



St John's Gazette

50p Issue No.5 **SJPB** June 2016



St John's was built as an estate church to the now demolished Perry Hall: the foundation stone was laid in 1831 and it was consecrated in 1833. It was originally a much simpler building than now, with just a single aisle nave and vestries to the side, and a bell tower at the west end. The architect is named as Robert Studholme, a stonemason from Sutton Coldfield.

Picture & text from SJPB website

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From the Vicarage

Music is very important to so many of us. It can lift our moods when we are feeling down. It can remind us of memories of a loved one, or of times in our youth when we were perhaps more carefree. My mother fondly remembers the songs from the dance halls in Bradford when she and my father were courting; I fondly remember the music I sang as a chorister in my teenage years and beyond.

A song can take us back in time, or bring us to tears, as well as bring a smile to our face if we associate it with happier times. Many people will comment on the hymns after a service. "Lovely hymns today, Father". "I didn't know that last hymn at all." Some hymns remind us of special times: weddings, confirmations, christenings. Others remind us of our loved ones, perhaps their favourite hymn or one that we had at their funeral, which still makes us cry. Music can be very powerful indeed.

National anthems can arouse feelings of pride and patriotism, especially when there is something to celebrate.... A royal occasion, a sporting triumph, or a national anniversary.

On 1st July it is the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Here at St. John's we shall commemorate it with a special service of the Stations of the Cross. This service will be accompanied by readings and reflections based on the experiences of soldiers and families in the First World War, and will feature music from that era, as well as music appropriate to the occasion, including an excerpt from Mozart's Requiem. By bringing together words, music and prayers, we will honour those who lost their lives in that most tragic of battles, as well as remembering with affection and nostalgia all those who fought for their country. It may be a long way to Tipperary, but it is a song and a journey we shall and must never forget.

Fr Barrie Scott



Dear Parishioner,

I'm sure you'll be aware of the saying '*Familiarity breeds contempt*' but I wonder whether experience tells you otherwise?

Have you noticed what happens when you have a passion? What happens when you love a particular artist, writer, or composer for instance?

Well firstly, after something sparks the initial attraction you'll find yourself wanting to look at their other paintings, read their other books or listen to their other works. This process serves to familiarize you with their style and their trademarks until eventually you'll find that you can recognize their work whenever you encounter it -even when it is previously unknown to you or crops up uncredited.

The same thing happens as we get to know God because we can begin to see that God's same creative thread runs through all things and binds all things.

Have you ever looked at the sky and thought how much it reminds you of the sea? Ever noticed how sometimes the rain dashes your windows with chains of sparkling drops that shine like diamonds?

If we care to look around we can see beauty in everything and true beauty brings us into the presence of God. Poet and priest R. S. Thomas realizes this in '*The Bright Field*' :

*"I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it."*

The church is into ordinary time now. Without the distractions of Easter and Christmas we can all make an effort to find God in the beauty of ordinary, everyday things.

Not only in the things we see but the things we do as well.

Let familiarity breed contemplation rather than contempt. Seek and you will find!

Yours faithfully,

Mandy Harris

Moth-er's Delight

In my previous article I suggested how important it is for all of us to become “conservation-aware”.

Have you seen many butterflies yet this year? Did you manage to identify them? Orange

