



Mini-SEaNS 27

NOVEMBER 2022

(‘Which Way, Lord?’ - Part 4) :

“God is sending me to Florida!”



We’ve looked at God’s general guidance for believers, and last time we began to consider how we might seek and find His guidance for us as individuals. Today, in the final part of this series, we get more specific.

Let’s begin with an example to see how it all works.

I wake up in my house on a cold February morning... put my nose out from under the sheets, and breathe in. It’s so cold I think I shall have to get my nostrils re-bored!

So, the first thing that really hits me is, “Tis cold this morning!”

Then I manage to open one eye, and I notice the white frost on the INSIDE of the window!



So, a little message is communicated to Steve’s heart – *“tis cold! ‘Tis very cold, because I didn’t put the heating on last night to save on my electricity bill.”*

Then I suddenly get a thought.... **FLORIDA !**

Now that is a tremendous thought on a cold February morning!

“Oh!” says I, “I think that God is calling me to be a missionary in Florida!”

Now my problem is... how do I know that my thought about Florida is not just a result of the frost and the cold in the room?

... or, is it God using these circumstances of frost and cold to get me to Florida?

... or, is it the fact that Satan knows I am about to be a blessing here in Corby, and he wants to divert me to Florida?

(Continued on page 2)



How much???

An Historic English literature exhibition centre had a unique way of charging its visitors.

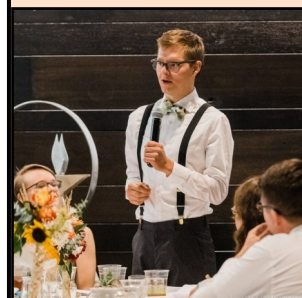
Each visitor had to pay using a formula based on their country’s name.

The charges for a person from the following countries are as follows;

- America: £18.00
- Japan: £12.00
- New Zealand: £24.00
- Brazil: £14.00

How much would someone from the United Kingdom pay?

At a wedding reception, the groom stood to say a few words.



He turned to his bride’s mother. *“You’ve given me a gift,”* he began, *“a gift that...”* Here, he paused with emotion, whereupon his mother-in-law completed the sentence, *“That you can’t return!”*

Which Way, Lord?

(Continued from page 1)

... or, is it simply because a couple of days before, I saw a picture in a magazine, with a white beach and people surfing and playing volleyball...

With all that chaos in my mind, how can I know whether what I'm thinking is what God really wants me to do?

Well, of course, we do have another avenue through which God can speak to us... called the Word of God – the Bible...

And, as I said last time, in every 24 hours, you should be giving God a regular chance to give you a text-message through it, if he wants to.

And when He gets the idea that in every 24 hours, you're going to be reading His Book... if He wants to say something... confirm or reject a thought... or guide your path... He knows He's got a chance to say it through the Bible.

Psalms 119:105: *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

As long as you read in a consistent fashion, you can pick your own method. Whether you want to read the Old Testament one day and the New Testament the next day... whatever.

I had a preacher friend who, each day, would read a short passage from the Old Testament, a Psalm or chapter of Proverbs, and a passage from the New... and he said that some days it was like **the sevens on a fruit machine all lining up and hitting the jackpot** as God spoke directly to him through the combination of the three readings!



On other days he might just read one verse and it would hit him right between the eyes and he would go no further...

But each day he gave God the opportunity to speak to him... and so should we.

Why is this necessary?

Because if you are not *systematically* reading your way through the Book this is what will happen:

You'll wake up... frost on the window... cold up the nose... thought, "Florida!"

I'M SO EXCITED!



And you'll say, *"Oh, now I must be a good spiritual Christian and give God the chance to confirm or reject this thought about Florida. Now, let's see what the Word says. I haven't been in it for weeks, but there must be a verse here somewhere."*

And you close your eyes, open the book anywhere and say, *"Oh... finger, finger, rise away... and pick the verse I need today!"* and stab a verse at random!

It's called 'Bible dipping'.

