



# Mickleover Methodist Church

December 2020

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You can follow us on Facebook at Mickleover Methodist Church

## The Greatest Story Ever Told

An American movie with this name was produced in 1965. It was a retelling of the biblical account of Jesus of Nazareth, from the Nativity through to the Ascension.

What makes a great story? An intriguing beginning, a sense of direction and purpose, challenges in the way of the main character's goals, the cause and effect of decisions, complexity that reveals humanity, the distinctive voice of the main character, much said in few words using metaphors, an overarching theme running throughout, a gripping ending – so it tells me on the internet about how to write a great story!

The story of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, has all these elements but this is no work of fiction. This story, told by the first followers of Jesus, is the story of God's amazing love for all humankind, the story they gave their lives for, a story of truth and hope and joy. The story of God made man, the story of the birth of a child - so ordinary and yet so extraordinary. *'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* (Isa 9:6) It is a story which continues today - in your story and my story and how our stories find their place within God's story of love and new life.

This Advent the Methodist Church is sharing the stories of 24 individuals and their experiences during this extraordinary year. From the 1<sup>st</sup> December a story will be told each day, each individual reflects on the difficulties they have faced this year, and what hope looked like for them. Hear for yourself how they experienced God's presence as they tell their stories on Facebook

**#GodIsWithUs**

The greatest story ever told? - God is with us.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace this Christmas.

*Revd Gill*

**GOD**  
**IS WITH**  

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*you*  
*me*  
**us**  
▶



## **Church services in December**

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

10am Revd Gill Sharp  
4pm Worship @4

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

10am Janet Patmore  
4pm Worship @4

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

10am Hilary Lamont  
3.45pm Spark to a Flame  
6.30pm Carol Service

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

3pm Christingle service

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

10am Revd Gill Sharp

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

10am Revd Gill Sharp

## **Church services beginning of January**

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

10am Anna Forey

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

10am Revd Gill Sharp – Covenant service

**Messy Church** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm.

Next Messy Church Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

**All services on Zoom until further notice of  
when Church can reopen for worship.**

## News from October 2020 Church Council



- ❖ New church logo finished and available for use.

See it on Church's Facebook page

- ❖ Appointments approved:

Church Council Secretary Marilyn Bagworth

Second Safeguarding Officer Michelle Woodcock

Worship leaders Andy Moore, Janet Tristram and Laraine Tuplin

Vacancy for Preschool Management rep to Church Council.

- ❖ Business team, Vestry stewards and volunteers congratulated for well organised thorough planning of work done in order to open Church for worship and for the measures taken to protect the safety and well being of the congregation.

- ❖ New safeguarding policy statement from District approved. Access to the policy on Church website and posters showing the policy visible around Church.

- ❖ Kitchen refurbishment completed and new AV system installed including screen and projector in Large Hall.

- ❖ At present there are sufficient resources to cover deficit from loss of Income from letting the Church premises due to Covid and lockdown.

- ❖ Thanks for the work of the pastoral workers, especially in the past few months keeping in contact with the Church family/

- ❖ Children and Families Worker – Fiona has been heavily involved with Spark to a Flame and Messy Church on Zoom. Families have received activity packs put together and delivered by Fiona and volunteers. Feedback from the families positive and well received.

- ❖ Churches Together in Mickleover

No Christmas lights switch on this year and no Remembrance Parade through the village this year due to Covid and lockdown.

Spondon Live at Home Office closed as no longer supported by Methodist Homes.

