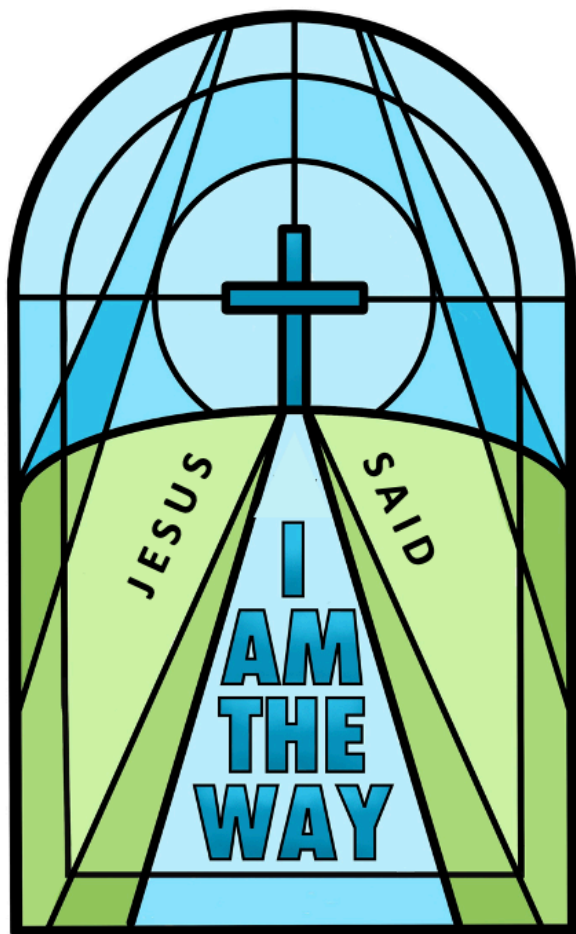
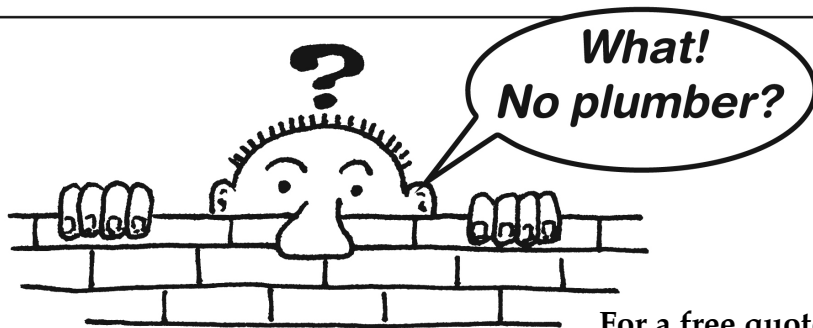


Church News
for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



April 2024



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Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

Clergy:

Vicar: Revd Catherine Wilson 825665
vicar@bromhambenefice.org
Assistant Priest: Revd Di Harpham 918691
Curate: Revd Petra Yates - curate@bromhambenefice.org 07504 118405

Benefice Administration

Website &.....} Administrator 07494 069540
Wedding.....} (Mon & Thurs 9.30 -12.00: Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm
organisation..}
Fees Accounts...} administrator@bromhambenefice.org
Safeguarding Officer - Judith Denyer 07981 928522

Parish News

Editor Mr Edward Jones stowensnews@btinternet.com 826551
Distribution Mrs B Cryer 825463
07767 272584

Pew Leaflet Sarah Smale, as Administrator

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Churchwardens | Ms T Woodcock | 340089 |
| | Mrs F Bulmer | 602718 |
| PCC Secretary | Mrs Vivien Butler | 407351 |
| PCC Treasurer | Mrs Sarah Smale | 07957 126145 |

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams
Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------|
| | Mrs F Bulmer | 602718 |
| Altar Guild | Mrs M Parrott | 824402 |

Who's Who in Bromham cont....

