

Kippington Cat

11th April 2021



“Driving the message home”.

Have you heard that expression before? It means that – sometimes – people just do not understand or “get” what you are trying to tell them, so you have to find other ways of saying, or showing, the same thing over and over until the penny drops, and they DO understand.

Jesus had to do this after the events of Easter. He had to appear to His followers on many different occasions to show them, prove to them and emphasise to them that He had beaten death and was risen – just as the Scriptures had foretold.

The first time was to Mary Magdalene.

She had gone to the tomb where His body had been put and after finding the tomb empty and running to fetch some of the other disciples, she saw two angels sitting – one where His head had been, one where His feet had rested. As Mary was trying to make sense of it all, she saw Jesus standing there, but did not realise that it was Him.

Thinking He was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She recognised His voice and did His bidding when He told her to go and tell the disciples – ‘I have seen the Lord!’

And, again, Jesus had to drive His point home...

The disciples were sitting around talking about whether it could possibly be true that Jesus was alive, when He walked into the room and said to them, “Peace be with you.” The disciples were stunned. Even though they had heard it, they were shocked to see Him standing there.



Jesus said to them, “Why do you look at me like that? Why do you not believe what you are seeing with your own eyes? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see, I am not a ghost but a real person.”

The disciples were flabbergasted – full of joy, and yet, surely, what they were seeing was impossible?

Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, “This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible.”

Thomas (one of the twelve disciples) was not there that day – and even though the others all told him what they had seen, he refused to believe any of it unless and until he had seen it for himself. A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and again said, ‘Peace be with you!’

Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe.” He continued, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; but it is more amazing when those who do **not** see me believe anyway.”

That little comment is wonderful – because – when you think about it, Jesus was talking about **us** when He said this. **We** believe in Him, without (yet) having seen Him. That is exactly what faith is: believing in God even though you cannot see Him.

Jesus appeared many more times to drive his message home – but I will tell you about just one further occasion:

Some of the disciples decided to go fishing, but all through the night until early morning, had caught nothing. Jesus knew where they were and went to meet them. Standing on shore, He called to them, "Friends, haven't you caught any fish?"

They did not realise who He was, and answered, "No". Jesus told them, "Throw your net on the other side and you will catch some." After a long night of no catch, they did so, and within minutes it was overflowing with fish.

One of the disciples realized who had been talking to them, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Peter heard that, he jumped into the water to get to Jesus (I hope they were not too far from shore!). The others stayed in the boat and worked hard to bring in all the fish before joining them. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of your catch and we'll have breakfast together." They all sat in front of the warm fire and Jesus took bread and the fish and gave it to them.

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter an important question. "Peter do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love you." Again, Jesus asked, "Peter do you truly love me, no matter what?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus asked him for a third time, "Do you love me?" Peter felt a bit hurt because Jesus kept asking the same thing over and over, but he replied, "Lord, you know the answer, you know that I love you."

"Then follow me," Jesus said.



We have learned that Jesus died on the cross because He loves us, no matter what we do.

Do you agree with me that we need to love Him back, "no matter what"?

It is easy to say we love Him when things are going well, but I wonder if you or I would still find it easy to love and follow Him if...

- We ourselves, or someone we love, became sick?
- We were being badly bullied?
- We were really poor and could not afford food or a roof over our heads?

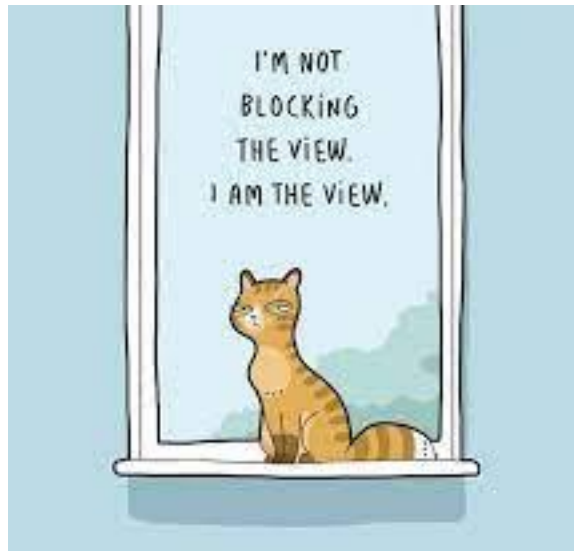
There are children around the world – in this country and in our town – who are just like you, but have these problems, and much worse, and *still* love Jesus! We need to remember that *no matter what*, Jesus loves us and will never ever stop loving us! Sometimes things happen that we cannot understand, but Jesus knows everything, and will help if we ask Him.

*Thanks be to God
that He loves us... no matter what.*

K.C.



The world from a cat's-eye-viewpoint...



