



# Bunyan Meeting

# News Letter/38

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY 2021

Dear friends



We are already half way through January and in a couple more months, it will be a year since we first went into lockdown because of Covid. I have heard many people say that these last ten months have passed by very quickly. Time does indeed pass by speedily and as we wonder where the days and years go, it is good to recall that we can only live life one day at a time. It is useless to carry regrets and failures from the past over into the present and we must not try to carry tomorrow's fears and burdens today. We must live in the present, even though the present brings its own challenge and difficulty. Remember, each day of our lives is a new page in the book of life; and if some of the pages are spoilt, each coming day affords us an opportunity to start afresh.

Thus is God's forgiveness and grace. And for each day the promise is that whatever challenges we have to meet, sufficient strength will be provided.

Most of us are somewhat anxious about the future and possibly afraid of what lies ahead. There are many challenges that we have to face in the coming days and none of us are exempted from sorrow or trial. But we shall be given strength to meet life's challenges and to overcome. God will meet us in the unexpected and adapt His blessings to our need. We have probably heard somebody say "If I had known what I would have to go through, I would never have been able to face it." But they have won through, and now can give thanks for the wisdom and power that they found to meet that particular time. He will give us daily bread that will meet our deepest needs.

As we continue to venture into 2021 let us go onwards with the faith in our hearts that this is God's world, and that when we look to God He will provide the things that we need; and leave it at that. This is what Jesus taught. He saw the anxious and troubled people about Him and He encouraged them to look at the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Believe that the loving will of God is at the heart of the universe and that He orders it for us, just as much as for the birds and animals.

Put first things first. Jesus said that we should seek God's righteousness and His kingdom and that we need not worry about anything else.

Jesus believed that if God had given Him twenty four hours in the day, God would also give Him twenty four hours' strength. "To every time its task, and to every task its strength."

During the troubled days which lie ahead, may God grant us grace to trust in Him for everything.

Please keep sending your articles for our News Letter direct to me at  
[chrisdamp@mac.com](mailto:chrisdamp@mac.com) or by post to the church office for my attention.

Your friend and Minister

**Chris**

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,”*

Psalm 46 v 1 - 2

### Allan Linger

At the time of writing, Allan remains in Bedford Hospital suffering from Covid. He is keeping in touch by text messages. Please do keep him in your prayers.

### Sunday Worship

Due to the current lockdown and the local increase in Covid infections, Bunyan Meeting will now be closed for face to face worship until further notice. Our services will continue to be distributed by email and delivered to those without access to the internet.



### John Jukes

On Monday I walked through the old Bedford Cemetery and passed the grave of John Jukes. Jukes was Minister at Bunyan Meeting from 1840 to 1866, and there is a note about his work as a tutor to missionary students in our service sheet this week. The memorial to Jukes was erected by his friends at Bunyan Meeting and was once topped with a large stone obelisk which now lies in the grass several feet away from the grave. There are three inscriptions on the memorial which read as follows:

**“He was a devout Christian, a faithful preacher, a watchful Pastor, a successful Tutor and a judicious and firm friend. He sustained the relationships of life with exemplary wisdom, gentleness and courtesy, by a spirit at once loving and fearless. His life was beautiful in its consistency and his end was perfect peace.”**

On the next side of the tomb we read **“Erected by grateful people in affectionate remembrance of the Rev’d John Jukes, for twenty six years the beloved Minister of Bunyan Meeting, Bedford. Who died May 22nd 1866 in the 67th year of his age.”** Then there is an inscription to his wife: **“Sarah, widow of the late Rev’d John Jukes. Died December 31st 1869 aged 62.”**

Chris



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## 90th Anniversary



I recently celebrated my 90th anniversary of wearing glasses. This is going back to the days before the NHS. It was the practice for young children when at school to have our teeth examined and to check to see if we had nits in our hair, but not our eyes. It was the practice then for the teacher to write on the blackboard and for us kids to copy it into an exercise book using a pen. I had been at school just over a year when the teacher sent for my mother to complain to her that her son Ken would not do as he was told in writing in his book what she had written on the blackboard.

