



YOUNG ARCHER



This statue of Janus is at the Colosseum in Rome. Picture by John Lawrence.

Looking back to front

By Diana Cormack

How many words do you know that begin with *jan*? Not many, I'll bet, except for *January*. But, if you were American, you would probably think of *janitor*, which is what they call someone who looks after a building such as a caretaker or school keeper. These people are usually in charge of the entrances to buildings and their title takes us way back to Roman times.

The ancient Roman god of gates and doorways was called Janus. He was shown with two faces looking in opposite directions, which was very useful for seeing who was coming and who was going, especially if you were trying to keep track of your enemies.

In the forum in Rome there was a temple dedicated to Janus. The doors were kept shut in times of peace, but when they were at war the Romans left the doors open ready to receive the victorious army on its return. The temple had 12 windows and four doors – a window for every month and a door for each season.

During the month of January, the Romans held festivals in honour of Janus and they made offerings of new food and new wine to him. They asked him

to forgive what they had done wrong in the old year and to make them happy in the new year.

As well as being the guardian of doors and entrances, Janus was also the god of beginnings, which made him the ideal god for the New Year. In fact, he was a doubly good choice because, with his two faces, he could look back at the year that had passed and forward to the one that was coming. Perhaps he was the first version of *Back to the Future!*

Funnies...

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho Cheese.

What do you call four bull-fighters in quicksand?
Quattro sinko.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

All Saints' Church,
Durham Road, East Finchley
Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

Body art

makes its mark

Beautiful body art for children was one of the big hits at Holy Trinity School's bumper Christmas Fair in December.

Clive the tattooist was kept busy air-brushing animals and mystical patterns on to the arms and hands of pupils, and even a few parents joined the queue.

Young visitors also loved the Secret Room – no adults allowed – where they could pay £2 to buy and wrap a present for a grown-up in their lives.

There were craft stalls, bric-a-brac, two tombolas and a fabulous raffle, all raising money to help fund the school's activities in the year ahead.

As always, Holy Trinity parents made sure the food was a major attraction with dozens of homemade dishes on sale, alongside a mouth-watering cake stall.

Ellie Franklin from Year 5 gets her body art from Clive the tattooist at the Holy Trinity School fair. Picture by John Lawrence.



Festive fancy dress

By Helen Drake

The fancy dress competitions held at Martin Schools' events are always hotly contested and the one held at the Christmas Bazaar this year on 2 December was no exception.



Some Christmas puddings made an appearance at the Martin Schools' Bazaar. Photo by Philip Vallentin.

Children (with perhaps a little help from their mums, dads and grandparents) had been busy with the card, paper, glue and paints to create an abundance of costumes on a festive theme.

Good weather meant the outdoor zone in the playground with the "knock the hat off the snowman" game, along with giant Jenga and dominos sets, was hugely popular and the interactive whiteboard in the Junior School Hall was put to good use by those running the M-bay stall (Martin Schools' own version of e-Bay) giving bidders up-to-the-minute information on the success of their bids.

Those with a sweet tooth were catered for as well. On the chocolate fountain stall visitors were invited to dip pieces of fruit as well as the more naughty doughnuts and marshmallows into a cascade of warm melted chocolate – delicious!

Pupils visit Gunners' new home

In November, Year 6 children from Holy Trinity C of E School and the Akiva Independent Jewish School were invited to visit Arsenal Football Club's new home at the Emirates Stadium. The event was organised as part of the Kick Racism Out of Football campaign and started off with mixed teams from both schools playing in a mini-football tournament at a sports centre close to the stadium.

Holy Trinity School reports: "We then walked to the stadium and were impressed by its size. We were taken up to the 49ers restaurant (named after Arsenal's 49 games without a loss in the league). We went and sat in the seats of the stadium and were told some facts. Then Gunnersaurus came to see us!

"There was a presentation by the community team from Arsenal about the work they do both in the Holy Land and Africa, and about the multicultural aspect of their team. The theme for the school presentations was 'light'. We, Holy Trinity, did a

presentation about Advent and Christingle, and Akiva did a presentation about Hanukkah. Both groups of children learned lots and thoroughly enjoyed the day."

Unfortunately, that enjoyment was somewhat dimmed by the fact that stadium management did not let the children have a tour of the stadium. One of the accompanying teachers told *THE ARCHER* that when they asked about this, the reason they were given appeared to be monetary, though the tour had been given last year and still happens at other top football clubs.

All hands on deck

Young sea cadets turned into waiters and waitresses for the evening to serve their annual fundraising Christmas meal.

The young members of Finchley Sea Cadets cooked and served a delicious four-course meal to around 80 guests at their base in Long Lane.

With a disco afterwards, the evening was a great success and helped to raise funds for the group's activities.