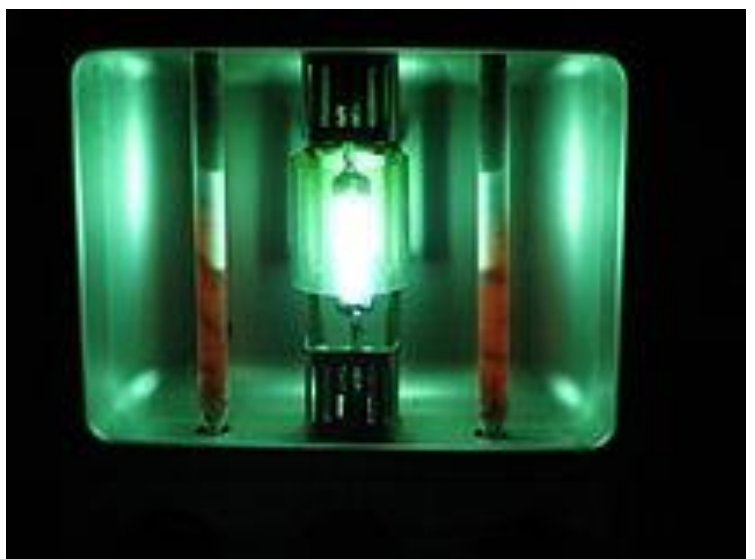
Tip? Brimstone? Holly Blue? Peacock? Speckled Wood? Small White? Another one you may see is the Comma. Its orange, black-blotched wings look ragged and it has a prominent white comma mark on its underside – hence the name.



The Comma is one of the rare butterfly success stories of recent years, now far more often seen in gardens than it was 20 years ago.

However, daytime visits by butterflies to our gardens are as nothing compared to what goes on while we (well, some of us!) are fast asleep. I confess to being a “moth-er”. Note the well placed hyphon – avoids embarrassment in statements

such as: “Oh, I hear you’ve become a moth-er”! Soon many fine evenings you will find me dancing round a mercury-vapour bulb set up in my garden moth-trap. The variety in size and colour of moths is amazing and...



...many, for example the Peach Blossom and Elephant Hawk moths, are exquisite when seen really fresh. Even some tiny moths, known as “Micros”, can be stunning. I once wrote in another magazine : “My favourite, just over a centimetre long, glories in the name of ‘Ypsolopha sequella’, a little black and white number that appears to be the creation of a top fashion-designer. If you are of a religious bent, I suppose you could say it was!”

And of course moths are nearly all pollinators. Sadly their numbers are generally in decline and my interest is to identify and record them (there are roughly 2 000 species in Britain), release them safely and forward these records to a county-co-ordinator. This can help target conservation efforts. So far I have recorded over 280 different species of moth in my Great Barr garden, as opposed to just 18 of the 60 or so species of British butterfly.

I wouldn't suggest that you should all get up in the middle of the night with a lamp or butterfly net (just think of the neighbours!) but there is plenty you CAN do.

Mike Nash



What's the Recipe Today Jim?"

Chocolate Fudge

Makes 32 pieces.

Ingredients:

- 2 TBS Cocoa powder
- 300ml/10fl oz milk
- 125g/4½oz plain chocolate, finely chopped
- 800g/1lb 12oz Castor sugar
- 125g/4½oz Butter chopped (plus extra for greasing)
- Pinch of Salt
- 1½ tsp Vanilla Extract
- 175g/6oz Pecan Nuts; Walnuts or Toasted Hazelnuts or a mixture of Nuts chopped

Method :

1. Put the Cocoa Powder into a small bowl.

Add 2 TBS of milk and stir until blended.

Pour the remaining milk into a large, heavy-based saucepan, then add the Cocoa mixture and chocolate.

Simmer over a medium-high heat, stirring until the chocolate melts.

Add the sugar, butter and salt. Reduce the heat to low and stir until the butter is melted, the sugar is dissolved and you can't feel any of the grains when you rub a spoon against the side of the pan.

2. Increase the heat and bring the milk mixture to the boil.

Cover the pan and boil for 2 minutes then uncover and carefully clip a sugar-thermometer to the side.

Continue boiling without stirring until the temperature reaches 115°C /239°F or until a small amount of the mixture forms a soft ball when dropped into cold water.

1. Meanwhile, line a 20cm/8in square cake tin with foil, Grease the foil then set aside.
2. Remove the pan from the heat, stir in the vanilla extract and heat the fudge until it thickens. Stir in the nuts.
3. Pour the fudge mix into the tin and smooth the surface with a wet spatula.
Set aside and leave to stand for at least 2 hours, till firm.
Lift the fudge out, peeling off the foil.
Cut the fudge into eight 2.5cm/1in strips then cut each strip into 4 pieces.

