

June

2021

# CHRIS CROSS

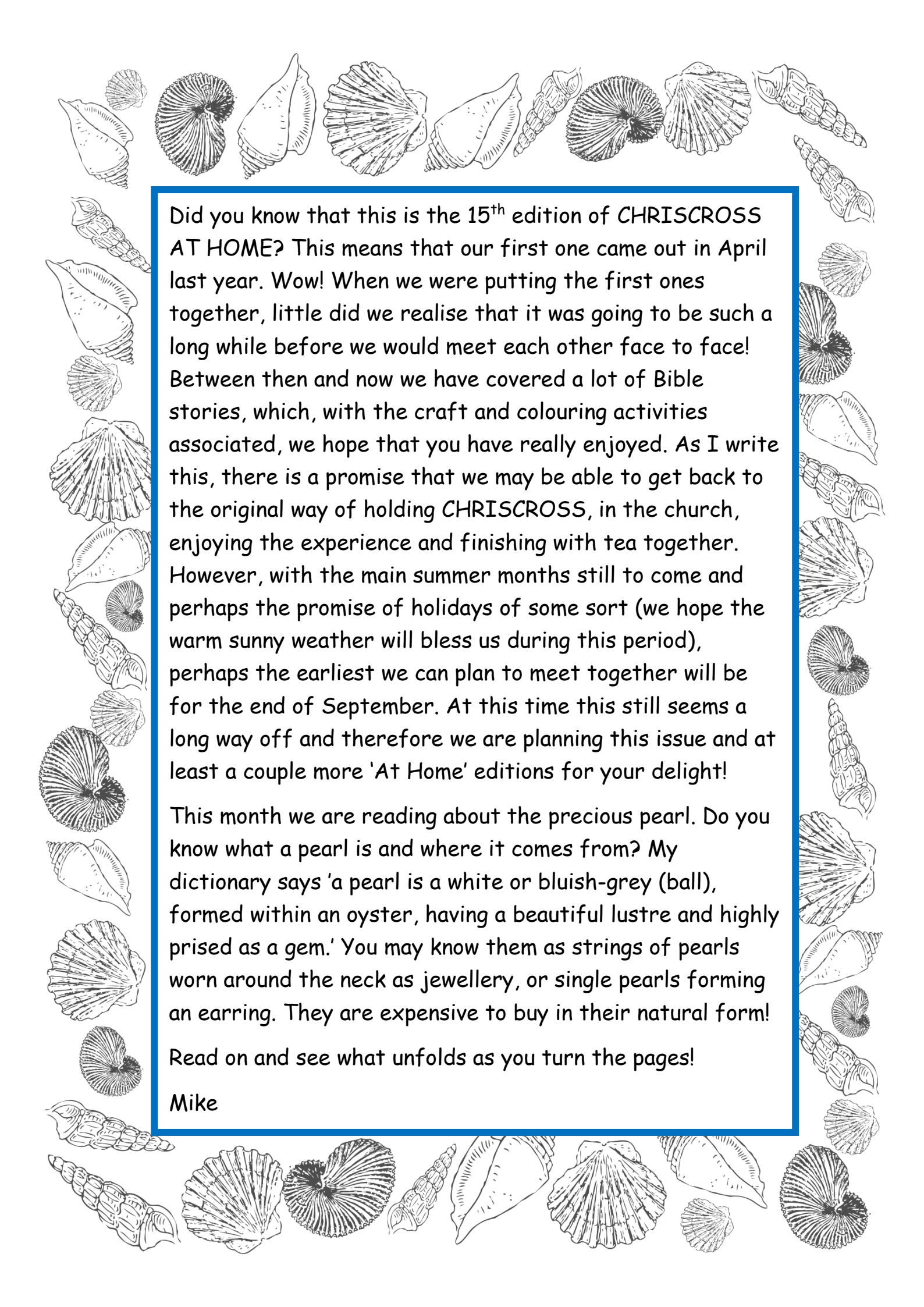
## AT HOME

*...issued monthly to keep  
you in touch, with things to read  
and things to do.*

You may not have been on a beach for a while but when you can go to the seaside do you like picking up shells? Our story today is about something found inside a shell!



