

Kippington Cat

25th April 2021



The end of the beginning or the beginning of the end?

Spring is my very favourite time of year – with all the wonderful signs of rebirth and the lifting of the darkness of winter. I just love the longer days, the slow warming up of the air as the sun grows stronger and more powerful.

I adore seeing the blossom on the trees as they shyly display their new fresh green leaves, like a young woman showing off a new dress. I marvel at the strength of the tiny flowers that manage somehow to push their way out of the soil toward the sun, and then decorate our gardens and hillsides, like some sort of multi-coloured confetti that the angels have sprinkled from the heavens! I love the baby animals – the lambs frolicking and the little calves staying close to their mothers in the fields; and in our gardens, the fragile butterflies, busy bees and birdsong as everything stirs and awakens and starts pushing forward in an explosion of energy – a striving to grow, to flourish, to thrive.



This year, Spring seems even more potent and meaningful than ever before, as we dare to hope that the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic is behind us.

All those horrible experiences of the last year – the hardship of lockdowns, the keeping our distance from loved family members and friends, the scary uncertainty we have all felt – they are slowly being replaced by faith that things are getting better, trust that vaccinations will bring an easing of restrictions, hope that this is the beginning of the end. There is a sense of enthusiasm for the future that is both energising and uplifting.

Usually, the end of something is a little bit sad, do you agree? But sometimes, the ending is simultaneously the exciting start of something else.

As Christians, we should know this as fact – look at the teachings of Easter, after all – and we believe that when someone has ended their life here on earth with us, they start an amazing, wonderful life in heaven with God.

As Christians, we learn over our lifetimes to put our faith, hope and trust in God.

And, as Christians, that faith, hope and trust is rewarded with His love – forever.

*Wishing for all of you
the joy of countless new beginnings
throughout your lives!*

With love, K.C.



Time to say goodbye!



Kippington Cat is resuming his retirement ... for good this time!

When the first lockdown hit, over a year ago, I came out of retirement to share some fun and laughter with you all.

It has been a pleasure to produce my little comic for you and I do hope that you enjoyed doing the puzzles, making the recipes, and crafting some of the craft ideas – and that my little stories and snippets proved amusing, too.

But now that everything is getting back to how it used to be – schools operating full teaching days and now – Yay! – Sunday Club restarting as of last Sunday, it is time for me to say a final goodbye.

*So, stay well
and God
bless.*



A Farewell Prayer

As we part, my friends,
I pray you walk upon a path of love,
And remember that my heart will hold you close.

You are treasured,
and I will cheer you on your way.

As we part, my friends,
I know that you travel with Christ at your side.
His light will show the path and be your guide.

He loves you
and will support you on your way.

As we part, my friends,
I pray that you will always have hope
and that you will follow your dreams.

All who love you
will celebrate each new season of your life.

Treasured, loved and celebrated –
that is you, my friends.
Amen.



As I say goodbye, there is one important mention. Writers often use spell check programs for their work. Well, the Cat has been using a *theology checker* throughout this last year. It was a real reassurance to have someone read through each finished issue and point out any fuzzy or ambivalent content – so a big thank you to my friend, Lynette Leithead.

Another thank you to squeeze in is to Charlie Medd, who put up with my utter lack of IT skills or knowledge to make KC accessible on the church website for you all..!



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

About all sorts!

Q: Why did the teacher scold her student all year long for something he did not do?

A: It was his *homework* that he didn't do!

Q: What do you call a French man who wears beach sandals?

A: Phillippe Phloppe.

I wrote a song about a tortilla.
Well, actually,
it's more of a rap.



Q: How do you catch a squirrel?

A: Climb a tree and act like a nut.

A man was taken to hospital after eating daffodil bulbs.

Doctors say he is making a recovery and should be out in the Spring.

Q: What do you call an exploding monkey?

A: A Bab-boom.

Two silkworms had a race. It ended in a tie.

Q: What do you call it when a cat is super-stylish?

A: "Haute-cat-ture."



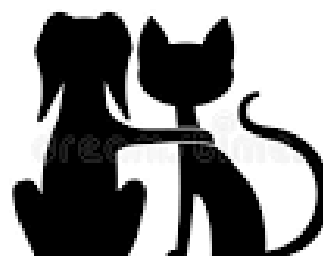
A dog walks into a job centre.

