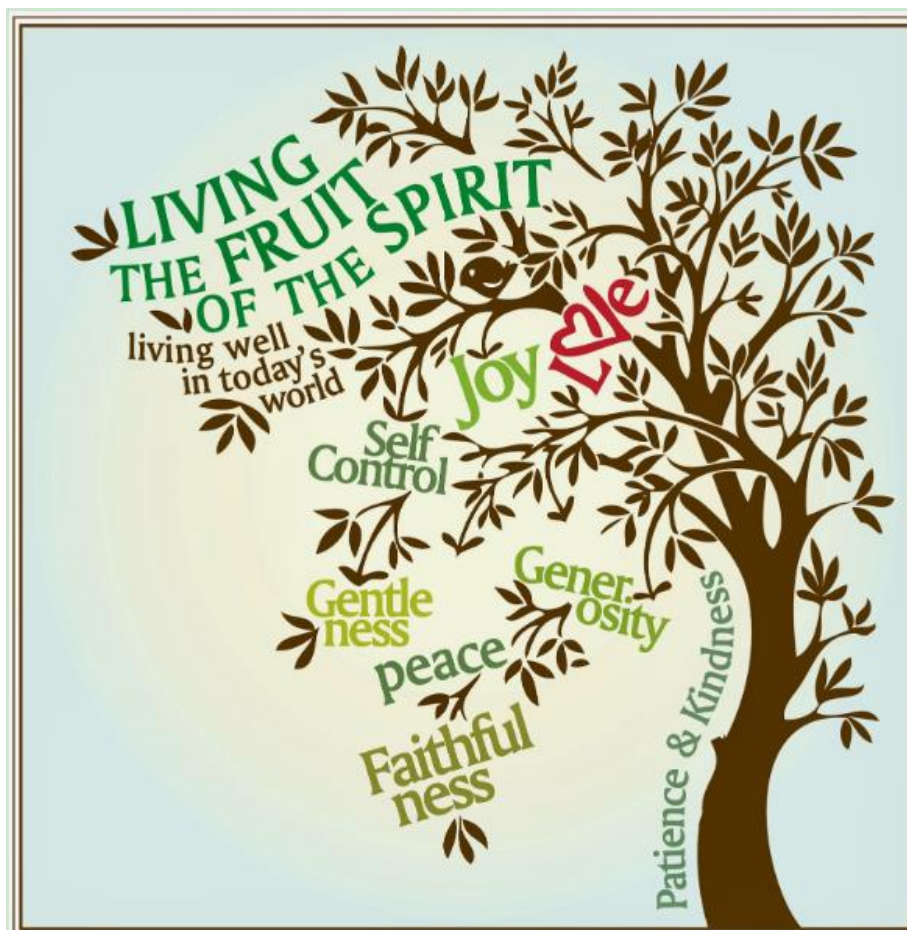


The LINK digital

May 2022



The Parish Church of
St Michael Braintree
www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk

PLATINUM JUBILEE

Dear Friends,

As the Queen's Platinum Jubilee approaches here is reminder of her Coronation.

3rd JUNE 1953

'Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God'.

The Right Reverend James Pitt-Watson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, spoke these words in the Coronation service of our present Queen Elizabeth on 2nd June 1953 as he gave her a Bible.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE READ IT.

How can that be said? Perhaps it's your custom to listen to the Queen's Speech at 3.00pm on Christmas Day. It seems without fail she mentions something of her own personal faith. She remarks about how important that the teachings of Jesus Christ are to her.

NOT EXEMPT

As we have watched the Royal Family it seems that being royal is no protection against the sorrows and unhappy things that happen to most families. They have found their way into the Queen's family. And yet on Christmas afternoon – in the famous and annual Queen's Speech she speaks about her conviction to

follow the Lord Jesus Christ. That conviction stems from the Bible. Thank God she was given a Bible, and that it seems it is a book she reads.