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------|
| Children & Young | }Carol Jones | 823307 |
| People's work | }Rene Farquhar | 307996 |
| Electoral Roll | Mrs Rene Farquhar | 307996 |
| Ringers | Mr Robert Jones | 881741 |
| Thursday Prayer Gp | Mrs C Wisson | 306833 |
| Friends of St Owen's | www.friendsof stowens.org | |
| Secretary: | Mr David Butler | 407351 |
| |  facebook Friends of St Owens | |

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Churchwardens | Mr G Palmer | 07710 462535 |
| | Mrs H Worley | 262166 |
| PCC Secretary | Mrs C Ord | 823477 |
| PCC Treasurer | Mrs S Ball | ls.ball@btinternet.com |
| Organist & Choirmaster - contact | Jenny Sudworth | 822859 |
| Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers | Revd Catherine Wilson | 825665 |
| Flowers | Mrs A Rolph | 824849 |
| St Mary's Ringers | Mr Bill Sellars | 823473 |

Who's Who in Stagsden

Church Officers

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Churchwarden | } Post holders names not published | |
| PCC Treasurer | } please contact thru Revd Di Harpham | 918691 |
| PCC Secretary | Caroline Heaton | |
| Ringers | Mr Richard Brown | 823289 |
| Flowers Team | please contact thru Revd Di Harpham | 918691 |

If you know of further details for this page, or have information or articles to publish please send all material to the Editor by post or (preferably) by email - see details on page 3.

The Editor thanks Contributors and Advertisers for their material with acknowledgements to the "Parish Pump" website. Nevertheless, views expressed, and goods and services advertised are not endorsed by the PCC. **Please send material for publication to the Editor by the 22nd of the month.**



Principal Services in the Benefice

7th April

9.00am

10.30am

2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

14th April

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

3rd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)

Evensong (Bromham)

21st April

9.00am

10.30am

4.30pm

4th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Wild Church (Bromham Scout Site)

28th April

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

5th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Evensong (Oakley)

Weekday Services

Mondays

11.30am

Messy Church (Bromham)*

Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am

Holy Communion (Bromham

Fellowship Room)

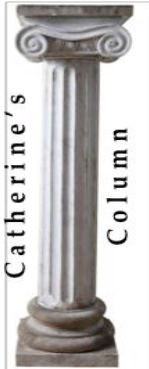
Thursdays

10.00am

Messy Church (Oakley)*

NB 10.30 church services are streamed via Zoom for those who find it difficult to attend in person (details on website www.bromhambenefice.org)

* Messy Church closed during school holidays



From the Vicarage

‘Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!’

On Easter Sunday the words of the familiar Easter greeting will once again be on our lips and in our hearts, as the sadness and solemnity of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are exchanged for the joy of the resurrection. In some churches the celebration begins as dawn breaks, with the lighting of a fire as a symbol of the power of Christ’s light; at the beginning of our services on Easter morning we will light the Easter (Paschal) candle as we proclaim that Christ is risen. We have been rescued from sin and death and can be set free to live a new life with God.

This year Easter Sunday (March 31st) is also the day when the clocks change and the country moves into ‘Daylight Saving Time’ for the summer. The evenings are lighter for longer, and we sense that summer is only just around the corner – we can hope that the weather reflects that too and we have some more sunshine! But meanwhile we enjoy the Springtime with the bulbs flowering and new growth everywhere, and there is a sense of life and energy – even the time ‘springs forward’ by an hour, and we all get out of bed earlier!

And a third event for Easter Sunday 2024 is that in this Benefice we will be sharing the 'common cup' in our communion services once again. What this means is that everyone will be invited to take a sip from the chalice if they want to receive the wine, or can receive a wafer only if they choose not to sip (intinction by individuals is not allowed). This will take a bit of getting used to after COVID stopped us offering the chalice due to the risk of infection, but the majority of Anglican churches do now share the wine this way and the clergy and Churchwardens feel this is the time for us to follow suit.

So for all these reasons – and maybe others too – as we come to the end of March and move on into April change is in the air. We are used to the seasonal variations in time and nature, and these don't take us by surprise (as long as we remember to adjust our clocks!). While we may either welcome or feel uncomfortable about the shared chalice, it is something we will adapt to – and receiving a wafer only is still receiving the full spiritual benefits of communion. But the possibility of a new life with Christ in this world – and the hope of eternal life to come – turns all our expectations and assumptions upside down. 'God has shown us how much he loves us – it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us' wrote St Paul (Romans 5:8). He offers us forgiveness, hope, and the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide and help us. No wonder we say with joy 'Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!'

