



Coldean

Community & Church Magazine

Winter 2019

£1.00



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St Mary Magdalen Events November - December

- 29 Nov 2019 Christmas Market St MM 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- 01 Dec 2019 Advent Sunday St MM 9.30 a.m.
- 08 Dec 2019 Christingle Service at St MM 10 a.m.
- 08 Dec 2019 Charity Lunch - Childrens Society at St MM. £7.00 per adult, children and family tickets available.
- 10 Dec 2019 Fields memorial service, for all who mourn the loss of a loved one 7.00 pm.
- 15 Dec 2019 Lessons and Carols by candlelight at 4 pm.
- 20 Dec 2019 3.30-6 pm Nativity walk with Carols followed by Childrens party at St MM, meet at the school gate at 3.30 pm, all free.
- 24 Dec 2019 Nativity and Crib Service & unveiling of the window at St MM 4 p.m.
- 24 Dec 2019 Midnight Mass, beginning with Carols from 11 pm.
- 25 Dec 2019 Family Mass for Christmas Day at St MM at 10 am.

A Message from Rev Betsy

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our church and community magazine. I am now going to say something that I have always considered, when said by others, to be mildly ridiculous!

How on earth is it nearly Christmas? I know that every year has 365 (366 next year) days

Every day has 24 hours

Every week has 7 days

There are 12 months that run in the same order every year

So, why does it seem that Christmas has crept up on us far too quickly this year? All answers gratefully received!

This Christmas is going to be different than we first thought, we are still in Europe, and we are preparing for a general election although none of those in power seem to have any idea of what is really going on or if they think they do then it is probably only their own interpretation of the issues and unshared with anyone else! In fact, perhaps we are all like mushrooms, kept in the dark and fed on? You know how it goes.

However, we are fortunate that there is one thing that is constant in our lives and that is the love of God for all of us. It does not matter which mainstream political party we vote for, where we live, which NHS trust we live in, whether we are rich, poor, or anything else God loves us so much that he came down to earth in the form of his Son Jesus Christ to share in our humanity, to suffer and to die for us that we may find salvation. How great is that, he laid down his life that we may live and be forgiven. And at this time of year, Advent, we begin to prepare to celebrate His birth.

This year in the quest to make community ties even stronger we are having a joint raffle and Christmas Market with Coldean Residents Association, this seemed to us to be the only logical move, after all we are all trying to do the same thing, make Coldean a great, inclusive, safe place, to live work and worship.

If you would like to be involved in the planning of future events, just let me know, all are welcome in this place; just a couple of things to bring to your attention; the first is the new alternative service every Sunday at 6pm, it is a fully sacramental Mass, relaxed and livelier.

St Mary Magdalen's Mini church is back on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

The Christingle Service will be on the 8th December at 10am followed by the Children Society fundraising lunch £7 per pp £3 for children under 14.

There will be carols around the village and a party for the children 20th December 3.30 p.m. meet at the school gates.

And Christmas Dinner will be served again on Christmas Day for those who would like to join us.

This is just a taste of what is going on and I hope you will join us for some or all of these events.

Or if you would like to drop into church on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, to chat, make suggestion, offer help, I will be there teapot and biscuits at the ready!

So, without worrying anymore about the speed that the year is escaping from I would just wish you all the best for Advent and Christmas;

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus.

Love and prayers,

Revd Betsy

Downs School Air Raid Shelters

The Downs Junior School in Ditching Road, have a series of open days each year for members of the public to view the Air Raid Shelter which still exists under the playground of the Junior School. At the start of World War 2 it was decided to construct Air Raid Shelters in all school grounds where practical. This was done by digging a number of trenches approximately 8 feet deep and 5 feet wide either in the form of a figure of 8, as with the trench shelters at the Downs Junior School or in a zig-zag pattern as was used for the Downs Infants School.

