

St John's and St Katharine's MID-MONTH EXTRA Monday 18th January 2021



*Chaste Snowdrop, venturesome
harbinger of Spring,
And pensive monitor of fleeting years!
(William Wordsworth)*



We were not expecting the *Weekly Extra* to re-surface, but the pandemic clearly had other ideas – so here we are again! You'll see we've renamed it '*Mid-month Extra*' – the idea this time is to publish two weeks after the last magazine and two weeks before the next.

This issue sees the final instalment of Lois and Terry's Canadian travels, and we are indebted to them for widening our horizons at a time when it feels like the opposite is happening. So, although we cannot travel at the moment – or even plan with any degree of confidence – we still aim, through these pages, to bring some colourful reminders of our amazing world. These coming weeks will be challenging but the science and our responses to the mutating virus are evolving – and, hopefully, future *Extras* will evolve too. So we'll keep some of the old favourites, but please send in poems, photos, news, puzzles and any other subjects you'd like us to cover.

Elaine and Mandy elainegilburt@live.co.uk amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk

NEWS from our churches and congregations

- Happy Birthday to Julia H, Marian A and Eileen W who all have their birthdays within the next month. Eileen's birthday on 13th February will be particularly significant as she will be 100 years old!
- Each day we hear of yet another member of our congregations who has received the vaccine – good news!
- Congratulations to Christine and Phil H on the birth of their granddaughter, Margot Lily. Some of you will recall that Margot's parents, Becky and Tom, were married at Woodlands a few years ago.
- We are pleased to hear that Lola, the canine member of St John's Choir, is recovering well from an operation to mend a broken leg.
- St John's is still open for private prayer. We are keeping the Christmas tree up until Candlemas, and the flower team are kindly continuing to give us beautiful flower displays, so it all looks very welcoming.
- While there are no in-person services, we are adding an extra private prayer session in St John's for a trial period. It's on Sunday afternoons, 2pm to 3.30pm – if it works out, we will need more people on our stewarding rota, so we would be grateful for volunteers.



An 'Extra' thought

When I wrote my 'thought' for the Christmas edition of the *Weekly Extra*, I described my journey round the house at the beginning of the day turning on the various Christmas lights. I'm sorry to admit that today (just a few days before the Second Sunday of Epiphany) I did the same thing.

My mother was a great stickler for removing all vestiges of Christmas on Twelfth Night – mind you, nothing really went up until Christmas Eve – and so, on 6 January, following tradition, I went round collecting all the Christmas cards and began to gather up the lights.

I banished the candle arch and put the little Christmas tree outside (where it was much happier). But when it came to taking away the little coloured lights which had twinkled so brightly in the living room and the blue lights which glowed across the bookshelves I couldn't do it. So the lights are still there, shining brightly in the background to my Zoom meetings. 'I'm keeping them up until Candlemas!' I say defiantly. I don't know what will happen when we reach the Sundays before Lent ...

The truth is, I suddenly found the darkness following Christmas even more bleak than usual. I imagine I am not alone in this feeling.

I think it is in the spirit of bringing us cheer just when we need it that Elaine and Mandy have re-embarked on their heroic mission of bringing us some extra *Extras*. I know they enjoy doing it, but it does involve a lot of work. I also know from various conversations just how much people enjoy receiving this bundle of photos, snippets and memories which suddenly pops into their email or through their letter box.

So thank you to our editors and to those of you already poised to take photos of the first flowers and engaging animals and to share memories of happier times. This is going to cheer us all up!

I might even feel brave enough to take down my Christmas lights on 3 February.

Janet C



From St John's School newsletter

A Child's Voice

(and an important message from the staff team!)

This week, children in Year 2 have been making fact files about 'Superheroes'. They chose their own superheroes, drew them, and then wrote about why they had chosen them. Firefighters, police officers, parents, doctors, nurses, carers, supermarket workers, paramedics and guide dogs, to name a few, were all mentioned. Our headteacher Mrs Marsland was chosen more than once, and we thought it was time for the staff team to tell our readers that we all agree that she is indeed a superhero! Last year presented challenges that nobody could have predicted and these challenges have continued into the New Year. Throughout a constantly changing situation, Mrs Marsland is working long hours in school and at home; she has countless online meetings; she has to deal with many different changes in government policy – especially true this week – and still she continues to steer the St John's ship through these choppy waters with a smile on her face and an indomitable spirit. Mrs Marsland, THANK YOU from everyone on your staff team for everything you have done and are doing, to look after everyone in our fantastic St John's family!



