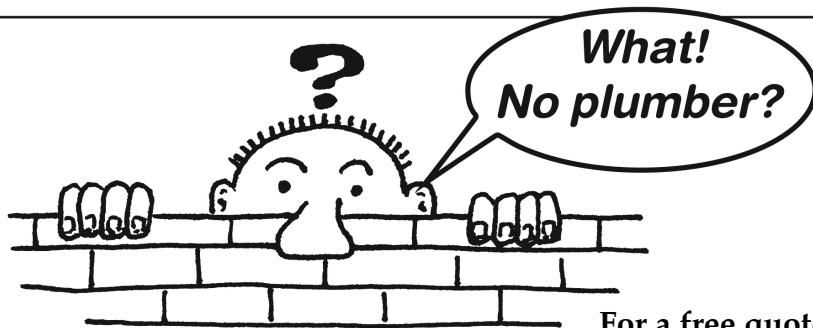


# *Church News*

for the Parishes of  
**Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**



**August 2024**



*Need a plumber at any time?  
Today that could be a crime,  
But not with my competitive rates,  
I'll soon get you out of a state.*

*Need an new bathroom, or washing machine fitted?  
Just call on me – I'm very well kitted.  
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Eastcotts Park,  
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**Find us at:** [www.bromhambenefice.org](http://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
	 <b>facebook</b> 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.**



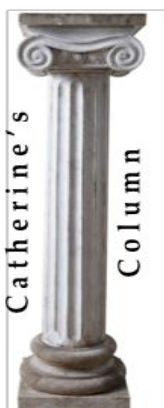
## **Principal Services in the Benefice**

<u>4th August</u>	<u>10th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion + Baptism (Bromham)
4.00pm	Wild Church (Bromham Scout Site)
<u>11th August</u>	<u>11th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>18th August</u>	<u>12th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>25th August</u>	<u>13th Sunday after Trinity</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 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](http://www.bromhambenefice.org))



## *From the Vicarage*

A recent knock on the Vicarage door brought an unexpected visitor – an Ipsos-Mori researcher who was looking for volunteers to take part in a piece of market research about

travel patterns. According to her census information, we fitted the demographic of people being asked to participate. No, they weren't looking for Vicars! - just people of our age, stage and background, living in Bromham or somewhere similar.

A short conversation later and I was signed up: for the next 3 weeks I would carry a small device with me when I left the house, charging it overnight when it would also transmit data about the journeys I had been on each day. In return I would receive a small shopping voucher as a token of their appreciation. I also had a short questionnaire to fill in at the end of each day, to identify which specific type of locations I had visited.

Three weeks later I handed back the device and questionnaire. As the timing of my involvement in the survey coincided with the visits of several family members, coming to see our son, daughter-in-law and grandson who had travelled over from Australia, more of my journeys than usual were to the 'supermarket' to restock the fridge and larder! There were

fewer journeys to 'work' than in a normal period, as we took some time out to be with the family – and nowhere on the form to record several visits to Bromham Mill where our almost-two-year-old grandson loved both the Fairy Trail and the drinks from the Café in equal measure.

I had only made one trip to a 'railway station' – and none to a 'cinema' - but did also record a visit to an 'airport', when we travelled down to Heathrow to say goodbye as the family set off back to Australia. It was an interesting snapshot of the places I had visited during this particular period of time – not my normal patterns of travel, but hopefully useful to a computer somewhere that will analyse thousands of similar questionnaires.

So where have you been recently? At this time of year some of us will be fortunate enough to go on holiday, while others will be receiving guests and possibly taking them to places we don't usually visit. Maybe you have travelled a long way, even abroad, on special trips - or only taken your normal short local trips. For some there will have been no journeys at all because of being confined to home for various reasons.

Psalm 139 v3 tells us that God knows '[our] going out and [our] lying down' – he doesn't need us to carry about an electronic device to record our journeys or lack of them. Wherever we go he is with us: 'Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?' (v7). A helpful and reassuring reminder whether we travel or stay at home this summer.