Anyone who lives with a cat will recognise this reality!



"So we agree this isn't working. Good. Pick me up, take me home, and let's never speak of this again."

Leads are for dogs. NEVER for cats. We have our dignity to think of.



Well? Want to challenge that?!

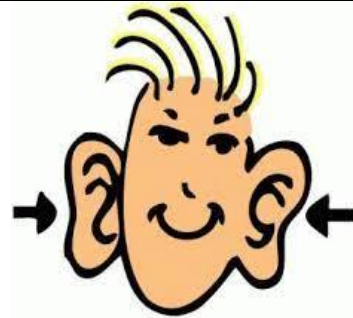
Riddles to enjoy & amaze!

(answers on the back page)

*I speak without a mouth,
and hear without ears.*

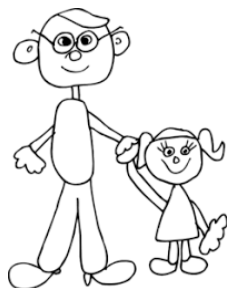
*I have no body,
but I come alive when you call.*

What am I?



*How is the number seven
different from
all the other numbers
from one to ten?*

*What is seen in the middle of
March and April
that cannot be seen
at the beginning or end of either month?*



*How
can you physically
stand behind your father
while he is standing behind you?*

And now for a REALLY difficult one!



What word in the English language does the following?

*The first two letters signify a male,
the first three letters signify a female,
the first four letters signify a great,
while the entire word signifies a great woman.*

What is the word?



What has been making the cat laugh this week...

About bits 'n bobs
and this 'n that!

Q: What did one angel say to the other angel?

A: Halo

Q: What kind of birthday cake do they serve in heaven?

A: Angel food cake.

A teacher asks her students about the thing they fear the most.

One girl said spiders.

Another student said heights.

And then a boy said, "Evil A-men".

The teacher - somewhat confused - asks the boy to explain.

He replied: "I dunno exactly who they are but when I go to church on Sundays, the vicar makes us all say a prayer asking God to "deliver us from Evil A-men."



Q: Who is it that everyone listens to, but no one believes?

A: The weather reporter

Q: What's the difference between a TV and a newspaper?

A: Ever tried swatting a fly with a TV?

Q: Why was everyone so tired on April 1st?

A: They had just finished a March of 31 days.

Q: What did the lawyer name his daughter?

A: Sue

Q: What do you call a flying police officer?

A: A heliocopper!



Q: Why did the lazy man want a job in a bakery?

A: Because he thought that meant he could loaf around all day!

The chair that was not there – a story about true friendship

Once upon a time, in a place not far from here, there was a boy called Martin who loved to boast about having loads of friends. He showed off a lot about it, always talking about how many friends he had at school and through social media and how he was so popular with everyone.

One day his grandfather said to him,

"You know what, Martin, I think you don't have as many friends as you believe. Not **true** friends, anyway. I mean the ones you actually know, face-to-face – your school friends – not the ones who are simply a screen presence online!"

Martin wanted to prove his grandfather wrong, but he was not quite sure how he could test whether his schoolmates were real friends or not, so he asked his grandpa what he could do to show him that he really DID have all those friends he claimed.



The old man thought for a while, and then answered, "Hmm. I think I have exactly what you need, it is in the attic. Wait here a minute." Grandpa left, soon returning as though carrying something in his hands, but Martin could see nothing there.

"Here you go! Take it. This is a special, invisible chair. It is rather tricky to sit on – because you cannot see where it is! – but if you take it to school and you manage to sit on it, you will activate magic, and you'll be able to tell who your real friends are."

Martin was a brave and determined little boy – especially when he had a point to prove! He took the strange invisible chair and set off for school. At break time he asked everyone to form a circle, and he put himself in the middle, with his chair.

"Nobody move. You're about to see something amazing."

And Martin attempted sitting on the chair. Having difficulty seeing it, he missed the first time and fell straight onto his backside. Everyone had a good laugh at that!

"Wait, wait, just a slight technical problem," he said, making another attempt. But he missed the seat again, causing more surprised looks, a few "boos!" and more laughter.

Martin would NOT be beaten. He kept trying to sit on the magic chair and kept falling to the ground and the laughter and jeering kept coming.



... until, suddenly, he tried again and did not fall. This time he sat, hovering in mid-air...

Then it was that he finally experienced the magic that his grandfather had been talking about. Looking around, Martin saw Tom, Lucas, and Diana – his three best friends – using their arms and hands to make a seat for him to sit on! Meanwhile, many others he had *thought* of as friends had done nothing but make fun of him, laughing at him and enjoying seeing him repeatedly fall.

And there the show came to an end.