Reinforced concrete ribs were lowered into the trenches approximately 4 feet apart with reinforced concrete panels to make the walls and roof. A layer of tarmac was placed on the top, so that the playground could still be used.

Construction of a Trench Air Raid Shelter at a Brighton School in 1939 shown on the right.



After the war, the shelter entrances at the Downs Junior School were demolished and forgotten about until 1983 when during maintenance work a manhole cover was lifted and the shelter was rediscovered. The conditions in the shelter were poor as it had been sealed up for over 40 years. The school together with volunteers decided to carry out a refurbishment project with the aim of opening the shelters to public view.

The tour started with a descent of a steep metal ladder through a manhole cover in the upper playground. Our guide told us that when the shelter was first reopened it was filled with water and smelt unpleasant. Work was undertaken to make it safe for people

to enter and walk through. The passageways formed a figure of 8 although each passage was straight.



One of the metal step ladders used to access the trench shelter today. Originally these would have been emergency exits from the shelter with one at either end.

The shelter has been turned into a museum with numerous items of memorabilia, letters written by children, and video clips showing children leave class and going into the shelters.

There were also some audio recordings; including the voice of the then Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain informing the country that we were at war with Germany.



Wooden slat benching had been fitted in one of the passageways as they would have been during World War 2.

A large screen showed planes overhead, there was an almighty roar from a plane's engine and the sound of it dropping its bomb which hit the ground followed by the ground shaking violently beneath our feet.

It was good to experience something of what children went through during the war.

The exit was by means of the steep ladder we had used to enter the shelter.

The school are now trying to raise enough money to have a set of steps built to provide an easier access to allow more people to view the shelter.

The tour lasted about 60 minutes with our guide explain the various displays and answering questions.

Once out of the shelter we looked at a display with more pictures from the war years in Brighton and artefacts from World War 2.

The school has produced a book of the stories people have given them of their war time memories.

Marros War Memorial

The tiny hamlet of Marros lies on the road between Pendine and Amroth and has a War Memorial which takes the form of an ancient pair of standing stones, paying homage both to the history of the area, and to the local men who served and died during the Great War. The memorial contains two bronze plaques, one holding the names of the fallen, another holding the names of those who served. Tommy Harries, the father of William Thomas Harries, and the brother in law of Frank James, built the War Memorial at Marros in commemoration of those lost in the First World War. The names of the men who served included eight relatives. The stones weighed over one ton each and the work was done for free, the only cost being £25 for the plaques, which were funded by a concert which had been held at Tremoilet School. The stones were allegedly hauled



from an ancient earthwork at Marros Mountain!

The photograph shows the memorial at the entrance to the lane leading to the church.

The church is a Grade II listed building but sadly it is now permanently closed.

Coal Mine visit in Blaenafon

On our recent trip to Wales we visited the Coal Mine Museum at Blaenavon about 15 miles north of Newport. There are no working underground coal mines left in this country just two coal mine museums one near Wakefield and one we visited in South East Wales.

Blaenavon grew around an ironworks opened in 1788 by a West Midlands industrialist. He invested £40,000 into the iron works project and erected three blast furnaces. Many mines in the Blaenavon area, including Forge Level, were initially used for the gathering of ironstone rather than coal, in order to support the local ironworks. Coal was also mined at Blaenavon to meet a local demand but it was not until the late nineteenth century that the reign of 'King Coal' came to south Wales. By the late nineteenth century the significance of Welsh steel and iron-making was on the wane but a growing demand existed for Welsh coal to fuel locomotives, steam ships, factories and houses. Many Welsh towns, including Blaenavon, specialised in the production of coal in order to take advantage of the high demand.



Big pit mine is only 90 m (300 feet) deep which is quite shallow for Welsh mines. It was a working coal mine from 1880 to 1980, being opened to the public in 1983 under the auspices of the National

Museum of Wales so people could see what their forebears who worked in the coal mines had to do.

