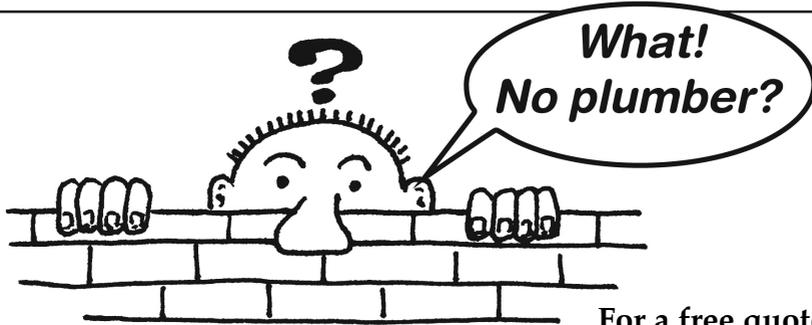


Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



April 2025



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**Welcome to
Church News in
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org

 **facebook** 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

<u>6th April</u>	<u>Passion Sunday</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>13th April</u>	<u>Palm Sunday</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Palm Sunday Service (Oakley)

For services in Holy Week see page 9

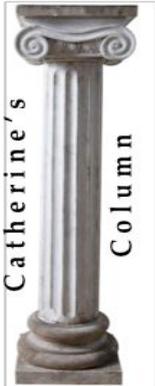
<u>20th April</u>	<u>Easter Day</u>
10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (Bromham)*
10.30am	All Age Holy Communion + Baptism (Oakley)*
	<i>*followed by Easter Egg Hunt</i>
3.00pm	<i>Easter Trail & children's crafts (Stagsden)</i>
4.00pm	Songs of Praise (Stagsden)
<u>27th April</u>	<u>2nd Sunday of Easter</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)

Weekday Services

Mondays	
11.30am	Messy Church (Bromham)**
Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)	
11.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham FR)
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

As many of you know, I have been suffering with a bad back recently, which thankfully is improving now although it has been slower than I might have hoped.

Having never suffered in this way before, it has brought some challenges, not least among which is putting on my socks each morning! I've had to slow down physically, unable to walk quickly, comfortably or any distance – this has been very frustrating at times.

But there have been some good things too. I find myself being extra grateful for small blessings, whether a helping hand in some way, someone offering to do something for me, or the realisation that even though it's not better yet, there is a small improvement. And I have been so aware of the sympathy of others, who have encouraged me by sharing their own stories and helpful tips, by praying and by asking me how I am doing. I have really appreciated the support of our church community!

Supporting others so they don't feel alone is an important way in which as Christians we live out the command Jesus gave at the Last Supper. On Maundy Thursday, so called because it comes from the Latin 'mandatum' which means a command, Jesus said 'love one another as I have loved you'. Many people in our churches offer support and love to each other in various different ways, so that members of our church family

don't feel alone but know that there is someone walking with them, whatever they are going through. It's also a powerful witness to the wider community – 'by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (John 13:34-35).

As we acknowledge the importance of being loved and accompanied in this way, the events of Good Friday are seen in a different light. Jesus' disciples ran away when he was arrested, leaving him to face his trial alone. The crowds who had welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday shouted for him to be crucified when Pilate offered to free him. As he hung on the cross Jesus called out 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Mark 15:34) – he was utterly alone as he carried the sins of the whole world.

But because Jesus did that for us, we need never feel totally alone. After his resurrection and ascension, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, to be with us always. Even if there is 'no body' with us, we can know that God is close, whatever we are going through and wherever we are.

As we journey through Holy Week, do come to church to be with other members of the Church family as together we remember Jesus' death for us. And on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the joy of his victory over death, we praise him that now we can enjoy his love and presence with us forever.

Happy Easter!

Catherine Wilson



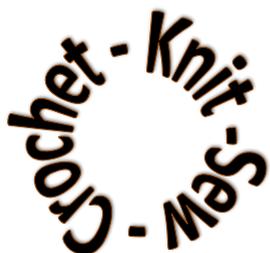
Next meeting - **Thursday 10th April**

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Frances Bulmer will give a talk on
My life in the RAF

.....