Happy Easter!

Catherine Wilson



Next meeting - **Thursday 11th April**

at St Owen's Fellowship Room

at 2.30pm

Meet Sarah Grimes who is going to tell us about
SMART - a charity for the homeless

For further details

contact Tessa Woodcock



Sewing Group

1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons
2pm - 4pm in the Fellowship Room
at St Owen's Church.

Further information from Frances
on 07470 032296

First Friday Coffee Mornings

Next coffee morning on Fri 5th April

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.



Please contact Frances for more information
(602718 or francesbulmer@btinternet.com)

Benefice Fellowship Lunch

at St Owen's

12.30pm onwards

after morning service

Sunday 7th April

Bring some food to share if you can and enjoy
the company of others as we eat together

More information:

Vivien Butler - 407351

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

Your Church AGM

These meetings not only include the important legal bits. like electing your Churchwardens, but they give you a chance to learn what's going on and to have a say!

Dates for your Diary: Stagsden Tues 23 April at 5pm

Oakley - Weds 15 May at 7.30pm

Bromham - Sun 19 May at 12noon*

**followed by communal lunch*

See also page 14 !

Ascension Day

Thursday 9th May at 7.30pm

at St Leonards, Stagsden

a Deanery service to mark Ascension Day
will include combined choirs singing the anthem
'When Christ their Lord to Heaven upraised' by

Charles Wood



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

*On the 15th March
Archbishop Justin wrote of
his meeting with the
Reverend Fadi Diab.*



I was delighted to meet today with my brother in Christ, the Reverend Fadi Diab, the Anglican priest from St Andrew's Ramallah in Palestine.

In listening to him I heard again how the war in Gaza has upended life in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and created untold misery and suffering to thousands of families.

Roadblocks, closures and the suspension of work permits have pushed countless families into poverty.

The withholding of tax receipts to the Palestinian Authority has pushed basic services and critical infrastructure to the edge of collapse.

The arming of settlers in the illegal settlements of the West Bank has intensified violence and contributed to a level of death and destruction not seen since the Second Intifada.

The senseless killing of Rami Hamdan Al Halhouli, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy in East Jerusalem earlier this week, underlines all that is wrong with this cruel and horrific war. A 12-year-old holding a firework is not a terrorist but simply an innocent child holding a firework. There is no justification for his death.

This war and its killing needs to end and it needs to end now. All hostages need to be released. Immediate and unrestricted aid must be secured to address the famine-like conditions in Gaza.

I give thanks to the ministry of Father Fadi Diab at this critical time, and I pray that God will guide and watch over him, the wider Diocese of Jerusalem, and all Christian churches as they provide comfort and support to those most in need.

Editor: Things are happening very rapidly in the Israel-Gaza war, but this story is the most up to date one that we have. It was dated 13th February and, thus, pre-dates the preceding article by Justin Welby but is not altered by it.

House of Bishops makes call for immediate ceasefire in Gaza and release of hostages

The House of Bishops has recently made the following statement:

“With the onset of Israel’s ground offensive into Rafah, we call for an immediate ceasefire. The relentless bombardment of Gaza and its huge cost in civilian lives and civilian infrastructure must stop. The manner in which this war is being prosecuted cannot be morally justified.

“We urge Israel to adhere to the ICJ order and to ensure that Palestinians have access to food, water, healthcare, and safety, that have long been denied to them. We welcome the Foreign Secretary’s recent call for an immediate pause in the fighting and would also welcome further representation to the Government of Israel about the way that it is exercising its right to self-defence and to affirm adherence to international law.

Continued on next page

“We continue to advocate for the release of the remaining hostages and an end to the missile attacks on Israel by Hamas. All sides must begin to imagine a future beyond this conflict: for a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians. This war can’t result in the consolidation of a system of occupation that has for too long denied Palestinians their rights and freedoms.

“In praying for all those in Israel and Palestine living in the midst of war and the fear of war, we pray particularly for the Palestinian Christian communities, that they may know strength and the presence of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

“As we consider the impact of the current conflict in the Middle East on community relations here in the UK, we again condemn all antisemitic and anti-Muslim sentiment. We are horrified by the growing threats and abuses of Jews on university campuses, in our neighbourhoods, and online. We appeal to our communities to be safe for all people whatever their nationality, ethnicity or religion. For our own part, we commit to working alongside our fellow faith leaders for the common good, despite and with our differences.”