Mrs Marsland is a heroine because she looks after the school and takes care of Leo [her dog] **Isla**

Mrs Marsland is a heroine because she helps the school and keeps us all safe. **Ethan**



A big 'thank you' to Mrs Marsland from all of us too!

THIS TIME LAST YEAR – CHRISTINGLE

Christingle services are usually held between Advent and Candlemas. St John's traditionally opts for a Sunday in January. This time last year, we welcomed Bishop Peter to St John's to bless the Ken stone at the west end. The flowers in St John's echoed the colours of the Christingles and we prepared the oranges in advance - leaving some in 'kit' form for the Gathering.

The history of the Christingle can be traced back to Moravian Bishop, Johannes de Watteville, who started the tradition in Germany in 1747. At that time it was just a red ruff wrapped around a candle. In the intervening years, the Moravian Church spread the tradition of Christingle through their early role in the Protestant missionary movement.

Christingle comes from the German *Christkindl*, meaning 'Little Christ Child', and is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the 'Light of the World'. Christingles have been a feature in Moravian churches across the UK since before the World Wars. When it was not possible to get oranges, swedes were used instead.

In the 1960s John Pensom adopted it as a fundraising tool for The Children's Society. By the beginning of this century over 5,000 Christingle services were being held in the UK every year. Nowadays over 6,000 services are held for The Children's Society in non-pandemic years, and over £1.2 million raised to help vulnerable young people.

There aren't any to hand out this year, but to make your own you need:

- An orange to represent the world
- A corer to make a 25mm (1") hollow in the top
- 75mm (3") square of silver foil to place over the top and a candle to push into the centre. When lit, this represents Jesus Christ as Light of the World.
- A red ribbon or red paper frill to wrap around the orange - the candle, represents the blood of Christ
- Cocktail sticks to skewer dried fruits and/or sweets and push into the orange – to represent the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.



JESUS THE INFLUENCER

By Sue Bradshaw

Eds: Our thanks to Jane B for sending us this poem and for her friend's agreement to us publishing it.

So how would a modern day Jesus appear
And how would he make himself known?
Imagine his profile page if you dare.
Do you think he'd be glued to his phone?

He'd set up a twitter account I expect
And tweet about all sorts of things.
Disciples re-tweeting and spreading the word
A bit like an angel with wings.

He'd put things on Facebook and people could share
They wouldn't take long to go viral.
The good news passed on to the world in a flash
A bit like a book called "The Bible".

His Linked-in account I'd be eager to see
Endorsements would come from his boss,
Promoting transferable skills to the world,
A bit like he did on the Cross.

So how is it possible back in the day
When internet wasn't around
That Jesus has influenced millions of us
His love and his light we have found.



Anniversaries in 2021

125th Anniversary of the first speeding offence

Eds: Even in the days before speed cameras, there was still no escaping the law!

It was 125 years ago, on 28th January 1896, that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2 mph at the time, and a man carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But one day Mr Arnold took off at 8mph, without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle for five miles, arrested, and fined one shilling.



Mr Arnold was four times over the rather modest 2mph limit in the streets of Paddock Wood, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. To achieve this feat today, a driver in most towns or cities would have to be travelling at over 100mph. Walter Arnold was no ordinary motorist. He was also one of the earliest car dealers in the country and the local supplier for Benz vehicles. He was well ahead of the times and set up his own car company producing "Arnold" motor carriages at the same time. It has to be said that the subsequent publicity surrounding his speeding offence probably wasn't entirely unwelcome.

The speed limit was changed later that same year to 14mph, but there is no record of Mr Arnold getting his money back. Nor is there any evidence that he was endangering life and limb, which used to be the criterion: the 1832 Stage Carriage Act introduced the offence of endangering someone's safety by "furious driving".

Just over 100 years later, the road safety charity Brake reports that male motorists are more than three times as likely as women to having driven at more than 100mph, because 'boy racers' believe they have more talent than the average driver. Police have caught one driver doing 120mph in a 20mph zone, another doing 152mph in a 30mph zone, and one doing an astonishing 180mph on a motorway.

