

December 2024 & January 2025

Message from Karl

Greetings, and depending on when you're reading this, I hope you're having a joyful Advent, a merry Christmas or a great start to the new year!

Writing something each month for Spotlight is something I enjoy, but the hard bit is coming up with a subject to discuss. Given the time period covered by this issue, it presented a particular challenge. Thus, I am grateful for the suggestion that I talk a bit



about one of my favourite hobbies – photography – which I usually combine with either walking, cycling or heritage visits. Hence, a lot of my pictures come from parks, the riverside or National Trust properties!

My interest in photography goes back to when I was young, as my dad was a keen snapper of pictures, and I enjoyed going for long walks with him seeing what I could capture. In those days, it took more care than today because of the limited number of photos per roll of film; one of the plus points of digital photography is being able to have multiple goes and not having to worry about running out of film, but the downside is often having to sort through a lot of pictures!

Over time, I have come to appreciate the spiritual side of taking photographs, by which I simply mean that it helps me to slow down and actually pay proper attention to the beauty and/or quirks of what's around me. It is very easy, or at least I find it so, to rush from one



thing to the next in life and just not notice what's there if we only take the time to look. I also never ceased to be amazed by the beauty of the natural world, especially in autumn with its rich array of colours. Wildlife and landscape photography remind me of how awesome God's creation can be.

I've selected a few of my favourite pictures for you to enjoy, and I hope that amid the busyness of the run-up to Christmas and the getting going again of the new year, you will be able to take some time to

notice the beauty around you, and give thanks to God for the wonder of creation. There is so much to enjoy if we can master the discipline of slowing down enough to see it, and while there is always the danger of romanticising creation, it can be a fantastic window onto the glory of God. May this inspire you to take good care of what God has entrusted to us as stewards of that world, and give you joy as we navigate the long nights of this season and the turbulence abroad in these turbulent days.



Every blessing, Karl

Spotlight's Safeguarding Space

The Assistant District Safeguarding Officer, Rachael Pielow, visited the Circuit last month as part of a wider reaching national audit of safeguarding procedures within Methodism. You will be pleased to know that all went well. I was reminded during our conversation about the importance of being vigilant & the shared understanding that safeguarding is everyone's



The Methodist Church

responsibility. Should you have a concern please do let me know. Rachael met with me, Karl & Julie Haines who is our Circuit Safeguarding Officer when she visited our church.

Liz Edwards, Safeguarding Officer

Summary of November notices

Wesley's Saturdays

The coffee bar run by NMMC on **Saturday 26th October** raised nearly £250.00 and with further donations on Sunday we have been able to send £332.68 to Zoe's Place, a baby hospice in Liverpool who were facing closure if they did not raise £5m by 9th November. The hospice were very grateful for our contribution and we agreed that eating cake was one of the best ways to raise funds. Happily they have raised the amount they needed.

On **Saturday 9th November**, we raised £375 including £41from sale of jewellery for Kids 4 Kids Darfur. This is an amazing amount and we would like to thank everyone who supported in any way.

Mick & Gloria Taviner

Please read Gloria's article about this great charity in the November Spotlight.



Wesley's Saturday 30th November

The Table Tennis Crowd would like to thank everyone who supported the coffee bar on Saturday in aid of church funds. We were a bit worried that everyone would be baked-out after the church fair the night before but we were wrong and we had leftovers PLUS new cakes and trays of muffins. We also had a good number of people buying cakes despite the average weather and raised over £250. Thanks all.



Christmas Fair

What a great occasion last Friday was. Everyone pulled together as always and the church was warm and festive and full of people for the full two and a half hours, all enjoying the fair. Many hands made light work of the clear-up which was done by 8.00.

We raised a very impressive £2265 which will be split between Water Aid and KCAH (Kingston Church Against Homelessness) so very many thanks to anyone who was involved in any way at all for all your efforts.



Before the chaos!

Ada, Enoch and Navi selling some decorations to Sue, and Hannah concentrating hard on the face painting.







Happy stallholders Julia, Liz, Veronica and Jenny





All generations were represented! Here is Sarah Knowles with baby Megan catching up with Greta.

Ho ho ho!!

Our new local preacher

As many of you know, a few weeks ago I was accredited as a local preacher during a circuit service at New Malden. The service was well attended by many from across the four churches of the circuit, and it was wonderful to have such a full church. We were also treated to a combined choir which sounded fantastic.