By 1908, Big Pit provided employment for 1,122 people, and by 1923 at its peak, there were 1,399 men employed, producing: House Coal, Steam Coal, Ironstone and Fireclay. The peak of production was more than 250,000 tons of coal per year. During the height of production, coal from Big Pit was shipped all round the world. Until 1908, when a conveyor became part of the mine equipment, everything at Big Pit was done by man power-including cutting the coal. The mine was one of the first to install electricity and by 1910; fans, hauling systems and pumps were electric powered.

I went on the Underground tour of the old mine with a class of 7 year old school children. I think all the guides were ex-miners who knew a lot about the mine and had the right information to give to young children and the questions to ask them. Before going underground the guide made sure that nobody had anything on their person which might contain a battery or induce a spark due to the danger of setting off a fire and explosion if any methane gas was present.

I even had to leave my car keys at the top and was certainly not allowed to take a camera down the mine. Before going down the mine we were all provided with a helmet and lamp so we could see where we were going.

The 1842 Mines Act

At one point the guide made everyone turn off the lamps on their helmets and be perfectly still so there was no sound except that of running water. He explained that young children of their age would have worked in the mines doing jobs in total darkness opening and closing the ventilation door when they heard miners coming with tubs of coal to be taken to the bottom of the mine shaft. Women also worked in the mines in the early 1800s and due to the heat both men and women wore nothing on their upper half. This was not acceptable to Victorian society and was one of the reasons for the introduction of the 1842 Mines Act which prohibited women and boys under the age of 10 from working underground in the mines.



The underground tour lasted for over an hour and involved quite a lot of stooping in low tunnels. On one occasion I hit my helmet so hard on roof supports that the lamp fell off my helmet, but fortunately the helmet protected my head.

Pithead Baths

During the mid-twentieth century a number of improvements were made to Big Pit. Most significant was the building of the first pithead baths in 1939. The baths, designed by the architect A. J. Saise, opened on 28th January 1939 and had a huge impact on people's lives.

It meant miners no longer needed to walk home dirty and wet, risking illness. The baths were also beneficial to miners' families; women no longer needed to carry hot jugs of water to fill tin baths and children were no longer accidentally scalded during this process. The introduction of the baths was therefore very beneficial for coalmining families across the country and the Miners' Welfare

Committee worked hard for communities across Britain to have the facilities installed.

The building housing the pithead baths has been turned into a museum telling the story of the mine, the miners and their families.

By 1970 the workforce numbered only 494, The pit finally closed on 2 February 1980 with a loss of more than 250 jobs; it was one of the last working coal mines in Blaenavon, leaving only two working mines the last of which closed in 2013.

We had intended to visit the site of the iron workings in Blaenavon after visiting Big Pit but as the day was cold, wet and quite windy and as the various mine buildings are spread over quite a large area above ground we were very wet by the end of the afternoon so we decided to leave that for another time.

Coldean Community Chorus

Wednesdays 7 - 8.30 p.m.

Come and sing!

All styles of music - Everyone welcome - It's free

Sing for fun and make new friends

St Mary Magdalen Church



Call/Text Tracy on 0752 2790845 for more information

Tracy Taylor is a local resident who has a background in musical theatre and is also a qualified mental health professional. She is currently combining these two fields by inviting those who enjoy singing for pleasure to come and join the Coldean Community Chorus at St Mary Magdalen each Wednesday evening at 7pm.

A great way to socialise, have fun and enjoy all the proven health benefits of singing. The choir has been together for several months but welcomes new members and sessions are free.

Call Tracy on 07522790845 or just come along.

The man who saved Christmas from Cromwell's misery

Who was William Winstanley?

December 25 would be just another chill winter's day, without merriment or celebration if Winstanley had not saved Christmas from the Scrooges.

He lived four centuries ago, when Britain was in the throes of its six year bloody civil war between King Charles I and Parliament.