Bishop Alan is grateful for the many messages, cards and texts he has received and feels supported by the prayers of so many people. He is making good progress after his recent surgery for prostate cancer and is able to exercise and go for walks. He has an appointment with his surgeon next week when he will hear if he needs any further treatment, although he is expecting to be signed back for work in the next few weeks.



Friends of St Owen's Church
Welcome



MARK JENNINGS
ON
CLASSICAL GUITAR
PRESENTING
'THE SPIRIT OF SPAIN'
AN EVENING OF
VIRTUOSO CLASSICS

Saturday 20th April
7.30pm at
The Church in Bromham Park
MK43 8LL

Tickets: Adult £12
Child under 18 £8

Price includes glass of wine/squash & 'nibbles'

Pay at the door (cash or card)

Reservations Line - 01234 826551

With Annual General Meetings at church in mind...

It was not an accident that 17 of the 36 parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship. - *William James Dawson*

Stewardship is what a man does after he says, 'I believe'. - *WH Greaves*

All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them. - *J Hudson Taylor*

I believe in loyalty to the local church. I don't believe in that view of the invisible church that makes you invisible at church! - *Vance Havner*

From the Registers

Baptisms:

31st March Mario Miko (Bromham)

Funerals:

11th March Dorothy Hendry (Oakley)

13th March Diana Cairns (Bromham)

Burials/Burials of Ashes:

12th March Daya Ram (Bromham)

14th March Michael Darwood (Bromham)

**Pastoral Easter Message from
the Bishop of Bedford sent to
clergy and lay leaders.**

*In His great mercy God has given us new birth
into living hope through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)*



We are called to be communities of hope, witnessing to 'Christ crucified' and proclaiming the risen Christ. On behalf of all my Bishop's Staff colleagues, thank you for all that you, and those with whom you worship within your parish, chaplaincy or school, offer as signs of resurrection hope in a suffering world. I pray that you will have a blessed Holy Week and Easter, and that there is also opportunity for rest and renewal.

This Easter we carry much in our prayer. The appalling humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The fear of intimidation by both Jewish and Muslim communities in our Diocese and beyond. There is the continuing conflict in Ukraine and reports of possible devastating famine in Sudan. This week official statistics reported more people in poverty, despite significant government support. Global warming is happening too fast. Asylum seekers continue to arrive to in large numbers.

Into this we witness to hope. One of the joys of visiting PCCs across Bedfordshire for Bible Study and reflection has been hearing the many signs of hope – often small and fragile but always evidence of the God who makes things new. Thank you again and may God bless us all this Easter.

+Richard



'Messy Church for All'
at Oakley Methodist Church
on 3rd Tuesday in the month
3.30 till 5.30pm
Contact 824504 or
mcarr49@hotmail.com



This year's
Easter Monday
Pilgrimage
to St Albans
will take place on
1 April 2024
with the theme of All
Things New. We can't
wait to see you there.

The annual Pilgrimage and service is a family event which includes grandparents, parents, young people, children and babies. All are welcome ... even muddy boots and dogs!

You can journey from your local church or from one of a number of 'Hub' churches.

Alternatively, join us at St Albans Cathedral. We gather on the Abbey Orchard for a picnic before processing into the Cathedral for an informal Eucharist at 3 pm.

Archbishops welcome publication of Future of Church Safeguarding Report

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have welcomed the recent publication of the *Future of Church Safeguarding report* from Professor Alexis Jay, with an outline of next steps for how the Church responds.

Professor Jay, the former Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, agreed in July 2023 to develop proposals around independence in safeguarding in the Church. The work was commissioned following the termination of the contracts of the original Independent Safeguarding Board, ISB.

In a statement the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said:

“We thank Professor Jay and her team for this fully independent report, and the wisdom, expertise and meticulous proposals contained within it. We recognise her criticism of our safeguarding structures and processes, and we welcome this scrutiny and challenge.

“For the sake of all those who come into contact with the Church, particularly victims and survivors, we welcome the plans that are in place to take forward this work as swiftly as possible to give everyone confidence and trust in our structures and processes.