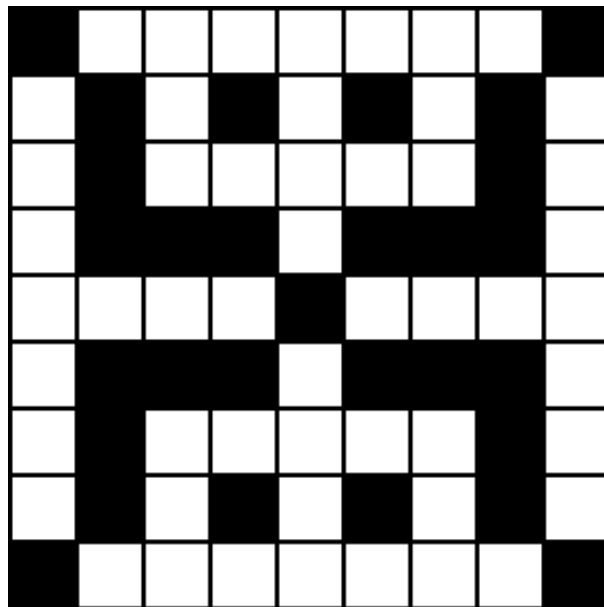
Now, where is there a verse that says, *"Arise and go!"*?

Oh no! That one says, *"Thou shalt stay where thou art!"*

(Continued on page 3)

Cross-WISE—5

There are no clue numbers in the grid. Use your powers of deduction to put the right words in the correct positions in the grid.



1. One of the two horizontal 7-letter words is assorted and the other is crying.
2. One of the two vertical 7-letter words is irritated and the other is large flightless bird.
3. One of the 5-letter words is frequently and the other is shot from a bow.
4. The 4-letter words are scintilla; alcoholic beverage; grasp; portent.
5. The two 3-letter words on the left are fuss and playing card.
6. The two 3-letter words on the right are large vase and opposite of lose.



Witold Pilecki was a Polish World War II intelligence agent and the only known voluntary inmate of Auschwitz.

On Sept. 1940, he intentionally allowed himself to be arrested by the Nazis before being transported to the Auschwitz. He remained there for two and a half years as a prisoner, gathering information from within the camp.

As the war dragged on and the conditions became worse, he then successfully broke out of Auschwitz so that he could personally convince his superiors of the truth, as they found his reports too ghastly to be real.

(196 prisoners are known to have escaped and not been recaptured. A further 25 escaped but were later caught.)

Which Way, Lord?

(Continued from page 2)

That's no use!

"Do not move!" That's no use either!

That approach is fatal, because it means that you've already made your mind up what you want as an answer from the Word.



And people do that!

"Dear Lord, should I, or should I not marry Mary?"

Now, where will it say 'yes'? Isn't there a verse that says,

"Take unto thee Mary thy wife?"

And you get yourself all pre-tuned to get **exactly** the answer that you want, and disregard those that say the opposite.

That's not on! Sorry!

But, by **systematically** reading through the book... as you go through it... you will find that when you need to get a text-message from God you will open your Bible at the place where you left off, and suddenly it's in the portion you're going to read for today.

You won't have to search for it. If God wants to talk... He'll talk. But there will be times when you just have to wait... so don't expect that you will necessarily receive a personal message every day. Don't assume that heaven's dead.. or God is angry with you. Take it that no news – 'tis good news. For now, just carry on with what you're doing.

So, imagine that you get up in the morning ...

- you see the frost...
- you get the thought, **"Florida"**...
- you open your Bible to read—and you might even *over-read* to give God a good chance to give you a text-message...
- when suddenly there comes a verse from the page:

"Thus saith the Lord... arise and go!"

So, you leap out of bed, get dressed, put your coat on, stuff some clothes in a suitcase... and head downstairs.

How do you know whether it's right or wrong?

Well, you see, one of the other ways God speaks is through circumstances.

And when I come downstairs, having had a God thought, and a word from the Bible at 8 o'clock in the morning... and I'm away through the kitchen to the garage to load up my car... I meet my first circumstance... my wife... Sue!

Now, Sue is a circumstance to be reckoned with!