CELEBRATIONS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

The weekend of 3rd-6th June marks a holiday to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen. Details about services, a tea and breakfast appear elsewhere in this month's LINK magazine.

God grant that, as Pit-Watson's Bible has been foundational to the Queen's life and reign, it may be the basis in my life and your life. And may we go on enjoying the Bible as we hear it read in church and read it at home.

With my prayers and every best wish,

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Bailey

MISSION OF THE MONTH

A ROCHA

A Rocha UK (ARUK) is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. A Rocha UK is part of the worldwide family of A Rocha organisations committed to nature conservation as an expression of Christian mission. We work collaboratively with others who share our passion for nature, a healthy environment and a just transition to a low carbon world, ever more critical in a time of climate and biodiversity crises.

Responding to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world, we are working with:

Churches through our [Eco Church programme](#)

Christian leaders through our interdenominational convening work

Families and individuals through our [Wild Christian](#) scheme and community, supporting people to enjoy, nurture and defend nature in their own homes and communities, and by campaigning

Christian land managers through our [Partners in Action](#) network. This network includes our own two nature reserves, [Foxearth Meadows](#) and [Wolf Fields](#), which are also demonstration sites to inspire and enable others to manage small or larger areas of land for the benefit of people and nature.

Ann Mahood is St Michael's rep for A Rocha

EXPERIENCE EASTER

It has been wonderful to be able to invite St Michael's and John Ray Junior Schools to Experience Easter in St Michael's Church again this year. We are welcoming all the Year three classes from both schools.

As I write this St Michael's School have visited each of the stations around the Church representing parts of the Easter story from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. John Ray are yet to come.



Each session is introduced using the video of the book: The Garden, The Curtain and The Cross which introduces the children to the whole Bible Story of Easter beginning way back in Genesis and ending in the Book of Revelation.

Every child has an activity book featuring this book to work on during their time with us and then to take away.

Make sure if you are in St Michael's Church to look at each part of the Easter story displayed around the church. Huge thanks to those who have set these up and to all our storytellers.

Thank you to all the staff and children who have visited us...we could not Experience Easter without you.

Jennifer Bailey

IN MEMORY OF MR ROGER TWAITES

Roger Twaites, our St Michael's School Site Manager for the past 17 years, died suddenly and unexpectedly last month. We include some of the tribute to Roger, from a newsletter sent out by Mr Andy Cumpstey, the headteacher. Roger has left a visible and tangible legacy, in the many projects he undertook at the school

Please pray for Roger's wife, Sue, and family at this tough time. If you would like to see the full newsletter, please contact Nigel on revnigeladams@gmail.com and he will send you a copy.



For those of you who enter from Maple Avenue, have you noticed recently the planters? These were made to brighten up the entrance, and this one, just outside his house, is one we hope to spruce up before his funeral.



Very prominently between the two buildings is this wonderful mosaic cross; Mr Twaites created the framework for this allowing the children to create a stunning piece of art that will last many, many years. He also chiselled out the over-zealous grout in his own time to leave it as stunning as it is.



Mr Twaites' woodwork skills came to the fore again when, before the pandemic, he crafted this superb memorial. We had planned to employ him in a similar task to place more characters - this time 'sporty' outlines - on the side wall of the garage. Maybe you can take this on.



Mr Twaites' final project is our brand-new suite. The time and care he put into building the central console now allows each child to have their own computer. Though he wasn't sure about my colour choices, he proudly called people in as he completed each wall.

It is a fitting tribute to his skills, dedication and passion.



Although rightly credited to the FOSM, the edging laid by Mr Twaites here, allowed this area to be developed.



I could continue for another page, but I will leave this tribute here with the final conversation I had with Mr Twaites on Friday 1st April. At just before 5:00, as I was aiming to get away, we were discussing the site for a defibrillator which needs to be installed and accessible for the wider community. It was his inspiration to have it located on this wall which will make it visible from the

Maple Avenue entrance and who knows, it could make the difference to someone.