'Wow, a talking dog,' says the clerk. 'With your talent I'm sure we can find you work in the circus.'

'The circus?' says the dog. 'What does a circus want with a plumber?'

Q: What do cats look for
in a friend?

A: A great purr-sonality!



The Robot – a story about valuing your things ...

This story is happening right now in homes all around the world – including here in Sevenoaks!

James lived in a lovely, futuristic house, which had everything you could ever want. Though he did not help much – well, okay, EVER! – around the house, James was still as pleased as punch when his parents bought the latest model of butler robot.

As soon as it arrived, off it went; cooking, cleaning, ironing, and – fabulously – gathering up dirty and discarded clothes from his bedroom floor. On that first day, when James went to sleep, he had left his bedroom in a truly horrific state with mess absolutely everywhere, but when he woke up the next morning, everything was perfectly clean and tidy – amazing!



In fact, it was actually a bit too clean; James could not find his favourite t-shirt, nor his favourite toy. No matter how much he searched, the two items did not resurface, and as the days passed, the same started to happen with other things. James cast a suspicious eye on the gleaming butler robot and hatched a plan to spy on it.

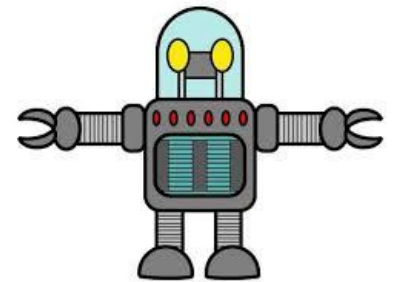
He began following it around the house until, finally, he caught it red-handed, picking up one of his toys – James just knew that the robot meant to dispose of or hide it!

Off he went, running to his parents, to tell them that the robot was badly programmed and misbehaving. James begged them to get rid of it, or exchanged for another model, but his parents refused – they were delighted with the new butler. It never got tired nor needed any time off, cleaned meticulously, washed, ironed and put away all the laundry, and cooked like a dream!

James needed to get some kind of proof to show how the robot was stealing from him. Every day, he kept on at his parents, about how much good stuff the robot was hiding, or maybe even getting rid of. Surely, he argued, these thefts far outweighed however good a cook it might be?

One day, the robot was whirring past, and heard the boy's complaints. The robot returned with one of the boy's toys, and some clothes for him. "Here, sir. I did not know it was bothering you," said the butler, with its metallic voice.

"How could it not?! You have been taking my stuff for weeks!" the boy answered, furiously.



"The objects were left on the floor, young sir. I therefore calculated that you did not like or want them. I am programmed to collect all that is discarded and not wanted, and at night I send what I have collected to places where other humans will appreciate and use it. I am a Maximum Efficiency Machine. Were you unaware?" the robot said, with a certain pride.

James started feeling a bit ashamed. Despite his parents repeated requests to take better care of his things, he had spent all his life treating them as though they were useless. He looked after nothing. And he knew – from Sunday Club and from school – that many other people would be delighted to treat those things with all the care in the world.

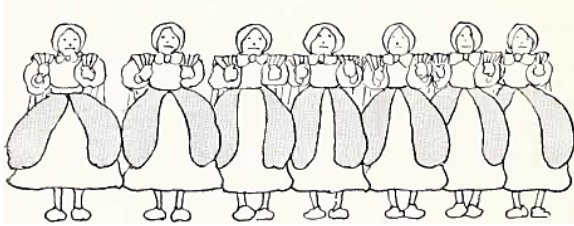
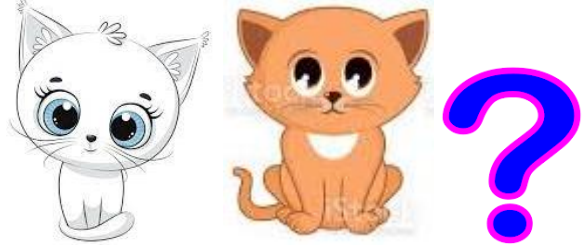
And he suddenly understood that the robot was neither broken nor mis-programmed, rather, it had been programmed extremely well!

Since then, James decided to become a Maximum Efficiency Boy, and he put real care into how he treated his things. He kept his stuff tidy and made sure he did not have more than he needed. And, often, he would buy things, and along with his good friend, the robot, take them to give to those other people who needed them.