After some deliberations my mother was asked to take me, her son, to a Dr Harvey Goldsmith in Bromham Road, Bedford, who confirmed that I needed to wear glasses, and I have worn glasses ever since and I am more than grateful I can still see.

In those long years I have only lost my glasses twice. Once was when I was with my two sons in the sea on the Welsh coast – I had to keep my glasses on in order that I could keep watch on my sons – and a huge wave came and knocked my glasses off and they were lost; at least I thought they were until the next morning when the tide was out we returned to the spot on the beach and amazingly we found them laying on the sand.

The second time I lost my glasses was again in Wales when I was trekking with the scouts. We had camped the night on the side of a mountain and in the morning was having a wash in a fast flowing stream, I laid my glasses on a rock in order to wash when the soap jumped out of my hand and knocked my glasses into the rushing water. I called to the other scouts for help – in those years I was wearing steel framed glasses which hooked around the ears – and lucky for me a scout found them hooked on a heather root sticking out of the bank, still in the rushing water. He managed to lift them out and gave them back to me – A modern miracle.

## Ken Wells

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### Bible Notes

The latest edition of our **Bible Notes “Word for Today”** are now available. These will be delivered to those who receive paper copies of the News Letter, and will be left out under the main church entrance porch for collection by those who are out on their daily exercise. Please let the Church Office know if you like a copy sent by post.

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### Church Directory 2021

The new Bunyan Meeting Directory has been produced and will be distributed over the next few weeks. Please don't visit the church office specially to collect this, we are trying to limit visitors as much as possible to the church because of the lockdown. Copies of the Directory will be delivered to everyone either by hand or by post.

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### Regrets, I've had a few

When I was about 15 years old, I finally plucked up the courage to ask a local girl out on a date. We decided to go to the pictures (movies to the younger generation). We went by bus and when the ticket collector approached, I asked her if she went half fare. I cannot remember if we had another date.

Working in the Post Office Crown Offices, I applied for a promotion. It was at the time the poll tax was going to be brought in. At the interview I was asked for my views on it.

The answer should have been, "That could be good revenue for us in the PO." My answer, with my social conscience was, "I worry about those who do not register that they will lose their right to vote." I didn't get the job.

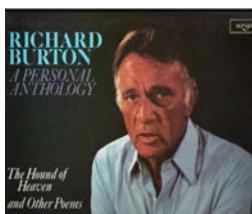
Hasty replies like that is one reason I will not go onto social media. I could envisage hearing a politician say something that enrages me and as many twitter users do, place an immediate response which in the cold light of day would probably be over the top or inappropriate at the very least. When someone comes into the public eye, there must be a team of journalists; I use the term lightly, claw through social media to find one embarrassing quote. I also was taught to never send a letter; especially a complaint on the same day you write it. Often when you sleep on it and have cooled down, you invariably make a few amendments.

The point being is that we all have moments we prefer to forget about. Some, like my half fare blunder can bring a smile to a group but we move on. It's not what happened that matters so long as we learn from our mistakes. It's what we do now and in the future.

### **Ken Thomas**

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#### **Audrey Mehew writes:**



I have just followed the service on my computer for today, 10th January and feel so uplifted. I did not need cheering up but my goodness the hymns, readings and the sermon and then 'The Hound of Heaven' read by Richard Burton, who never stopped to take a breath, was incredible. I realise how much effort goes into keeping the congregation together, but you certainly do that in abundance. I even sang the songs about the creation that was intended for the children!

Thank you.

### **Audrey**

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#### **Trudie Green writes:**

##### **Blessings**

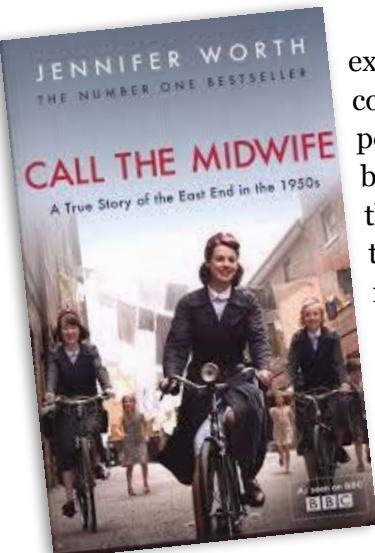
Thank you so much for keeping us all going with the virtual services for those who have computer access and indeed to all those distributing the written ones too.