FARMING SEASON

The month of May is probably my favourite month as everything is bursting into life in the countryside. The crops on the farm become more lush and vibrant as the wheat starts to grow rapidly and the oilseed rape brightens up the landscape with its dazzling yellow flowers. April was a busy month for me on the farm because as the crop begins its main growing phase the inputs of fertilizer and agri chemicals increase.



At the time of writing many farmers have started grumbling about the lack of recent rainfall and not a lot appears to be forecast in the near future. I am not overly concerned yet because at this stage the crops have the capacity to compensate for this dry period when the rain does hopefully come. I have been more interested in our latest investment which is the purchase of a new (ex demonstrator) tractor,

shown here. We part exchanged two of our older tractors to help buy this 'state of the art machine'. This tractor boasts a newly designed cab which sits separately from the engine allowing a smoother and quieter ride. This feature also helps keep the cab cooler relying less on air conditioning as the 265HP engine generates a lot of noise and heat when working hard. The new DYNA 7 gearbox works like an automatic giving the driver a smoother and efficient ride, but my favourite feature is the new touchscreen digital monitor which allows the driver to see all the functionality of the machine and also view its satellite navigation positioning. The tractor also has an app which is on my mobile phone so the tractors performance can be monitored remotely.

Agriculture outside our farm is still dominated by the terrible war in Ukraine. In my previous article, I looked at how important this country was in terms of its agricultural output to the wider world. In this article, I thought I would look at the further consequences on agriculture because of the war and fallout with Russia.

Russia together with Belarus plays an important part in world agriculture not only because of its own immense crop output (Russia and Ukraine combined supply about a third of the global wheat exports) but also because they helped supply important commodities which are needed in the production of agricultural products. The most obvious is the supply of natural gas from Siberia which is used in the production of nitrogen fertilizer. The restriction of this supply has caused bottlenecks in the market which have led to dramatic price increases. For example liquid nitrogen fertilizer was costing me a year ago around £300 per meter cubed and today its just under £900. From a farming point of view this has been off set by higher commodity prices, but the price increases are beginning to be felt by the consumers at the end of the supply chains. Basic food commodities like wheat, barley, soya and oilseed rape etc. represent key inputs in many of the other food products we buy.

Russia is also a significant producer of nitrogen fertilizer itself, but more significantly Russia and Belarus account for 40% of the worlds Potash (K) fertilizer, another key agricultural crop input. The crops in Europe are now becoming advanced and growing so this is not an immediate concern, but in other parts of the world which are approaching their planting season like South America, it is. In Brazil, which is one of the worlds largest importers of fertilizer, potash is a vital input into their soya crop (this crop does not require nitrogen fertilizer). Other countries will have to step up their own production of these key inputs to help combat the drastic decline in the supply of fertilizers. For example

China can increase its supply of nitrogen fertilizer and Canada has large resources of Potash fertilizer, however despite this there will be short term disruption and longer term prices will find new highs.

So I am sorry to say that not only is the future uncertain but prices for the final consumers will definitely be going up, which is something you have probably already noticed. However, concerning this may be, the proportion of our incomes spent on food is relatively small compared to poorer countries such as India and in Africa. There is a real danger that farmers in Africa, for example, may not be able to afford the increased prices in crop inputs and as a result may suffer much lower crop yields leading to food shortages! This could potentially be an unexpected outcome of the war between Russia and Ukraine and it is undoubtedly something which we all need to be aware of.

Adam Grove Smith

ECO CHURCH – CARING FOR GOD’S WORLD

I’m sure most of you already know that A Rocha is one of our Missions of the Month, that we as a church support financially and prayerfully.

But what you may not know is that we are in the process of applying to be part of the Eco Church Project. This is an award scheme for churches who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God’s earth. Chelmsford Diocese is actively encouraging participation.

Nigel has set up a small committee, comprising Ann Mahood, Ade Odupitan and Sophie Wells, and we are working through the application process.