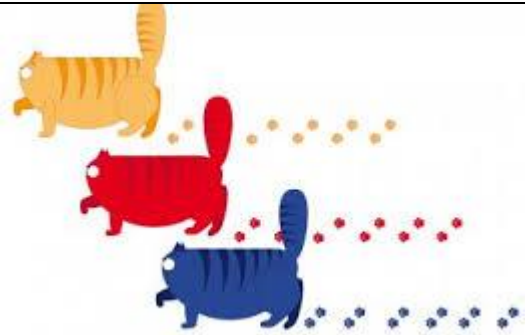
Cat Riddles!

Amy loves cats and has some as pets.
All but two of them are completely white.
All but two of them are completely black.
All but two of them are completely brown.
How many cats does Amy have?



As I was going to St Ives
I saw a man with seven wives...
If each wife had seven sacks, each sack held
seven cats and each cat had seven kittens.
How many in total were going to St Ives?

Three cats are walking in the same direction.
The first cat has two cats behind him,
the second cat has one cat behind him and
one cat in front of him,
but the third cat has one cat in front of him and
one behind him too.
How is this possible?



A cat can jump to a height of five feet
but cannot jump through a window
that is only three feet off the ground.
Why not?

A boy, a horse and a cat came to a bridge.
The boy rode his horse over the bridge...
Yet he walked.
How is this possible?



Answers on the last page – I wonder if you will need a sneak peek?

The Knight and the Nurse - a story about hope.

Writer's note: There is no correlation intended between the injections of hope in this story and the current vaccination programme being rolled out in the fight against Coronavirus ...

My sub-conscious mind must have latched on to the whole notion of injections – apologies!



Once upon a time, there was a heroic knight. His name was Sir Cedric, and he was one of the kind of knights whose triumphant deeds are still told in stories, in all languages, everywhere. His bravery was great, and his sword was feared, but he was tired of hunting for dragons, ogres and monsters in story after story. He decided to abandon the fairy-tale world and come and test out his bravery and skill in the real world.



However, when he arrived here, he found no terrible creatures, no evil wizards, not even a poor stepmother to wave his sword at. It was very strange. All he saw were worried people, with the same looks on their faces as he had seen on the faces of people he was rescuing from dragons or ogres.

Sir Cedric could not work out what was happening. As far as he could see, it did not seem like there was anyone or anything to put them in such fear, or to make them live in a state of such anxiety. Yet everyone hurried here and there, not speaking to anyone, as though something terrible was about to happen. But, at the end of the day, nothing really bad had happened. And so it was, day after day.

Sir Cedric decided to totally devote himself to finding the source of this mysterious Worry. He searched, he inquired, he investigated, he sailed, he climbed ... but he found nothing.

As time passed, Sir Cedric met, fell in love with and married a young lady called Florence. She worked in the biggest hospital in the land as a nurse and was wise beyond her years, kind and thoughtful – and they were very happy together.

He spoke to her about The Worry. "Tell me, my love. What is the great invisible enemy that strikes fear into the hearts of people in the real world? I still have not discovered the cause, but I cannot rest until I have defeated whatever it is and set everyone free."

Florence was quiet for a long while, then finally said: "Darling Cedric, I fear that this is one fight you cannot win. You see, the enemy does not exist, not in any real way. But – I grant you that it is powerful nevertheless."

Sir Cedric exclaimed: "You're not making sense, Flo! Either there IS something or there is NOT!"

"Oh, my dear," smiled Florence. "Because there are no dragons or ogres in the real world, we humans can sometimes invent our own enemies! In this way, each person has an enemy *made-to-measure*, which lives inside their heart. For some it is greed, for others envy, for others selfishness, pessimism or desperation. They have sown the seeds of negativity in their souls and take the fruits with them wherever they go. It is no easy task to uproot all that."

"But this is a terrible state of affairs!" said Cedric. "We must find a way to set them free from The Worry. We just have to work out how to replace the bad feelings with good ones ..."

Cedric and Florence put their heads together, and eventually enlisted the help of some other clever thinkers, opinion influencers, medical experts and religious leaders.

Finally, their plan swung into action!

There was a HUGE recruitment drive on the television, radio stations, Facebook and Insta. There were posters put up in bus stops and railway stations, and teachers, preachers and prime ministers all announced how everyone could sign up to receive a new, health-giving injection which would get rid of all their worries and cares.