US Presidents - young and old

Eds. With all that's going on across the Pond, it seems appropriate to include this ...

A look back over the last 60 years, at 20-year intervals, reveals the following snapshot of the ages of various residents in the White House:

- 60 years ago, on 20th January 1961, John F Kennedy became the 35th President of the United States. The youngest to become president by election, Kennedy was only 43 years old at his inauguration.
- 40 years ago, on 20th January 1981, Ronald Reagan became 40th President of the United States. At 69 years of age at the time of his first inauguration, Reagan was the oldest first-term US president, a distinction he held until 2017, when Donald Trump was inaugurated at age 70.
- 20 years ago, on 20th January 2001, George W Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States. He was 55 years old, almost the exact median age of US presidents on their inauguration day (which stands at 53 years and three months).
- This month, on 20th January 2021, Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States. He is 78, which makes him the oldest-ever person to become president.

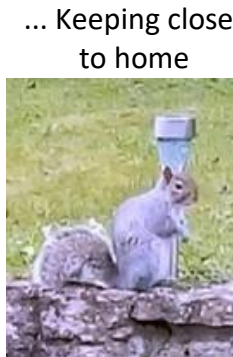


One of our wildlife neighbours from last year ...

Lockdown 1



Lockdown 2



Lockdown 3



... Keeping closer to home

... Now taking the 'STAY AT HOME' message very seriously

Places we love to visit Quebec, Canada

Eds: Niagara, Toronto and now Quebec—thank you, Lois!

We spent three nights in Quebec and really enjoyed this very interesting city. It sits on the St Lawrence River and is the capital of the beautiful, mostly French speaking province of the same name. 'Quebec' is derived from an Algonquin (North American Native) word meaning 'where the river narrows'.

We visited the Plains of Abraham in Battlefield Park, where the British Army and Royal Navy clashed with French Army troops in the pivotal Battle of Quebec in 1759 which changed the course of history; and we went to the huge Citadelle Fortress at Porte St Louis, with its green copper roof, which sits on the highest point of Cap Diamant and was completed by the British under the Duke of Wellington – it is part of the great wall which surrounds the city to protect it from invasion. There are superb views across the river from there: in the photo below you can just see some of the maple trees changing colour and also the famous suspension bridge that takes you to Ile de Orléans.

We also visited the beautiful Le Château Frontenac Hotel, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site; it towers above the city and is probably the most expensive hotel in Quebec. Its famous guests have included Churchill, Roosevelt and Queen Elizabeth II. It is extremely grand inside, with several boutiques, and we sneaked into a lift and went to a viewing point on one of the top floors and also peeped into one of luxurious suites! We did actually have a coffee in the restaurant too!

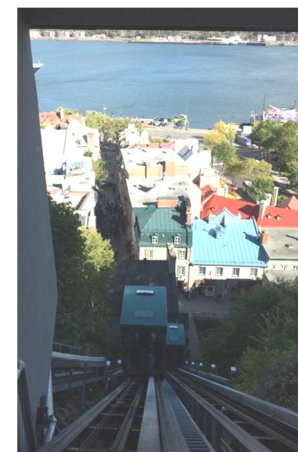


Le Château Frontenac Hotel



St Lawrence River from Cap Diamant

Between Upper Town and Lower Town we took the funicular, which was built in 1879. (The alternative was to take numerous steps!) Lower Town has many cobbled streets lined with bistros and boutiques, especially in the Petit Champlain district. We were impressed with the different coloured painted tin plate roofs, several with ladders, which are apparently used when clearing snow – originally they were used when cleaning the chimneys. We also visited the Notre-Dame des Victoires, which was built in 1688 and is the oldest stone church in Canada.



Coloured roofs from the funicular

Our tour of a maple syrup factory and maple tree woods was very interesting: we saw how they tapped the sap from the maple trees and afterwards tasted little lollipops of syrup put on ice.



Roof ladders!