“Professor Jay rightly acknowledges the excellent work that is done up and down the country by experienced and committed Safeguarding Officers and others, but her challenge to us all is how our safeguarding structures and processes reach that same standard. This is a constructive challenge that we must all take very seriously.

Continued on next page

The Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop, Joanne Grenfell, who is chairing the Response Group for the Wilkinson and Jay reviews said: "The report from Professor Jay contains important recommendations for the structure of safeguarding in the Church with a clear emphasis on independent scrutiny and the importance of independent professional advice in all our safeguarding work."

Mark, disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is remembered by the Church on 26th April; he is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, and is much in evidence in Venice.



God in Music

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Allegri’s *Miserere*

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for The Sunday Times, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ – the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochester wrote of a production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri’s *Miserere*. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare’s play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the *Miserere* was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well.

Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men’s voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio

Continued on next page

Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold 1, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

The *Miserere*, or Psalm 51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration.

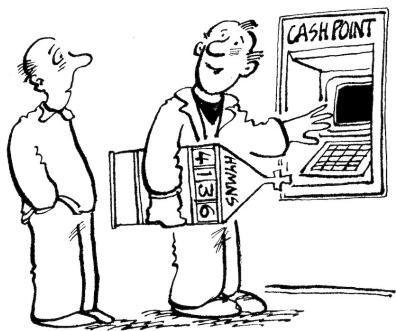
In Allegri's setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God's grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart.

And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness.'

Search on-line for Allegri Miserere Tallis Scholars for one of the best recordings on Youtube; I would pick "the legendary 1980 recording"- Ed

Do you remember your own PIN number?

Nearly one in five of us can't. We are so used to paying by contactless that when we have to withdraw cash or type our PIN into a card reader, our minds go blank.



.....between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN !

'Contactless' payments hit a record high last year. A staggering 93.4 per cent of all in-store card transactions up to £100 was made using contactless, rather than cash or PIN and card reader.

According to Barclays, we now depend on contactless payments and smartphone technology so much that more than a fifth of young people now leave their wallets at home when they go shopping. *

Contactless technology was first introduced by Barclaycard 17 years ago. It had a spending limit of £10. The limit was increased during the pandemic to £45, to reduce physical contact in shops, before rising to its current £100 limit.

* On a similar theme, were you to be knocked over in the street, would the Good Samaritan, who has just called an ambulance, be able to tell anyone in your family what has happened?

Choir

Seen in a parish magazine: 'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals.

The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the prison chaplain."



Sudoku -
easy

Solution on
page 31

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | | 6 | | | 3 | | |
| | | 1 | | | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| | 4 | | | 5 | | | | |
| 4 | 9 | | | 8 | 3 | | 5 | |
| | | | 2 | 1 | 4 | | | |
| | 2 | | 5 | 6 | | | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | 7 | | | 9 | |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | | | 7 | | |
| | 7 | | | | 6 | | | 4 |

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EASTER SPECIAL

Saturday 1st April 5-7.00pm

at The Fellowship Centre

Clapham

MK41 6ER

For more information see sharnbrookdeanery.co.uk

or contact us at ourvoicetoo@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

