

Thirteen Equals One Our vicar is always raising money for one cause or another, but he has never managed to get enough money to have the church clock repaired. The big clock, which used to strike the hour's day and night was damaged during the war and has been silent ever since . One night, however, our vicar woke up with a start: the clock was striking the hours! Looking at his watch, he saw that it was one o' clock, but the bell struck thirteen times before it stopped. Armed with a torch, the vicar went up into the clock tower to see what was going on. In the torchlight, he caught sight of a figure whom he immediately recognized as Bill Wilkins, our local grocer . Whatever are you doing up here Bill? Asked the vicar in surprise . I am trying to repair the bell, answered Bill. I have been coming up here night after night for weeks now. You see, I was hoping to give you a surprise . You certainly did give me a surprise! Said the vicar. You have probably woken up everyone in the village as well. Still, I am glad the bell is working again . That is the trouble, vicar, answered Bill. It's working all right, but I am afraid that at one o clock it will strike thirteen times and there's nothing I can do about it". We will get used to that, Bill, said the vicar. "Thirteen is not as good as one, but it's better than nothing. Now let us go downstairs and have a cup of t