

PARISH LINK

Serving the communities of
Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 35 years





Rev. Nigel Bibbings
46 Luton Road
Toddington, LU5 6DF

Tel: 01525 872026

Methodist Minister for
Kensworth

Dear Friends

Many of us will be encouraged by the slowly lengthening days and the first signs of new life around us. I, for one, cannot wait to see our first snowdrops, an early but sure sign of new life pushing up through the grey of winter.

It may be that “like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring”. This is turning out to be a particularly hard winter for many. I am not, of course, thinking only of the weather but also of those who are experiencing ill health, are suffering because of postponed operations or are struggling to support loved ones who are unwell. Others are suffering the unbearable pain of the loss through death of dear loved ones.

In times such as these I invite you to turn again with me to our Christian hope that Resurrection life can be an ever-present experience. We will soon (on Ash Wednesday 14th February) be entering the season of Lent, which invites us to prepare as best we may, to join with Jesus on the way to his suffering and death on the cross. We know the end of the story, that it then won’t be too much longer before we are celebrating Christ’s resurrection and Easter joy.

At this time of year I find this well expressed in a wonderful hymn, the first line of which is “Now the green blade rises”.

The final verse reminds us that:-

“When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Then your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.”

Praise God that he surrounds us and all his children with the assurance of his unconditional love, available to us in every experience and each moment. May he increase in us the desire to seek him and may he bless you as you look to Him in these lightening days.

Nigel

Thanks to Les Randall for this month's front cover

WHIPSNADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

CHURCH CHRISTMAS NEWS.

Thank you to everyone who joined in the carol-singing around the village; unfortunately, the carol-singing around the Park Homes was cancelled due to very icy conditions. The Christingle Service, carol-singing and the Carol Service raised £574 which was sent to the Children's Society. The Christmas services were well attended – thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways over the Christmas period, especially for the splendid flowers and the Christmas tree decorations.

Village Lunch: 84 people attended the Christmas Lunch (see photos below). The January lunch was well supported with over 50 people enjoying a good meal.

NOTE: there is no February lunch!! Next one on Thursday 8th March. Thank you to everyone who supports and helps at our lunches throughout the year, providing puddings, helping with serving, setting the hall up, doing the washing up etc.

WHIPSNADE GREEN SCRUB CLEARANCE

In January the volunteers started to clear an area of regrowth between Dell Farm and the Zoo car park; it is planned to continue this work, tidy up the other areas which have been cleared previously and have a bonfire on Sunday 4th February from 11am. Meet on The Green near Dell Farm; everyone welcome. Wear stout footwear and gloves; tools and soup provided. Bring your own picnic. Queries to Charles Frost (871417). NOTE: the March Scrub Clearing is on Sunday 4th (the last of the season).

CONCERT IN THE CHURCH

Following last year's successful concert by young musicians, another one is planned on Saturday 14th April at 7.30pm to raise funds for Cancer Research UK and Whipsnade Church. See posters or the March Parish Link for ticket details.

WHIPSNADE SUMMER FETE

To be held on Saturday 23rd June to raise funds for the church. If you would like to be involved as a stall holder, helper (certainly required for the setting up and taking down!), cake making etc, then please let me know (e-mail: whipsnade@hotmail.com or go to our Facebook Page).

Helen Wingate



KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS

In February we shall pray specially for the people who live in The Lynch, Lynch Hill and Clayhall Road. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, when there will be a service of Holy Communion with Ashing for all in the Benefice in this church (see page 14). All are welcome to mark the beginning of this reflective six weeks leading up to Easter (Sunday 1st April).

Choir News: the choir will sing at Holy Communion on 4th February and at Sung Matins on 18th February. The choir practises on Fridays, 6.15pm – 7.15pm in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road in January, February and March. If you would like to join, please contact Mike Palmer (e-mail:medpalmer@gmail.com or 524183) or the Rector (e-mail: revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com or 872223). We also warmly invite instrument players to help accompany us on some occasions.

