

St Thomas' and West Ashton Parishes

The Lockdown Lowdown

Christmas Special

Issue No. 17 23rd December 2020

Hello all

Sorry it's been SO LONG since the last appearance of Lockdown Lowdown. I really enjoyed producing these, and I've been sent plenty of material (as you'll see), but boring stuff like bookings lists etc kept getting in the way of production.

Anyway, I decided that today's the day to treat myself to a little editing, and hopefully the results will put a smile on your face. Strap yourselves in, and please don't be offended by anything. It's just a bit of fun. (ooh that's got Allan worried about the complaints coming in). Enjoy!

Nativity 2020

You have to pity the teachers; this year Christmas has been unusually challenging especially with little Herberts like this examining their every plan...

So children, the school Nativity play. We'll need three shepherds.

'scuse me, Miss. Are they all the in the same household?

Errm not so much a household. They sit in the fields tending their sheep.

Sanitised sheep?

Well, dipped I expect. The angels appear to them.

Angels! How many, Miss?

Well, a "Heavenly Host"

Whoa, whoa, whoa, Miss. They'll need manifestation in bubbles of six with two metres between them. Are they mixing?

No, they're singing.

Singing?!?!?! Projecting virus-ridden breath? Near the shepherds?

At first, but the shepherds hurry away.

I'm not surprised. They'll probably go and isolate.

No. They go to find Mary and Joseph.



So that's two households mixing?

No, no. Mary and Joseph are in an Inn.

Have they ordered a substantial meal?

No, they are in the stable at the back with the baby Jesus.

Ah! Track and Trace app. Have they got a smartphone?

I don't know. Anyway, there's Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the Shepherds.

OK. That's OK. I'm assuming this is Tier 1 or 2. So nobody else!

Well then, the three visitors from the East also come in?

What, from abroad? They'll need to isolate for two weeks. Who are these 'visitors'?

They are the three wise men.

Wise? They sound utterly irresponsible to me!

No, they've come to worship baby Jesus on the day of his birth

Worship?

Yes. It's Christmas. They're all celebrating the birth of Jesus.

So this gathering is for religious, charitable, benevolent and /or philanthropic purposes, by a charitably registered organisation and/or trust?

Well... I suppose it is.

Oh well, why didn't you say?

So, does that make it all ok?

*Oh yes, yes, yes....
As long as they all wear face masks.*





No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed.

The Inn keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.

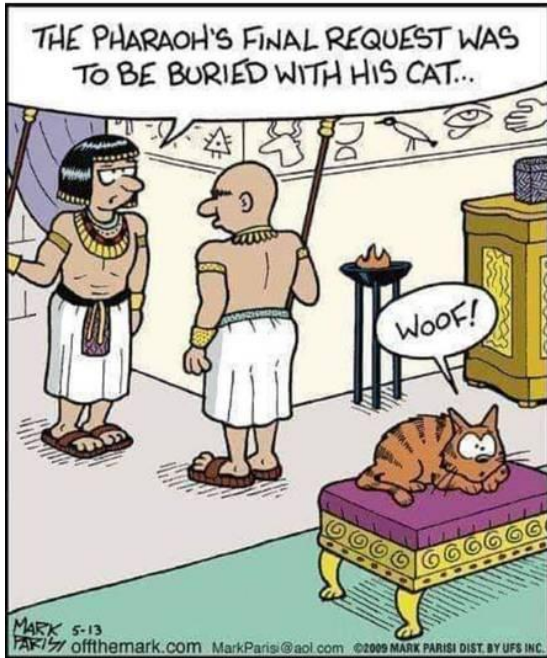
Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test.

22:51



Pet's corner

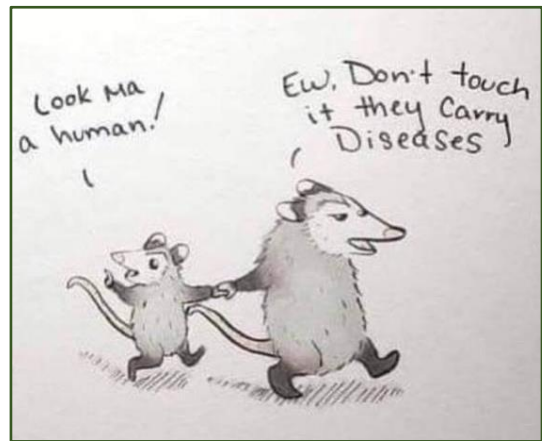


The

Wanderer

Often do I wonder,
When Tobias goes on his nightly wander,
Does he say to himself in a Catty way
“ Tonight I would purfur to go yonder,
and if I find, or am offured food
I expect
that I'll accept,
because, in a Cat's Eyes,
to do otherwise
would be seen as rude “