THEY KEPT ALL THE PEARLS FOR  
THEMSELVES — BECAUSE THEY WERE —  
SHELLFISH!



Did you know that this is the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of CHRISCROSS AT HOME? This means that our first one came out in April last year. Wow! When we were putting the first ones together, little did we realise that it was going to be such a long while before we would meet each other face to face! Between then and now we have covered a lot of Bible stories, which, with the craft and colouring activities associated, we hope that you have really enjoyed. As I write this, there is a promise that we may be able to get back to the original way of holding CHRISCROSS, in the church, enjoying the experience and finishing with tea together. However, with the main summer months still to come and perhaps the promise of holidays of some sort (we hope the warm sunny weather will bless us during this period), perhaps the earliest we can plan to meet together will be for the end of September. At this time this still seems a long way off and therefore we are planning this issue and at least a couple more 'At Home' editions for your delight!

This month we are reading about the precious pearl. Do you know what a pearl is and where it comes from? My dictionary says 'a pearl is a white or bluish-grey (ball), formed within an oyster, having a beautiful lustre and highly prized as a gem.' You may know them as strings of pearls worn around the neck as jewellery, or single pearls forming an earring. They are expensive to buy in their natural form!

Read on and see what unfolds as you turn the pages!

Mike

## The CHRISCROSS AT HOME team



Mike and Carole



Jeannette



Isobel



Rachael



Kerry



Jackie

The CHRISCROSS team have been thinking of new ideas to include in your monthly issues, and Mike suggested that maybe you would like to know a little bit more about us, so we thought that in turn we would write a little bit about ourselves, family, and what we like doing. I'm going to start the ball rolling.

I'm Rachael and you all know me very well at CHRISCROSS, but here is a little bit about what I get up to when I'm at home.

I am married and my husband's name is Keith. We live in Westfield and have two children called James and Helen. James is married to Nicola and lives in South Wales with their two children Joshua and Ruby. When Joshua and Ruby were younger they liked coming to stay with us for the weekend and come to CHRISCROSS, some of you may remember seeing them. Helen and Richard live near Radstock with their two boys Noah and Otis. We try and spend as much time as we can with all of them.

We have three dogs called Amber, Dolly and Maurice. Amber is a Labrador and Dolly and Maurice are pugs.

One of our hobbies is to walk a lot, we love being out in the countryside finding new walks locally and on the Mendip hills. Our Labrador loves walking too, so



gets very excited when she knows we are planning to go out and never seems to get tired despite how far we go.



We also like gardening. Our garden is quite small but we enjoy planting and looking after it. We grow shrubs, flowers, tomatoes in our greenhouse, and a few vegetables and find it very rewarding being able to eat what we have grown. We like meeting up with friends, either in our home or out walking with them, and we have been known, whilst out walking, to be chatting so much that we have taken the wrong route, got lost, and walked further than we need to! I very much like knitting. I hadn't knitted anything for a long time, but when we went into the lockdowns I started up again and have knitted quite a few things for the grandchildren.

We feel very blessed that we are able to visit Devon and Dorset regularly as we have a holiday home very near to Lyme Regis. It is a beautiful part of the country and we spend as much time there as we can. We have made quite a few new friends who come from all over the country and it is very interesting finding out about where they live, their families, their hobbies and what they do when they are at home.

I hope you feel as if you know a little bit more about me now and what I enjoy doing and have found it interesting.

Our story this month is about the 'precious pearl', which you will be able to read about.

I don't have a special pearl like the man in the story, but what I do have are all the things I have talked about and they are equally as special to me as the pearl in the story.

## The Precious Pearl

Jesus wanted to explain how valuable the kingdom of heaven is, so he told a parable that went something like this:

A pearl seller was looking for pearls.

So one day he went to the seaside, and he talked to some pearl divers.

He talked to the tall pearl divers.

He talked to some small pearl divers.