This covers all aspects of our church and personal life:

Buildings - how energy efficient are these? And can we improve our efficiency?

Land - encouraging wildlife, avoiding harmful chemicals, community and global engagement - this is wide ranging - everything from raising awareness locally to using fair trade and locally produced products when serving coffee or meals as a church.

Lifestyle - walking or using public transport rather than just jumping in the car for short journeys, encouraging recycling, worship and teaching - praying for environmental issues, teaching about creation care in junior church and in church.

The questions we are answering are challenging both individually and as a church.

Separately, A Rocha has great podcasts for listening to in the car, out walking or wherever you normally listen. Field notes podcast explores the themes of conservation and hope through a wide lens: guest speakers include a mother, a wine theologian,

a Hebrew scholar, an environmental historian and a linguistic philosopher among others.

Or just a browse through the websites of A Rocha UK and A Rocha international will certainly give food for thought.

Ann Mahood

FEELING "EMPTY"?

"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19)

In one sermon, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "How can I get the air out of this glass?" One man shouted, "Suck it out with a pump!" Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After numerous other suggestions, Moody smiled, took out a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed."

He used this simple demonstration to explain that living a victorious life is not accomplished by "sucking out a sin here and there," but by being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Later, he said, "I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."

Let's begin emptying ourselves today! We need to be filled with God's Spirit so that we can be empowered to do great things! There's no way around it!

Provided by Peter Schaad from The Worthy Brief

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION



SUNDAY JUNE 5th

Join us for a Royal Breakfast in Church House

9am

THEN

Followed by an Outdoor Service in St Michael's Church Grounds

A Service of Thanksgiving and Praise.

10am

All Age

Everyone Welcome

(Bring a chair if possible but there will be chairs available)

SPEAKER: Roger Cooke

Celebratory Refreshments will be served after the Service.

NOT TO BE MISSED!

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION



FRIDAY JUNE 3rd in ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH GROUNDS

From 2.30-5.00pm

CREAM TEAS

ACTIVITIES for ADULTS AND CHILDREN

MUSIC

CHURCH OPEN FOR TOURS

MEMORABILIA AND WRITTEN MEMORIES EXHIBITION

(MEMORIES/ARTEFACTS FOR THIS WILL BE WELCOME

MESSAGE JENNIFER BAILEY FOR INFORMATION

00078563465 OR VIA FACEBOOK)

DO COME AND ENJOY

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

EVERYONE WELCOME

**(VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WILL BE WELCOMED MESSAGE
JENNIFER BAILEY FOR INFORMATION
00078563465 OR VIA FACEBOOK)**

70 YEARS AGO – THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

*Excerpts from the Parish Magazine of St Michaels and St Pauls,
May 1952*

PARISH NOTES

Easter at the Parish Church was a very lovely season. Our church was beautifully decorated by a band of the ladies, and was very full for services.

The Easter Monday Ramble (advertised as “for the energetic”!) was well supported and those who went had a lovely day in the Hatfield Forest.

The Free Will Offering system is getting known, and quite a number of folk have joined in with it. Please don't wait to be asked, but request a set of the envelopes, if possible before May 4th. (*Editor's Note: This scheme of weekly giving is still available at St Michael's. Please ask Lesley Davey for information.*)

The Ruanda Mission have their annual meetings on June 4th at 3pm and 6.15pm. Will anyone who is interested contact the Vicar?

Our Official “farewell” to the Rev. and Mrs Churchman will be held at 8pm on Thursday May 22nd. Come and wish them “God speed” and hear of the work to which they are going.

The Rev. John P. Martin is to be ordained in Chelmsford Cathedral on June 8th. Will you pray for him, and then give the Right Hand of Fellowship to him and his wife? They have two children, Jennifer (5) and Richard (3).

Books on loan. Mr. Churchman would appreciate it very much if the many to whom he has lent books would kindly return them as soon as possible.