Written by Neill Cadmore 18th December 2020



Shopping

Well, here we go again—the shopping restrictions are back:

- Asda: 2 hand sanitiser and a 4 pack of toilet rolls
- Tesco: 1 hand sanitiser, 500g rice and a 4 pack of toilet rolls
- Waitrose: 1 lobster, 6 quail eggs and 100g foie gras
- Aldi: 1 MIG welder, 1 pink sports bra, 2 trumpets and 1 wetsuit





BREAKING

Do not let them take your temperature when going into the store! It's a scam! They're erasing your memory! I went in for bread and milk and came out with six bottles of wine.



Helen's Crumble

Some of you may remember that at one of our Virtual Coffee sessions, Helen Shields was making our mouths water, as she was making a crumble. She later sent me this:

I made a slightly unusual crumble for Sunday dessert which I was preparing during our coffee zoom, and as it generated some interest I thought I would share it. It comes from the NT Book of Crumbles (would make

a great Christmas present for the discerning crumbler!) (*ooh sorry Helen bit late now, Ed*) and is super quick and easy and would serve around 6.

The topping was as follows:

- 120g plain flour
- 30g brown sugar
- 50g butter
- 60g marzipan
- 1-2 tbsp flaked almonds

Combine flour and sugar.

Put butter and marzipan in a pan and heat gently, stirring all the time, until the marzipan has melted. Don't let it get too hot.

Pour this into the flour mixture, stirring with a fork, to form a breadcrumb-like texture (beats that messy rubbing-in method!).

Distribute over fruit and scatter with flaked almonds. Bake for 30 – 40 mins at 180°C.

I used this with a mixture of pear and cooking apples flavoured with a star anise, but I dare say it would work with any orchard fruits. It gives a lovely, subtle almond flavour to the topping and is a great way to use up left-over oddments of marzipan.

Make sure you sing the obligatory 'crumble song' when serving!

Helen



All You Need to Know About Grammar

- An Oxford comma walks into a bar, where it spends the evening watching the television, getting drunk, and smoking cigars.
- A dangling participle walks into a bar. Enjoying a cocktail and chatting with the bartender, the evening passes pleasantly.
- A bar was walked into by the passive voice.
- An oxymoron walked into a bar, and the silence was deafening.
- Two quotation marks walk into a "bar."
- A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.
- Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything.
- A question mark walks into a bar?
- A non sequitur walks into a bar. In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.
- Papyrus and Comic Sans walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Get out -- we don't serve your type."



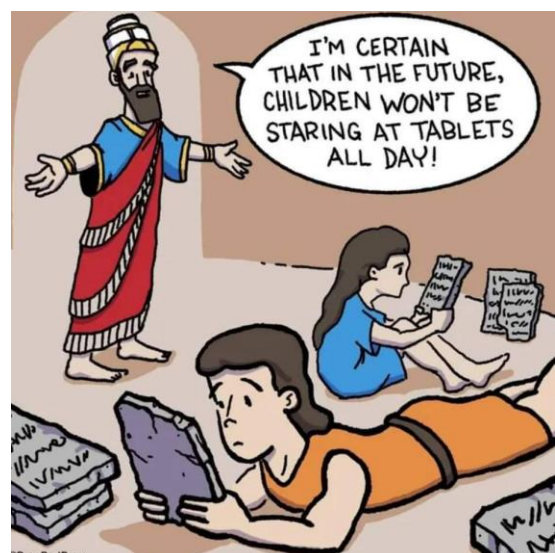
- A mixed metaphor walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud.
- A comma splice walks into a bar, it has a drink and then leaves.
- Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They converse. They depart.
- A synonym strolls into a tavern.

- At the end of the day, a cliché walks into a bar -- fresh as a daisy, cute as a button, and sharp as a tack.
- A run-on sentence walks into a bar it starts flirting. With a cute little sentence fragment.
- Falling slowly, softly falling, the chiasmus collapses to the bar floor.
- A figure of speech literally walks into a bar and ends up getting figuratively hammered.
- An allusion walks into a bar, despite the fact that alcohol is its Achilles heel.