He talked to fat pearl divers.

He talked to skinny pearl divers.

But he couldn't find any pearls worth buying.

So he walked a little further, along to the place where the beach met the rocks.

And he found there one last pearl diver.

A pearl diver called.....Pearl!

Pearl put a pearl in the pearl seller's hand.

It was perfectly round.

It was perfectly smooth.

It was perfectly shiny.

It was perfectly perfect!



So the pearl seller ran back home.

He sold his house.

And his furniture.

And his donkey.

And his sheep.

And even the shirt off his back.

He sold *everything* he had. And he took that money and gave it to the pearl diver - so the perfectly perfect pearl would be his.

'What's the kingdom of heaven like?' Said Jesus.

'It's like a perfectly perfect pearl. A pearl that's worth everything you've got!'



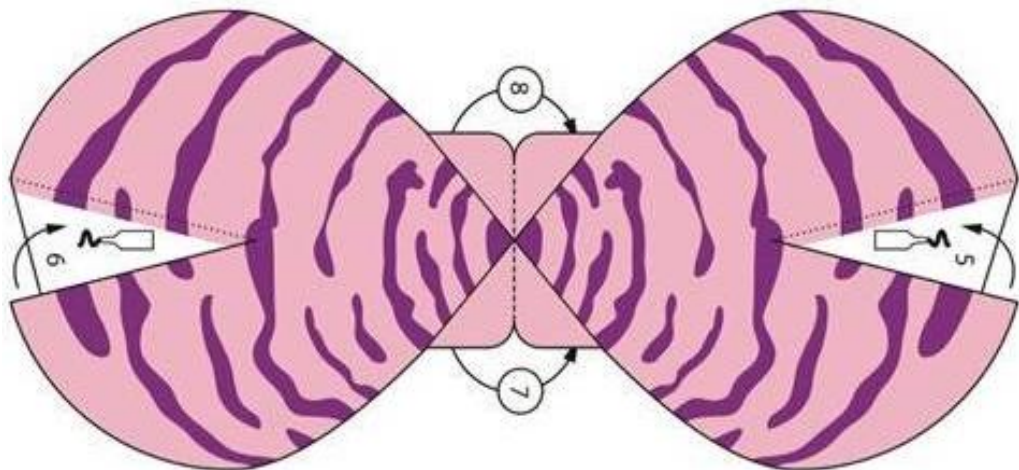
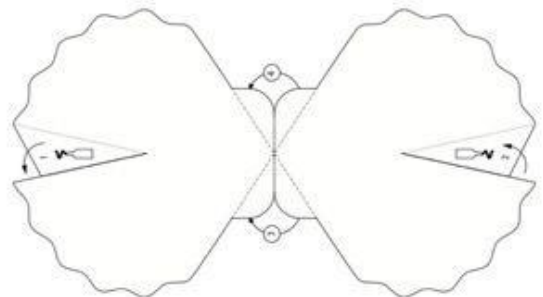
### Make your own pearl shell

**Do this activity before starting the one on the next page**

Carefully cut out the shape.

The little bottle shape shows where you need to glue.

Finally glue a pearl inside.