I thought I'd share some good news amongst all the worrying at the moment!

My Son, James and partner, Kim had their first baby on Christmas Day! Albie George came into the world 7lbs 6ozs at 7.10 a.m. They had it all planned! Due to restrictions they had decided the only way James could be there throughout would be for a planned home birth. Partners weren't even allowed in for scans. They got to see Midwife no. 1 before baby was due who visited at their home and decided yes, if all goes to 'plan' a home birth could be viable.

They ordered a birthing pool (apparently you can hire these through hospitals) and even had a 'dry run' to see how long the pool (much like a more solid paddling pool) would take to fill up with warm water (via hose attachments). They got together relaxing c.d.'s and lovely relaxing candles.

Sometimes, things don't always go to plan eh? Early Christmas morning Kim had what she described as 'niggly pains'. Decided to take a relaxing bath and as the pains progressed decided it was time to shout to James to call the Midwife. They were



expecting two Midwives to assist in the home birth. Midwife called; James continued to try and assist Kim. Baby was not going to wait for the birthing pool. Between Kim and James (trying to stay calm), they had already ‘crowned’ baby’s head just before the one and only Midwife available, arrived. Don’t think they have ever been as glad to have a visitor arrive at their home as much as this one! The Midwife enabled the safe arrival of Albie. James decided he had now accumulated quite a few more grey hairs to add to his collection. Kim didn’t even require a visit to the hospital to get checked out. The Midwife was pleased it had all gone so well, considering! They didn’t quite make the birthing pool but baby was definitely wanting to be born in water. It must have been uncomfortable, not exactly the softest option and they were definitely running on ‘adrenaline’ but all well and that’s the main thing.

This first time Nanna is so, so grateful for the most precious gift - new life, first Grandchild. Blessings abound.

Haven’t met him yet due to all the restrictions but Skype and a good supply of photos keep me going. Looking forward to the day when I can meet him and we can all hug each other. I think not being able to hug each other has robbed us all of one of the most fundamental natural human actions we will never take for granted. It’s a simple gesture, a hug but one that means so very much.

Thank you God for your Precious Gift. One very proud Nanna.

**Trudie**

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### The BMS Birthday Scheme



If you wish to support the BMS through their Birthday Scheme, please contact Margaret Ormerod. It’s a great way to celebrate a birthday. Thank you for your support.

**Pat Stevens** and **John Gribble** both celebrate their birthdays this week.

Members of the Scheme can make donations online at [bmsworldmission.org](http://bmsworldmission.org) quoting our church reference number which is 7. Or you can send your donation to Margaret Ormerod at 32, Wheathouse Close, Bedford. MK41 8JX. Or simply wait until we are back at church and hand it to me there.

Many thanks **Margaret**

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### Penny Turpie writes about her mum’s 100th birthday:

Olive would like me to thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent for her 100th birthday last week. Field Lodge is a lovely care home and the staff did a great job in making her day very special. We were able to visit for an hour, albeit in a pod with glass screen and microphone, and were with her when she cut the cake and opened a message from the Queen.

Mum has done so well, but has not felt too good for the last few days. What a difference it would make to be able to give her a big hug.

Mum often speaks about Bunyan Church

**Penny**

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## Anne Legg

Anne Legg died on the morning of Friday 8th January. Anne transferred her church membership to Bunyan Meeting on the closure of St. Lukes Church. Due to failing health, Anne was not able to become as involved in the life of Bunyan Meeting as she would have liked, but she took a keen interest in the work at Mill Street and kept in touch through visits and phone calls. Anne served for many years as an Elder at St Lukes and was a tireless worker at that church. We remember her children, Catherine and Robert at this time.