For further details
contact Tessa Woodcock
01234 340089



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 4th April

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

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



Holy Week Events

Monday 14th April

3.00pm Holy Communion & Stations of the Cross
(Bromham)

Tuesday 15th April

11.30am Holy Communion (Bromham)

Maundy Thursday 17th April

6.30pm Maundy Meal with Holy Communion
(followed by the Watch until 10pm) (Oakley)

8.00pm Evening Watch until 10pm (Bromham)

Good Friday 18th April

10.00am Good Friday Craft Workshop & Trail
(Bromham)

2.00pm Good Friday Service (Bromham)

2.00pm Good Friday Service with Communion
(Oakley)

Easter Day 20th April

10.30am All Age Holy Communion (Bromham)*

10.30am All Age Holy Communion + Baptism
(Oakley)*

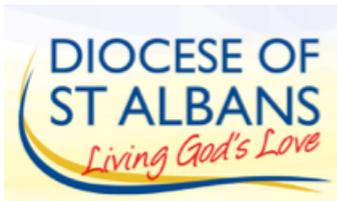
**followed by Easter Egg Hunt*

3.00pm *Easter Trail & children's crafts (Stagsden)*

4.00pm Songs of Praise (Stagsden)

The Lord is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith
Bishop of St Albans

Illuminate: shining a light for 11-19 year olds

Illuminate took place at St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 15th March with 300 young people who came from St Albans and surrounding areas, aiming to shine the light of Jesus for young people and to help them learn in a greater way what it means to 'live for more'.

What is Illuminate?

Illuminate is a safe space for young people in school years 6-13 to gather together, for play, for fun, for community, for depth and truth to be shared. The young people aged 11-19 and over 100 leaders spent Saturday evening inside the cathedral between 6.30-10pm.

Thirty-eight groups came from churches of all sizes, many bringing friends—some stepping into a church for the first time. Inside the cathedral, they enjoyed activities including an inflatable obstacle course, silent disco, Scalextric track, crazy golf, and a reflective painting area. There were hot dogs and candyfloss, a quiet prayer zone and conversations happening throughout the evening about life's challenges and joys.

I found Jesus!

One of the event's activities was a game called 'I Found Jesus', where young people searched for inch-high Jesus figures

hidden around the cathedral—100 in total. Anyone who found one could exchange it for a prize, but almost all the figures were found by young people throughout the night and only 20 were handed in. Most chose to keep theirs instead. The game encouraged exploration of the cathedral, but it also raised a question: does this say something about what this generation is seeking—and what happens when they do find Jesus?

Mike Palin from 'The 267 Project', one of the event organisers, told us:

"I think the 'I found Jesus' element of the evening was even more fun than I thought it could ever have been. Also, I wonder whether it says something about the power of God that around 80% of the figures never came back, they would rather keep them than receive a prize. I think this could be a spiritual illustration of the hunger of this generation, rather than just about a small Jesus figurine!"

Made for more

Ryan Sibanda, a 21-year-old who works for *YoungLife International* and is also a chaplain at a Church of England school in Hatfield, spoke to those assembled after a time of sung worship. The heart of Ryan's message was that young people are 'made for more'. He spoke from John 10:9-10:

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Unlike the world and the enemy that takes away from us, Ryan pointed all those present to Jesus, who offers and gives freely His abundant life, life that will help them discover the 'more' they are made for.

Speaking about the investment on the night from youth leaders, Mike reflected:

“One of the young people we are investing in, and who we invited to *Illuminate*, came to church for the first time.”

“All the activities across the cathedral worked so well we will need 200 Jesuses next time.”

“I love working with youth leaders so the fact that there were 103 leaders in the room was amazing. One hundred and three leaders being ‘for’ young people. Whether their groups were new or established, had three kids or 30 or more, I love working with them all. One of the reasons the event ‘felt’ so significant I think was in part to the number of leaders in the room. They were pouring their lives into their own groups. And the 53 ‘event leaders’ who volunteered to serve at the event were amazing nothing was missed and everyone rolled their sleeves up and served. It was phenomenal.”