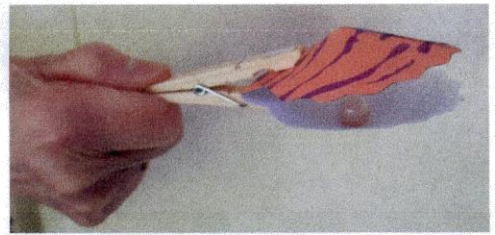
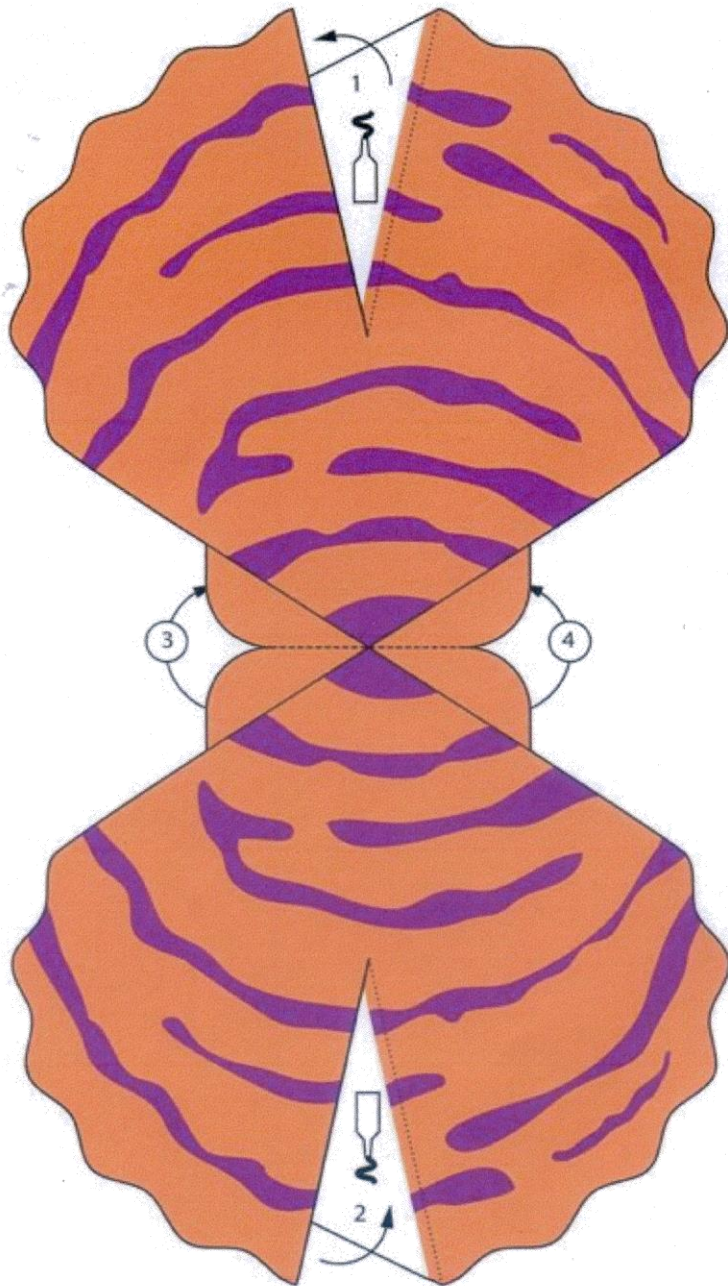
**Now go on to the activity on the next page.**



# TRY MAKING AN

# OPENING YSTER!

Wow!



Using the instructions written on the previous page, glue the shell into the (open) jaws of the peg. (watch your fingers!)

When dry, glue a pearl in the shell.



And now for something to make and eat (and share) -

Pearl decorated biscuits

These biscuits can just be sprinkled with caster sugar as soon as they come out of the oven, like the one on the left, but you can wait until they are cool and put a little icing in the middle and sprinkle on your tiny edible pearls.



Ingredients:

275g (10 oz) Flour

200g (7 oz) Butter

150g (5 oz) Caster sugar plus extra for sprinkling if used

1 Egg yolk

Icing sugar and water if using

Method:

Mix all ingredients together (using a fork to start with and then your hands) until you have a ball. Chill in the fridge for about 20 mins. Roll out to about 1cm thick and cut into circles with a fluted cutter.

Place onto a baking tray lined with baking parchment.