A well-known chain of restaurants in Canada is Tim Hortons, named after the ice hockey player who co-founded the franchise. You find them in all the cities and they are a bit like McDonald's – quite basic, but there is something to please everyone's tastes. Wherever you go in Canada Mac 'n' Cheese is on the menu, so I tried it – it does not taste much like our macaroni cheese! **Lois B**

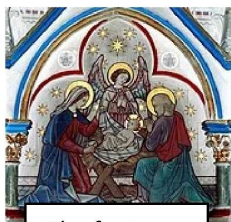
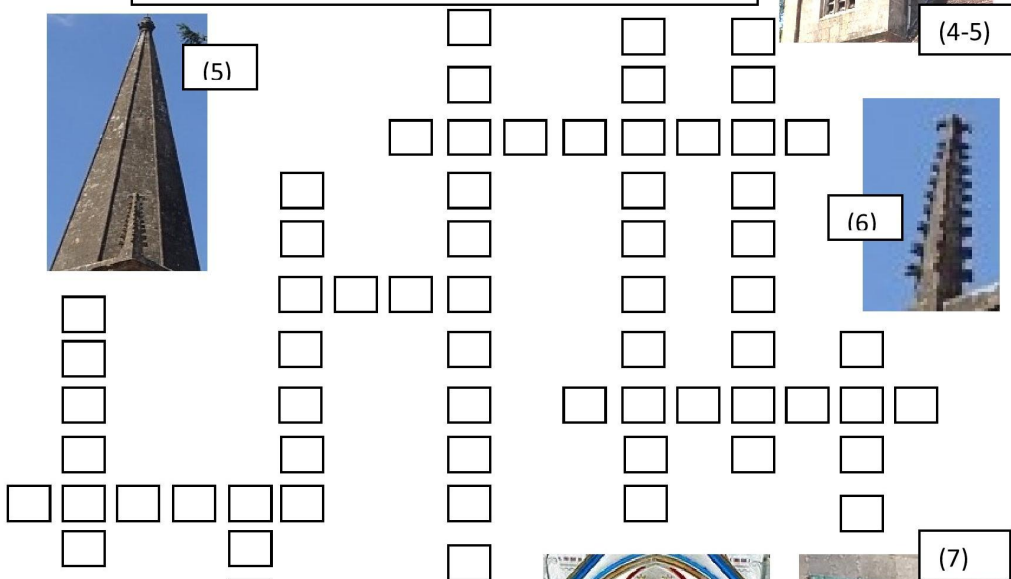
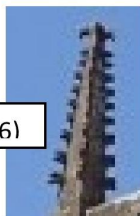


Maple syrup lollies!

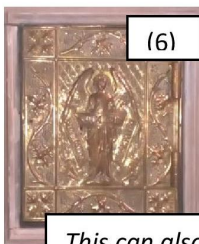
Notre-Dame des Victoires in Place Royal, one of the oldest streets in Quebec



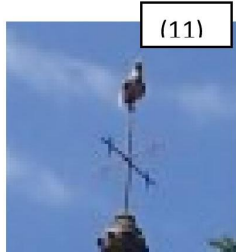
CHURCH FEATURES @ ST JOHN'S & ST KATHARINE'S
PICTURE PUZZLE - for those missing our churches,
 a few reminders! Fit the features into the grid.



The feature
includes this
scene (7)



This can also be spelt
with five letters



LOCKDOWN – SHARED CONVERSATIONS ...

I was just talking about the latest lockdown with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my tea, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, because he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

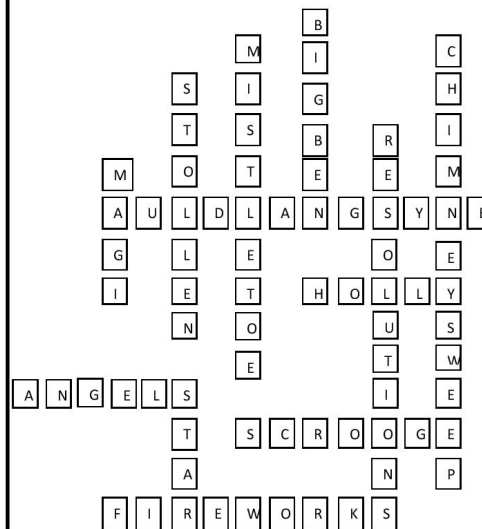
The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic ... told me to just suck it up! But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!

It's not hard for you to guess that the curtains told me to "pull myself together"!



Answers to New Year picture quiz



This week's SUDOKU

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