Illuminate events are organised by a collective of youth leaders seeking to expand youth ministry beyond their immediate settings. Gathering together in a large group can have a powerful effect for young people, bringing with it a feeling of solidarity, especially for those who can feel isolated amongst their peers for being part of a faith community. “Remembering that you are part of something when you don’t feel like it, is life giving” said Mike.

Illuminate recognise that discipleship takes place in the local church and they want to offer youth multiple pathways to find that. To find out more about *Illuminate* you can visit their website.

St Owen's Altar Guild

Decorating St Owens Church for Easter will take place on **Holy Saturday 19 April** from 10 am.

Anyone who would like to help will be most welcome.

Donations for the purchase of flowers would be much appreciated.

Margaret Parrott



No, we're not banning 'gluten-free' bread or 'non-alcoholic' Communion wine

Contrary to recent reports following a question asked by a General Synod member, the Church of England is *not* banning 'gluten-free' wafers nor 'non-alcoholic' wine at Holy Communion.

A spokesman for the C of E said that Anglican churches across the country "routinely offer 'gluten-free' bread or 'non-alcoholic' wine at Holy Communion."



He said: "Many professional ecclesiastical suppliers have long provided wine or bread which may contain tiny traces of alcohol or gluten which can legitimately be considered non-alcoholic or gluten free."

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible.

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings ('*mishle*') that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32). The purpose of these oracles is '*for attaining wisdom and discipline*' (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand '*the sayings and riddles of the wise.*' (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that '*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*' (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:

Knowing God: 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding' (9:10).

Guarding Our Speech: 'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver' (25:11).

Marital faithfulness: 'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth' (5:15-20).

Our Work: 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: 'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise' (20:1).

Justice and Honesty: 'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight' (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, '*For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths*' (5:21); providence, '*Many are the plans*

Continued on next page

in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails' (19:21) and goodness, 'The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous' (15:29).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. *'Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves'* (Eugene Peterson).

Renewing the Church Electoral Roll

Every Church of England Church has an Electoral Roll – a list of its members. This is revised every year before the church's annual meeting (APCM), to provide an up-to-date list of those able to vote at the annual meeting. Every 6th year the Roll is scrapped and a new one created, and everyone has to fill out a new form: 2025 is one of those years.

In the first couple of weeks of March, all existing members of the Electoral Rolls of our three churches will receive a letter of explanation and forms to fill in to be included on the new Roll and to update their contact information. New people are welcome to join – to be on the Electoral Roll you must (1) have been baptised, and (2) live in the parish OR (if you don't live in the parish) have been a regular worshipper for at least 6 months OR wish to be a regular worshipper but are prevented from coming to church by illness etc.

So look out for your form, and return it to the person named on it by **Sunday 13th April (Stagsden) or Sunday 27th April (Bromham and Oakley)**. If you would like to join the Electoral Roll of your church for the first time, or have any questions, do speak to one of the clergy or a Churchwarden.

Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

Could older people hold the key to church growth?

New research is highlighting the wide range of activities that churches are offering to older people – and the growing opportunities to present the Christian gospel.

The survey, carried out in the UK and Ireland by Christian charity Faith in Later Life asked churches what they were doing to minister to seniors in their congregation and beyond. The results reflect a broad spectrum of events and activities.

These include lunch clubs, exercise sessions, singing classes, tea and coffee times, outings and a broad range of social activities open to the community. Some churches offered a ‘holiday at home’ with special events organised, and one provided a monthly chiropodist’s visit.

Many churches are visiting care homes and holding services in their lounges. One respondent recalled “It was so uplifting to see the joy on their faces. Many with severe dementia were recalling words long forgotten and joining in.”

Alexandra Drew, chief executive officer of Faith in Later Life, explained, “There is something very powerful about ministering to those who are very old, and the experience of journeying with someone to the very end of life.”

Community work goes hand in hand with reaching out with the gospel. The research showed that 83 per cent of those delivering social activities for older people are also running worship services, Bible study groups and groups to explore faith. A quarter of those who responded had seen people come to faith in the last year, and half had seen people grow in their interest in faith.

Continued on next page

Faith in Later Life is a charity “dedicated to inspiring and equipping Christians to reach, serve and empower older people everywhere, through the local church.”