New priest at Our Lady of Lourdes, Fr. Jonathan Whitby-Smith

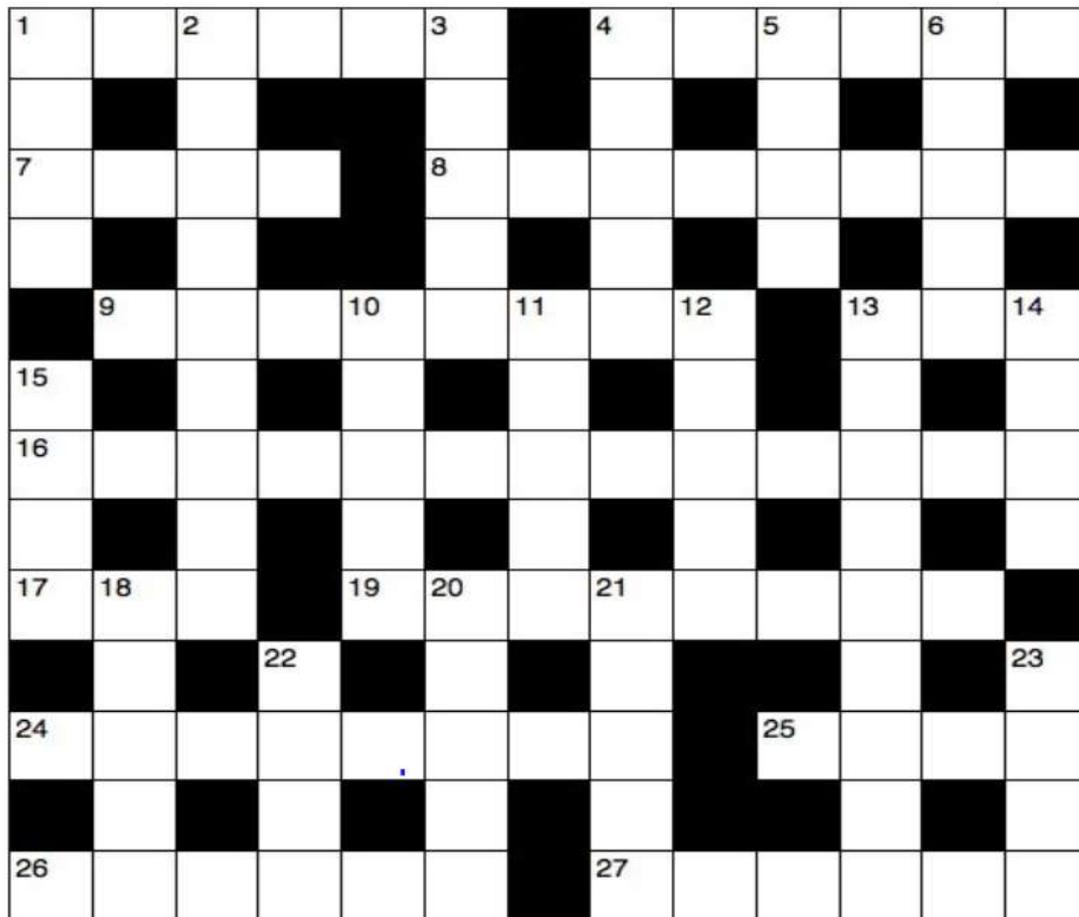
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Christmas jokes – worse than the ones you find in crackers!

What athlete is warmest in winter? A long jumper!

Where does Mistletoe go to become famous? "Holly" wood!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas quacker!



**Across**

1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)

4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)

7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)

8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)

9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)

13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)

16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)

17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)

19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)

24 Able dock (anag.) (8)

25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)

26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)

27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

### **Down**

1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)

2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)

3 'Do this, whenever you - it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)

4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)

5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)

6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)

10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)

11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)

12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)

13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)

14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)

15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)

18 Narnia's Lion (5)

20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)

21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)

22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)

23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

## CHURCH FLOWERS

For those of you who don't already know, Val Branson and I took over the organisation of the flower rota from Barbara Smout at the beginning of this year. It has obviously been a difficult year; because of the Covid 19 guidelines, we haven't been able to have fresh flowers in church since March, and it is looking likely that this may continue for some time yet.

However, despite this, I shall shortly be putting together next year's flower rotas, for both donors and distributors, in the hope that at some point in 2021 we shall be able to return to them. My intention is to base them on last year's rotas, and I would be grateful if you could let me know in the next week or two if for any reason you don't want to continue. I'd also be grateful for any extra offers if you're not already on either of the rotas, but would like to be. Please contact Liz Royle on 01332 511391, or at [woozle@ntlworld.com](mailto:woozle@ntlworld.com)

When the rota is complete, I'll ask Naomi to email it out to the church circulation list, but I'll also continue to call people a few weeks before their allocated dates to let them know the current situation.