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## Kay Munro

Kay's funeral will be held in the church on **Friday 22nd January at 3.15pm**. If you would like to attend the service in person please speak with the Minister to see if there are still seats available. The congregation is limited to a maximum of thirty people and booking with the Minister is therefore essential.

We are going to try to **livestream the service** and the link for this is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXUjR5w2IAazr8gPBDYCyAA/live>

If you cannot get the livestream to work you will also be able to join the service via **zoom** but please join the zoom meeting by **3.10pm**. The joining details are:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82543680929?  
pwd=NEQxMi9RSWJmcFRodFZaayszTHBrZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82543680929?pwd=NEQxMi9RSWJmcFRodFZaayszTHBrZz09)

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## Daily Hope - 0800 804 8044

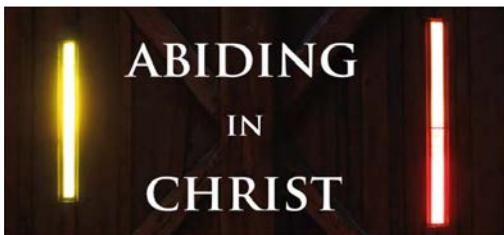
Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

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## For Your Prayers

Please remember **Allan Linger, Gilly and Alan Millberry; Dilys and Roy Leeder** and **the families of Anne Legg and of Kay Munro**.



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## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

### Bedford Churches Together

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

**Daily reflections** <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

Due to Covid-19, and tier 4 restrictions, services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2021 will take place online and in a smaller format than usual.

Each church is encouraged in their own way to have part of their prayer focus on the unity of all Christian churches and our joint witness to the peoples of Bedford.

You are invited to join with other congregations - 18th to 25th January - at ...

Monday 18th	<b>St. Mary's</b>	<i>7:30pm on Zoom:</i>
		<a href="https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/76614219800?pwd=cjZyWHVsNWhKUFVPN1RtSkJIZGQoZz09">https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/76614219800? pwd=cjZyWHVsNWhKUFVPN1RtSkJIZGQoZz09</a>
	Meeting ID:	766 1421 9800
	Passcode:	888Zpa
Tuesday 19th	<b>Holy Cross RC</b>	<i>10:15am</i>
		<a href="https://holycrossbedford.org.uk/">https://holycrossbedford.org.uk/</a>
Thursday 21st	<b>Quaker Meeting</b>	<i>12:15 for 12:30pm on Zoom:</i>
		<a href="https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89048844344?pwd=VmpITW16L2tBSVJBcXJBbVUwSnpCZz09">https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89048844344? pwd=VmpITW16L2tBSVJBcXJBbVUwSnpCZz09</a>
	Meeting ID:	890 4884 4344
	Passcode:	744479
	<i>As you know this is largely or entirely silent.</i>	
Saturday 23rd	<b>Polish RC Church</b>	<i>5.00pm details to follow</i>
Sunday 24th	<b>We all pray for each other and for Christian Unity in own church services</b>	
Monday 25th	<b>Priory Methodist</b>	<i>12:00noon on Zoom:</i>
		<a href="https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89285200403?pwd=VoRFbjZvb1N3ZG1SWGFoTTFoUHhEZz09">https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89285200403? pwd=VoRFbjZvb1N3ZG1SWGFoTTFoUHhEZz09</a>
	Meeting ID:	892 8520 0403
	Passcode:	247455
One tap mobile	+442034815237,,89285200403#,,, *247455# United Kingdom	



**Bunyan Meeting**  
Mill Street  
Bedford MK40 3EU  
Telephone 01234 213722  
email [bunyanmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:bunyanmeeting@gmail.com)  
website [www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk](http://www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk)

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## Christmas Quiz

Many thanks to all who took part in the Christmas 2020 quiz. Apologies for our getting the letter counts wrong for 68 and 70. No one answered all the other questions correctly but overall scores were high this time.