MARCH 2024

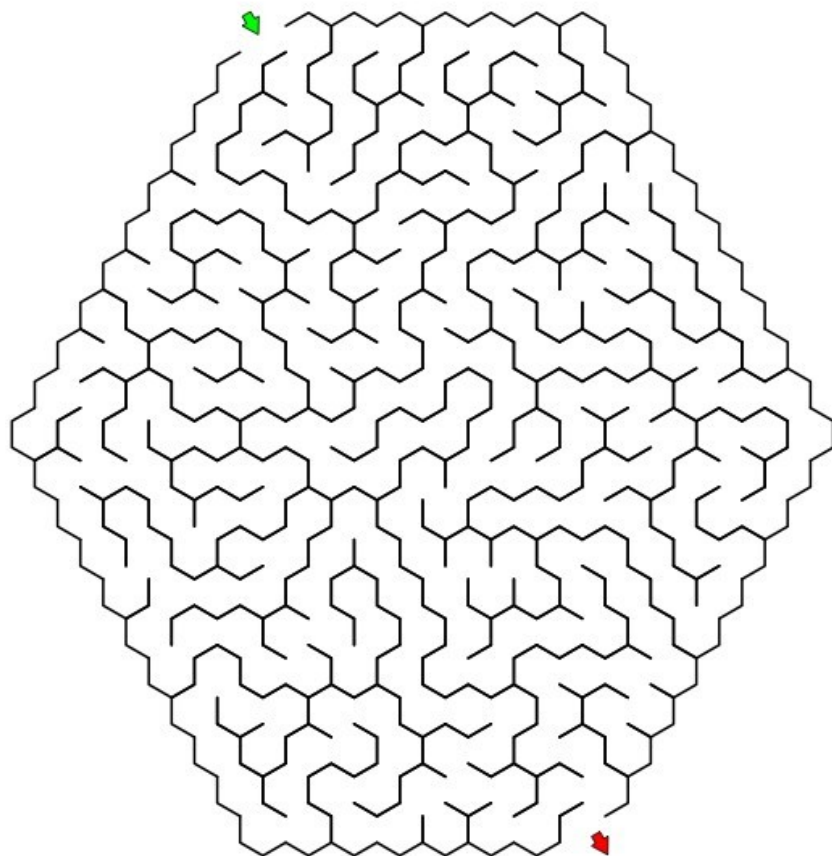
First Prize: Margaret Ashill

Second Prize: Peggy Ward

Third Prize: Flora Dawson

Fourth Prize: Christine Beales

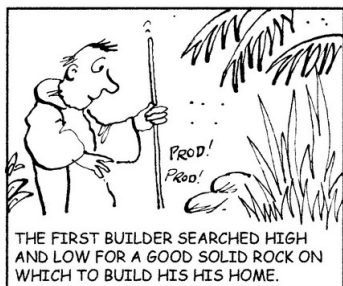
Can you find your way from top to bottom?



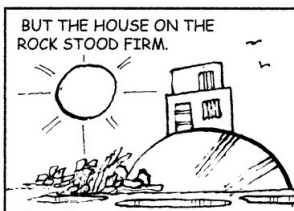
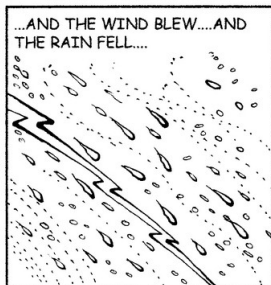
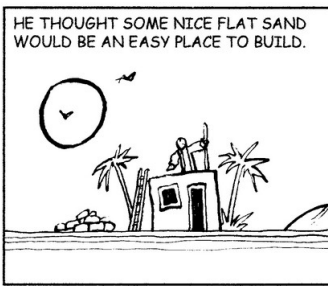
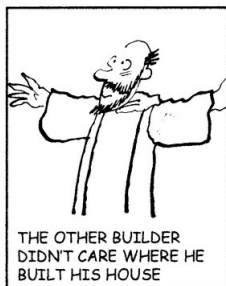
Do it

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and *then* cross them off!

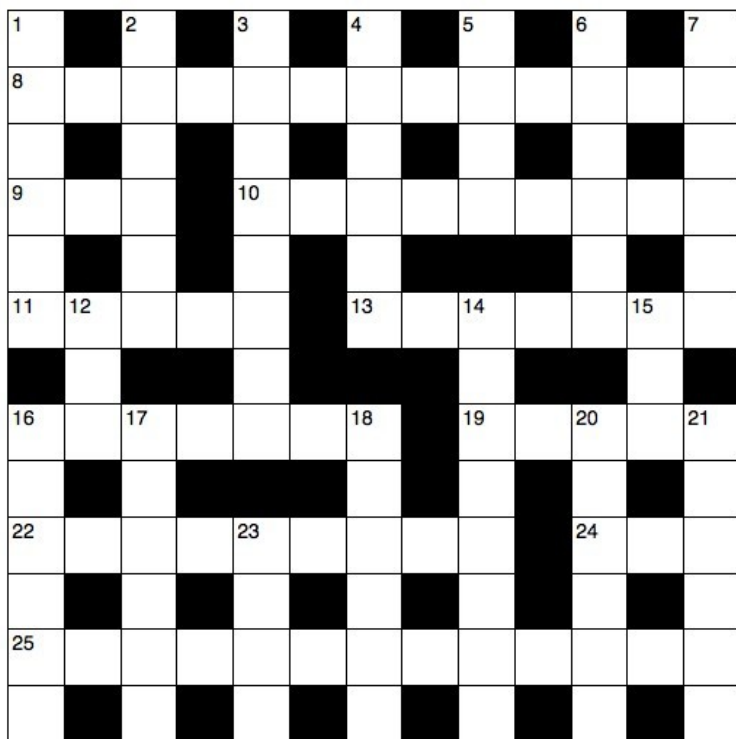
For younger readers.....