The research highlights the important role of ministry to older people at a time when many churches are focussing on ‘growing younger’ – and perhaps overlooking increasing numbers of older people in our communities. Many respondents felt that ministry with seniors was marginalised or neglected within their church.

Alexandra Drew said, “The impact on the wider church of mission to older people is significant. More than half of those responding said their work is leading to greater recognition of older people, more age-inclusivity and greater awareness of older people’s spiritual needs.”



‘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



I would be happy to undertake alterations or mending. My fee, I will donate to St Mary's Oakley. For more information please call Maureen on 01234 356354.

Catherine's Extended Study Leave – Summer 2025

Extended Study Leave – also known as a ‘Sabbatical’ - is offered to clergy in this Diocese every 10 years, which I qualify for having been ordained in 2014. Its purpose is to provide three months away from the pressures of everyday ministry, and to take time for personal development and study. I will be taking my three months in June, July and August this year, and have been busy planning and preparing.

What will I be doing? The expectation is that ESL will include three elements, and is different for every clergy person:

1. Some sort of professional development or broadening of experience – I will be spending 4 weeks volunteering for London City Mission, which works in London to reach people for Christ through equipping churches and helping them to run projects that will help the community, build friendships and bring opportunities to share the gospel. I'll also spend 2 weeks at a Biblical Studies Summer School in Cambridge.
2. Time with God – my ESL will begin with a silent retreat at Lee Abbey in Devon, which will take place between Ascension Day and Pentecost, and explore that time of waiting on God. I'll finish my ESL with another brief retreat to process and reflect on my time away before I return to parish ministry.
3. Rest and Refreshment – Tim and I will have some holiday, and I'll have opportunities to spend time with

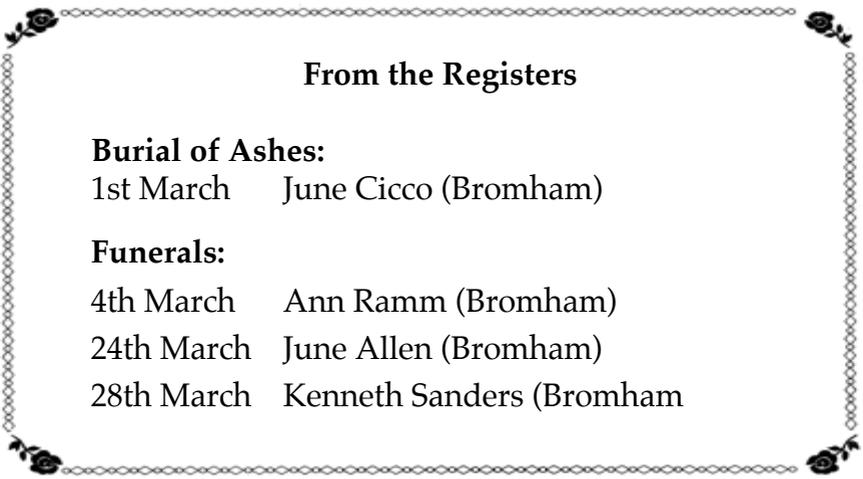
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family and friends. And hopefully time to potter in the house and garden, and live more slowly for a while.

Meanwhile – most things in the benefice will continue as normal; we have a really good team of churchwardens, PCC members, clergy and admin who will be working hard to deal with routine and more unusual queries, and they may be requesting help from others, so please be ready to offer if the need arises. There will be quite a variety of preachers on Sunday mornings, a good opportunity to hear some different voices and perspectives.

I am very grateful for this opportunity to step back for a short while, and to all who are taking on extra tasks so I can do so. I pray it will be a useful time for us all!

Catherine



From the Registers

Burial of Ashes:

1st March June Cicco (Bromham)

Funerals:

4th March Ann Ramm (Bromham)

24th March June Allen (Bromham)

28th March Kenneth Sanders (Bromham)

The church should be a community of encouragement. –
Sir Fred Catherwood 1925-2014 - businessman, politician and writer

Almost half of all children have been scammed online

Has your child been scammed online? If so, they are not alone! And support is available.

