSPJ and 11:15am at SSH.

Sunday 8am: BCP Holy Communion on odd-numbered weeks and CW Said Eucharist on even-numbered weeks (please note that there will no sermon at this service). These will take place at Ss Philip & James Church and will not be streamed.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/philipjamesstephen>

Service Booklets are now on the 'Featured events' links on the calendar pages on our websites. Click on the link to the relevant service at either:

<https://saintstephenhounslow.church/calendar> OR
<https://www.whittonchurch.com/calendar>

MUSICAL TREATS



SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE – 19th FEBRUARY, 6:00pm

Ss Philip & James.

Join us to sing many of your favourite hymns



LENT CHORAL EVENSONG – 26th FEBRUARY, 6.00pm

St Stephen

An opportunity for uplifting music and reflection for the start of Lent.

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

- 5th 3 Before Lent (Proper 1)
[Isaiah 58.1–9a \[b–12\]](#); [1 Corinthians 2.1–12 \[13–16\]](#); [Matthew 5.13–20](#)
- 12th 2 Before Lent (Proper 2)
[Genesis 1.1 – 2.3](#); [Romans 8.18–25](#); [Matthew 6.25–34](#)
- 19th Sunday next before Lent (Proper 3)
[Exodus 24.12–18](#); [2 Peter 1.16–21](#); [Matthew 17.1–9](#)
- 22nd Ash Wednesday
[Joel 2.1–2,12–17](#); [2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10](#); [Matthew 6.1–6,16–21](#)
- 26th Lent 1
[Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7](#); [Romans 5.12–19](#); [Matthew 4.1–11](#)

LENT 2023

Wednesday 22nd February, 7:00pm – Imposition of Ashes

Ss Philip & James



“This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life.

Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.”

Archbishops of Canterbury and York

Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness is the Church of England’s Lent theme for 2023. This year’s resources are informed and inspired by the Archbishop of Canterbury’s 2023 Lent Book, *Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up* (SPCK) by Bishop Emma Ineson, who has also co-written the daily reflections booklet for adults (CHP). The book will also be the 2023 Big Church Read for Lent.

As in recent years, the weekly themes of the Archbishop’s Lent Book are also explored in daily reflections from the [Church of England](#) available on the app, via email, on the website or even via your smart speaker!

ST STEPHEN, HOUNSLOW – NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

Back in the summer, many of you took part in the ideas gathering exercise to feed into the requirements for a new logo and branding for St Stephen's. Those ideas were collated into a 'design brief' which was then shared with local designer [Rachel Lawston](#). Rachel's initial designs were then discussed at a Joint parishes PCC in November and we are now pleased to be able to reveal the final design!



The image above is the landscape version of the design. There is also a portrait version (see below) and a simple 'icon' that is easy to add to social media.

To accompany the design, Rachel has also produced comprehensive guidelines as to how the logo, lettering and colours should be used to create a consistent brand. Consequently, if you have reason to use the new logo in either print or digital publications, please ask Fr David, Helen Bott or myself for a copy of these guidelines and for copies of the original artwork to ensure we use the highest quality. The Comms Group will be meeting shortly to think of ways of using the new design most effectively to promote St Stephen's.



Fr David will also be writing a piece for a future edition of CROSSBridges to explain the iconography that has been used in the design.

And finally, the new icon design is complementary to the Ss Philip & James logo so that the two can be used together harmoniously.



Elizabeth Malone
On behalf of the Comms Group

GETTING TO KNOW YOU – JOY BEAUCHAMP

This month we're delighted to let Joy, our Ordinand, introduce herself.

Q. Where was the first church where you worshipped?

I am a vicar's daughter. My father is Fr John Wheeler who is known to some of those who worship at St Philip and St James, since my parents lived in the parish for nearly ten years. My Mum used to attend the mid-week Eucharist on a Thursday and the 08:00 Eucharist on Sundays, and my father, although retired, had an active role in ministry until ill health required he move to the Convent in Chiswick in 2018.