Store the fudge for up to one week, in an airtight container.

Electra Ebanks



A VERY SPECIAL LETTER (Author unknown)

Whilst in Lynmouth, I wandered into the Church of the Poor Clares to look around. After the hustle and bustle of holidaymakers, it was quiet and peaceful. It was a lovely little Church and just as it was time to leave, I noticed a framed letter on the wall. Upon reading it, I found it very moving and would like to share it with you. **[Audrey Robbins]**

“Dear Friend,
How are you? I just had to send this letter to tell you how much I love you. I saw you yesterday walking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would talk to me also. As evening drew near I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to restore you and I waited but you never came. Oh! Yes, it hurt me but I still love you because I am your friend. I saw you fall asleep last night and I longed to touch your brow so I spilled moonlight upon your pillow and face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you.

You awakened late and rushed off for the day. My tears were in the rain. Today you looked so sad, so alone, it makes my heart ache because I understand. My friend let me down and hurt me many times too, but I love you. I try to tell you in the quiet grass, I whisper it in the leaves, ordain it in the colour of the flowers and shout it to you in the mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing to you. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air for you to breathe. My love for you is deeper than oceans and bigger than the biggest want or need you have. We will spend eternity together in heaven. I know how hard it is on earth, I really know because I was there and I want to help you. My Father wants to help you too. He is that way “Just call Me, ask Me, talk to Me, It is your decision.” I have chosen you and because of this I will wait because I love you.”

Your Friend, Jesus.

Who are this year's members of your PCC?

- Fr. Barrie Scott
- Michael Taylor
- Rosie Parker
- Obi Anumba
- Rita Cotterell
- Joan Friend
- Helen Greenwood
- Ann Harris
- Ken Harris
- Mandy Harris
- Tim Harris
- Shirleen Lawes
- Miriam Onyeanusi
- Hayley Painter
- Audrey Robbins
- Geoff Shuttleworth
- Jaqueline Wheeler



Offices held in 2016/2017

- Chair.....**Fr. Barrie Scott**
- Vice Chair.....**Michael Taylor**
- Treasurer.....**Ken Harris**
- Secretary.....**Audrey Robbins**
- Charity secretaries :
Seasonal & Regular fundraising**Hayley Painter**
Occasional/one off fundraising **Shirleen Lawes &**
Helen Greenwood
- Archivist.....**Rita Cotterell**
- Electoral Roll Secretary.....**Miriam Onyeausi**
- Gift-Aid Secretary.....**Dorothy Wilcox**
- Church Hall Bookings.....**Michael Taylor**
- Events Secretary.....**Joan Friend**
- Parish Child Protection Coordinator**Helen Greenwood**
- DBS I.D. Verifier & CYP advocate**Ann Harris**
- Vulnerable Adults Advocate**Audrey Robbins**



THE HIDDEN ROOM

Note: In order to protect the identity of the house herein I have used a fictitious name. However all events and places are real.

It was one of those lovely Spring days when the sun shines down out of a cloudless sky. We had decided to visit Lyndon Manor situated in a beautiful part of the country. The house was originally built in 821 AD, and owned by an Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries. The last owner was something of an eccentric, travelling the world and bringing back weird and wonderful artefacts.