A recent poll for the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has found that a staggering 46 per cent of children have been taken in by an online scam. And a study by Vodafone has found that nearly one million 11-to-16-year-olds in the UK have been scammed within the last 12 months.

A third of young people are now worried that new technology, such as AI, will make scams even harder for them to identify.

Most scams seem to take place on social media platforms, where they involve ads or quizzes which appear to be from well-known brands. The children are lured into giving out personal information or buying fake products. Other scams include fake giveaways, phishing and fake websites, fake ticket sales and 'trust trades' in gaming.

Anyone scammed online should report it to Action Fraud or call 0300 1232040 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Anyone who has been hurt by such a scam is welcome to contact the clergy for a confidential chat and pastoral support. Contact details on page 3.

Four freedoms:

The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want.... everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear... anywhere in the world. – *Franklin D Roosevelt - 1882-1945; President of USA 1933-1945*

Friends of St Owen's
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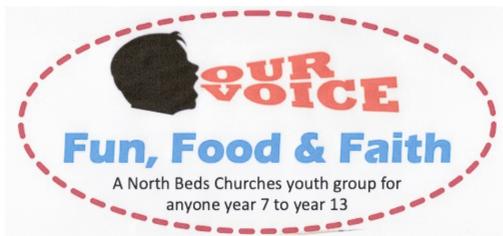


7pm

markjenningsmusic.com

Following a highly successful tour of South Africa
Mark Jennings returns to St Owen's for a second visit.

Don't miss it!



Next meeting
Saturday 12th April
5 - 6.30pm
The Fellowship Centre
Clapham
MK41 6ER

contact us at ourvoicetoo@gmail.com

SUMMER BREAK

Church News will take a break in
August
so no magazine that month.
The July edition will become our
Summer Edition



Like to Try a New Hobby?

Comfortable with IT?

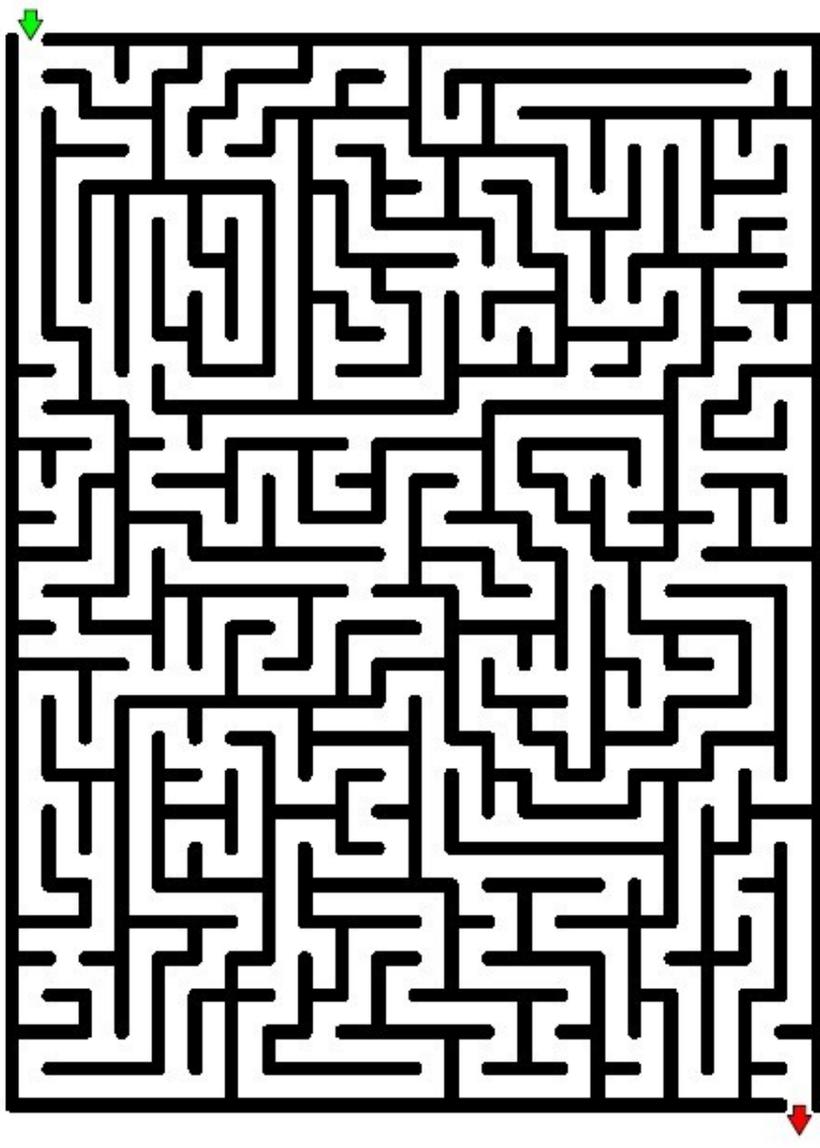
How about joining the editorial team for this magazine?