Finally, I'd like to thank the people who *were* able to put flowers in church at the beginning of the year, and a very special thank you to Barbara for all the work she has put in over the last few years; it has been very much appreciated.

Liz Royle

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### **CTM Prayer for Mickleover By Zoom Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 10.15am**

Unfortunately we cannot meet in people's houses to pray due to Covid restrictions, but we can still meet via Zoom, and I plan to host a Zoom meeting at our normal time of 10.15am on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

We get 40 minutes on the free Zoom software, which should allow us reasonable time to pray, and wait on God.

If you would like to be part of this, please contact me for the meeting I.D. and password which I plan to send to our regulars via email. Tel 239645 or email [ray\\_lee16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk) Thanks *Ray Lee*.

I will circulate the meeting id: and password nearer the time.

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING

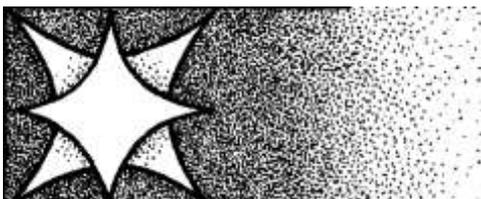
There are headlines and rumours that the Grinch has taken up residence in No.10 and that Christmas will not happen this year. I can assure you all that this is not true. Granted, it may be a different style of celebration this year, with many of the festival highlights not taking place or doing so remotely. We may not be able to get together for large family or church events, carol singing may take place to a CD at home, children may not act out the Christmas story in dressing gowns and tea towels (if you have severe withdrawal symptoms “Funny Nativity” on You Tube should cheer you up!), midnight communion may not happen and last-minute rush to buy presents may be done on-line.

In spite of all this, Christmas WILL happen, because it has happened already and nothing or nobody can stop it. There may be a bonus this year, in that we could have more time and energy to concentrate on what Christmas means to each of us as we celebrate the birth of a child who, as a man, changed the world and our lives.

Was this child born in Bethlehem, Nazareth or elsewhere? Were there angels, shepherds and wise men, a wicked king? Was there a human father, a miraculous moving star? Is the composite story found in Luke and Matthew actual historical fact or there to explain difficult-to-understand truths? All of this is a matter of debate, individual belief and opinion.

Whatever our thoughts and beliefs, this Christmas season we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who became the Christ, the embodiment of God. Jesus, uniquely, did not just tell us about God in the same way that prophets had done, but in his life and person SHOWED us as much of God as our human minds are able to comprehend.

It may be a “stripped-down” Christmas this year, but it gives us an opportunity to consider what is the most important aspect of it to the world and to our lives. Immanuel, God with us. Celebrate this wonder in whatever ways we can.  
Phil Royle



Churches Together in Mickleover are asking all Christians in Mickleover to put a star in their front window this Christmas to remind us of Jesus' light.

## Children and Families Worker news

Greetings!

Advent is a time of reflection & expectation - that hasn't changed despite this strangest of years! Recently I attended a Zoom session & the organisers compared our current ways of working to a 'temporary bus service' (like the ones for when the trains can't run!) Not as fast, or efficient, but they get there in the end.

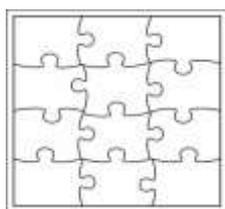
Much of the Children's work is currently online or in the form of activity packs. It takes longer to prepare and the route goes the long way around, but the packs have been well received by families. And thank you to all who have helped this year!

The latest pack includes a nativity set, angels & crackers to make, a biscuit recipe, a story book plus bits to make their own Christingle.

Hopefully it won't be too long before we can all safely meet again - but until 'normal service' resumes, have a Blessed Christmas.

Stay safe & well! Fiona.