The first church I attended was St Paul's in Truro, and that was where I was baptised (at my behest) at the age of 6. Although I have no memory of life before I met my parents, in fact I was a 'looked-after' child (until my adoption at age 10). Hence, my parents had to seek permission from Social Services in order for my baptism to proceed, which fortunately was granted. It was all very exciting, especially since I was old enough to do my own baptismal vows, and because the ceremony was conducted by my Godfather, Bishop Colin Winter, who was an exile from Namibia. When I was 8 years old, we moved to London, to Shepherds' Bush, where my father took up an incumbency at St Saviour's Cobbold Road.

Q. Do you have a favourite church? And if so, what makes it special?

All Hallows is particularly special to me. It was the first church where I felt truly at-home after my father retired in 1995. My father was a very charismatic, capable, and inspiring parish priest and it was quite difficult finding a new church family of which to be a part. The church community at All Hallows is very special, and I have been much blessed to have been a part of it. The church building is also very interesting and has a fascinating history. It is a place that feels very prayerful to me.

Q. What's your favourite hymn?

I love singing and I love hymns! I find it impossible to settle on just one, so cheekily I am going to list 5 from amongst my favourites: Oh the Love of My Lord is the Essence, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Just as I Am, Be Still For the Presence of the Lord, My Song is Love Unknown.

Q. Favourite book (not the Bible!) and why?

The Name of the Wind, by Patrick Rothfuss. I think this book exemplifies story at its best; it is a magical tale which provides unadulterated escapism.

Q. Favourite film?

I like films across lots of different genres, but living with 3 boys I rarely have a chance to watch rom-coms or period dramas! In recent years, I have learned to appreciate Marvel Movies. I have also very much enjoyed Lord of the Rings and the Harry Potter films.

Q. What music do you play when you want to relax?

I enjoy the sort of classical music that is played on Classic FM, and especially chamber music and sacred choral music. In recent years, I have also discovered I rather like a lot of modern Christian worship music. However, if I want to relax, I am more likely to read a novel or to play my flute.

Q. How do you rate yourself as a cook?

I am a competent, everyday cook! I am not very good at finding and following recipes, but my boys would say I am a good cook. I feel terribly pleased with myself when I produce a balanced meal which looks attractive on the plate, but I rarely try anything fancy. I am certainly no good at cakes or puddings.

Q. If you were ordering a take-away next Saturday evening, what would it be?

There is a fabulous Malaysian restaurant just up the road which does take away. For ease of pick up, it would probably be first choice. But otherwise, food from the Caribbean Kitchen in Whitton.

Q. What was your favourite subject at school and why?

At school I particularly loved science and maths. At the time, they were the 'easy' subjects for me. I still find science very interesting, but now maths makes my head hurt!

Q. Do you have a favourite local walk that you'd like to recommend to everyone?

I don't do much walking these days, since my mobility and fitness are not great. However, I love being by the river, and before my road traffic accident in 2004, I used regularly to walk from Twickenham to Richmond and back along the river. I also used to love walking around the pond in Bushy Park.

Q. Do you consider yourself a gardener?

No, my mobility and fitness are not really good enough. My Mum was a wonderful gardener, so I am interested, but it's not something I have ever really done myself. I particularly like spring flowers and fruit trees, and when I was young, I used to grow a lot of potatoes.

Q. Do you have a particular skill or interest that would surprise people?

I am co-author of a published scientific article on male-killers in ladybirds!

Q. What one word do you think your friends would use to describe you?

I was curious to know the answer, so I called a couple of my best friends and asked them; one said 'kind' and the other 'wise', and I was terribly flattered so I thought I'd include both! (Is there a word for 'not very good at making choices', perhaps that might be more appropriate!)

UKRAINE – ONE YEAR ON

By the Ven John Barton

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine without warning. Ukraine had been part of the Soviet Union 1922-1991 and even before that had been overshadowed and often overpowered by its larger neighbour. In 1932 millions of Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death in a famine, contrived by Joseph Stalin. This genocide, or Holodomor, is commemorated every year on the fourth Saturday in November.

The area had been overrun for centuries by successive external forces, until absorbed by Russia. In 1991, when the USSR was dissolved, Ukraine voted for independence, by a huge majority. There are still pro-Russian minorities in the East of the country, as there were in Crimea before 2014, when it was annexed by Russia.