People turned out in their hundreds and thousands.



Nobody was told that the real reason for the campaign was to free them from their negative inner life – they would not have understood or believed it.

Instead, they were all given an “Injection of Hope” – and a special take-home gift.

And, over the next few days and weeks, they all began to feel better and more optimistic, more supportive of one another, less jealous, less critical ...

The take-home gift was a special diary – on every left-side page, there was a joke or cartoon or upbeat thought or quote – and on every right-hand page there was blank space with the heading “Things that were good about today”. And people filled the pages with good thoughts and feelings and began to feel more confident, more connected with one another, more hopeful about the future.

And so it was, that the knight finally found the solution to the deep sickness of the people in the real world. They only needed a bit of hope, a smile, a laugh, a little help to banish their negative feelings, and to finally enjoy life...

From that day on, Sir Cedric and Florence started recruiting Happiness Wardens: a large and growing group of people able to remind anyone of the joy that is to be found in living. The public nicknamed these wardens the “Smile Squad” and they were ever-so popular, telling jokes, saying something warm and friendly, and simply smiling at everyone they met.



Oh – and, if you are wondering what was in the “injection of Hope” so skilfully given by Flo and her fellow nurses, well, I will let you into a little secret ...
nothing at all!

They simply pretended to inject everyone
– but the needles did not even puncture their skin –
it really was just **hope** that was being administered.

*Now, obviously, the vaccination we are getting to protect each other from the horrid Coronavirus is NOT like the one in this story!
These jabs are the real deal and we thank God and the wonderful medical researchers for developing a REAL “injection of hope” for the world.*

BOREDOM BUSTERS... WHY DON'T YOU TRY...

... Making a handprint tulip poster?

This is wonderful fun if you like to get messy.
If you do not even like finger-painting then this craft really is not for you
'cos it is waaaaay messier than that!



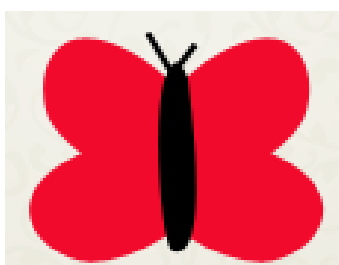
You will need:

- White construction paper (or thin card)
- green finger paint and red finger paint (or pink, or white or yellow)
- A bowl full of warm soapy water and lots of paper towels – for washing and drying off!

- First, dip the forearm (from elbow to wrist) in green finger paint. If you don't have a paint tray big enough to accommodate this, just paint the finger paint onto the forearm with a paintbrush.
- Press the arm down 3 or 4 times onto a sheet of white paper to make the tulip stems – see the left-hand picture, below.



- Now dip the hand (excluding the thumb) into red finger paint and stamp on top of the stems (holding the thumb up) to make the tulip flowers. Like in the right-hand picture, above.
- Keep the fingers quite close together to make a tulip shape.
- You can be creative with the rest of the picture – maybe add green grass, thumbprint caterpillars and thumbprint butterflies.



... Enjoy these outdoors games!

Captain's Orders

Captain's Orders is the perfect choice for those of us who like to really burn up lots of energy! The game begins with one person being nominated to be the "Captain". They must give out commands to the crew (the rest of us!). Spend some time before starting the game to think up orders that sound vaguely maritime, mixing fun commands and physically demanding ones.

Some examples could include:

- Captain's Coming : The crew must salute the captain and stand to attention
- Climb the Rigging : Pretend to climb the ropes
- Captain's Crook : Pretend to be sick (!!)
- Attention! : Salute and shout "Aye Aye Captain!"
- Peg Leg Jim : All crew must hop on one leg
- Starboard / port :The crew must run to the left (port) or right (starboard) sides of the garden and touch the wall, hedge, a specific tree...
- Scrub the deck! : The crew must do 5 push-ups (or pretend to scrub for younger children)
- Man the lifeboats! : The crew will perform 10 sit-ups while moving their arms like oars



Maybe have the crew members stand at attention after completing each task (though this can have the effect of making the more competitive players attempt to outdo each other – not always a good idea!).

After a few minutes, change captains to allow another person the chance to be in command.

The floor is lava

This game can be played indoors or out and requires no actual molten rock!

It's one of those games that can, once started, be played over days...