AT LONG, LONG LAST HE
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



**JESUS EXPLAINED -
'IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE
A FIRM FOUNDATION.'**



ACROSS

8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)

9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)

10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)

11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)

13 Muslim holy month (7)

16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)

- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Solution on page 31

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Science and Society: How Can We Approach New Ethical Issues?

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the ‘yuk!’ or ‘wow!’ These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The **consequentialist** approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks ‘What can I get away with?’ Also, what happens when rules collide?

Continued on next page

For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are 'made in the image of God' which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? **The five Cs** bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

Clarify the facts and key questions.

Consider our choices: what could we achieve?

Constraints: External - what must we do? ; Internal - how should we behave?

Compare the pros and cons of each approach.

Choose what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church, I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in, the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?



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Strict bedtimes could make children's brains 'bigger and healthier'

A family routine and a strict bedtime could help your child develop a healthier, bigger brain.

In a new study from Colorado State University, it was found that children thrive when the family has a weekly 'family time' together, when homework is done at the same time every day, the family eats dinner together every night, the child is expected to carry out regular household chores, and when bedtime is at a consistent time, accompanied by a bedtime story or similar calming ritual.

The underlying need is for the child to get enough regular and deep sleep. Children with disrupted families get disrupted sleep, and therefore are more likely to have thinner regions of the brain in the amygdala as well as parts of the left and right frontal cortex. These areas control skills related to language, behaviour, sensory perception, and emotional processing.
Parish Pump website

Solution to puzzle
on page 22

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 |

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | | E | | A | | A | | I | | T | | A |
| T | R | A | N | S | G | R | E | S | S | O | R | S |
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| O | U | T | | E | P | H | E | S | I | A | N | S |
| S | | E | | M | | E | | | | N | | O |
| T | H | R | O | B | | R | A | M | A | D | A | N |
| | O | | | L | | | | O | | | | P |
| N | E | A | R | E | S | T | | N | E | A | T | H |
| U | | P | | | | I | | A | | R | | A |
| C | H | I | L | D | L | E | S | S | | A | N | T |
| L | | E | | O | | D | | T | | R | | R |
| E | X | C | O | M | M | U | N | I | C | A | T | E |
| I | | E | | E | | P | | C | | T | | D |

Editor: We continue our column that looks at memorable dates in the month (this time, April) down the years.

All in the month of April

It was:

300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

Also 300 years ago, on 22nd April 1724 that Immanuel Kant, the German philosopher was born. One of the leading philosophers during the Age of Enlightenment.

200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/ fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

175 years ago, on 10th April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

150 years ago, on 5th April 1874 that Johann Strauss II's operetta Die Fledermaus was performed for the first time, in Vienna.

125 years ago, on 29th April 1899 that Duke Ellington, American jazz / swing pianist, composer and orchestra leader, was born.

90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

75 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

Also 75 years ago, on 7th April 1949 that the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific was opened in Broadway.

70 years ago, on 7th April 1954 that in a news conference about Communism in Indochina, US President Dwight D Eisenhower explained his 'domino theory'. He said that if one country in a region came under the influence of Communism, then the countries surrounding it would follow. He and later presidential administrations have always believed this.

Also 70 years ago, on 26th April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally, and a number of sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result.

60 years ago, on 15th April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo.

40 years ago, on 17th April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.

Also 30 years ago, on 26th April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10th May.

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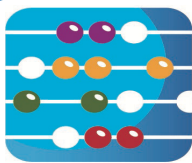
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