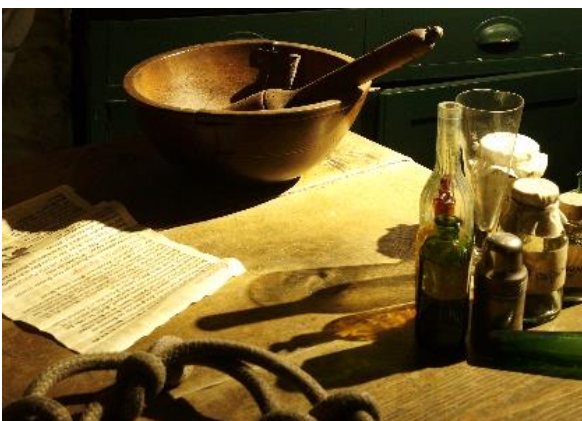
We looked first at the downstairs rooms before going upstairs where Bob became absorbed in the map and military memorabilia. I wandered to the end of the corridor coming to a very pleasant room which showed nothing untoward, and was decorated in pale colours with light wood furniture and the sun streaming through the windows made it all appear very pleasing to the eye. However, as soon as I stepped over the threshold I felt fear like I had never experienced before and all I wanted to do was get away as quickly as possible. I made for the gardens where Bob joined me wondering what had happened. Having explained, we sought the Curator to enquire whether anything terrible had ever occurred there. Immediately he said to me "You've been in that upstairs room haven't you?" He said that a number of people had also experienced fear and investigations were being made.

I later forgot the incident until the following year whilst in Cornwall. We were visiting the Witches Museum in Boscastle and were about to go into one of the rooms when we saw a notice saying a new acquisition had been acquired on loan from Lyndon Manor. I immediately went in and saw a very decorative, wooden chest. It appeared that...

...when workmen were doing remedial work in the room where I had had the experience, they had taken part of the wall down and discovered a room behind it. Upon investigation, they saw a pentacle had been drawn on the floor and the one wall had on it occult items such as horned god masks. The previous owner was very interested in magic, alchemy and the occult and the chest acquired was for all the ceremonial robes worn in the ceremonies.

The owners at the Witches Museum at that time were, we discovered, what is known as “White Witches”, their creed being “Harm None” but they had no interest in the occult. We asked about the new acquisition explaining my experience and they were immediately interested. They had heard about the discovery of the hidden room and had asked permission to see it but this had been denied. The prestigious organisation that own the house did not wish to publicise the discovery and so no mention has ever been made.

They did grant the Witches Museum the loan of certain of the items discovered but the owners very much wanted to actually go into the room. I was asked if I would be willing to return and write an account of anything I experienced this time. I declined explaining that nothing would ever get me to return as I never want to experience such a sensation again.



The discovery did make the Press but what happened thereafter I have no idea except I know that good always triumphs over evil so we can hope that the bad vibes that existed there have well and truly disappeared for ever.

Audrey Robbins

KenCoinQuestions

The [quarter farthing](#) was issued for use only in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) between 1839 and 1853, and was never legal tender in the UK. However, they are usually considered to be part of the British coin series, as Ceylon used British currency at that time.



They have the smallest sized diameter of all copper British coins, having a diameter of 13.5mm and weighing just 1.2g. Besides the copper circulation issues of 1839 and 1851-3, bronze and cupronickel proofs dated 1868 are also known.

The design is similar to that of the half farthing, but with a reverse which reads QUARTER FARTHING with the date and rose with three leaves below, and a crown above.

They are difficult coins to find in really top quality condition, as the tropical climate in Ceylon caused copper to corrode readily.

Questions :

- (i) How many $\frac{1}{4}$ farthings made 1 shilling?
- (ii) How many $\frac{1}{2}$ farthings made 1 pound?
- (iii) How many $\frac{1}{3}$ farthings made $\frac{1}{2}$ a crown?

The Perry Village Art Group



The Group meets at the St John's Church Centre every week (except 2 weeks at Christmas) on Wednesdays between 2pm and 4pm. There are currently about 20 members in the Group

but this varies. They are led by their much-loved Tutor, Geoff Stubbins, who is as helpful to those who have been working at their art for a long time as to those who are beginners. In the pictures we see displays of the Group's work at their recent annual exhibition. Age Concern helps to finance the Group; members pay just £2.50 per session. Geoff is happy to help develop your skills in any medium you choose; water colour, acrylic, oil, etc. You choose your own subjects; books are available for inspiration but most use photographs. For further details, ask Elise.