Sunday School: on 11th and 25th February. We would love anyone to join us, either as a helper or pupil: please contact Katherine Huggins (607841).

Messy Church: all children and their carers are welcome to the next Messy Church at 3.30pm on Friday 9th February. You'll have lots of fun, crafts and songs, followed by a hot meal for everybody!

Wheelchairs are available for short-term loans from Kensworth Church Hall, for a small donation. Please contact Heather Woods (873492).

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

For all services, see page 13. The February Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 3rd. Do come along for delicious cake, coffee and a chat. Everybody is very welcome.

Advance notice: cancelled at Christmas: Musical Service by Dunstable Salvation Army Band on Saturday 17th March. More details in the next issue.

KENSWORTH LADIES' CLUB

This month we are having a New Year Lunch at the Farmer's Boy at 12 noon on the 5th. Please contact Shirley Hull (872351) to order your meal. We are open to ladies/girls/women of all ages and especially welcome newcomers to Kensworth.

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: in February we shall be praying especially for all the residents of Oakway. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, perhaps for a special person or event, please contact Churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or e-mail: meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

Children's Church is on Sunday 18th February at 10.30am. It will be the first Sunday of Lent and the children will be considering the importance of this season of the church year, which gives us opportunities for choices and decisions about the right pathways for our lives, a pathway that for Christians is with God. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the service and for the celebration of all the February birthdays.

Wine Evening 2018: planning has already started for this year's wine evening on Saturday 28th April, 7.30pm at the village hall. Please contact John McDougal (823257 or john.mcdougal@btinternet.com) for tickets at £22 each.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

We are a friendly group who aim to raise funds throughout the year to support the maintenance of the oldest building in the village, the Church.

Our biggest event of the year will be the **May Fair** on 19th May. Planning is well in hand but volunteers are always welcome (see below). We also have the very popular **Caritas Choir** returning on 7th July and a Call My Bluff wine evening later in the year.

We also run a 100 Club which costs only £12 per year with £60 in prizes each month. Lynne Moxon and Dorothy Gawen were winners in December whilst Hans Mulder and Dee Claassen were successful in January. We are grateful to Emma Mulder for running the 100 club but as she has now stood down, we are looking for a volunteer to help with this. To join the 100 Club, volunteer for the May Fair, run the 100 club or find out more about the Friends, please contact John McDougal (see above).

STUDHAM MAY FAIR

The 2018 Studham May Fair will be held on **Saturday 19th May**. As the Royal Wedding will be taking place that morning, there will be a 'royal' theme to the afternoon's events. The Committee have been busily working for several months on preparations for this year's Fair, which will also include some new stalls and attractions. We would very much welcome volunteers to be involved in helping, particularly on the day of the Fair. If you can spare the time please contact Emma Mulder (873089), Eric or Jane Jacoby (872872), Mike Bailey (872318) or Paul Cload (871205).

THREE VILLAGES HOLIDAY TO YORK

From Sunday 23rd September to Saturday 29th September (6 nights).

Staying in the Double Tree at Hilton Hotel, York, we will be ideally situated for exploring York, being 5 minutes walk from the Minster and this beautiful area of Yorkshire. We will be staying on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis. The itinerary will include: a guided walk around York; a visit to Castle Howard, one of Britain's finest stately homes; a visit to Haworth village and an illustrated talk about the Bronte Parsonage and a visit to the home of the Brontes; a day in Harrogate with a guided walk; a ride on the North Yorks Moors Railway from Pickering to Whitby, and a drive to Skipton on market day with a trip on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.



The inclusive price for all the above, all travel and driver's tip is £645.29 per head in a double/twin room. If you are interested, please send £50 deposit per head to secure a place. Cheques payable to 'Margaret Maddox', 7 Oakway, Studham. Please telephone 01582 873225 for any further information

STUDHAM WI BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

As part of the 100th birthday celebrations, there is an article about the history of the WI and their connections with the suffragettes from 1915 to 1929 on the Parish Link website. Visit www.parishlink.org.uk.