And she would look at the clock, look at the frost... look at the suitcase... look at the calendar on the wall showing my commitments... look at the untouched breakfast on the table, and ask, **"Going somewhere?"**

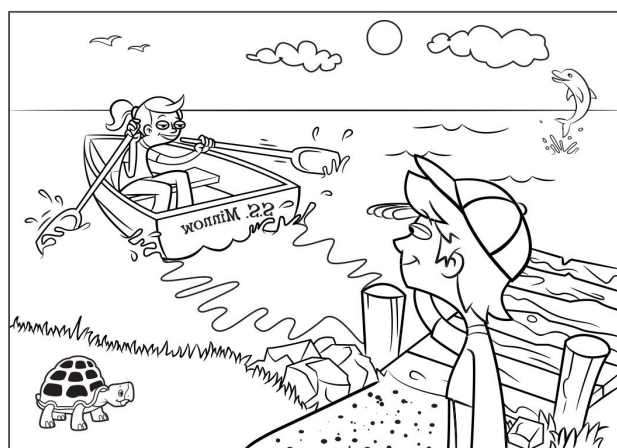
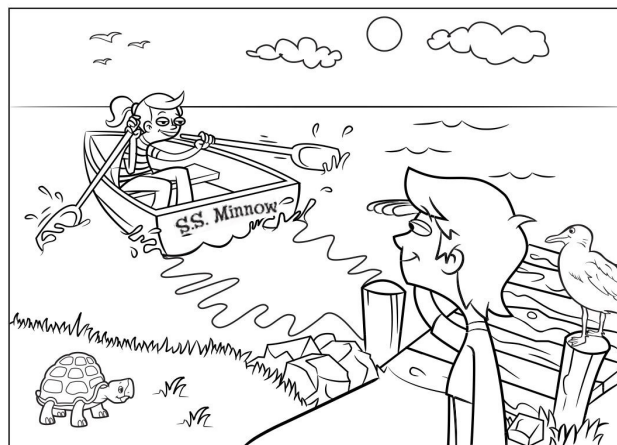
And I say, **"Oh! I'm going to Florida!"**

"Before breakfast?"

(Continued on page 4)

What's Different?

Nine things in the lower picture are missing or different from the upper picture. Can you find all nine?



Happy Six Months!



The first picture is of me in full blown meth and heroin addiction. Yes I know the picture is raw and gross but this is REAL. A look of me at my lowest.

Today I celebrate 6 months sober and clean. Today I can wake up every morning and I don't have to worry about how I'm going to make it through the day. Today I don't have to worry about if I'm going to end up in jail. I'm holding down a full time job without missing work and today I'm living on my own for the first time in my life. Today I'm beyond happy with my life and don't want to die every day. Today I don't cry all day every day. **HAPPY 6 MONTHS TO ME!**

(Anonymous writer—lives in USA)

If you know someone with an addiction, St. Columba's has AA Groups and can put drug users in touch with support groups. Speak in confidence to Ian, our Vicar.

Which Way, Lord?

(Continued from page 3)

"Oh... I hadn't thought of breakfast this morning... I was so keen to get on to do God's will."

And she would come across the room, take me by the hand... lovingly, but firmly... sit me at the table... and say,

"DO have some cereal!"

And she'd talk to me over a cup of coffee, and ask,

"What gave you the idea that you're to go to Florida?"

"Well, it was just a God-thought this morning."

"Are you sure?"

"Well you know me better than that, dear. I had the Word out this morning... and as a matter of fact, compared to yesterday when I read 4 verses, I read 14 chapters this morning! But, eventually, I got the Word that says, Thus says the Lord, arise and go!"

And Sue would say, *"Just let me ask you some questions, dear, while you slurp your flakes. How much does it cost?"*

"Funny, I never thought of that."

"Well think!"

"Oh, I reckon £400-£500 ... that's if I'm coming back."

"Do we have that much?"

"Oh I'm sure God will provide."

"In the next hour? And what about all your other commitments, and the people that depend on you—like me?"

"Oh, I hadn't thought about them!"

"Well do!"

And the thing is that God never causes chaos for the sake of getting you to do His will. He will never send you in an emergency jump to Florida and throw your whole family and workplace into chaos just to bring about His will.