In 1644, two years into the fighting, the Puritan faction in Parliament drew up the first of several laws banning Christmas.

They objected to the binge-drinking and the debauchery that accompanied the traditional revelries of Christmas week for the drinking and feasting, which they said were all to the great dishonour of God and the impoverishment of the realm.

But the Puritans did not just object to over-indulgence they didn't like the name either. "Christ's Mass" had a ring of Roman Catholicism about it, which was an anathema for Protestants. So the season was changed to "Christ Tide" and any celebration confined to one day - of fasting!

The ban was no idle gesture, for the "sin" of celebrating Christ's birth on December 25 in the traditional manner, a man or woman could be fined or put in the stocks. No one was allowed to take a holiday. Government officers, sheriffs and justices of the peace forced markets and shops to open and business to carry on as usual and anyone holding or attending a special Christmas church service faced penalties.

When the war was over, and King Charles beheaded leaving Oliver Cromwell triumphant, the injunction continued. For 18 barren years Britain was officially a country without Christmas.

However, in secret the festivities went on. One of those who refused to cease being merry at this time of year was an Essex farmer's son - diarist and writer William Winstanley whose home was a Tudor farmhouse named Berries. When the doors of the parish church were locked against them, the family held its clandestine carol services in their home which became open house for visitors who knew their

secret. Winstanley believed it was the duty of all Christians to celebrate the birth of their Saviour, with joyous festivity and open-handed generosity towards friends, relations and more especially the poor."

The restoration of the monarchy after the death of Cromwell in 1660 led to the easing of restrictions on pleasure and the anti-Christmas legislation was repealed

By then Winstanley was a well-regarded writer of poems, pamphlets and books. In these, under the pen-name of Poor Robin Goodfellow, he extolled the joys of Christmas.

His reason for Christmas was for helping the poor and destitute, and he believed celebrating it properly which gave them something to look forward to, as winter set in and provided fond memories to see them through to the spring. For 38 years until his death he kept up his stream of propaganda, instructing the nation on the festivities it had forgotten.



In Winstanley's ideal Christmas, there had to be roaring log fires in every room and an 'especially jolly blaze' in the hall. There should be food in plenty but most importantly, there had to be lots of carol-singing, as well as gossiping at the table and story-telling round the

fire, with bible tales of course, but also ghost stories. There should be dancing too, he insisted, with "the whole company, young and old, footing it lustily to the merry sound of the pipe and fiddle".

Winstanley even composed a ditty for the revellers to sing as they trooped through the snow:

*"Now Christmas is come
Let us beat up the drum,
And call all our neighbours together.
And when they appear,
Let us make them such cheer
As will keep out the wind and the weather."*

And so to Twelfth Night, to be marked by wassail songs around the tallest apple tree in the orchard and the dousing of its roots with cider for good luck. Then came the final supper - of roast swan, followed by "caudle Sack [sherry] posset", a thick, extremely alcoholic custard.

After nearly a fortnight of festivities, Winstanley's Christmas was over, but come early November he would be in London as the first merchant ships came sailing up the Thames from the Indies with prunes and raisins - and he could begin stocking up for a new round of the festivities he had ensured would never again disappear from our calendar.