Somebody just yells out, "*the floor is lava,*" and the rest of the group must scramble to get off the floor and onto a couch, a fire hydrant, a fallen tree log or any other safe perch before the yeller counts to five.

How slow can you go?



This is an anti-race ...

the idea is for the players to all get on their bikes and then ride them as S L O W L Y as possible to the Finish line, without putting a foot down or falling over.

Last one past the post wins!

You could always come up with other "Slow" variations – like a walking race where you must continually move – as slowly as possible; or doing backward running to the same rules. Come up with your own ideas – the sillier, the better!

How about ... Making a “Cheat Tortilla”?

If you enjoy Spanish tortilla, but want a quicker, easier and almost as yummy version, this is the one for you!!



The ingredients below make enough for six as a meal, or would serve twice as many as a nibble to accompany drinks and other “bites”.

For the basic version, all you will need is:

170g ready-salted crisps – 100g prosciutto or serrano ham – 12 eggs

- Crack the eggs into a bowl and whisk vigorously until they are pale and frothy.
- Add the crisps to the beaten egg and stir – gently – so that they are well-coated. You might want to break up some of the bigger crisps into halves or thirds. Leave to soak for a few minutes.
- Add some freshly ground black pepper – but no salt, as the crisps provide that!
- Chop the ham into small pieces and add to the bowl.
- Heat a teaspoon of olive oil in a frying pan (no wider than 25cm diameter) over a medium heat. When it is sizzling, tip in the tortilla mix.
- Use a spatula to loosen the eggs from the sides and ensure that the filling is evenly distributed.
- Cook for 8-10 minutes until just starting to colour underneath.

Get an adult to do the next bit, as it's both hot and tricky!

- Use an inverted plate to turn the tortilla out and slide it back onto the pan the other way about. Cook on this side for 5 minutes.
- Serve hot with salad as a meal or let it cool to room temperature.
- The tortilla can be refrigerated for up to five days – but is always nicest hot or warm, without having spent any time in the fridge!

I particularly like to add onions, fried until crispy and sprinkled over the top; or add red peppers (the ones that are already roasted and sold in jars) to the mix before cooking.

How about ... Making an ice cream “terrine”?



The illustration is of a chocolate and coffee ice cream – but chose your own preferred flavours: strawberry and vanilla, lime and chocolate – totally your decision!

It is easy to make – but will need at least three hours and preferably overnight to freeze – so you will need to plan ahead!

The recipe below would give 8-10 slices, and would be a delicious pudding as the weather gets warmer!

You will need:

- 300g “Flavour A” ice cream
- 300g “Flavour B” ice cream
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil (for the tin)
- 300g dark chocolate, roughly chopped
- 50g coconut oil
- 50g Crunchie or Maltesers, crushed

Method:

- Leave the ice creams out at room temperature for a few minutes to soften slightly.
- Brush a 1.2-litre loaf tin with the vegetable oil and line with cling film.
- Ask an adult to do this next step! Put 250g dark chocolate and the coconut oil in a small heatproof bowl over a pan of just simmering water. Stir to melt, then set aside to cool.
- Spoon half the “Flavour A” ice cream into the base of the tin and level the surface.
- Working quickly, spread over a quarter of the chocolate sauce, then half the “Flavour B” ice cream and another quarter of chocolate sauce.
- Repeat with the remaining chocolate sauce and ice creams, finishing with a layer of chocolate sauce.
- Cover loosely with cling film and freeze for at least 3 hrs, or ideally overnight.
- Again – please ask an adult to do this part, as it involves hot stuff! Melt the remaining 50g chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water.
- Lift the terrine out of the tin and turn out onto a plate.
- Drizzle with the melted chocolate and top with the crushed honeycomb or Maltesers.
- Cut into thick slices to serve (Try running the knife under hot water to make it easier!) and offer seasonal fresh berries or other fruits to go with it on the plate.