Elise Daniels *was talking to Ken (Ed.)*



“What about a recipe for the Grown-Ups?”

White Chocolate Fudge Sauce

Serves 4

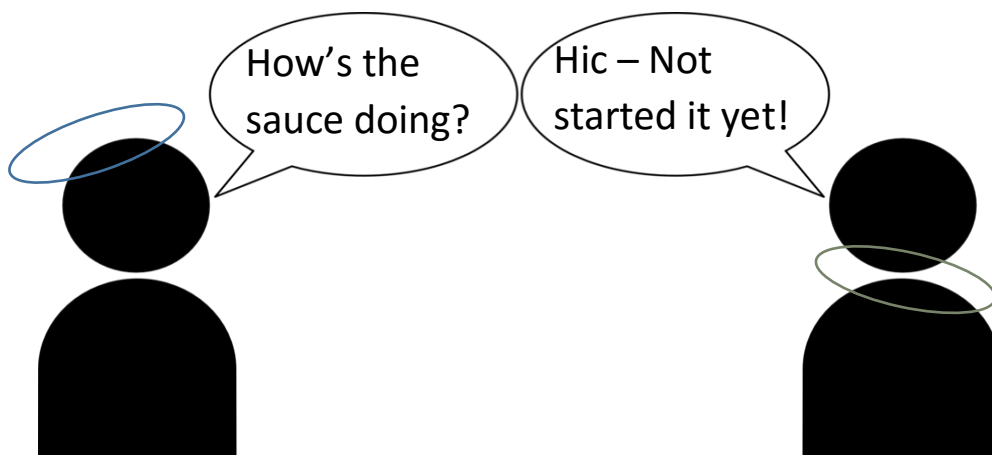
Ingredients :

- 150ml/5fl oz Double Cream
- 4 TBSP unsalted butter (cut into small pieces)
- 3 TBSP Caster Sugar
- 175g/6oz White Chocolate (broken into pieces)
- 2 TBSP Brandy

Method :

1. Pour the cream into the top of a double boiler or heat-proof bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water.
Add the butter and sugar and stir until the mixture is smooth.
2. Stir in the chocolate, a few pieces at a time, waiting until each batch has melted before adding the next.
Add the Brandy and stir the sauce until smooth.
Cool to room temperature before serving.

Joan Friend



Rhyme and Reason

In the morning when the sun begins to shine

Thank you Lord for protecting me for I am yours and you are mine

Then helping me throughout the day

What I should say

Helping me to know

The places I need to go

Helping to understand



When friends and loved ones need a helping hand

When someone is filled with sorrow

My love to them I will borrow

When the evening time comes thank you O Lord that you cared

Time throughout the day we have shared

And thank you for all my friends

With joy and love they send

Tracey Butler

SJPB's Glorious Past (1)

Parish Magazine No.28 December 1873

Front cover

No. 28.

Dec., 1873.

H O M E W O R D S
FOR
HEART AND HEARTH.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PERRY BARR.

PERRY BARR MAGAZINE.

May be obtained at PERRY SCHOOL, OSCOTT SCHOOL, BIRCHFIELD'S INFANT SCHOOL, and of Mr. BURNS, News-agent, Birchfields.

Esler & Tanner,

Printers, and London.

SJPB's Glorious Past (2)

Parish Magazine No.28 December 1873

Inside front cover

A Few Thoughts

Ere the Midnight Peal, casting their melodious but admonitory sounds, ring the Old Year out, and the New Year in.