PARISH LINK AGM

Advanced notice – the Link AGM will be held on Saturday 3rd March at 10am in Kensworth Church Hall (behind the Vicarage). Come along and meet the team.

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting is on Tuesday 13th February at 7.45pm in the Methodist Church Hall in Dunstable. David Tuner gives a talk on the work of the artists George Shepherd and Thomas Fisher who produced scenes of Bedfordshire in the early 19th century. Visitors to meeting £2.

SOUTH BEDS ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

On Monday 5th February at 2.30pm, a talk by Russell Bowes titled "Tools of the Trade". An introduction to the history of the lawnmower, the wheelbarrow, your secateurs and that wretched hosepipe. Intrigued? Come along to the Salvation Army Centre in Bull Pond Lane in Dunstable. Guests are welcome at £3.

SCHOOL NEWS

KENSWORTH CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL

We want to start by wishing everyone in the parish a very Happy New Year. The children have all returned to school with a great learning attitude – even after all that Christmas chocolate!!!

We have a quiet half term planned, with new topics throughout the school. In Design Technology we are starting some new fun activities, including making old-style houses from cardboard, a textiles project for the hall and the older children are learning to make burgers from scratch.....yummy!

We have clubs going on after school which include tennis, multi-skills and performing arts, as well as a fun-packed breakfast club every morning before the school day starts.

For more information about the school, please contact us on 872336.

STUDHAM C of E VILLAGE SCHOOL

A Happy New Year from all at Studham Village School.

The end of last term was not helped by the weather but with some hasty re-organisation, we managed to fit three Christmas plays, a pantomime, a Christmas Fair, a Christmas Service and a Christmas lunch into just 5 days. Well done to everyone who was involved.



Our Choir performed outside the British Heart Foundation's Dunstable Furniture Store in West Street. They managed to raise a very creditable £50 from passers-by, many of whom stopped and joined in with the odd carol or two.

January brings with it some new experiences for our children including a Big Cook – Little Cook session for all our children courtesy of our catering company. Our School Council is going shopping for a new tree to replace the diseased one we had to cut down. We will also be expanding our sports provision this month including extra P.E. and more organised games at lunchtimes.

Pre-School Applications

This school year has seen our busiest ever in pre-school. It is great to have a full unit but it does put pressure on places. Please note that the deadline for applications for the next academic year i.e. September 2018, is Friday 27th April. As always, application forms are available from the school and early applications

USEFUL INFO

FUTURE of THE CHILTERN SURVEY

Greetings from the Chilterns Conservation Board.

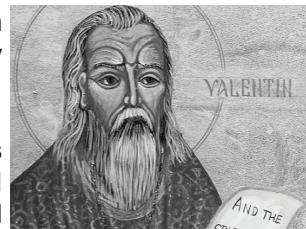


We are launching a survey on the Chilterns. We would like to hear from local organisations and members of the public about what they value about the Chilterns, what their concerns are and what the priorities should be for the future. The survey can be found at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FutureOfTheChilterns.

This survey will form part of our review of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan working with a range of partners. As an important stakeholder in the AONB we are very keen to involve you in this process. A first consultation on a draft plan will take place from May, and you will have the opportunity to comment at that time.

14th FEBRUARY - ST VALENTINE'S DAY

The St Valentine that inspired the holy day may have been more than one man, but the saint officially recognised by the Church was a real person who died around AD 270.



An account from the 1400s describes Valentine as a priest who was beheaded by Emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed. The emperor had banned marriage as he thought single men made better soldiers! Valentine felt this was unfair so he celebrated marriages in secret. When the emperor found out, the saint was thrown in jail and sentenced to death.

Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales writer, may have actually been behind Valentine's Day as we celebrate it now. The medieval English poet took quite a few liberties with history! His poem refers to February 14 as the day of birds coming together to find a mate. "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's" as we now know it. There is no actual record of Valentine's Day before Chaucer's poem in 1375. Valentine cards started to be sent from the eighteenth century.

He is the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages, and also of beekeepers and epilepsy among other things, like the plague, fainting and travelling! His skull is housed and adorned in flowers in Rome. It's on display in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin.

CHURCH NEWS

NORTH CHILTERNS GROUP

Our Lent course this year is a five-part study course based on the film 'The Way'. Starring Martin Sheen as a bereaved father, this thought-provoking, amusing and uplifting film observes a group of pilgrims walking The Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela.

As the film follows their journey of inner transformation, so the course examines biblical accounts and images of salvation past, present and future.

We are meeting as usual on Tuesday evenings in Lent (February 20th and 27th; March 6th, 13th and 20th). All sessions will start with refreshments at 7.45pm before a more formal beginning at 8pm, and they will be held in Totternhoe Church Hall, Church Road, Totternhoe, LU6 1RH. All are welcome!

For more information, please contact the Revd. Nicola Lenthall (01582 872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com).

Annual coach outing: on 16th June, to Southwell, a very pretty town near Leicester, with a cathedral and a fascinating National Trust workhouse. There will also be a stop in Newark. If you are interested, contact your NCG representative (Kensworth – Deirdre Brooks: 01525 852557; Studham – Derek Spriggs: 873468; Whipsnade – Isobel Randall: 872552).

KENSWORTH MAY FESTIVAL

Every year at St. Mary's Kensworth we celebrate the coming of Spring at the start of May with a special church service and crowning of the May Queen (a pupil from Kensworth School). This is followed by a traditional church and village May Day Fair with refreshments. If you would be interested in joining the small committee which plans this lovely event (on Sunday 6th May from 10.30am this year), could you please contact the vicar, Nicola, (details above) – all help gratefully received!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes are starting for a confirmation service in the North Chilterns Group in June. If anyone is interested in being confirmed, or finding out more about it, they should contact the Revd. Nicola Lenthall.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am:

7 th February	United Service at Edlesborough (No service at Kensworth MC)
25 th February	Holy Communion

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 11 th February	10am Local arrangement
Sunday 25 th February	10am Rev. Mmasape Zihle

MORE KENSWORTH

FLOWER GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm. Contact Shirley Hull (872351) for details. New members always very welcome.

KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB

Everyone is welcome to 'Drop In' at Kensworth Village Hall every Thursday 9am –11am for tea/coffee and biscuits (soft drinks and crisps for children). Enjoy a chat and games and get to know the locals! We have outings as well.

FRIENDS of ST MARY'S, KENSWORTH

Warm thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the Quiz Night in January.

Recent winners of the Monthly Draw were Constance Wise and Gillian Rubin. If you would like to join the Friends and share your ideas on helping with fundraising for our 12th century church building, please contact David Manton (01438 831184 or davidmanton@aol.co.uk).

KENSWORTH PTA QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday 17th March in Kensworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 each, BYO Food and Drink

To book a table or a place on a table contact Gina Owen (07506 722053)

*All proceeds go Kensworth School PTA to provide extra resources for
Kensworth Church of England Academy*



TIME FOR A SMILE

A teacher saw a student entering the classroom with very dirty hands. She stopped him and said, "John, please wash your hands. My goodness, what would you say if I came into the room with hands like that?"

Smiling, the boy replied, "I think I would be too polite to mention it."

MORE STUDHAM

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Carols in the Hall: thanks to Anne and Derek Spriggs for arranging the programme. As ever, the Three Villages Choir, the children from Studham School and the Academy, and the musicians, were all brilliant. Mulled wine was donated by Chrys Smith. £157 from the appreciation box has been split between the Friends of Studham Church and the Village Hall.