Wherever you live, you can start as an Assistant Editor and play an active role in our church life.

Did you spot the typing error? You're made for it! But, if not, you can learn.

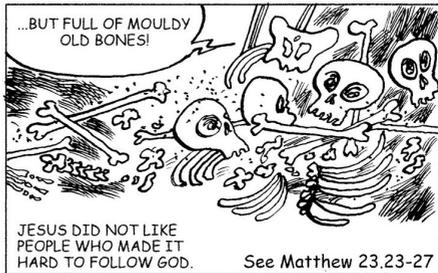
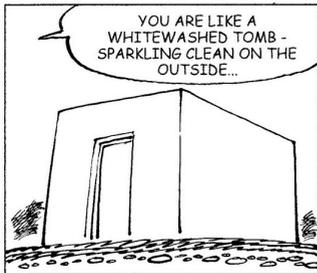
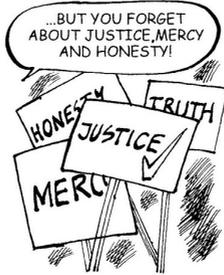
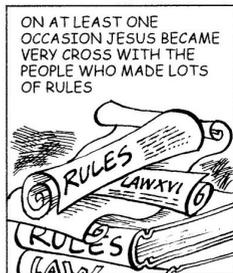
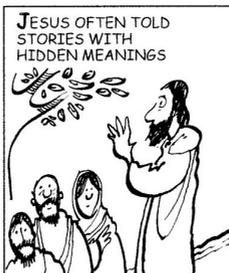
Contact Edward at stowensnews@btinternet.com

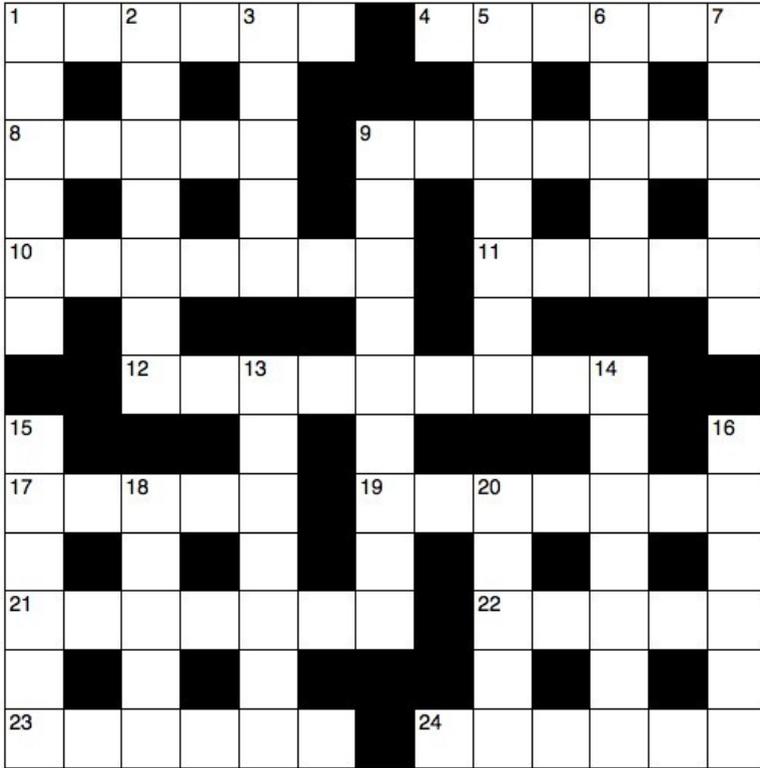
Can you find your way out from top to bottom?



