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## *The Computer and the Mouse*

By Terry Alve

One month it was since the IBM compatible had arrived in my office in the church hall across from the vicarage. It was a quiet place, ideal for receiving inspirational thoughts to share from the pulpit on Sunday.

Also for getting totally engrossed in climbing the computer learning curve. The next purchase was definitely going to be a mouse which would help considerably in getting about the 20MB hard disk and, in particular, the new Desktop Publishing programme.

Totally absorbed, and oblivious to time and any distraction save the keyboard and the screen, I was jolted back to the real world as the pitter patter of feet, silent until they reached me, became a sensation first on my ankle and then up my right leg. Yes, my mouse had arrived alarmingly, unexpectedly both for me and it. My hairy visitor's equally spontaneous bee-line dive for its point of entry into the office will only fade faintly from my memory this side of eternity.

In due course my other mouse arrived, a constant reminder of that MOUSE. IT was caught in a trap not long after its untimely visit. However, my erstwhile visitor is immortalised in the head and the tail of the "G" on my "Genius" by my side. This mouse is ever ready to make life more pleasant for me as I continue to scale the heights of that curve on which I travel.

*From the editor — Terry Alve (The Reverend) is the Vicar at St. Alban's Vicarage, Pleasant Point, South Canterbury. He assures me this story is true!* ■

## It's a Numbers Game

A simple mathematical trick can enable you to discover any number a person thinks of — and find out his age as well. Ask the person to pick a number of any size, double it, add 5 and multiply the result by 50. Next, tell him to add 1739 (this key number changes every year: for 1990 the number rises to 1740, and so on for each subsequent year), and then to subtract the year in which he was born. Ask him to tell you the final answer. The last two figures in the answer will tell you the person's age this year. The others will be the number he first thought of. ■



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