For the Gardeners among you

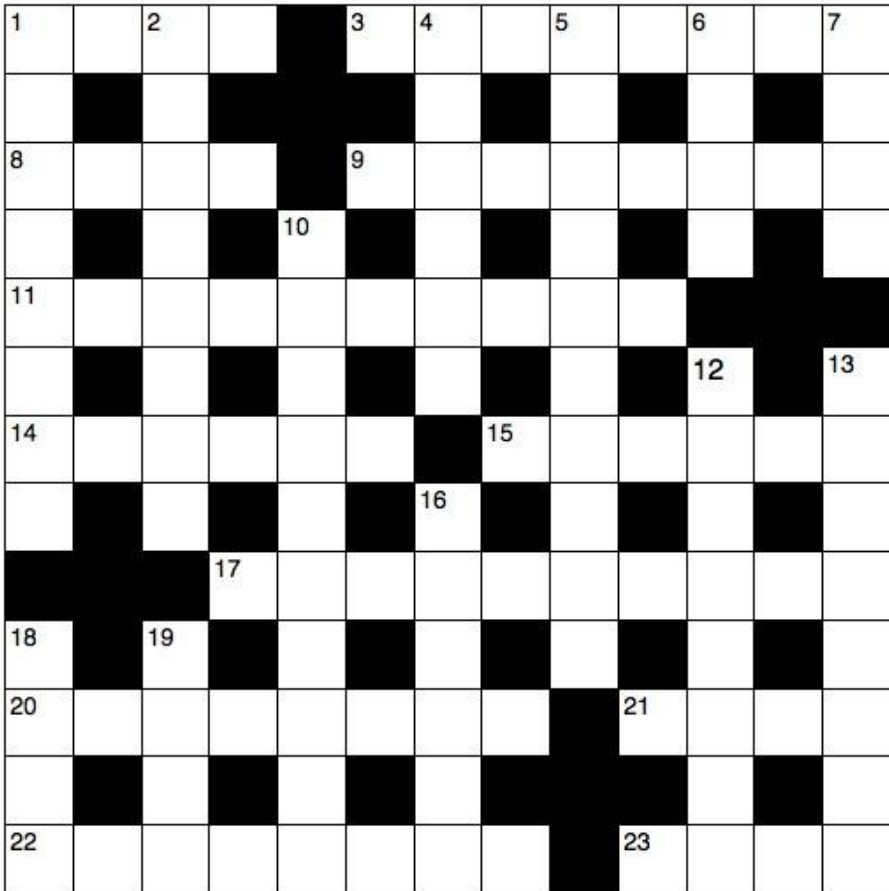
Jute is made from the fibres of the Corchorus plant. Until 1828, there was no jute twine in Europe and gardeners used hazel strip.

The founder of the jute manufacturing industry was George Ackland, who saw it used in India and had the idea of mechanical production by adapting machinery used in the textile industry in England.

He discovered that he could greatly increase its strength by combining 3 strands and prolong its life by soaking it in green creosote. By 1854, his factory in Dundee was the international centre for the manufacture of garden twine.

Green Jute garden twine is still used today.

December Crossword



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)

15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)

17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)

20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

21 Rite (anag.) (4)

22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)

5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)

6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)

7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)

10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

Answers on page 21



Eglwys-Cummin (Eglwys-Cymmyn) Church

This church is where my great-grandfather Robert Sharp was married in 1876. Some of his children were baptised there and he was buried in the churchyard in 1925.

My grandfather Charles Sharp who was born in 1877 at Puleogan, ran away to London as he did not like the woman his father had married after his own mothers death in 1892. Charles changed his name to Cyril Maynard Phillips, Phillips being his mother's maiden name which is why my surname is not Sharp.



The church, on the border between Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, is dedicated to St. Margaret and is situated within a circular churchyard. The churchyard overlies a Bronze Age site, and evidence of Bronze Age cremations were discovered in 1856.



A fifth-sixth century inscribed stone, above was found in the churchyard around 1880, and is now in the church. The stone's inscription is in Latin and Celtic, with the word "ingenia" being substituted for the Latin word "filia". This type of Ogham stone inscription was common in Ireland, but was the only example of it outside of Ireland at the time it was discovered.



Church ceiling and part of the wall painting

The church is a grade I listed building, constructed of rubble stone, with grey limestone copings. Over time the building has been altered and extended. A chancel was added to the east end probably in the thirteenth century, and the nave vault dates from the fourteenth century.

The limestone font is medieval, although its basin and stem are both from different fonts.