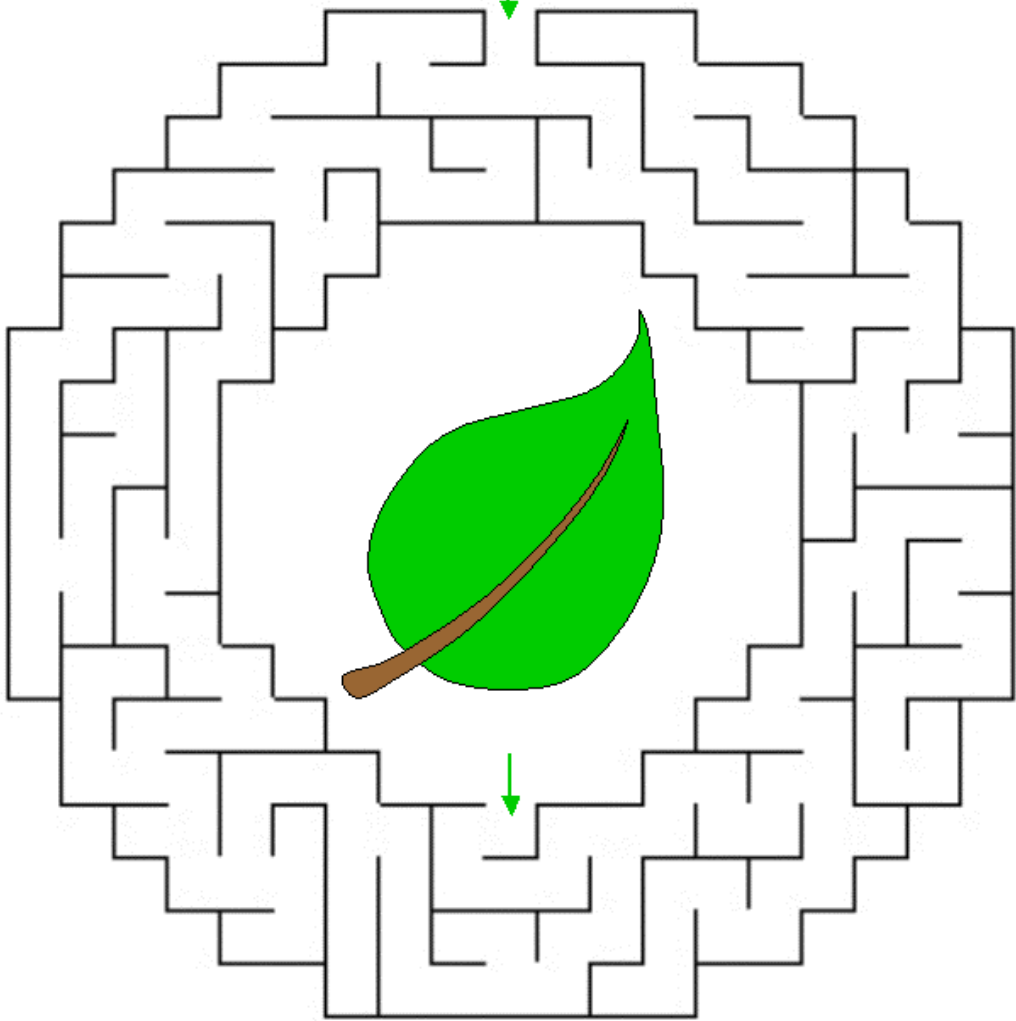
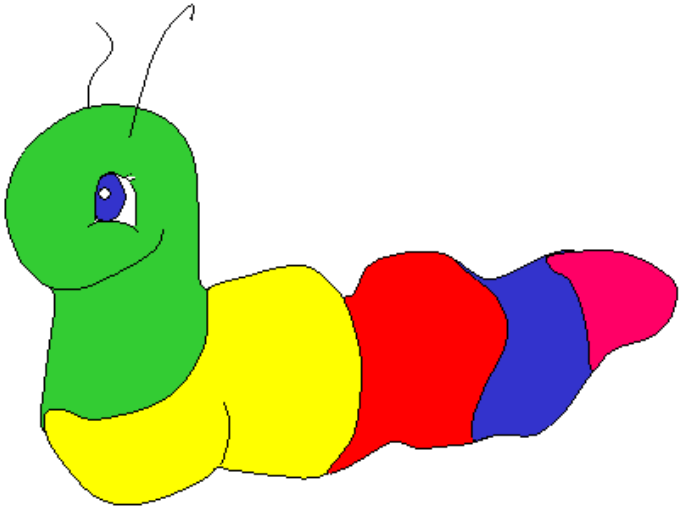


Beautiful and scrumptious!

Puzzles

Springtime Maze

Help the
caterpillar
find her
favorite leaf.