WE have reached the last month of the old year, and in a few weeks it will have passed away. The old year, 1873, with all its opportunities and privileges will be gone! But, WHERE?—Into the book of God's remembrance, there to appear *for* or *against* us,—Which? May the Spirit of God enable you to give a very thoughtful, truthful answer! And wheresoever an enlightened conscience recalls and detects its omissions and transgressions, there confess all, carry them to the "mercy-seat" and plead, in the name of Jesus, pardon for the past and grace for the future. Do this, not carelessly, but in a very thoughtful, humble spirit. Let us all "search and try our ways, and turn unto the Lord our God." There must be no *secret sin* allowed, no keeping back, no double dealing, no hypocrisy, no guile, but a humble confession and honest giving up of ALL sin, and of every doubtful thing; it will only bring you guilt and sorrow at the last, when every secret thing shall be brought to light and exposed at the judgment-seat, unless now pardoned and forsaken!—"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the BLOOD of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John i. 7-9).

"Cease to do evil; learn to do well." "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." "Be ye followers of God, as dear children." "Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly." "Live by faith on the Son of God;" and while trusting in His sin-atonement *death*, follow His holy *example*, and grow up into His image and likeness. May God of His sovereign mercy work all this in you by the operation of the Holy Ghost!

The close of the old year is a solemn season; may it become a profitable one unto many of you! Give time for thought and prayer, and communion with God. Many loved ones are numbered with the dead, and our turn, too, must shortly come. The close of the old year may well bring to mind the close of our earthly life and the momentous realities of the life to come. "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

"Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

We hope to have some Special Meetings for united Prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, at the close of this month and the opening of the new year.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

I remain, your faithful Friend and Pastor, CHARLES B. SNEPP.

PERRY BARR, December 1st, 1873.

It is with solemn feelings and much sympathy we record the very sudden removal of Mrs. James Atkins, of Thackeray House, Edgbaston. Her kind heart and amiable disposition justly endeared her to many beyond the immediate circle of her family. She was ever ready to show kindness to those in distress, and many will miss the kindly words and the generous acts of benevolence she delighted to show. Absent on the Continent in search of health, the warm genial air of Nice seemed to remove all her pains. Retiring to rest one night, apparently better, her spirit gently passed away to the better land; and, through grace, ever relying on the atoning death of Jesus, she awoke in His presence to be for ever with the Lord! We pray that every consolation may be afforded to her bereaved husband and daughters by the "Father of mercies and God of all comfort."

From the church wardens.

Rosie and I are happy to represent St John's in the post of churchwarden once again; it is a job that we both enjoy carrying out during the course of the year. It is made easy because of the support that we get from the whole congregation at St John's and also from our wider circle of friends in other churches who we are also able to support in their work.

We also receive tremendous support from Father Barrie and also Mandy and Ken as we carry out our duties along with all the members of St John's PCC; it is sometimes a daunting task when you first set out as a church warden but now with a few years of experience we have found that it has become easier.

As we now move into summer our main tasks that we have are to keep the church grounds tidy and try and keep on top of the many jobs that need to be done. One of the important jobs at this time is to keep the grass cut around the church paths and also in front of the Church Hall, and this is a task that does take some time to do. Now that most of the spring flowers in the graveyard have finished I will be starting to trim the grass in the churchyard so that visitors who wish to visit their family graves will be able to reach them without too many problems. This is of course a major task and does take most of the summer to complete even once. If there are any volunteers who are able to help in this task during any part of the week, excluding Sundays of course, I will be happy to bring the equipment that we need down and give instructions on how to use it safely and correctly, including all the safety equipment that would be needed.

Finally we would like to thank all those people who support us so well in the tasks that we carry out as churchwardens throughout the year; in all the work that we do both inside and outside the church.

Rosie Parker and Michael Taylor [church wardens]

Christian Hope International

Christian Hope International seeks to bring the hope only found in Jesus Christ along with practical support to those in need in Africa and Eastern Europe. Jesus' life and teaching are the motivation for their work.



Working in partnership with the Christian Community in the 'Developing World' they seek to glorify God by providing practical aid, resourcing community projects and enabling children to receive a good education through child sponsorship.

Christian Hope is one of the charities that we support in a practical way. We send blankets (knitted), hand-knitted children's jumpers, cardigans and hats, to their "Stiches of Hope" project.