In the last 12 months, one-quarter of the civilian population of Ukraine has been displaced, with 5+ million refugees escaping for temporary sanctuary in other countries. 95% of them are women and children. They have had to learn new languages (and a new script), find jobs and schools, and become accustomed to foreign cultures. When it seems safe, they want to return home and some have already done so.

The UK government, in partnership with County and District Councils, launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme last year. Would-be homes were inspected, and prospective hosts checked out for suitability and safety. A young Ukrainian woman lived in my home for six months before returning to Kyiv. In that time my pantry and fridge made room for bulgar wheat, lots of mushrooms and Salo, which is the name for slabs of cold cured pork fat, and much tastier than it sounds!

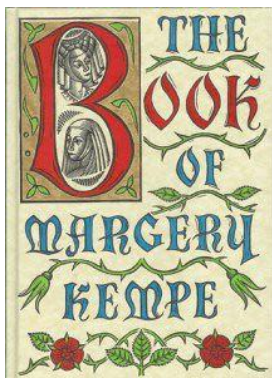
Most Ukrainians count themselves as Christian, including a number of Greek-Catholics, but the majority belong to what was the Russian Orthodox Church, and is now the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The two churches separated after the Moscow patriarchate backed President Putin.

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Kyiv in December and had to take cover in a bomb shelter when air raid warnings were sounded. He said the people of the West needed to realise the costs of this war were not short term, adding “there must be no way in which we force peace on Ukraine ... Peace is always better than war. But there are times when justice demands the defeat of an evil invasion.”

One year on there is still an urgent need for British people to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

THE BOOK OF MARGERY KEMPE

By V. Charles Ward



The Book of Margery Kempe provides a glimpse of a medieval church a century before Henry VIII's reformation. It was a church unlike any mainstream denomination which you or I are likely to visit today. It's not just that the liturgy was in Latin. It was more that the congregation attended mass, not as participants, but as spectators to the murmurings of an ancient ritual which was conducted not in front of them, but in the distance behind a wooden screen. It was then left to the congregation to murmur their own prayers, either standing or sitting on the stone floor, because there were no pews. Nor would there been any music other than, perhaps, some muffled chanting from a distant monk.

Margery lived a life typical of many medieval women who were born into and married into merchant families. She lived in King's Lynn and had eleven children. The only thing which makes Margery different from other medieval women is that she wrote her story down in what is arguably the world's first English language autobiography.

Like many medieval women, Margery wore her piety on her sleeve. One way in which a medieval woman could demonstrate piety, was by wailing, particularly when visiting a shrine. Margery wailed a lot, sometimes collapsing on the ground to make her point.

Although there are no surviving pictures of Margery Kempe, I get the impression that she was an attractive woman who was well liked, if considered a little eccentric. She also talks honestly about her mistakes and weaknesses.

Early in her married life, Margery began an affair with the handsome husband of another parishioner with whom she had become besotted and had expected to elope. Her dreams turned to humiliation when her lover boasted that he only seduced her to prove that he could. Indeed, a theme running through the book is Margery's fear of being raped as she travelled amongst strangers on long pilgrimages. One way in which Marjorie attempted to preserve a chastity was by dressing only in white.

OUTSIDE THE BACK DOOR SIGNS OF SPRING



What are the first signs of spring for you? A snowdrop or daffodil maybe? Or the fact that you don't need to switch the lights on quite so early of an evening? Or maybe it's the supermarkets suddenly stocking up on eggs and lemon in preparation for Shrove Tuesday which means that Lent is just around the corner and with it spring?

For me, one of the earliest signs is magpies nesting. We have a pair that have been turning up reliably in early January for several years now, ready to take up their favourite nesting site in a neighbour's conifer tree. However, as I type this, all is not well. I can see anything up to six or even seven magpies wheeling around the sky and jostling for position. I can only conclude that some of their offspring have returned in the hopes of nesting near to their place of birth. There is a huge amount of tail-flicking and aerobatic chasing going on. I guess we won't know who wins as one magpie tends to look rather like another!