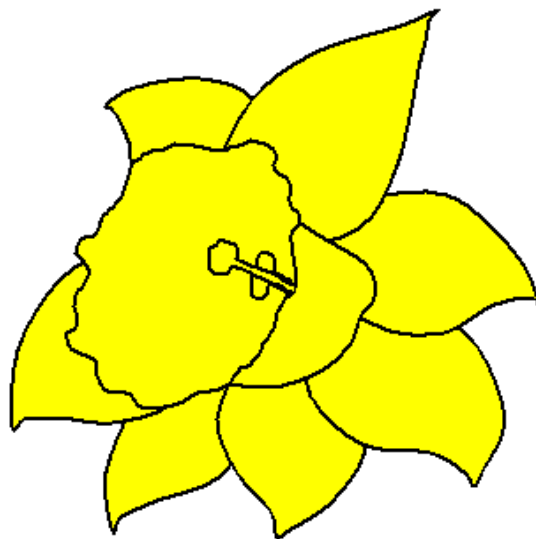


Oh! Don't the Spring Flowers look simply beautiful?
From my window, I can see daffodils, primroses, tulips...
Stunning!

Spring Word Search

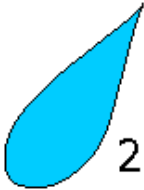
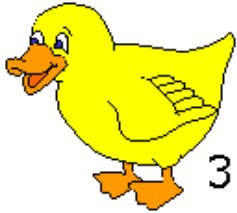
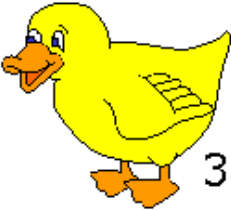

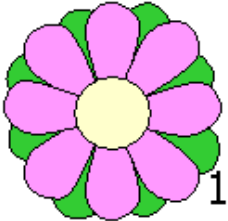
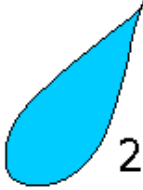

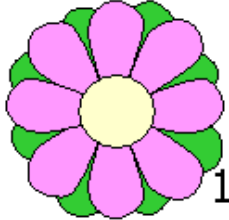
O M G Q R A I N B O W S T H G
E N I H S N U S F Z Y P E S Y
J D A L V B N J C K S O K A S
G N I T L E M I P V T R C L P
E M I T G N I R P S O D A P R
G A D A F F O D I L O N J S O
G N L S E I Y W Z H B I M E U
R R I L P H Q A E T R A T C T
Z E O N E I I I L M E R A J E
F G W W E R L H T R B Z V J E
H E D O T D B U Y A B H F L G
U U Q V L H R M T W U M D R I
S E E D S F K A U O R D E J R
O R N D M C T Z G V U E A N F
Q F I Z W Y E Z Y P N A F Z P

daffodil
flower
gardening
green
growth
jacket
melting
puddle
rainbow

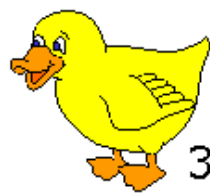
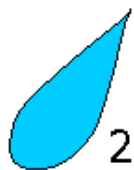
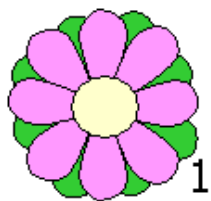


raindrops
rubberboots
seeds
splash
springtime
sprout
sunshine
tulips
umbrella

Spring Sudoku

 2			 3
	 3	 4	
	 1	 2	
 4			 1

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

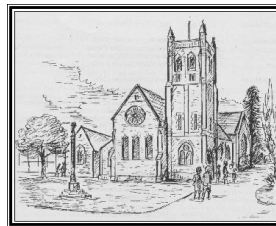


So!

Goodbye to you all and keep safe and well.

*And I hope I have passed on my feline wisdom
never to miss an opportunity to
close your eyes, throw back your heads
and let the sun kiss your faces.*

*But it is equally as important never to miss the chance to
close your eyes, bow your heads
and thank God for all His goodness.*



Created by Kippington Cat
of the Church of St Mary, Kippington
Issue 40 / 25th April 2021

Riddle answers:

She has three cats – 1 white, 1 black, 1 brown.
Just one, the person telling the riddle was going to St Ives.
The cats are walking in a circle.
The window was closed.
The cat is called "Yeti".