Red Lion Quiz Nights: the proceeds from the Quiz Nights (see below) are being donated towards the floor replacement costs. Our thanks to Garry Ellis; and to Andrea Maxted, Chrys Smith and their families for running the evenings. The Village Hall entered a team – we did not win!!

Art Club: thanks to everybody who responded to the announcement in the last Link. There will be an informal get together at 7pm on Friday 9th February in the hall. If you are interested, but cannot manage to come, please contact Des Salmon (872082 or e-mail: desstudham@btconnect.com) Also see page 20.

Treasurer & Secretary: it is disappointing that there has been no response to join us as Treasurer or Secretary from appeals in the Link and other contacts. We are a small team running the hall on behalf of the community and meet about five times a year. You can make a real contribution towards the community. Perhaps a New Year's resolution? Please contact Des Salmon (contact above) or a trustee.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

The next work party for the Friends will be on Saturday 17th February. Our tasks will include planting hazels and other trees if needed on the East and West Commons, weather permitting. Light trimming of brambles on the Middle Common to conserve the hedgerow on the western boundary and light trimming of old gorse on the West Common to encourage regeneration for insects and nesting birds.

Everyone is welcome – please come and help out; all tools will be provided, also lunch. We meet at the war memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am. Contact Denis Davison for more information (872650/denis@den-jen.co.uk).

CARPET BOWLS

The Club meets at 7pm on Thursdays and dates are in the diary section. We are a small friendly group and new members are always most welcome, or just come for a taster. Contacts are Pat Thorne (872751) or Des Salmon (872082).

QUIZZES

Red Lion Quiz Nights on the first Tuesday of the month from September to May; all the proceeds will be going toward the repairs of the Village Hall floor. £3 entry per person to the quiz, raffle tickets £1 per strip and teams can be any size. If you would like to reserve a table or have a curry first, then ring Garry Ellis (872530) – we look forward to seeing you there. So far 3 different teams have won – will your team be next?

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Following public participation at the December meeting, when village improvements and enhancements were requested, Councillors advised residents present that the only way to provide these would be to increase Parish Council tax contributions as reserves are low. Residents in attendance thought a £10 increase per year to an average Band D property would be very reasonable increase and recommended it. The Parish Council have also renegotiated many contracts this financial year (grass cutting, CCTV and refuse collection) in order to reduce costs.

It was therefore agreed by Parish Councillors at the January meeting to increase the Parish Council precept for 2018/19 and a Band D property will now contribute £52.07 per year (just over £4 a month).

Further discussions on village improvements such as the play area, Christmas lighting and planting, will be held at future Parish Council meetings and updates on decisions will be given in future articles.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Lots of thanks to be extended this month.

1. Thank you: to all those who organised, cooked, or generally helped with the Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch. It was much appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended. We've heard many good reports of it. Our thanks to you all, and see you same place, same time next December!
2. Thank you: to all the volunteers who turned out to deal with the heavy snow last month: this was the first time the Parish Council green salt bins have been pressed into service since installation. Any offers of help in the future should be referred to the Clerk (clerk@studhamparish.co.uk), or any councillor.
3. Thank you: finally, to all of you. It seems as if we have been nagging for years about not leaving Fido's calling cards where he left them, and it finally appears to be working. At least all the bins seem to be full, and there's no strange fruit hanging in trees. Please keep up the good work.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be for Planning and Finance, and will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 5th February.

Our Annual Parish Meeting this year will be held on Monday 9th April, starting at 8pm. This is your chance to tell the Parish Council what you think of them, (politely, of course). Refreshments will be available.

KENSWORTH EXTRA

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Our Chairman, Mike Sawyer, welcomed Sally Catlin to the committee, as our new **Treasurer**. We are very grateful to Sally, as we have been without a Treasurer for nine months.