If, in His mind, He plans to send you to Florida, you will have the time off, He will have people covering your work, you will have money in your pocket, and everything will be just right—especially with your family.

CIRCUMSTANCES are a good day by day guide to protect you against doing a stupid thing. But just on the off-chance that somebody might attempt to tinker with circumstances, God also uses COUNSEL.

Now I'm not meaning going to someone to ask them to make the decision for you... because nobody in their right mind is going to tell you what you should do, although I did once comment to a Christian vicar friend who was looking for a change of parish that I thought that pushing a handful of nettles down his trousers would be a lot less stressful than the parish he was considering! But if that was where God wanted him, he should go. But, please don't ask me if you should go to Florida or marry someone.

I'm not God. I wouldn't know!

What's the matter with your knees. Ask Him!



(Continued on page 6)

Quiz Time

- Of what is TRICHOLOGY the study?
- What does the 'e' in "eBay" stand for?
- King Charles III birthday falls this week. When was he born, and how old will he be?
- Which pop stars had the following names before becoming famous
[a] Reg Dwight, [b] George O'Dowd,
[c] Paul Hewson, [d] Annie Mae Bullock
[e] Steveland Judkins?
- What animal is on the badge of Coventry City F. C.?
- At the start of a game of scrabble what is the minimum number of letters a player must use to form a word?
- In mythology who shot the arrow that hit Achilles in the heel?
- From which films do the following quotes come :
[a] "You're gonna need a bigger boat!",
[b] "Love means never having to say you're sorry",
[c] "I am your Father, Luke",
[d] "Yippee-kai-ye!"
[e] "My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates".
- Which SIX countries were the founding members of the European Community?
- When Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the moon who was left in orbit?
- Identify the following Irish counties from the cryptic clues,
[a] Bottle Stopper; [b] Cunning, do not stop;
[c] In a candle but not high; [d] A five lined rhyme;
[e] Richard Chamberlain's doctor.
- What type of fruit is a COSTARD?
- What do Mark Thatcher, Elvis Presley and Henry Cooper have in common?
- What is the name for a full point in a Judo match?
- What songs with RIVER in the title were hits for the following:
[a] Frank Sinatra [c] Christie
[b] Justin Timberlake [d] Billy Joel
[e] Boney M.
- Where in the UK would you land at St. Angelo Airport?
- Which food has a name that derives from the Arabic for finger?
- The FIFA World Cup Finals will begin at Qatar on November 20—but the 2026 finals will be shared between THREE countries. What are they?
- In which year were tax discs introduced into the UK, and when were they discontinued?
- Which THREE actors played Albus Dumbledore in the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts film series?

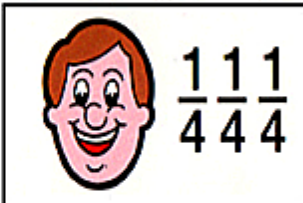
www.quizmasters.biz **DINGBATS** Say what you see



01



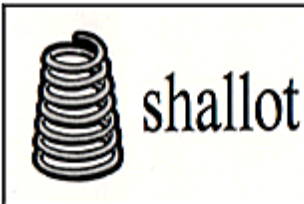
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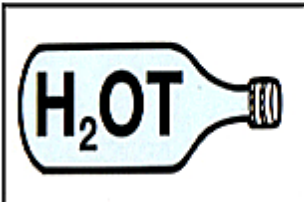
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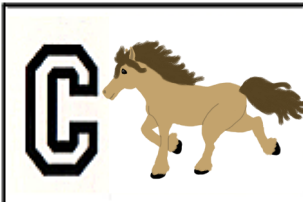
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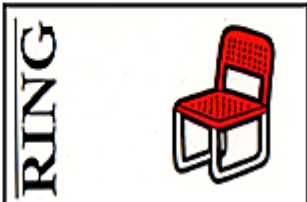
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10



11



12

Cows eat grass



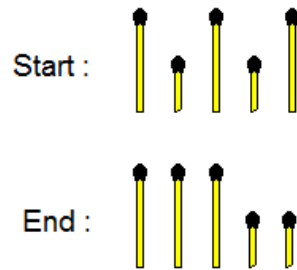
Therefore: Steak is plant-based meat



Optical Illusion

Do you see Roy playing his saxophone or a girl's face?