- The subjunctive would have walked into a bar, had it only known.
- A misplaced modifier walks into a bar owned by a man with a glass eye named Ralph.
- The past, present, and future walked into a bar. It was tense.
- A dyslexic walks into a bra.
- A verb walks into a bar, sees a beautiful noun, and suggests they conjugate. The noun declines.
- A simile walks into a bar, as parched as a desert.
- A gerund and an infinitive walk into a bar, drinking to forget.
- A hyphenated word and a non-hyphenated word walk into a bar and the bartender nearly chokes on the irony-

Jill Thomas Doyle





Be good to your spouse, Remember, right now they could poison you and it would be counted as a covid death.



Doctor, when do you think covid 19 will be over?
Doctor: I don't know, I'm not a Journalist.



If you're refusing to wear a mask due to concerns your brain won't get enough oxygen, I think that ship has already sailed. 😞



I don't care how magnificent you are, the law says six..... 1:52 pm



Children's "facts" from the Bible

- In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.
- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- The animals went into Noah's ark in pears.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire at night.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
- Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread. This is bread made without any ingredients.
- The Egyptians all died in the dessert.
- Moses went to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.
- The fifth commandment is to humour your father and your mother.
- The seventh commandment is that you should not admit adultery.
- Moses died before he reached Canada.
- The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.
- David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar.
- Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- When Mary heard that she was to be the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

New rapid test kits have now arrived from China.



YOU KEEP YOUR WHOLE SELF IN
YOU SEND YOUR WHOLE SELF OUT
EAT OUT, HELP OUT
SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT
YOU DO THE HOKEY COKEY
WHILE WE U-TURN AROUND
AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT



Not Quite Ready

Now that I am eighty, Lord,
I'm having so much fun,
so if it's quite all right with You
may I stay till eighty one?

That only gives me one more year
for all I want to do,
so can You stretch things out twelve months
until I'm eighty two?

I'll make a deal with You, Lord.
I'm hoping You'll agree.
If it is not too much to ask
can You make it eighty three?

Well really, when all's said and done
I'm not asking much more.
Perhaps while You're about it, Lord,
can You make it eighty four?

Despite the aches and pains I've got
it's good to be alive,
so would it make much difference if
we called it eighty five?

I don't want to upset You, Lord,
or put You in a fix,
but if You're not quite ready, then
I'll stay till eighty six.

I realise of course, that You
have saved a place in Heaven,
but I am not a pushy type
so how about eighty seven?

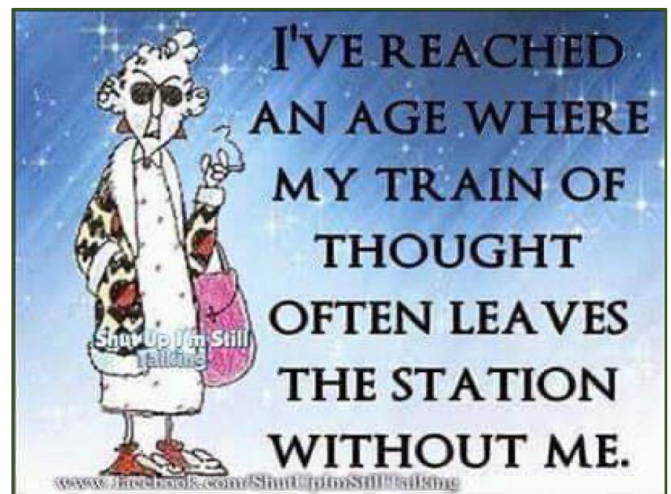
There's almost certainly a queue,
and I'm prepared to wait.
Don't worry. I'll find lots to do
until I'm eighty eight.

In fact, don't be concerned at all.
I've got things worked out fine.
We'll make a deal. I'll see You, Lord,
when I reach eighty nine.

I'll finish now. I'll be in touch,
later this afternoon,
but if I'm being honest with You,
perhaps ninety's too soon?!

For I may have shrunk a little bit,
and lost a gear or two,
but really, I'm still young at heart
in all I think or do.

Well, after all Lord, what is age
when I've still got my smile,
so if You don't mind, can I put
off seeing You for a while?!



Thank you!

As always, this has been a team effort. Thank you to everyone who has sent in items, including: Ivor and Val Saxby, Kevin and Judy Wright, Phil Hancock, Jean Robertson, Joan Bond, Tony Ludlow, Ken Franks, Ali Cook, Paul Edwards and no doubt others that got lost in the mists of time, for which I apologise. I hope you've enjoyed this issue. Keep in touch – please!

Love and blessings,

Ruth