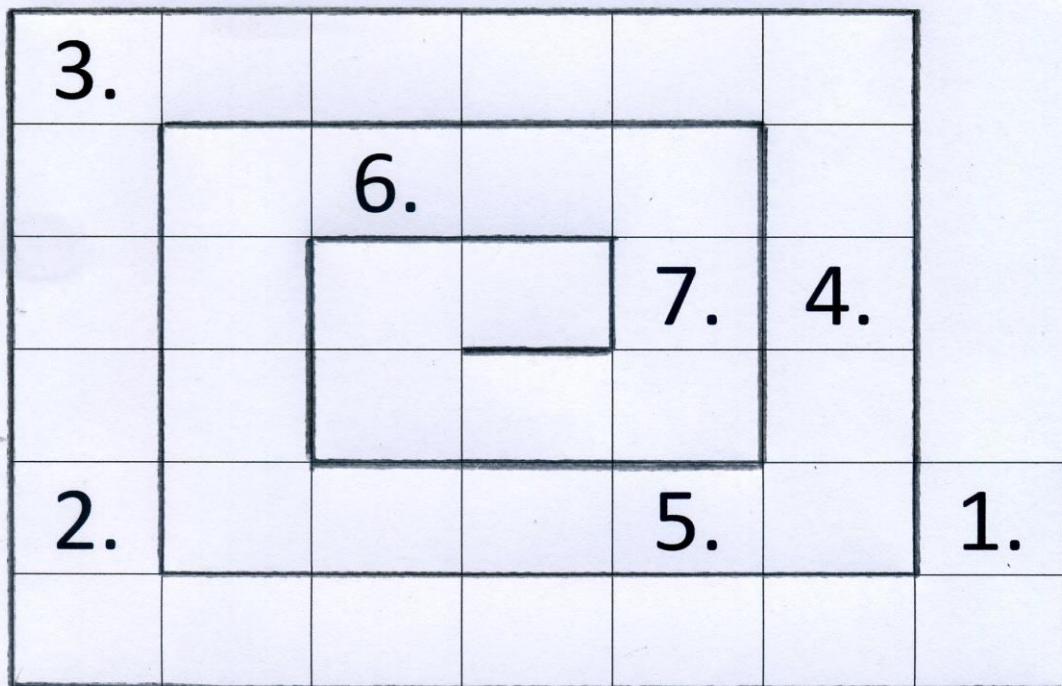
Bake at 160°C for 10-15 minutes, until lightly browned. If using extra sugar for the top instead of icing, sprinkle on now. Otherwise wait until cold, mix about 3 tablespoons of icing sugar with a little water to make a fairly thick icing, spoon onto the centres of the biscuits and add the tiny edible pearls immediately. Wait for the icing to set before eating.



### The Precious Pearl Story Puzzle

Look at the numbered clues, find the correct word and write that word in the spiral puzzle. Each numbered square will begin a new word.

All the words appear in the story – you might like to look at it again afterwards to see where they appear.



1. Something worth a lot of money.
2. Gave something in exchange for money.
3. A territory or country ruled by a king or queen.
4. Moved faster than walking.
5. With no faults at all.
6. Adult male human.
7. Small, shiny, hard balls that form inside some oysters.

Perfect	Kingdom	Sold	
Valuable	Pearls	Ran	Man

**From Revd. Martin**

When I was young I used to collect football stickers - do you still do that? I would buy a packet of stickers every week and stick them in an album, in spaces printed for each team. It was great to get a new sticker, but very disappointing when I found that I already had it. But the more stickers I collected, the more this happened. So I took my duplicates to school and swapped them for ones I didn't have. Sometimes there were stickers that hardly anyone else had, and I would have to swap 4 or 5 of mine for one of theirs.

When we want something that is very rare or valuable we are prepared to give much more to get it. Our story today tells of a merchant who is prepared to sell everything he has to buy a very valuable pearl. Can you imagine anything that would be so valuable that you would be prepared to sell everything you have to get it? I can't.

Jesus is talking about the Kingdom of God being like this pearl. To have Jesus in our lives is so valuable we should be willing to put everything else aside to get it. But the wonderful thing is that the possibility of knowing Jesus is available to everyone to own. We just have to say we want it, and it is ours to keep. We don't have to sell anything, but we do have to give our lives to Jesus. What a wonderful and valuable gift Jesus gives to us.

Let us pray

Dear God, we thank you that you love us so much that you want to share our lives with us. Help us to put all of our effort into finding you, and to welcome you into our lives. Amen

**God bless  
Martin**