A Real Stinker of a Matchstick Puzzle

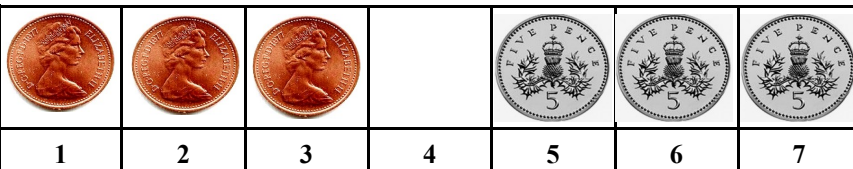


The challenge here is to place the matchsticks as shown in "Start" above, then move them so that you end with 3 long matchsticks next to each other and 2 short matchsticks next to each other. (As shown in "End" above)

The following rules apply when moving matchsticks:

1. Two matchsticks must be moved at the same time.
2. The two matchsticks must be a long- and a short one.
3. The two matchsticks may not exchange positions when moved.
4. The two matchsticks you pick up to move must be adjacent.

Can you achieve this in 4 steps?



Coin Swap

On a sheet of paper draw a line of seven squares, as above. In the left three put three identical coins (e.g. three pennies), and in the right hand three put three identical different coins (e.g. three 5p coins). This leaves one empty square in the middle. The task is to reverse the position of the coins so that you end up with the pennies on the right and the 5p coins on the left.

Pennies can only move to the right, 5p coins can only move to the left. They can move into adjacent empty squares and can jump over one coin to reach a vacant square. We took 15 moves.

Which Way, Lord?

(Continued from page 4)

What I mean by counsel, is when God speaks to you directly through the lips of another person who has no idea of what you've been thinking, what you've been reading, or what your circumstances are like.

You come down stairs... you've had the thought about Florida... you've read your Bible, you've had a verse affirming you should go... you have a month off... there's money in the bank... but you're still not sure about what to do. **So, you don't tell anybody.**

And you chat with a friend at work about how cold it is, and suddenly he says, *"Boy it's cold today. This is a day you ought to go to Florida!"*

And this comes home like a bolt from the blue, because you know that you couldn't engineer that. They didn't know what you were thinking. They didn't know about your reading or your circumstances... and suddenly God has spoken straight through them.



And I've known that happen to me and others.

On my own at home, a bit discouraged, one evening, I once asked the Lord whether He wanted me to give up preaching—and within minutes, the phone started ringing. People calling who hadn't a clue what I had been praying about, asking me to go and preach in their churches! I had SEVEN invitations that night—including one from a friend who lived 200 miles away, whom I hadn't seen for 20 years!! That's why I know Jesus is real. I have experienced Christ! There's no other way that prayer could have been answered. As a book I bought in the '60s puts it, *"God is for Real, Man!!"*

So... as we approach 2023... let's take time to think about the wise men... guided by God, who left everything to follow that star... and ask ourselves: **how much do I trust God?**

When Jesus says, "Follow me!"... will you do it?

Billy, an evangelist friend of mine, now with the Lord, while a mature student in his 20s, went to study at a **Christian college in America**. At weekends, he regularly received invitations to preach at churches across the USA because he was well-known to American guests who had stayed at *Capernwray Hall Christian Holiday Centre & Bible School* in Cumbria and he had a Radio Bible Class slot.

Christian friends would give him lifts to where he was to preach. Other students mocked him and said, *"Billy, why don't you ask God for a car to save others from giving you lifts? You never know, you might even get an old Ford!"*

"Listen," he replied, "if I'm doing God's work He'll give me the best—a Cadillac!" and (with a gulp) just committed the situation to the Father in prayer.

