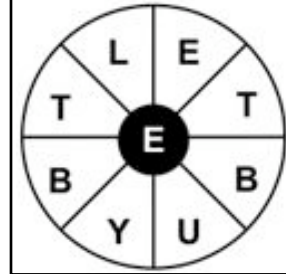




POTTED JAM

How many words can you make from the letter wheel (at least 3 letters long and always including the middle letter)? What is the 9-letter word? Can you complete the word-ladder? Add words changing just 1 letter at a time.

PUZZLE CORNER



SING

WORD

Jane And Mark's Christmas Newsletter – We make a drama out of everything
Issue 15, December 2011 FREE Outlook: Hopeful

MUM'S: THE WORD

POTTED JAM is getting harder to write. It first started as a light-hearted pastiche on Christmas newsletters with very little real news (or at least any real news was fairly well hidden within cryptic comedy column inches).

But life hasn't been playing ball over the last two or three years and unfortunately this year hasn't been any different.

1940s for 40th

We enjoyed a fabulous fancy-dress forties-themed fandango for Mark's sister Siân's 40th Birthday in June. Obviously we made the effort to dress for the occasion.

"You didn't specify which '40s" – Mark

"Absolutely Fabulous, sandals are so hot right now" – Gok Wan



Glutimus Maximus with Paella & sons

There have been things to enjoy and poke fun at so hopefully this year's edition manages to stay as light-hearted and incomprehensible as possible given our sad news.

The first of which is that Mark's great Aunt Mia passed away in mid-November aged (very nearly) 104! She was always full of fun and is the last of a generation on Mark's side of the family.

But our saddest news is that after a two and half year battle with cancer Mark's Mum (Margaret) passed away on 23rd November – a month short of her 70th birthday.

Mum's worsening condition has meant very frequent trips down to, and long stays in, Wales. Also over the summer Mark's Dad has been very unwell with several hospital stays culminating in a final operation – which just happened to be the same day Mum died.

It has been a very tiring year but we have been blessed by some happy memories and incredibly supportive family and friends.

A particularly precious memory is Mum's last trip to York over Easter we had a lovely time with Sian, Dave & Jemma as well as Mum. The highlight was taking

Mum to enjoy Fountains Abbey one sunny afternoon in April.

Mum's funeral was on 2nd December and although it was difficult to say goodbye we were able to give thanks for Mum's life and her love of God and her service for him – especially encouraging other women in their faith and reading of God's word.

The boys did a wonderful job reading the family tribute at the thanksgiving service, Dave played the piano and Ethan accompanied on the drums. We are glad Mum's suffering is now over and that she is with the Lord she loved and served. We have been overwhelmed by the amazing support and care from family, friends and colleagues.



We would like to thank everyone for their love, help and prayers over the last few months – especially those who gave their time sacrificially to care for Mum.

As Mum's birthday is Christmas Day it will be a sadder time than usual but nevertheless we give thanks as Christmas reminds us of the coming of Jesus and the hope of new and eternal life that he brings. We wish you a Joy-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year.

New to Potted JAM? You can find back-issues at: www.pottedjam.org

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim 4:7

NEWS IN BRIEFS

by Bocks R Shorts

Stand Out, Guv!

The Governing Body that Jane chairs at Osboldwick Primary School was found to be "outstanding" by OFSTED in the inspection report published in January. Only the second time in 20 years that the lead inspector had given that judgment to school governors.

"Outstanding!" — OFSTED

"Calm down, dear!" — Mark

Bros Reunited

Simmy made the move up to Archbishop Holgate's C of E Academy in September. He is delighted to be reunited with his big brother although they now regularly get mistaken for each other. They both play in Soul Band together, Simmy on sax (now at Grade 2) and Ethan on drums (despite now being Grade 5 piano).



"A radical fusion of Seasick Steve and Little Mix" — NME

That Peter And Liz Thing

After a long break due to 'artistic differences' the Potted JAM sketch writing team were back in action this year: creating new sketches and updating old favourites for a 7-week run of Capernaum Street. See: <http://tinyurl.com/cs9c2op>.

"Sublime!" — TimeOut

"★★★★★" — Theatre Review

"Repeats! Again?" — YCC regular

System Thunked

In IT at Aviva, Mark has been at the vanguard of introducing a better way to make the work, work called "Systems Thinking". This has involved: brain-washing, a change in role and another trip to Chennai.

"Who broke the flush on the loo?" — Jane

"I think you'll find it's the cistern, not the individual" — Mark



HALF-term in the summer was spent in Weymouth building sandcastles as usual.

This time the theme related to our upcoming summer holiday in Italy. We braved highs of over 40°C to enjoy the sights, sounds, gelato and granite of Rome, Florence and Pisa.

Our favourite sign on the metro in Rome is the one above right - we think the approximate translation is: "don't fall out of the train onto your lardy bottom".

"Due cappuccino per favore" — Mark

"It's the side of the Tiber!" — Survivor

"Where's the leaning tower of Pizza?" — Ethan & Simmy



The Beard makes an early appearance on top of the Duomo, Florence

VIRAL PUPPETRY

This year saw the launch of the boys' own YouTube Channel: Tubby Puppet Pals. The evil Teletubby alter-egos have been unleashed on an unsuspecting public. Here's a quick link if you dare: <http://tinyurl.com/d7ntdqy>.

"Welcome to Wah-les!" — Tinky-Winky

"An internet comedy sensation" — Rude Tube

"Very funny boys, now pass the bucket of custard" — Huw Lewis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

I notice that the Vicar you featured in your 2009 edition now has a successful media career appearing as a Church Times centrefold and also as the new 'face' of St. Arbucks. The press won't take me seriously on the Eurozone, tuition fees & PR. Instead they just focus on my relationship with my partner Dave. Please, please feature me in Potted JAM to restore my credibility!



Yours glumly
N. Clegg

(We're good but not that good! - Ed)

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

by Kirsty Allswap & Phil Spender

CONGRATULATIONS to Josh & Iona who have both bought their first homes in Folkestone.

Iona & Tomo have a new little pet whilst Josh & Natalie have been re-modelling their new home.

Not to be out-done Jane has also extended her portfolio career which now includes part-time property tycoon and letting agent.

"Hello kitty!" — Iona

"Time for a break" — Josh

"Probably the best land-lady in the world" — Mark & Vanessa

"Do I smell gas?" — David Tenant



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