Leaving school that afternoon with Tom, Lucas and Diana, he explained to them how his clever grandfather had thought of a way to show him that true friends are those who genuinely care for us, and not just any casual acquaintance who does not have our best interests at heart.

And – goodness! – someone who takes joy in our misfortunes is even LESS of a friend!

That evening the four children went to see Martin's grandpa to tell him what had happened. He told them how glad he was that the four of them now recognised what true friendship is.

"And, as for those so-called friends that you only know over the internet," he added with a big smile, "how could you expect **them** to hold you up when they are not even there?!" The children thought about that for while – and then agreed that no, those friends could never help them in real life – as all they are is a screen presence and words being typed by someone, somewhere.



After they had all eaten, Grandpa lit a bonfire in the garden and joined the friends as they had a great time listening to and telling each other fantastical stories, toasting marshmallows and popping & eating popcorn until they were ready to "pop" themselves!

And from then on (mostly only in their imaginations) they used the MCT – or magic chair test – on many occasions.

And whoever passed it became friends for life.

True friendship is a blessing - and is rare!

**Treasure the real friends you make,
and do not let fake friendships
- especially those over the internet -
have any power in your life.**

* * * * *

Talking of friends,
the other day, I was watching **my** friend out in the garden,
and it made me wonder...



Do you think – maybe – cats are solar-powered?

BOREDOM BUSTERS...

Why not try these garden games that require no special kit?

Blanket Run

The blanket run amazing fun to play but you MUST – please – or I shall get into terrible trouble! – check with your parents if they have some **old** blankets or big towels that they do not mind getting ruined! (Maybe best to use ones that were about to be thrown out?)

Divide your group of people into teams – either teams of two, or it can be done as a relay race if there are more of you.

One team member sits on the blanket and holds it tightly. The other team member grabs one end of the blanket and runs. All the teams must start racing at the same time. At the opposite end, the players must switch their roles: so that the one who was running is now sitting on the blanket and the one who was sitting must grab the blanket and run back to the starting point.

If the “sitter” falls off the blanket, that pair must run back to the start line and start over – so it is important to hold on tightly!

If you are doing it as a relay – every team member must do both activities: so, assuming a team of five, it would go: player 1 sits while 2 grabs and runs, then player 2 sits while 3 grabs and runs, 3 sits while 4 runs, 4 sits while 5 runs and finally 5 sits while 1 grabs and runs.

This is a “first past the post” game, so the team that completes in the quickest time wins the game.



Hospital Tag

Tag is a super-easy game. One person is ‘it.’ Everyone else is not! The person who is ‘it’ chases everyone else and whoever gets tagged (touched) becomes ‘it.’

Hospital tag is like ordinary tag except ... When ‘it’ tags players instead of becoming ‘it,’ they become wounded! Wherever they are tagged, the player must put one hand on that place.

The next time they are tagged, hand #2 must be put on the second tagged place. This can become funny if one hand is on a leg and the other on their back or something!

The third time a player is tagged, they are “out” and must move outside the area of play.



Poison Frog

In this circle game, one person is picked to be the detective, who sits in the middle of the circle. A second person is secretly chosen (by someone not playing the game) to be the Poison Frog.

The chosen Poison Frog “kills off” the other players one by one by making eye contact and sticking their tongue out at the person, trying to do so when the detective is not looking in their direction, so as not to get caught out!

(Dramatic “deaths” by the players make the game more fun – so, over-acting skills are a bonus!!) ...

The detective tries to decide who the killer is and once they have guessed correctly, a new frog and detective are chosen – and so on.



Silly Symphony:

Silly Symphony is fun to play on or after a long family walk in the woods or other areas where there are plenty of natural materials like sticks, rocks, and leaves.

Whilst on the walk, collect natural objects that can make a noise.

Ideas could include two rocks that can be struck together, or two sticks, or some dry leaves that can be rustled, or dry twigs that can be snapped, or a blade of grass which could be used as a whistle (I have NEVER been able to do this!).

When you get home (or whilst out and about) all sit in front of one person who will conduct the orchestra of sounds by waving at each person to play their “instrument.”



How about ... Making Date and Cinnamon Swirls?

This yummy recipe has only three ingredients
and makes approximately 25 swirls!



You will need:

375g pack shop-bought puff pastry – 300g pitted dates – 2 tsp ground cinnamon

- Soak the dates in a bowl of boiling water from the kettle, to soften them. Once softened, put them in a food processor, add the cinnamon and blend together to make a puree.
- Unroll the puff pastry sheet (or roll it to ½ cm thick if yours comes in a block).
- Spread the date mix evenly over the top, going right to the edges.
- Now roll the long side neatly to make a “swiss roll” shape (or if you want to be fancy & make butterfly swirls, roll the two long sides evenly in turn to meet in the middle).
- Carefully transfer onto a plate & put into the fridge to firm up for at least an hour.
- This gives you time to clean up all the mess you have made so far!
- Pre-heat the oven to 220c / fan 200c.
- Line two baking sheets with greaseproof paper.
- Remove the pastry from the fridge and – using a sharp knife (so maybe get an adult to do this bit?) – cut the cylinder into slices, each about a centimetre thick.
- Arrange them on the baking trays and bake for 15-17 minutes until golden.
- Transfer onto a rack to cool.
- They will keep in an airtight container for 2-3 days.