Meanwhile, every time he went off to preach they'd call out, *"Got your Cadillac, yet, Billy?"* - until one day, he got a phone call from a lady he'd never met. She said, *"Please come to my house as soon as possible. Since my husband died, there's something God has been nagging me to give you. I'm desperate to get rid of it."*

So, he went to her house, she took him to the garage, and said, *"There's a Cadillac in there. During my prayer time, God told me to give it to you. Here are the keys. I never want to see it again! Take it!"*

Billy rang the college, got a message to the students, to get outside the front, drove up in the Cadillac, parked, got out, and with a big grin, simply said, *"Isn't God great!"* and walked inside.



Do this in remembrance



November is a month of remembrance

— we remember the saints of old on All Saints Day; our loved ones on the Feast of All Souls; those who have died in war and in defence of our freedom on Remembrance Sunday.



Remembering isn't a passive thing — it makes a difference. To remember is to bring past realities into the present and when we do that the present is inevitably changed — we see things differently, we experience the present differently, our lives and our actions are reshaped and we have the opportunity to live differently.

For Christians that shouldn't sound odd, because we know that our God is a god of time and eternity, Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. Because of that truth, a long-ago event — the crucifixion and resurrection - become powerful present realities, that can and do transform our lives in the here and now. That profound hope lies at the heart of the Church and is the basis of all Christian living.

It's reflected of course in a powerful way in our worship. The Holy Spirit comes to us in worship to make Christ present amongst us.

In Holy Communion, we especially bring to mind Jesus' words: *"Do this in remembrance of me"* and we take bread and wine and wonderfully and mysteriously they become for us the body and blood of Jesus, his presence at the Last Supper made real in the present as we obey his command and as we 're-member' him. There is no more powerful sign of Jesus' closeness to us.

November is a month when we are reminded that the distinction between the past and the present is really just the limits of our imagination. In a world in uproar this is a powerful message. God's love is present to us in the here and now and always - in worship, in the communion of saints, in the eucharist. In such company we truly blessed and have nothing to fear.

Happy Remembering!

Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

Make Someone Happy

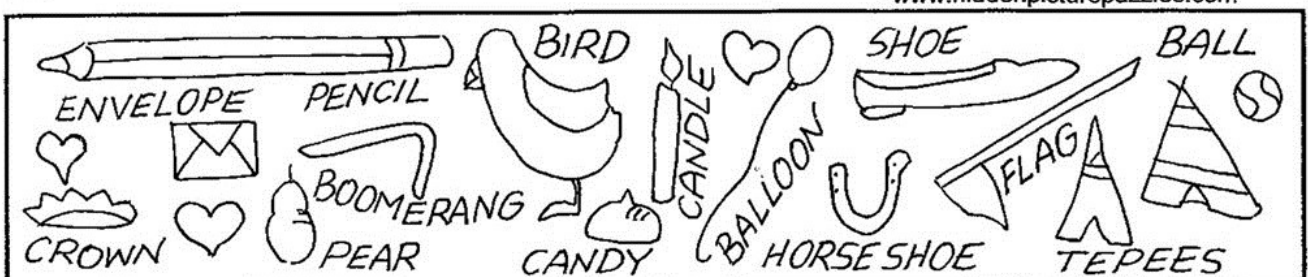
"The late US Congressman Sol Bloom would habitually drop a coin in the street. When someone asked why, he said, laughingly, *'Oh, someone is sure to find it and be happy the rest of the day!'*"



Hidden Objects Puzzle to solve and colour



www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com



Crazy Quiz Show Answers

"What R is a dish said to be best served cold?" Toast.

"What city in northern England is the only one beginning with Y?" Wakefield.

"A popular resort on the Bristol Channel is known as 'Weston-Super... what?' Market.

"Name something you could play with in the bath." A bazooka.

"Name an instrument you can play while walking in the street." A cello.

"Name an animal with horns." A bee.

"Name something that comes in 7s." Fingers.

"How many cm in a metre?" 2 ½.

"Name a famous Arthur." Shakespeare
"Name something only worn by children :"
clothes.

"Who was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas?" J. R.

"On what date is Christmas usually celebrated each year?" Wednesday.

Puzzle Answers

How Much?

If you do a bit of trial and error calculation you will realise that the formula is dependent on vowels and consonants.

Vowels in the countries' names are worth £3 and Consonants are worth £2.