UNNAMED

BELFRY BULLETIN

Whilst out on his bike training for a charity cycle ride our Guild Master Bradley Hill was hit by a car. Bradley has broken ribs, sternum, collar bone, arm and fingers. At the time of writing he is recovering at home. Get well soon Brad.

On a happier note we have 3 notable events to report. Firstly on Saturday 9th April Lin Ould 1, Clare Gray 2, Jim Green 3, Ellis Whitehouse 4, Peter Smith(c) 5, Richard Ould 6 rang 480 changes of Plain Bob Doubles for the wedding of St Michael's school teacher Hayley Bland and James Ellis this was the first wedding to be rung for on the refurbished bells and the first for 3 years. Best Wishes to Hayley and Jim.

The second was again wedding related, this time to celebrate the 60th, Golden, wedding anniversary of Maurice and Kath Downs ringers at St Michael's.

A group of friends who Maurice and Kath have rung with regularly in the 50 years in Braintree gathered at St Michael's on Easter Monday to ring a very good Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of Grandsire Caters in 43mins (very quick) Kath Downs 1, Debbie Hill 2, Simon Ward 3, Peter Smith 4, Vicki Chapman 5, David Hengelli 6, Brian Meads 7, Bradley Hill 8, Colin Chapman(c) 9, Andrew Taylor 10. Maurice and Kath helped with the augmentation to 10 of the bells at St Michael's. With many congregations to Maurice and Kath.

The 3rd event to report was before the 10am service on Sunday 24th April when Ellis Whitehouse conducted a Quarter Peal in loving memory of his Grandfather John Cooper. A very good 1260 changes of Plain Bob Minor was rung in 40mins. Lin Ould 1, Jim Green 2, Debbie Hill 3, Peter Smith 4, Bradley Hill 5, Ellis Whitehouse(c) 6.

AWAY FROM THE TOWER

27/03/22

Jodie Hill rang the treble for a QP of St Simons, St Martin's and Plain Bob Doubles with the Bristol University Guild.
Bradley Hill was again ringing with the Essex Association 10 bell band at Writtle.

At Witham for Mothering Sunday and Peace in Ukraine Debbie Hill, Bradley Hill and Peter Smith were in a QP of Grandsire Triples. Debbie was conducting and made 85 calls, it was Debbie's 275th QP.

29/03/22

Peter rang in a QP at Shalford in memory of David French late Tower Captain at Shalford with his family present.

Whilst on a walking and climbing holiday Debbie, Bradley and Jodie rang for service on the 6 at Crosthwaite and at practice nights on the 8's at Wigton and Penrith, the 6 at Greystoke and the 12 at Carlisle Cathedral.

At the West Anglian Guild April meeting Peter rang the tenor at Little Cornard a bell cast by the Lynn foundry in c 1399

22/04/22

Debbie, Bradley and Peter took part in another of Bradley's QP days. At Rayne Double Court was rung and Grandsire Caters was rung at Coggeshall but we did not succeed at Halstead with Cambridge Surprise Major

Peter Smith

COFFEE & CHAT WITH ROGER COOKE



On the third Monday of May, June and July I'll be in the quadrant cafe (George's Yard) at 10.30 if anyone fancies joining me for a chat. At present it's a trial run for three months but who knows where it may go.

Looking forward to seeing you!

QuizPage

Hello and welcome to QuizPage! This is a new monthly series featuring puzzles and questions for you to test your knowledge over a tea break. For our first edition, we've prepared some letters and numbers games from **Countdown** which will celebrate its 40th birthday in November this year.

The rules are very simple, so why not grab a pen and paper, make yourself a drink, and set yourself to work through these seven rounds. We recommend 10 minutes at a leisurely pace, but if you're feeling more adventurous, give yourself just the standard 30 seconds for each round.

Letters (L): Find a long word from the nine letters available, but don't use each more than once.

No abbreviations or proper nouns. Verb forms in the third person are allowed. One point per letter.

Numbers (N): Reach the target by adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Use each of the six numbers only once; you aren't obliged to use them all. You must land within 10 of the target.