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### Jigsaw Library

Before lockdown the business team had been thinking about starting a jigsaw library. Ray and I have decided to act, and possibly move the mountain of puzzles we have in the back bedroom.

I am suggesting we make up packs of 5 puzzles (pot luck I'm afraid) and Ray will deliver them, left on your doorstep if you prefer, and he will swap the pack after 4 weeks.

If you are interested please contact Anna and Ray by email or phone on 512184

I know some of you have your own puzzle mountains, we will see how much take up we have and if we need more.

## Church News

❖ Peter and Val Branson are delighted to announce the safe arrival of another granddaughter. Leah Kavita Hope was born on 17.11.20 to our daughter Claire and her partner Jason. She is the second new granddaughter this year, as our daughter, Jenny and her husband, Rich, have adopted Seren, a new sister for Bethany, Hannah and Toby. She has just had her 2nd birthday. Everyone is doing well in this weird world we're living in at the moment!

❖ Sunday school has chosen Rainbows for Church's Christmas charity this year. This charity works with children with life-limiting conditions and their families and provides care and support.

❖ Forty-seven 'Love in a box' shoeboxes were delivered to the warehouse. A letter of thanks has been received from the charity and the boxes are on the first lorry out to Eastern Europe.

❖ Congratulations to Dr Terry Root. As a result of a successful submission of his thesis Terry Root has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by the University of Nottingham. Terry has been engaged on his study of mid-twentieth century theology and church history for the last five years. He hopes to use the understanding and knowledge he has gained during his studies to help people to engage with the Bible in an informative and friendly way. Look out for details of future bible study and discussions at Mickleover.

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### **PADLEY CENTRE HARVEST 2020**

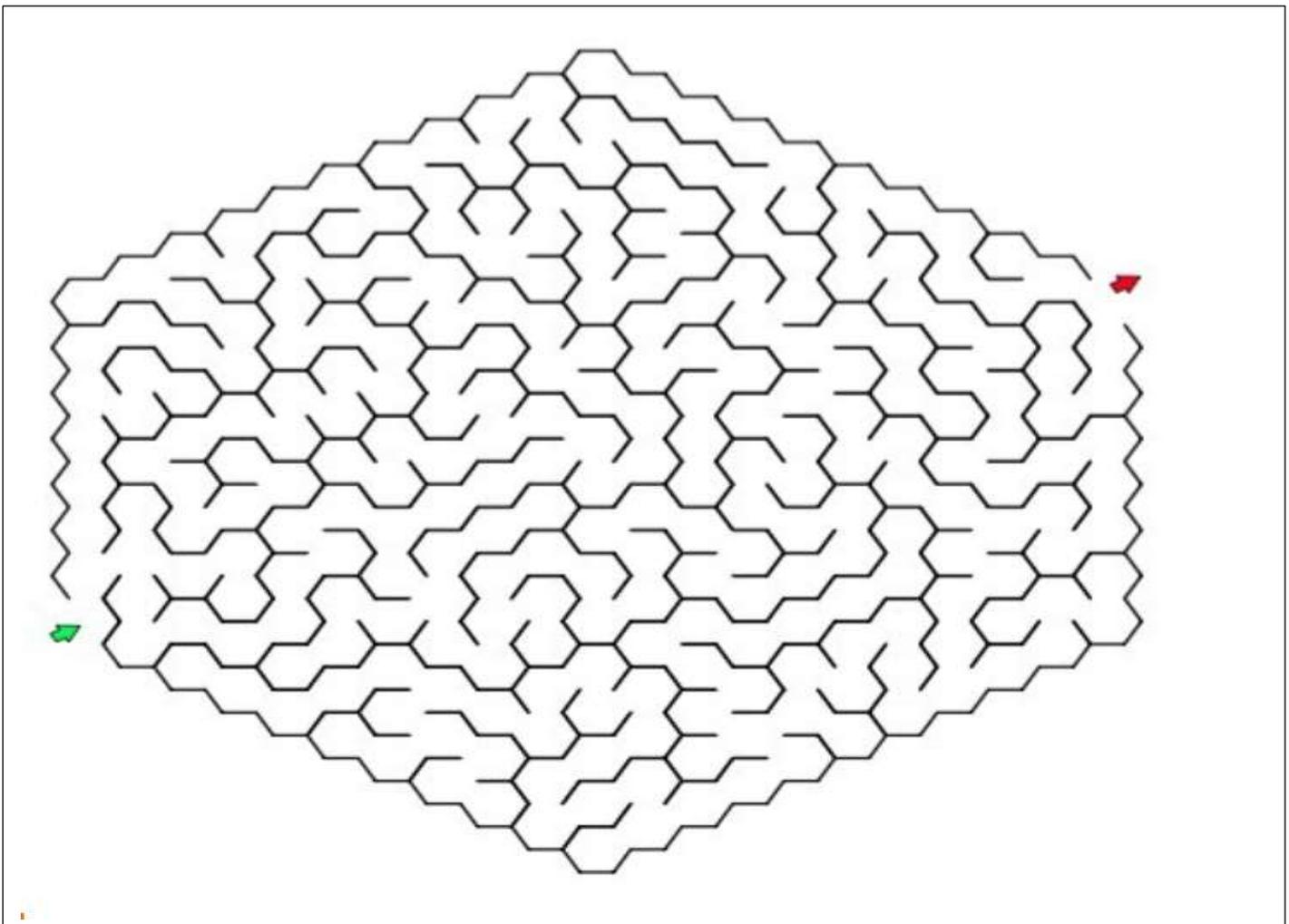
I would like to thank you for your kind Harvest gift donation of Food.