Anyone who is interested in supporting this by knitting blanket-squares or children's wear, please see Rosie. If anyone would like to sponsor a child, I have the necessary information.

Rosie Parker

From the Mission Apprentice

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at numerous projects. One of which was the Teddy Bears' Picnic, which was a lovely event. Thank you to all who helped. Our next big project will be our P.O.P group, this will begin as an online support and social group specifically aimed at parents and carers, through the love of God. We hope and pray that this online group will develop into a group that meets and creates a fresh expression of church. This group should help the people who are isolated and attending a formal church is not for them. Please pray for us so that the love of Christ in our community touches more people and helps bring them closer to Christ where they are. **Helen Greenwood**

Ken's Quiz Issue 5
Time Ladies & Gentlemen Please

1. A 12-hour chiming clock chimes every hour, on the hour, the number of chimes according to the hour.
 - (a) How many chimes will there be between 2355h to the next 2355h starting on June 20th 2016?
 - (b) How many chimes will there be between 2355h to the next 2355h starting on June 21st 2016?
2. How many minutes are there in a day? (i.e. from 0000h to 2359 inclusive)
3. At 3 o'clock the minute hand and hour hand of a clock are at right-angles to each other. When is the next time that they will be at right-angles to each other?
4. Speed is found by dividing distance by time. If you are travelling at 60mph, how many miles will you travel in one minute?
5. One of Isaac Newton's "Equations of Motion" is given as:
$$S = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad S = (u \times t) + (a \times t \times t \div 2)$$
...where S stands for distance, u stands for starting speed, a stands for acceleration and t stands for time taken.
A man weighing 14st falls (i.e u=0) from the top of a building which is 64ft high. Given that a is the acceleration due to gravity and at this place a=32fps² how long does it take for the man to hit the ground?
6. To the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ day, how many days are there in a year?

Ken

Answer to “A KenCoinQuestion” from Issue 4

This coin is 4 shillings, 4/-

It's used name is “Double Florin”

It was made of Silver.



Answer to “Q1 & Q2” from Issue 4

- (i) How many pennies (1d) were there in a shilling?...12
- (ii) How many shillings (1/-) were there in a pound?...20
- (iii) How many pennies were there in a pound?.....240
- (iv) How many shillings were there in a sovereign?.....20
- (v) How many shillings were there in a florin?.....2
- (vi) How many shillings were there in a guinea?.....21
- (vii) What name was used for 2/6d?.....”half-a-crown”
- (viii) What name was used for 5/-?.....”crown”
- (ix) Add together : £2/14s/6d
and £1/8s/10d.....£4/3/4d
- (x) What change from £5
when you spent 19/9½d ?£4/0/2½d

Answer to “Q2” from Issue 4

- (a) How many inches in a foot?.....12
- (b) How many feet in a yard?.....3
- (c) How many furlongs in a mile?.....8
- (d) How many ounces in a pound?.....16
- (e) How many pounds in a stone?.....14
- (f) What does cwt stand for?.....”hundred weight”
- (g) What does lb stand for?.....”pound”
- (h) How many pints in a gallon?.....8
- (i) How many square feet (ft²) in a square yard (yd²)?.....9
- (j) How many pounds in a ton?.....2240

Ken

Jesus Christ in Aramaic

ישוע משיחא



Events throughout the year include the mini-markets which are usually held on the first Saturday in the months February – June and August – October. We also have a Summer Fayre in July and a Christmas Market in November. These events raise money to help in the running of St John's and offer bargains galore for those who attend.

SJPB

Weekly Services:



Wednesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Friday	9.30am	Morning Prayer	1.00pm	Holy Eucharist
	7.15pm	Compline followed by "Quiet Church"		
Sunday	10.30am	Sung Eucharist		

All articles in this publication are the views of their writers and are not necessarily the views of the Church.

All submissions are the property of the church.