How do I know that they are even nesting? Well the answer to that is relatively simple. They have a habit of stealing twigs from either our hawthorn tree or our elder tree. Existing fallen twigs don't seem to appeal. Instead, they prefer to spend 10 or 15 minutes working away at a specific twig, eventually breaking it off and then flying away with it in the direction of their nesting site. Sometimes they get too ambitious and choose one that's too big to handle or there simply isn't a clear pathway to fly out of the tree carrying it. A great deal of effort for no gain! Also, and I haven't spotted them doing this yet but the evidence is clear, they like to pull out strands of our dead grasses from around the pond, presumably to create a softer lining or to help weave the twigs together? Either way, the area next to the pond is currently strewn with bits of dead grass that have been discarded.

Another hint that spring is on its way is the sound of a woodpecker drumming. One morning in the second week of January, I also heard this for the first time in 2023. Great spotted woodpeckers are regulars in our garden. I have no idea where they nest but they certainly rely on our seed and peanut feeders for sustenance. Until last spring, I mainly seemed to see the male bird(s). Males have bright red necks so can be easily distinguished from the females. However, we now have a female who visits regularly and it's interesting to see that she's quite a bit bigger than her male counterpart. Again, it's the hawthorn tree that's a bit of a favourite. She has a regular routine that involves flying to the feeder and then up the tree. She then works her way down the trunk, 'Woody Woodpecker-like' until she hops back on the feeder and repeats the whole process again.

Something else that always seeps slowly into my subconscious at this time of year is that birdsong is changing. Throughout winter, the dominant sound has been the raucous 'cheep cheep' of the dozen or so sparrows that have become regular visitors (more about them in a future edition) and the occasional fluting song of our robins. Now, as the days start to grow slightly longer, the tune is definitely beginning to change. The relentless two-note 'squeak – squeak' of the great tit has emerged in the past couple of weeks. During February you can start to listen out for blackbirds singing. Apparently blackbirds are known to be one of the first birds to start singing for courtship in the spring. I am assuming this must be our native British blackbirds who will be nesting here, whereas many of the blackbirds we see in our gardens in winter are actually Scandinavian visitors.



One of our regular hedgehogs emerging from our feeding station in early December

Meanwhile, I'm sure you're expecting me to say the reappearance of hedgehogs from hibernation is another sign of spring but our spiky friends have been in the garden on most nights throughout winter. It's impossible to know how many individuals visit our garden but I am confident that we went into winter with three regulars. On 8th December our camera took footage of two very similar sized hogs sharing supper together. Shortly after that we saw a much smaller hog visit. 'Mini', as we nicknamed it,

visited in the early hours every night until the beginning of January. Although small, s/he was clearly fit, healthy and eating well. Mini now seems to be taking a break so we assume s/he's also gone into hibernation but as hedgehogs do break their slumber on a regular basis, we will continue to put out food and water on a nightly basis for whenever they need it.

Elizabeth Malone

Read an illustrated version of this article at <https://outsidethebackdoor.wordpress.com>



GARDENER'S PHILOSOPHY

COLD COMFORT

By Angela Sharp

At this time of year it can be very tempting to just cut back everything before it all starts growing again. But hold on! Many tiny creatures may reside under those leaves you may be tempted to rake out of the beds, sheltering from the cold. The weather may not yet have done its worst and it's surprising what small things can provide safe harbour for mini beasts. In recent years spring has seen more frosts than we sometimes see in the winter, and the higher stems on some plants could in fact be protecting buds lower down the plant, particularly if they're slightly frost sensitive plants like the shrubby salvias, callistemon (bottle brush) and particularly the ever-popular hydrangeas. They take the hit of cold weather and if the frost gets them the buds lower down have more chance of staying alive. Leaving them till March is advisable, but if it's a real mess just trim the very tops to tidy them a bit.

Of course, not all plants are susceptible to frost. They carry a kind of anti-freeze in their tissues which protect them from icy weather and allow the tissues to carry on doing their thing, but we haven't seen extremely cold weather in the London area for some years and the 10 days or so in December when we experienced lows of -6 or -7 degrees centigrade overnight for several nights in a row came as quite a shock not only to us but to many plants that had been thriving in previous years, and able to tolerate the odd brief dips below freezing. If you grow any plants that could be frost sensitive anywhere else than the London area, you may have found they have been damaged or killed. Even one of my large hebes is showing frost damage to the upper leaves which certainly surprised me. Of course winter wet is not a favourite of some plants, and it has been a very wet winter as well this year so that won't help some plants feel happy.