### Mary and Kenneth Davies

And here are the Answers:

### A RIGHT ROYAL RIGMAROLE

The answers have a royal connotation or are the names of royal personages. Completed entries to be returned to Mary or Kenneth Davies by **Sunday 10 January 2021** either by email to kenneth.davies@waitrose.com or delivered to 13 Bradgate Road, Bedford MK40 3DE

1	Her lace adorns the hedgerows [5, 4]	<i>Queen Anne</i>
2	Iceni Queen guarding Westminster Bridge [8]	<i>Boudicca</i>
3	Age cannot wither her [9]	<i>Cleopatra</i>
4	Teddy boy who admitted all [6, 3, 9]	<i>Edward the Confessor</i>
5	Hidden in the way he rode roughshod [5]	<i>Herod</i>
6	A nine days wonder [4, 4, 4]	<i>Lady Jane Grey</i>
7	Advocated sentence before verdict [5, 2, 6]	<i>Queen of Hearts</i>
8	Not to be mentioned in the green room [7]	<i>Macbeth</i>
9	The Rathlin spider man [6, 3, 5]	<i>Robert the Bruce</i>
10	Reform Bill [7, 2]	<i>William IV</i>
11	Looked out [9]	<i>Wenceslas</i>
12	A model farmer [6, 3]	<i>George III</i>
13	His punishments were fitting [6]	<i>Mikado</i>
14	A London line [8]	<i>Victoria</i>
15	A Diana do short of three articles [4]	<i>Dido</i>
16	Lacking in advice [8, 3, 7]	<i>Ethelred the Unready</i>
17	The main road [5, 7]	<i>King's Highway</i>
18	Bill's Australian city [8]	<i>Adelaide</i>
19	Waves overruled his wave [6]	<i>Canute</i>
20	Banished to Kimbolton [9, 2, 6]	<i>Catherine of Aragon</i>
21	Careless with the cakes [6]	<i>Alfred</i>
22	Angry monarch at the end of the line [5, 5]	<i>King's Cross</i>
23	Monarch's girl in port [5, 4]	<i>King's Lynn</i>
24	Mozart's vengeful mother [5, 2, 3, 5]	<i>Queen of the Night</i>
25	March for royal headgear [5, 8]	<i>Crown Imperial</i>
26	Had the heart and stomach of a king [9, 1]	<i>Elizabeth I</i>
27	Criterion flown for the Queen [5, 8]	<i>Royal Standard</i>
28	Floral drinking vessel for a monarch [7]	<i>Kingcup</i>

29	Employed three violinists – in Essex? [3, 4, 4]	<i>Old King Cole</i>
30	She sponsored roses for a day [9]	<i>Alexandra</i>
31	Confused MP ‘ere, or paperback [7, 7]	<i>Emperor Penguin</i>
32	Winged angler [10]	<i>Kingfisher</i>
33	Pa’s car is rebuilt for an oriental king [6]	<i>Caspar</i>
34	Oh, a harp playing in Egypt [7]	<i>Pharoah</i>
35	Seedless raisin [7]	<i>Sultana</i>
36	Real changes for a king [4]	<i>Lear</i>
37	Sun king [5, 3]	<i>Louis XIV</i>
38	Changed for Windsor [4-6-5]	<i>Saxe-Coburg-Gotha</i>
39	Tell it to them! [5, 7]	<i>Royal Marines</i>
40	A playwright’s fee [7]	<i>Royalty</i>
41	e.g. Westminster Abbey [5, 8]	<i>Royal Peculiar</i>
42	Eight furlongs from House to Castle [5, 4]	<i>Royal Mile</i>
43	The Queen’s theatre [3, 8]	<i>Her Majesty’s</i>
44	Edward of Woodstock [5, 6]	<i>Black Prince</i>
45	King’s substitute in London thoroughfare [6, 6]	<i>Regent Street</i>
46	Head of state is old-fashioned [6, 6]	<i>Queens Square</i>
47	Stands between queen and bishop [4]	<i>King</i>
48	Fairplay for fisticuffs [10, 5]	<i>Queensbury Rules</i>
49	Scrofula [5, 4]	<i>King’s Evil</i>
50	Silk [6, 7]	<i>Queen’s Counsel</i>
51	Sounds like dear Landseer [7,2,3,4]	<i>Monarch of the Glen</i>
52	Lingered involuntarily on the Danube [7, 1]	<i>Richard I</i>
53	Royal territory down under [10]	<i>Queensland</i>
54	The chain of the watch [6]	<i>Albert</i>
55	She’ll be crowned before June [3, 5]	<i>May Queen</i>
56	By appointment in Burslem [5, 7]	<i>Royal Doulton</i>
57	Real and jeu de paume [5, 6]	<i>Royal tennis</i>
58	Authorised in two parts [4, 5, 5]	<i>King James’ Bible</i>
59	Believed impossible things before breakfast [5, 5]	<i>White Queen</i>
60	Solanum tuberosum variety [4, 6]	<i>King Edward</i>
61	Planetary sea king [7]	<i>Neptune</i>
62	Royal interrogator who bore gifts [5, 2, 5]	<i>Queen of Sheba</i>
63	Suffered nocturnal discomfort from a pea [8]	<i>Princess</i>
64	Saw the writing on the wall [10]	<i>Belshazzar</i>
65	“The wisest fool in Christendom” [5, 1]	<i>James I</i>