We were told that the ceiling was built by constructing a bank of earth in the shape of the inside of the church and that stones were then laid on the bank to form the shape required. The earth was removed from under the stones to leave the vaulted ceiling. A similar method of construction was used to build the bridge for the Ditchling Road over the A 27 at the top of Coldean Lane.

Layers of faded wall paintings are visible on the nave wall. They include a coloured geometric pattern (the earliest) and three paintings of the Ten Commandments (written in Welsh and English), and are thought to date from the thirteenth through to the seventeenth century.

The church of St Margaret has a very small congregation like so many rural churches in Wales. There is a service at 2 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon to enable the vicar to provide for the eight churches in his care.

A view of the sanctuary showing the altar and stained glass window.



John Phillips

The Carers Centre

In October the church held a Charity lunch and raised £176 for the work of the Carers Centre to help young carers; here is a little information about their work in Brighton and Hove.

The Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove is the city's local, life-changing carers charity which has recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Since 1988 they have been providing family carers with emotional support, advice and a well-deserved break from their caring role.

According to the Carers Trust (a national charity), there are around seven million carers in the UK – that is one in ten people and rising. It is also estimated that there are 700,000 Young Carers in the UK.

Our local team of professionals and volunteers support Young Carers and Adult Carers by reducing their caring role and the impact of caring on their social, emotional and educational development.

They rely on the support of the local community to make this happen, both with volunteers and financial support.

The Young Carers Team

This team aims to support children and young people who care for a member of their family who have a physical or mental health support need, substance misuse issue or sensory or learning disability. The Team supports children and young people whose social, emotional or educational development is negatively affected by their caring role.

The team has two main aims: to reduce the actual caring role and/or reduce the impact of the caring role. The first thing they do is try to improve the support provided to the family in order to reduce the reliance on children as carers. They also provide activities and run groups, to enable young carers to have a break, get the information they need, make friends and build their confidence.

The Adult Carers Team

This team provides emotional support, information, guidance and advocacy to a wide range of carers, including carers of people with mental health problems, learning disabilities, physical or sensory disabilities, etc.

Between April and September 2017, 828 carers of adults received information, support and services from the Adult Carers Team, with 46 carers referred to receive one to one casework/advocacy work. Since its official launch, the Carers Hub has made over 4,300 carer contacts over the phone and email providing information and advice, and 92 face to face surgeries.

Hats Off Campaign

Helping Brighton & Hove's Homeless this winter.

When the weather is cold, a warm hat is vital to conserve body heat. The Barn Coffee Shop & Restaurant staff at the South Downs Garden Centre in Hassocks would like your help. They are asking people to donate woolly hats to our campaign. They don't have to be new - they can be handmade or unwanted hats from home.

The garden centre will donate them to the local charity Off The Fence, who will distribute them to homeless people on the streets of Brighton & Hove.

Why Are Hats Important?

You lose up to 50% of your body heat through your head.

Even if the rest of your body is wrapped up, heat loss from your head will cause blood vessels throughout the body to constrict. If you're not moving around to keep warm, this could result in cold hands and feet, shivering, and even hypothermia.

Please give any unwanted hats or hats you have knitted to Marjorie Phillips who will pass them on.

Follow the Bear

Churchill Square offers a “Follow the Bear” lost Child Safety scheme designed to re-unite lost children with their family as quickly as possible.

On arrival at Churchill Square, go to the Customer Service Desk for a free wristband for each child and receive information about the scheme.



The “Follow the Bear” ® - Lost Child Trails is now being run at various Shopping Centres, Amusement/Theme Parks, Activity Farms, Zoos/Safari Parks, Holiday Parks and Resorts in the UK, Ireland and South Africa.

So if you’re taking small children into one of these places which runs the “Follow the Bear” ® scheme it seems a good idea to use it.

There are Bear symbols on shop walls and windows around Churchill Square with arrows directing the child towards the customer service desk, the Safety Station.



Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa’s. 19, Clan.

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