Conundrum (C): There is one nine-letter word jumbled up in the selection – can you find it?

Round			Max
1	L	L E T U S P R A Y	8
2	L	S P O C I U L O M	7
3	N	100 5 6 8 5 1 <input type="text"/> 524	Solve
4	L	C U E I P S V H Q	7
5	L	H E I S R I S E N	8
6	N	100 4 50 3 75 1 <input type="text"/> 287	Solve
7	C	M A Y O C R U S T	Solve

Turn to page **26** for the solutions and the scoring.

Jeff Clayton

MAY DIARY

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

Our YouTube services can be accessed via the Worship tab on the St Michael's Church website (or through the "St Michael's – Worship on the Web" YouTube channel). The latest service is also available through "St Michael's by Phone" currently updated on a Tuesday – just dial 01376 333565 (phone calls charged at the local rate). Both the online and phone versions of the service are available throughout the week

1 Sunday

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)
10:00am Church Family Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

2 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

3 Tuesday

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

4 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

5 Thursday

11:00am Coffee on Zoom (with Nigel & Jo Adams)
7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (Church House)

8 Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion
9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)
10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)
10:00am Morning Worship

9 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm Hope Explored course on Zoom

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

10 Tuesday

8:00pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

11 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

12 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (Church House)

15 Sunday

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Morning Worship

6.30pm All-Age Tonight

Deadline for the Queen's write-ups experience & memorabilia

16 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm Hope Explored course on Zoom

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

17 Tuesday

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

18 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

19 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (Church House)

22 Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Morning Worship

23 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm Hope Explored course on Zoom

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

24 Tuesday

7:30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in church

25 Wednesday (LINK SUBMISSION DUE)

10.00am Meeting Point

26 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (Church House)

29 Sunday

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Holy Communion

6.30pm United Service at Cornerstone Church (Focus on BYPC)

30 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

31 Tuesday

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

Countdown solutions and scoring:

Round	Best available:
1	<p>L Lots of options here. You could have scored 6 with ALTERS, 7 with REPLAYS, and 8 was the maximum with PLASTERY and SEPTUARY.</p> <p>There were also three harder 8s, which are anagrams of each other – PEYTRALS (pieces of armour on a horse), PSALTERY (a medieval musical instrument) and PTERYLAS (tracts on a bird's skin in which feathers grow).</p>
2	<p>L SCOOP scores 5, CLUMPS for 6, and just one 7-letter word in COPIOUS.</p>
3	<p>N A couple of methods:</p> <p>$5-1=4$, $4 \times 6=24$, then $5 \times 100=500$, and $500+24=524$. $100+5=105$, $105 \times 5=525$, $525-1=524$.</p> <p>Score 10 points if you hit the target, 7 points if you were within five of the target (519-529), and 5 points if you were within ten (514-534).</p>
4	<p>L HIVES was there for 5, EQUIPS for 6, and just one 7-letter word in QUICHES.</p>
5	<p>L RINSES for 6, HEIRESS and SHRINES for 7, and just one 8-letter word available with RESHINES (seems appropriate from "He Is Risen").</p>
6	<p>N To reach this target, you need to "split" a multiple. Rather than starting at 300 and trying to find 13, try splitting with the 4 and 3 to make 12 first:</p> <p>$100-4=96$, $96 \times 3=288$, $288-1=287$...or... $75-3=72$, $72 \times 4=288$, $288-1=287$.</p> <p>10 points if you hit the target, 7 points within five, 5 points within ten.</p>
7	<p>C The jumbled up word in our conundrum was CUSTOMARY. Well done if you found that – you score 10 points! If you didn't spot it, don't worry, but give yourself one point for every letter in the longest word you could see.</p>

The maximum score today was **60 points**. How did you get on? In honour of the Platinum Jubilee, our next QuizPage in the June magazine will feature general knowledge questions based on "kings" and "queens". So until next time, farewell and stay safe!