It can be quite dispiriting to see frost damage or to find a plant has died because of it. You feel guilty that you didn't think to protect it. Even when you have a greenhouse you can get caught out with plants you know may be susceptible to it. We have a new greenhouse and keep lots of succulents in it but we weren't aware that the temperature inside wouldn't be quite high enough to prevent damage and we didn't put fleece on the plants 'in time'. One night it got down to -4 degrees inside. So a lot of them were killed or only their 'babies' survived unfortunately. One of my clients keeps jade plants (*Crassula ovata*) in his greenhouse over winter and he has a little heater, but he forgot to put it on and the damage to his large plants is considerable.

Interestingly I have been over-wintering some cornflowers, the seeds of which I sowed in the autumn as an experiment because they're a 'hardy' (ie ok in low

temperatures) annual. I was inspired by the idea because I know you can sow sweet peas in autumn so thought I'd try it with another plant. They are sitting there, little rosettes of leaves looking healthy and green and if they're growing at all it's very slowly. I am both surprised and made up that so far I still have about 12 plants but I mustn't get complacent now! In two months they may well start growing taller.



Cyclamen

Of course the silver lining in all this is that where there's a dead plant there's an opportunity to put something else in there. Last summer a perennial geranium in my garden which had been there years died in the extreme heat/drought. It's a dry part of the garden anyway and geraniums don't like it really hot or dry, not that type anyway. So I've just popped some more cyclamen in there for now, but I will probably add the nerines I have had in pots nearby for a few years now. They flower in small pots they've been in for about 4 years so I think they may quite like it in that spot. First I have to separate them from the self-seeded valerian in there though.

Valerian has its uses but it's a tinker at spreading itself around by seed and before you know it you have loads of plants which are hard to dig out once very established.

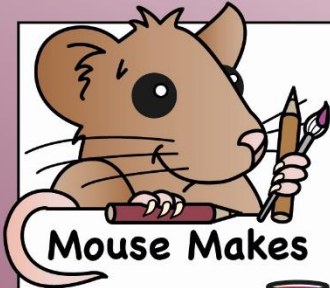
There are always little promises of spring even in January. My snowdrops are peeking and showing a little white bud within and the hellebore flowers are starting to grow so I cut all the leaves off today, all the better to see the flowers. It also keeps the bed neat, allows me to see the snowdrops and crocuses I have in there better, and it slows the spread of the fungal disease that affects most hellebore leaves if they're just left on the plant all year. The new leaves will start to grow unblemished as the flowers start to form seed pods.

LAUGHTER LINES - GIVING UP FOR LENT

An anecdote that we all might identify with given recent experiences with boilers and flues! (ed)

At the end of the pre-Lent sermon, the vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.

Parish Pump



Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:27-28



SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCCHARIST

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in

of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



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

Find the words from the questions too!



COLLECTIVE NOUNS WORDSEARCH

There are collective nouns for many groups of animals. This month's wordsearch contains 39 of them. The 9 unused letters give the name for a group of buffalos. Solution next month.

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

SOLUTION TO CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

ANGEL, AUGUSTUS, BABY, BETHLEHEM, BOY, DREAM, EAST, EGYPT, ELIZABETH, FRANKINCENSE, GABRIEL, GALILEE, GOD, GOLD, HEROD, INN, JESUS, JOHN, JOSEPH, JUDEA, MANGER, MARY, MYRRH, NAZARETH, SHEPHERDS, SIMEON, STAR, VIRGIN, WISE MEN, ZACHARIAS. The 10 unused letters formed HOLY SPIRIT.

John Barnes

CROSSBridges Deadline

The edition of CROSSBridges will be the March 2023 issue. Items for inclusion should be emailed to the editor – elizabethmalone@blueyonder.co.uk
Please forward your contribution by **midday on Sunday 12th February at the absolute latest!**