So the entry fee for United Kingdom citizens works out as **5 vowels** (u,i.e.i.o) at £3 and

8 consonants (n,t,d,k,n,g,d,m) at £2 making a total of **£31**.

Quiz

- The study of human hair.
- Echo.
- The King was born on 17 November 1948, so he'll be 74. He has not yet set an 'official' summer birthday for parades, like Queen Elizabeth did.
- [a] Reg Dwight = Elton John.
[b] George O'Dowd = Boy George.
[c] Paul Hewson = Bono.
[d] Annie Mae Bullock = Tina Turner
[e] Steveland Judkins = Stevie Wonder.
- Elephant (representing strength).
- Two.
- Paris.
- [a] *Jaws*, [b] *Love Story*,
[c] *The Empire Strikes Back*,
[d] *Die Hard* (series) [e] *Forrest Gump*.
- France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and West Germany.
- Michael Collins.
- [a] Bottle Stopper = Cork.
[b] Cunning, do not stop = Sligo.
[c] In a candle but not high = Wicklow.
[d] A five lined rhyme = Limerick
[e] Richard Chamberlain's doctor = Kildare.
- An Apple.
- They were all TWINS.
- An IPPON.
- [a] Frank Sinatra = '*Moon River*';
[b] Justin Timberlake = '*Cry Me A River*';
[c] Christie = '*Yellow River*';
[d] Billy Joel = '*The River of Dreams*';
[e] Boney M = '*Rivers of Babylon*'.
- Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.
- Bananas.
- The FIFA 2026 Cup tournament will be jointly hosted by 16 cities in three North American countries: *Canada, Mexico, and the United States*.
- Began 1921. Ended 2014.
- Richard Harris played Dumbledore in the first two films, Michael Gambon played him in the remaining films following Harris' death. Jude Law played him in *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*.

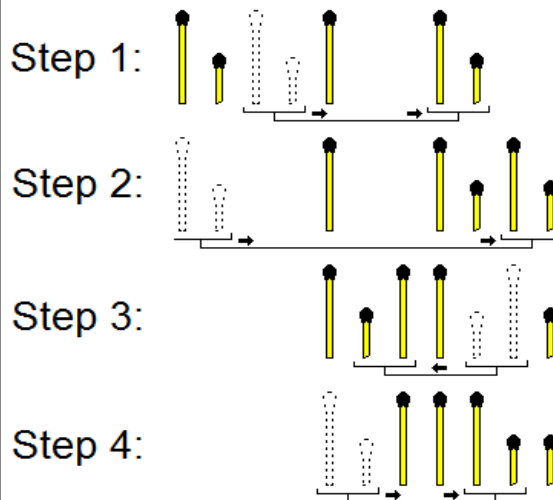
Dingbats

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Health & Safety | 7. Lamp post |
| 2. Windsock | 8. Jackass |
| 3. Headquarters | 9. Hot water bottle |
| 4. Cauliflower ear | 10. Rubber stamp |
| 5. Spring Onion | 11. Sea Horse |
| 6. Tree Trunk | 12. Ringside seat |

Cross Wise -5



Matchstick Puzzle



Weekly Services at St. Columba's

Sundays at 10.30am at St. Columba's

Rockingham Services 9am monthly.

Occasional services at other times.

Services are available online on YouTube via

<https://stcolumbascorby.org.uk/>

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Spot the Differences



Hidden Objects



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES



There are still plenty of empty boxes at the back of church, and the all-important leaflets that tell you what can, and cannot, go in them.

If you have not yet taken one, and you are able to fill it for a Ukrainian refugee child, please do take one.

The deadline for returning boxes is **Sunday 20th November** so we have just one more week.

Don't forget to either put a donation in your shoebox or donate online, where you can also pay for a shoebox to be filled and sent on your behalf.

You can watch a short film called "*A Shoebox Prayer*" by going to the following link:

<https://youtu.be/nePoQ-nv8fU>

A man bought his wife a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later his friend asked how she was doing with it. "Actually," said the man, "I persuaded her to switch to a clarinet." "How come?" asked his friend "Well," said the man, "with a clarinet she can't sing."

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER
10am - 12.30pm