My journey to be accredited as a local preacher has been more of a marathon than a sprint. I first started preaching as a student in Cardiff after being encouraged by the Methodist chaplain at the university.

Since then, I have led worship in Cardiff and the surrounding valleys, online during the pandemic and finally in Kingston circuit. Simultaneously, I have been steadily working my way through the 'Worship: Leading and Preaching' course - expanding my knowledge and understanding of the things of God, the church and God's people.

Becoming a local preacher would not have been possible without the support of so many people. I would like to thank Sally Rush particularly for tutoring me through the second section of the course. I would also like to thank all my church family - it is your support which is the most encouraging.

Thank you all, Maddy



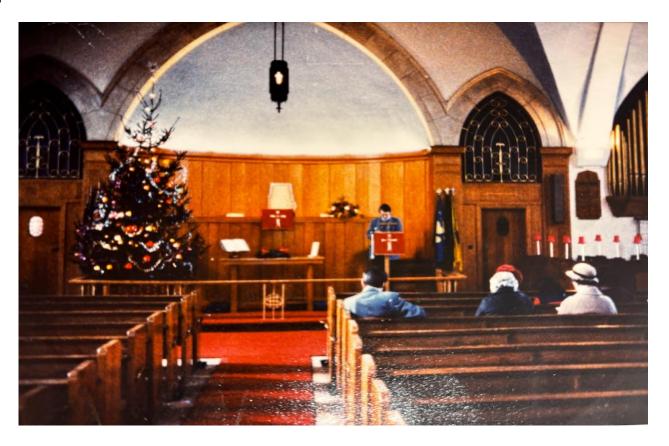
Vindra, Maddy & Karl at the accreditation service in October

30th Anniversary Celebration

Wesley's at 30

Next June we will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Wesley's with a special weekend 14th-15th June. Do please add these dates in your new 2025 diary!

While Wesley's was designed, 30 years ago, it was agreed to modernise the sanctuary. This did not please everyone particularly those who were attached to the 1930s style. However, changes were made thus making the space more adaptable & modern. Sunday morning worship was held in the Upper Hall throughout the building works. Changes made included getting rid of the oak pews & replacing with the chairs which still provide a more comfortable seat. The pulpit & communion rail were significantly altered creating the dais. Wood was re-used to make the current pulpit. Fitted carpet replaced that at the front & the runner down the aisle. Decorating throughout meant that the apse was no longer painted blue. An art deco cross that hung from the ceiling was removed. The sanctuary was shortened & the book stall was moved to bespoke shelving in the new Welcome Area. The original pillars can be identified in Wesley's. Glass doors were chosen to ensure the sanctuary was visible & welcoming. These can be opened which allows flexibility. An office was created using some of the outdoor space explaining why the windows match those opposite.



This photograph was taken in 1983 when Rev Brian Anderson was the minister. It shows the sanctuary as it was before the re-development.

Wesley's Community Hub

A big thank you to Lee for organising the Wesley's volunteers' celebration on Friday 22nd November. Around 50 volunteers and church members were able to share fellowship

together and celebrate the end of a successful year. There was plenty of delicious food and even a quiz and a great time was had by all.





On December 10th 11.30am – 1.00pm, we're excited to partner with Superhighway to launch a **Digital Drop-In program** in Wesley's.









HELP WITH YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER!

Tuesday 10th December 2024 11:30-1:00pm

Wesley's Community Hub New Malden Methodist Church, 49 High Street, New Malden KT3 4BY

For more details, please contact Lee at Wesley's nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com







Think phones, tablets & computers

Our goal is to empower local individuals living in New Malden area to feel more confident using phones, computers, and tablets.

This initiative aims to help answer your questions, discover new apps and take full advantage of the digital world by:

Staying connected with others and increasing social interaction.

Accessing essential services more easily.

Exploring the convenience of online shopping and other digital tools.

We are here to support our community in building valuable digital and connecting skills! Please contact Lee Monczak to book your interest.

The December Calendar is at the end of this issue for details of what is happening during this month including Tai Chi, the Walking Group, Knit & Natter and Short Tennis. Keep an eye out in Wesley's for the January calendar with details of when your favourite activities will be up and running again. Maybe try a new one for 2025?

Wesley's will be closed for a few days over Christmas but will open in the new year to provide a warm welcoming hub for the community and live up to being the Heart of the High Street.