Maintenance work has been completed on the heating system and also a new strip put on the rear door; there was also some minor damage in the toilets following the New Year's Eve event. The evening raised a profit of £165, a good sum considering it is not run as a fund-raising event but to provide a family New Year's Eve celebration. There were some concerns raised on this occasion, which will be discussed at a future meeting, when a decision on whether to hold an event this year will be made.

Bookings continue to come in for weekends and, with regular weekly hirers, the Hall is used every day. A review of the hire charges was under consideration and it was agreed to raise charges for ad hoc users and keep the local regular hire charges the same.

The next **Village Walk** is on 10th February. Regular walkers will meet in the Farmers Boy on 20th February at 7.30pm to discuss possible destinations for future walks for the rest of the year. The dates fixed so far for the walks are 10th March and 14th April. Look out for posters in the village.

The committee are grateful for a donation of **filing cabinets** for the loft store room. They will come in very handy for storing paperwork and other items. A spring cleaning day will be arranged to sort out some of the items to donate to charity or local organisations.

The **next meeting** is planned for Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm. New volunteers always welcome to join the committee to bring fresh ideas.



HARDY KENSWORTH FOLK BATTLE THROUGH THE SNOW FOR THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

STUDHAM EXTRA

We're forming an art club

At Studham Village Hall

Details from Des Salmon

(desstudham@btconnect.com / 01582 872082)

Get together Friday 9th Feb, 7pm Village Hall.

See page 17

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

Junior and adult tennis coaching takes place every Saturday morning between 9am and 11am (juniors 9am – 10am, adults 10am – 11am). All are welcome – non-members £6 per session, members £4 per session. Our coach, Justin, is also available for private individual or group lessons. Family social play takes place on a Saturday between 2pm and 4pm. Please contact Justin (just.brooketennis@gmail.com or on 07807 721 810) for more information.

For more information on coaching or joining the club contact Andrew Jones (andrew.jones@expressvending.co.uk/07833 111682/www.studhamtennisclub.co.uk).

BINGO

On Wednesdays 14th and 28th February at 7.30pm in Studham Village Hall. Come and play Bingo in friendly surroundings. £5 will pay your entrance, books and even a strip of raffle tickets! We would love to see you.

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Would all those who walk their dogs through the Playing Fields please keep them on a lead whilst in the grounds and remember to clean up after them. Dog faeces can be dangerous to the health of young children as well as being ‘anti-social’ to those using the sporting facilities.

SCRABBLE

Our small but enthusiastic Scrabble Group meets at 2pm every Tuesday afternoon at Studham Village Hall.

WI

On 1st February a demonstration of Mosaics from Dionne Ible. It is possible that we could have a ‘workshop’ later in the year when we can all have a go at this fascinating craft; well if it was good enough for the Romans....! All ladies are welcome to join us, visitors fee £3.50 includes refreshments. There will be a competition for items beginning “F”. A reminder – subs for the year, £41, are now due.

STUDHAM “CALL FOR SITES”

As you will be aware, the team looking into developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Studham sent out a detailed questionnaire about many aspects of the village in January 2017. 56% of households completed and returned this questionnaire. Part of it referred to future housing need in Studham. 69% said there was a need for additional housing and 92% said the Neighbourhood Plan should identify specific sites for future development.

As a result of that, the team is now issuing a call for sites and wants to hear from anyone wishing to submit sites for development. For full details of what is required, please go to the Parish Link website (www.parishlink.org.uk) and follow the link. The deadline is 31st March.

STUDHAM SENIOR CITIZENS’ LUNCH

Enjoying the Christmas Lunch



BRAIN TEASERS

(answers on page 23)

1. Who makes it, has no need of it. Who buys it, has no use for it. Who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?
2. What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?
3. Paul's height is six feet, he is an assistant at a butchers shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?
4. What kind of room has no doors or windows?
5. Imagine you are in a dark room. How do you get out?
6. What is always coming but never arrives?