	66	Third in line [6, 6]	<i>Prince George</i>
	67	Baker's Shepherd [4, 2, 4]	<i>King of Love</i>
	68	The face that launched a thousand ships [5, 2, 4]	<i>Helen of Troy</i>
	69	Lost his valuables in the wash? [4, 4]	<i>King John</i>
	70	King over the water [6, 6, 7]	<i>Bonnie Prince Charlie</i>
	71	Loud oaf sorted out [4]	<i>Offa</i>
	72	Elizabeth's second ship? [3]	<i>QE2</i>
	73	Top Russian seen in violet sarong [4]	<i>Tsar</i>
	74	Took an unconscionable time adying [7, 2]	<i>Charles II</i>
	75	The place for a very big sleep? [4, 4, 3]	<i>King size bed</i>
	76	Royal embroiderer, not a little liar [7]	<i>Matilda</i>
	77	Main roof support [4, 4]	<i>King Post</i>
	78	Monarch, swing in a London Street [8]	<i>Kingsway</i>
	79	Thought Paris to be worth a mass [5, 2, 2, 6]	<i>Henry IV of France</i>
	80	Isaiah saw the Lord in the year he died [4, 6]	<i>King Uzziah</i>
	81	Suggested cakes as an alternative [5, 10]	<i>Marie Antoinette</i>
	82	His dome was stately, not millennial [5, 4]	<i>Kubla Khan</i>
	83	His daughter came to see my little tree [4, 2, 5]	<i>King of Spain</i>
	84	Red-bearded royal crusader [9, 10]	<i>Frederick Barbarossa</i>
	85	He came, he saw, he conquered [6, 6]	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
	86	The princess who saved John Smith [10]	<i>Pocohontas</i>
	87	Look on his works – and despair [10]	<i>Ozymandias</i>
	88	Had two crosses in Bedfordshire [7]	<i>Eleanor</i>
	89	Unsure of his own existence [6]	<i>Hamlet</i>
	90	Born in a warming pan? [5,3,3,9]	<i>James III, Old Pretender</i>
	91	19 x 24 inches of paper [5]	<i>Royal (printing paper)</i>
	92	A lot of money [5, 6]	<i>King's ransom</i>
	93	Israelite king in large bottle [8]	<i>Jeroboam</i>
	94	Complex king [7]	<i>Oedipus</i>
	95	A recruit's award [5, 8]	<i>King's Shilling</i>
	96	Nutritious wobble in hive [5, 5]	<i>Royal Jelly</i>
	97	Bedford's royal ward [6, 4]	<i>Queen's Park</i>
	98	24 x 14 inches – overhead protection [8]	<i>Princess (size of roof tiles)</i>
	99	Skittles VIPs [8]	<i>Kingpins</i>
	100	Manhattan primate – shock, horror! [4, 4]	<i>King Kong</i>