Wesley's Christmas/New Year closures

December - Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th, Friday 27th, Saturday 28th and Wednesday 1st January.

For the latest updates and more information, follow Wesley's on Facebook and Instagram:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/wesleysnewmalden/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/wesleysnewmalden/ Email nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com

RBKares charity

About this time last year you may remember seeing pictures of hundreds of hats and scarves which the Wives Group and friends of the church had knitted for RBKares, a charity introduced to us by Stella Chattle.

During Covid, a retired doctor living in Kingston, helped to co-ordinate sewers from across the borough who supplied hospitals, care homes and key workers with scrubs, face-coverings and scrub-bags throughout the pandemic via



Sewing4Kingson. They developed a strong relationship with the care homes and saw the extreme conditions they were working in and wanted to thank them, so in 2022 RBKares was set up to deliver some Christmas kindness.

After Christmas they turned their attention back to Kingston Hospital where the staff were struggling under the huge pressure of the second wave. As the charity became known within the local community they got involved in many more projects, from artwork for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to sorting through donations for refugees, from running workshops to bring RBKares volunteers together to make fidget mats and craft, to delivering hundreds of "Kindness Kits" to those needing support or deserving some appreciation.

The charity responds to the changing needs of the community. RBKares has a two-fold purpose: recipients benefit from knowing that their community cares for them, and volunteers develop positive feelings from being able to help. RBKares continues to be involved in many community projects and uses WhatsApp and social media to tell members about new initiatives.

They currently run Wellbeing Events supporting vulnerable residents, including refugees and homeless people; groups more likely to access services right in front of them, and who often struggle to commit to appointments. These events bring together a wide range of valuable support services from across the borough, all empowering guests to use these resources – there and then – to help themselves. These range from benefits advice to fuel vouchers, vaccinations to foot care, drug, alcohol and smoking support to mental health counselling, clothes to toiletries, health checks to period products, digital inclusion services to adult education advice.

In May 2023, guest feedback prompted them to secure support from the Specsavers team to do eye tests and give out free glasses. A grant from The Brothers Trust has funded ongoing dental care sessions from Dentaid. This helps alleviate dental pain amongst the most vulnerable, significantly improving their physical and mental health.

Through partnership with Full Cycle Community Bike Project, they have given out over 100 refurbished bicycles plus locks to those most in need. With support from Kingston Cycling Campaign, they also offer a bike repair service every other Wellbeing Day.

They run a weekly transformational community sewing group for refugees, in partnership with Refugee Action Kingston. This gives the refugees the chance to use the charity's sewing machines to make items to personalise their rooms, clothes plus Econocooker bags, which assist in cooking hot meals in challenging circumstances. They were able to exhibit their work in summer 2023.

RBKares delivers baked goodies each week to sustain morale among Kingston hospital workers and are always looking for more contributions.

To help with anxiety among children, RBKares has supplied 50 kindness bags to CAMHS containing art supplies, fidget toys and other goodies. Similar bags have previously been distributed among young carers, Macmillan nurses, staff at Tolworth Hospital and other impacted individuals.

A group of Kingston residents meets once a fortnight to enjoy one another's company and support while making items for RBKares' charitable programmes. Past projects include fidget mats for care homes, mini fidget squares for schools and other youth environments, worry worms for the kindness bags, and blankets, scarves and hats for the Warmer Winter Project.

RBKares is a local charity doing magnificent work within our borough. If you would like to help, visit their website rbkares.org. The church's latest donations for their Warmer Winter Project are ready to be delivered, including hats for the neonatal unit at Kingston Hospital.

Gloria Taviner



Christmas Music at NMMC

There will be two opportunities for you to sing carols this year: the first on Saturday 21st December when we sing carols and Christmas songs to the community on the High Street for half an hour at 11:30 to raise money for charity, and the second, our service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 22nd December at 10:30.

There will be an enlarged singing group to lead the carols and to contribute some choral items on 22nd, which we are hoping will be drawn very widely from the congregation and beyond, including some who have not joined us before. The items will be easy to pick up and all you'll need is enthusiasm and be able to sing more of less in tune! **Please let Peter know if you would like to come along** p.f.bullett@blueyonder.co.uk 020 8942 0666.

Rehearsals for the Lessons and Carols will take place on two Saturday mornings:

Saturday 14 th December	10:00 – 11:30	in the Choir Vestry
Saturday 21st December	10:00 – 11:15	In Church

You can also hear Part 1 of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday 8th December at 3 pm when The *Harmonie Choir* and *Orchestra* present this timeless retelling of the Christmas story from the prophesies in



Isaiah to the fulfilment of them in the birth of Jesus Christ, related by St. Matthew.