For younger readers.....

"Some tough talking"





Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’ (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles’ (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 ‘I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not — ’ (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Solution on page 33

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, remembered on 9th April, did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but

Continued on next page

he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

Parish Pump website

God in Music

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music, based on various saints of the church.

'In sweet music is such art': the Basilica of St Mark in Venice

In 828 the relics of St Mark the evangelist were seized from their resting place in Alexandria and brought by two adventurers to Venice. The Basilica of St Mark was built to house these relics, and it was this link between the saint and Venice that determined so much of the city's history through the Middle Ages.

Continued on next page

Venetians would go to war under the banner of the winged lion, the symbol of St Mark, and through the centuries Venice established its independence, its own system of aristocratic government and commercial supremacy in the Mediterranean. The Basilica of St Mark is a vivid testimony to the grandeur of Venice and this amazing history. James Morris has described the church as descended from Byzantium: “a barbaric building, like a great Mongolian pleasure pavilion or a fortress in Turkestan.”

We celebrate St Mark this year on 29th April, (usually 25th) but apart from his Gospel, we know little about the saint's life. He is mentioned by St Peter and St Paul as 'son' and missionary companion. There are many traditions about St Mark: he might be the young man in Gethsemane in chapter 14 of the Gospel, and it is thought that he was martyred in the reign of Trajan. What we do have of St Mark is his Gospel, generally accepted as the earliest of the four to be written. Mark has no infancy narratives and no preparation for the life and ministry of Jesus. Instead, his Gospel begins with the strange, exotic character of St John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness to proclaim the Good News of the Son of God.

In the same way the Basilica of St Mark emerges from the lagoon as strange and as exotic as the Baptist in the Gospel. E V Lucas in 'A Wanderer in Venice' invites the visitor to this church to “let the walls and the floor and the pillars and the ceiling do their own magical work.” And the visitor might be lucky enough to hear some of the music of Venetian composers sounding through the basilica. In the 16th century Adrian Willaert wrote music that enhanced the domes and mosaics and ceilings with works for two organs and two choirs sounding out from different parts of the building.

Giovanni Gabrieli, who died in 1612, built upon that tradition.

Continued on next page

His set of motets, 'Sacrae Symphoniae', were written for the special acoustics of this marbled basilica. He developed the antiphonal sounds of Willaert with glorious, harmonic colours, a boldness of modulation, and a variety of dynamics and timbres. We hear all of that in the motet 'In Ecclesiis,' which is regarded as his masterpiece. The choirs, brass and organ are divided into five groups that would have sounded out around the basilica: 'In churches bless the Lord, in every place bless the Lord, for God is my salvation and my glory. Alleluia.'

As we celebrate St Mark on his feast day, we can think of these threefold proclamations of his Good News: his Gospel, which, in its earthy realism, calls the disciple to follow Jesus wherever He goes; this Basilica that calls us to explore its mystery and marvels; and the music of Gabrieli that calls us to echo God's praises in our own lives.

An after-Easter prayer

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies
Within a hallowed sphere
Don't praise Him only in your churches
In Easter hymn and prayer...

Keep Him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In the common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply
What He would have us do....
He taught: "Love one another
Even as I love you."

By Elsie Campbell



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*Mary wished she'd never mentioned
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Solution to puzzle on
page 22

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

C	O	S	M	I	C	T	H	O	M	A	S
L	C	S				O	O	P			
I	N	H	I	S		D	E	L	A	I	A
F	O	U	E			Y	S	E			
F	A	L	W	E	L	W	A	T	E	R	
S	A		I			A		E			
			R	E	C	O	V	E	R	E	D
P			A		E			E		S	
S	I	D	O	N		R	A	D	I	A	N
Y	A	D		E		E	C	O			
C	E	N	T	A	U	R		B	R	O	I
H	C	C					A	N		E	
E	L	E	V	E	N		P	R	I	S	O

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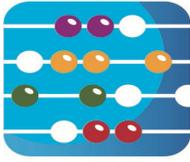
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