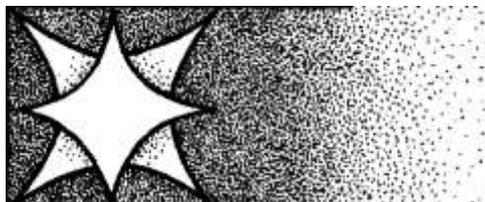
This donation will be used to support our Day Centre, providing: somewhere warm, dry and safe for vulnerable men and women; to use WC and have a shower; get a nutritious cheap (free if they have no income) meal; get a change of clothes or wash their own clothes; access a dentist; a podiatrist; a hairdresser; a CPN; potential housing providers; access drug and alcohol services and when ready; obtain the support needed to make positive life changes. Without your kind generosity our services would be sadly depleted, with it you enable significant change to be achieved in the lives of people in genuine need. Sharon Bestwick Administrator

"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...  
*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased*".  
 from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

**Mouse Makes**  
 HAPPY CHRISTMAS!  
 Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

A picture to colour for Christmas. Colour in one star each day as you count down to Christmas!





## A prayer from the Diocese of Sheffield's Advent material 'Lights for Christ'

This year our Advent liturgy focuses on the  
themes explored in this material

### Light in the darkness

Our gracious God

Thank you for bringing us to the end of the year.

Thank you for what we have learned and how we have grown.

Thank you for those we have loved and lost.

Thank you for those we have encountered and valued

and for those with whom we have laughed, cried and persevered.

In the days that lie ahead

please give us renewed grace and wisdom

in handling distance and being safe,

In building trust and finding a better 'normal,'

So that in and through us, Christ will be seen,

the light that shines in the darkness. Amen.

**"God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6, NKJV)**

***This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.***

***2John 1 5-7***

## Not everything is cancelled by David Haas

Love has not been cancelled

Mercy has not been cancelled

Prayer has not been cancelled

Attentiveness has not been cancelled

Goodness has not been cancelled

Thanksgiving has not been cancelled

Loving relationships have not been cancelled

Kindness has not been cancelled

Music has not been cancelled

Conversations have not been cancelled

Meditation and contemplation have not been cancelled

Painting and dancing have not been cancelled

Families have not been cancelled

Community and solidarity have not been cancelled

Faith has not been cancelled

Hope has not been cancelled

And.... God's presence with us has not been cancelled.

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### The colours of peace

Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you;

Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you;

Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you;

Deep peace, pure grey of the dew to you.

**ACROSS:** 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.  
**DOWN:** 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.