Please make a note of these events and come to support them.

Music in New Malden will be taking a break in January but watch out for details of the February concert.

Peter Bullett

NMMC Diary Dates – December

Thursday 5 th 2.00 – 4.00pm Creative Arts	
That saay 5 2.00 - 4.00pm Creative Arts	
Friday 6 th 11.30am Writers' Group	
Saturday 7 ^h 10.00am – 12.00 Wesley's – Our Woofs & Miaows KF	R/UK
Sunday 8 th 3.00pm Music in New Malden concert (see	page 11)
Tuesday 10 th 10.30am Tai Chi	
11.30am – 1.00pm Digital Drop-in Workshop	
2.30 – 4.00pm Bereavement Café	
7.30pm Wives & Friends – Beetle Drive	
Thursday 12 th 11.00am – 12.30pm Knit & Natter in Wesley's	
1.00 – 3.00pm Short tennis in the Upper Hall	
Friday 13 th 11.30am Writers' Group	
2.00 – 4.00pm Board Games	
Saturday 14 th 10.00am – 12.00pm Wesley's – NMMC for the Tree Fest	ival
10.00 – 11.30am Rehearsal for Lessons & Carols	
10.00am – 4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival	
Sunday 15 th 11.30am Christchurch School choir singing ca	rols after
the service	
Tuesday 17 th 10.30 – 11.30am Walking group	
Wednesday 18 th 10.30 – 11.30 Abacus Pre-school nativity	
Thursday 19 th 2.00 – 4.00pm Creative Arts	
4.30pm Remembering Service	
Saturday 21 st 10.00am – 12.00pm Wesley's – NMMC for the Tree Fest	ival
10.00am – 1.00pm Christmas Tree Festival	
10.00 – 11.15am Rehearsal for Lessons & Carols	
11.30am Community carols in the High Stree	t
Sunday 22 nd 10.30am Lessons & Carols service	
Tuesday 24 th 5.00pm Christingle service	
8.00pm Christmas Eve Communion	
Wednesday 25 th 10.30am Christmas Morning Family service	
Wednesday 25 th Wesley's will be closed	
Thursday 26 Wesley's will be closed	
Friday 27 th Wesley's will be closed	
Saturday 28 th Wesley's will be closed	
Sunday 29 th 10.30am There will be no service but Wesley	's will be

open for coffee and conversation. The Christmas trees will be taken down for which all help gratefully received. Come along for a post Christmas catch-up – bring your leftover cake and mince pies!

NMMC Diary Dates – January

Please look out in Wesley's for the January calendar of wellness activities.

Wednesday 1st

Wesley's will be closed

Saturday 4 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Vacant, please see Sarah to book
Friday 10 th	2.00pm	Board Games
Saturday 11 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Mencap
Tuesday 14 th	2.30 – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Chair Exercises
Thursday 16 th	2.00 – 4.00pm	Creative Arts
Saturday 18 th	10.00am – 12.00pm	Wesley's – Inner Wheel
Saturday 18 th – Sa	iturday 25 th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Tuesday 21st	1.10pm	Lunchtime concert – organ music will feature.
	7.30pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at
		NMMC
Saturday 25 th	10.00am – 12.00	Wesley's – Vacant, please see Sarah to book
	2.00pm	Hannah Moore's talk on her travels
Sunday 26 th	12.00	Church Council meeting after morning worship
Tuesday 28 th	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Meal 'In'

Flower rota 2025

I am currently putting together the Flower rota for next year.

If you have a specific date you wish to sponsor please book it soon.

Email

juliamorton@virginmedia.com And I will do my best to accommodate you.



Church contact information – website www.newmaldenmethodistchurch.com

NMMethodists

Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge (Minister)

n/a Monday

Mrs Sarah Moore (Administrator)

(Mon & Wed 10am - 2pm, Thu 12 – 4pm) Mrs Lee Monczak (Development Officer)

Mrs Julia Morton (Senior Steward)

Mrs Liz Edwards (Steward) Mrs Julie Haines (Steward)

Charity Registration Number 1176621

07932 242789 karl.rutlidge@methodist.org.uk

020 8942 1288 (Church Office)

nmmc@hotmail.co.uk

nmmc.wesleys@hotmail.com juliamorton@virginmedia.com lizedwards513@gmail.com

juliehaines53@gmail.com

Saturday 25th January 2.00pm

Earlier in the year we reported on Hannah Moore's big overseas trip. Many of you have asked about it so Hannah has put together a presentation.