Perfect as part of a garden afternoon tea with friends or family!



Puzzles

Two angels appeared in the Bible story today.
Here is an angel puzzle for you to enjoy.

Angels of the Bible Word Search

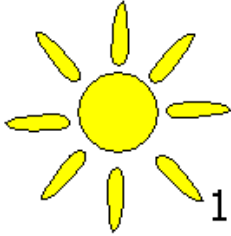

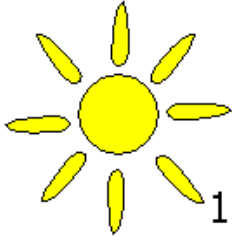



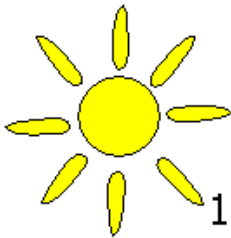

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G L S B O J E L B I S I V N I

angel	jobs
announce	live
beautiful	messengers
bright	minister
created	obedient
duties	protect
encouragers	serve
friendly	sing
God	thousands
heaven	worship
invisible	

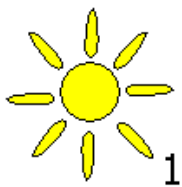


As we never know what the weather will be like from one day to the next – this might be fun to do no matter whether there is sun, clouds, or rain outside (though – hopefully – not snow!)

Weather Sudoku

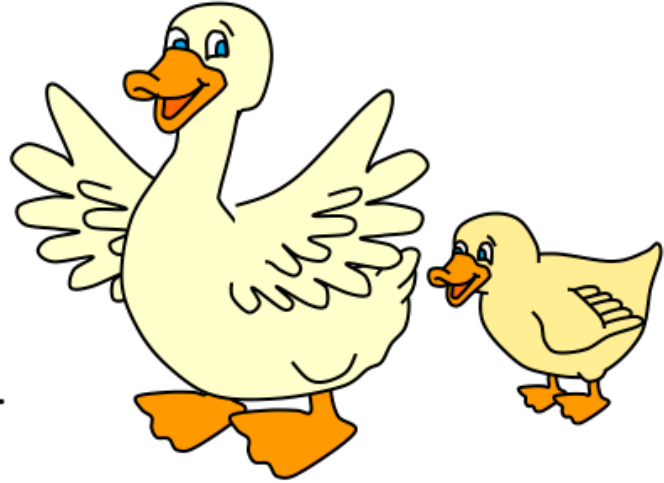
	 1	 2	
		 1	 3
 2	 4		 1
		 4	

Each row, each column and each of the large four squares should have one of each image. Fill in the blanks!



Duck Themed Word Ladder

Make your way from POND to WING by changing just one letter on each step to make a new word! There are 5 steps in this word ladder.



P O N D

A small version of a lake.

--	--	--	--

Having a connection with someone.

--	--	--	--

To secure something.

--	--	--	--

The peel of oranges and lemons.

--	--	--	--

Jewelry on your fingers.

W I N G

The body part that helps birds fly.

Answers at foot of back page.

Dear Father God:

Please help me to stay calm
when I feel misunderstood.
Help me, I pray, to not become cross
or blame the other person
because *they* are not understanding
what I am trying to say.

Remind me – in those moments – Lord,
that even YOU had, at times, to repeat and clarify
and tell Your disciples over and over
until they finally understood and believed.

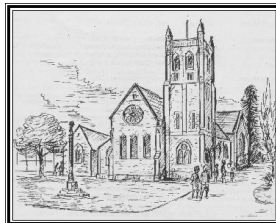
Teach me, Father, the skill
and the value of patience.

And help me, dear Lord, to forgive
as I have been forgiven.

In Your name I pray.
Amen.



*When you KNOW that you are loved,
It gives you the strength and confidence to
face the world and achieve great things.
So, isn't it amazing to KNOW we are loved by God,
and can bask in His love always and for ever ?!*



Created by Kippington Cat
of the Church of St Mary, Kippington

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TO CONTACT ME:

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Riddle solutions:

An echo / It has two syllables; the others only have one /
The letter "R" / You are standing back-to-back / Heroine.

Word ladder answer:

Pond / Fond / Find / Rind / Ring / Wing