You are invited to come along to the Sanctuary on Saturday 25th January at 2.00pm for about an hour to find out about 9 countries in 4 months: how many miles; how many different modes of transport; how many extreme sports? Where were these photos taken? These and many more questions will be answered.







Circuit Plan

	CHESSINGTO	N	KINGSTON	NEW	MALDEN	SURBITON HILL	
	10.00 am		10.30 am; 6pm	10.30	am am	10.30 am	
	Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.30 led by Rev Paul Han						
01 December	Maraj-Ogden HC		Vernon G/HC	Rutlidge G/HC		Stonehewer	
						4.30 B Coveney PP	
08 December	Han G		Rutlidge	Rush		Maraj-Ogden G	
15 December	D Lloyd		Rutlidge MN	Fullbrook		Maraj-Ogden	
			Rutlidge SJ			4.30 Maraj-Ogden	
						CC	
22 December	S Lloyd N	LA C		Rutlic	lge C	Maraj-Ogden HC	
						4pm Maraj-Ogden	
						CL	
24 December	11.15pm		No Service		LA/CG	4.30 B Coveney CG	
	Maraj-Ogder	MH			Rutlidge HC		
25 December	Han AA		Rutlidge AA	Rush		Maraj-Ogden AA	
29 December	LA		LA		e, Catch up	LA	
					mantling		
05 January	Maraj-Ogder CV/HC	1	Rutlidge CV/HC	Stonehewer		Bridges	
12 January	Han		S Lloyd AA	Rutlidge CV/HC		Maraj-Ogden	
						CV/HC	
10.1						4.30 B Coveney PP	
19 January	January D&S Lloyd CO		Fullbrook	Maraj-Ogden		Rutlidge	
26 (Marri Order		Rutlidge	Dutlidae		D.Carran	
26 January	Maraj-Ogder		Bridges CF	Rutlidge S Lloyd AA		B Coveney	
02 February	Maraj-Ogder	I HC	Rutlidge HC/PV			Vernon	
00 5-1	Charalania		Dilland	م نام د	In IIC/DV	4.30 B Coveney PP	
09 February	Stonehewer		D Lloyd	Rutlidge HC/PV		Maraj-Ogden HC	
16 February	D&S Lloyd CO)	LA AA	Vernon		Maraj-Ogden	
			Maraj-Ogden HC				
23 February	Maraj-Ogder)	Rutlidge	LA		LA	
Abbreviations			ontemporary Service		MN: Messy Nat	tivity	
AA: All Age Worship C: Carol Service			venant Service		N: Nativity	,	
CC: Carol Service			G: Gift Service HC: Holy Communion		PP: Praise Party	y sitors Rededication	
CF: Café Church		LA: Local Arrangement				nce Sunday Service	
CG: Christingle			lidnight Holy Communion	SJ: Carols at St J			
Online services (follow links):							
Kingston: Sundays & You Tube: Windows on Worship							
New Malden: Sundays & You Tube: Windows on Worship							
	•		Surbiton Hill Methodi	st Chur	<u>ch</u>		
·							

Next Spotlight Issue – Double issue for February 2025

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in my church pigeonhole). Please send me anything you think might be of interest: memories, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes, etc, by **Wednesday 29**th **January.**

Animal Kingdom Quiz

The answers to last month's quiz.

1. APPLED LUCKY BUT SLID Duck billed platypus

2. MOURN WORD Round worm

3. SROTIC BACON ROT Boa constrictor

4. A RANK GOO Kangaroo

5. A HEN Y Hyena

6. KAC JAL Jackal

7. HE CHEAT Cheetah

8. SIP UP HOOT MAP Hippopotamus

9. I SCORE HORN Rhinoceros

10.SAW EEL Weasel

11.CRIED COOL Crocodile

12.BALL WAY Wallaby

13.LIAR LOG Gorilla

14.A GROAN NUT Orangutan

15.IN A HARP Piranha

16.SEE LONG HIP GOLD SHED Old English Sheep Dog

17.HOLDS FIG Goldfish

18.LING MEM Lemming

19.LAND LED DOGGYS Daddy Long Legs

20.AMWAC Macaw



Spotted at Euston Station



Christmas gets earlier every year!



1.5 litres cloudy apple juice

3-4 cinnamon sticks Zest 1 orange

1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg 4 whole cloves

and nutmeg. Stir and bring to the boil. Simmer for 5 minutes. 1. Pour the apple juice into a pan and warm over a Add the orange zest, cinnamon sticks, cloves low heat.

Pour through a metal sieve to remove the whole spices. Serve in mugs for a winter warmer!



SADAY





This recipe for Spiced Apple Warmer and the Christmas quiz overleaf have been taken from the World Cancer Research Fund 'Healthy You' magazine

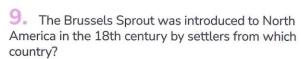


We are pleased to bring readers a fresh round of seasonal trivia, to help your celebrations run smoothly. From all at Healthy You, best wishes for the festive season and happy quizzing! You can find answers in the bottom corner.

- 1. Carrots makes a great nose for a snowman but which country cultivated the orange version from the original purple?
- a) Portugal b) The Netherlands c) Spain
- 2. In which country would you be visited by twelve mischievous 'yule lads' in the lead up to Christmas?
- a) Iceland b) Finland c) Estonia
- **3.** Germany started the Christmas tree tradition by which century?
- a) 15th b) 16th c) 17th
- 4. What was the 1990 UK Christmas Number One, the year WCRF was founded?
- a) Saviour's Day (Cliff Richard) b) Last Christmas (Wham!) c) Merry Xmas Everybody (Slade)
- 5. Father Christmas/Santa is based on which Christian saint?
- a) Saint Francis b) Saint Nicholas
- c) Saint George
- What was used in place of a Christmas tree in peoples homes, before Christmas trees became popular?
- a) Wood, evergreens and candles b) Tree branches, holly and baubles c) Homemade sweets left next to a pile of Christmas gifts
- Back in 2005, WCRF featured a cartoon cranberry character in a Christmas fundraising appeal, what was his name?

 a) Clive b) Christopher c) Colin
- Which unusual food item features as a decoration on German Christmas trees?

 a) a pretzel b) a sausage c) a pickle



a) Germany b) France c) Spain

10. Table tennis is a fun Christmas game and great exercise but in which country was it invented?

- a) China b) Britain c) Hungary
- 11. In Sweden, a popular Christmas decoration is a straw model of what animal?
- a) Reindeer b) Ox c) Goat
- 12. Who is credited with inventing the Christmas cracker?
- a) Tom Smith b) John Young c) Timothy South
- 13. We all love a partridge in a pear tree but which of the following is a variety of this delicious fruit?
- a) Egremont Russet b) Discovery c) Conference
- 14. In the Netherlands, Father Christmas (or 'Sinterklaas') leaves presents for children where?
- a) In their stockings b) In their shoes
- c) At the foot of their bed

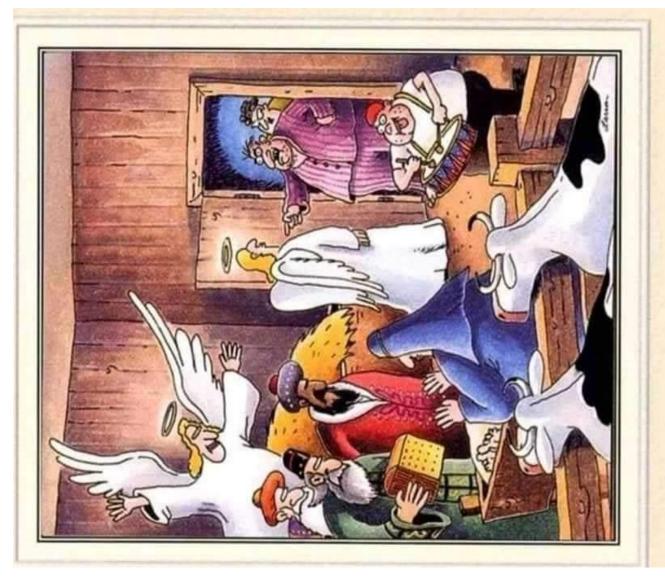
15. How many ghosts appear in 'A Christmas Carol'?











Look, buddy, we live hext door, and all hight long we've been puttin up with the singing angels, the crying baby, the stinking frankincense, and that big bright star. But I tell ya, that dawn pa-rum-pa-pum-pumming has gotta stop."