*Rev'd Catherine*



Next meeting - **Thursday 15th August**

at St Owen's Fellowship Room

2.30 - 4.30pm

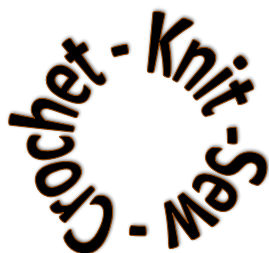
Our local PCSO will give a talk on

**Security and related issues**

For further details

contact Tessa Woodcock

01234 340089



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### **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

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### **First Friday Coffee Mornings**

Next coffee morning on Fri 2 August

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.



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



## **Bedford Hospital Blossom Service**

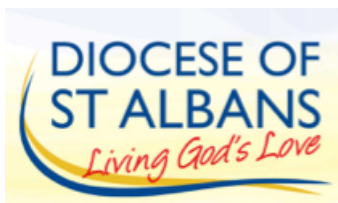
Those who enjoyed the Unisong concert at St Owen's on 29th June may remember that the choir were singing in support of the Bedford Hospital Blossom Service.

### **What is the Blossom Service?**

Due to the success of the first two years of The Blossom Project, it's about time the name reflects the ongoing service. The Blossom Project will now be called The Blossom Service, as it is, officially, an ongoing service the Trust and Charity are providing. Congratulations to those involved in ensuring its permanence! The Blossom Service enables volunteers to provide support and companionship to those receiving End of Life Care and their loved ones. If you would like a Blossom volunteer to visit your loved one or support in your area, please email [blossom@bedsft.nhs.uk](mailto:blossom@bedsft.nhs.uk) or call 07855 169492.

The Blossom Service, supported by Bedfordshire Hospitals Charity, enables volunteers to provide support and companionship for patients receiving End of Life Care and their loved ones. They help to ensure that, wherever possible, no-one dies alone.

Across the Trust, the Blossom Volunteers see an average of 126 patients per month, a total of 2909 patients since the beginning of the service in August 2021. This has only been possible with the huge effort put in by the volunteers, with the total average time spent with patients each month being 149 hours (Trust-wide). These statistics are evidence of the impact the project has had to date, in addition to the positive feedback we have received from staff and service users which has touched the hearts of all involved in The Blossom Service.



## **Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture**

**in Sri Lanka**

This year the Bishop's Harvest Appeal is being run in partnership with The Leprosy Mission to support a project in Sri Lanka, which provides those affected by leprosy with the means to grow their own food and raise their standard of living. Typical of those in need of help is Vavi.

### **Vavi's Story**

Vavi lives in a remote village in the north of Sri Lanka. In the past, she was an active member of her community and, working as a labourer, earned enough money to provide for her children. But everything changed when she was diagnosed with leprosy. At the age of 32.

When Vavi's neighbours discovered that she had leprosy, their fear of the disease was so great that they stopped her from using the communal well. It became difficult for her to find water for drinking, cooking and to keep clean.

Although Vavi was taking the cure for leprosy, she was still



struggling with the side effects of the disease. Her employers were unhappy that this was preventing her from working as quickly as she had done before and she lost her job.

Vavi felt desperate, but Rev. Joshua's team heard about her and reached out to provide support to the family.

It was a major turning point for her. Now Vavi has a well of her own, so she and her children have easy access to fresh clean water. She has also been provided with the plants to help her grow coconut trees and vegetables, as well as training to get the most out of her garden.

Her garden is bursting with life and is ripe with fresh coconuts. "I gradually started gardening, planning a few greens around my home" says Vavi "Now it is like heaven on earth!" Vavi can also sell what she grows and today she feels more independent than ever and will have a sustainable income for many years to come.

Her self-esteem is restored. She is independent and can rely on her new sustainable income. She is safe in the knowledge that her family will never hunger or thirst again.

*Ed - details of how to donate will appear in our September issue*

***The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (2 Corinthians 9: 10-11)***

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I am a man of hope, not for human reasons, nor from any natural optimism, but because I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and in the world even when His name remains unheard. - *Cardinal Suenens* - a Belgian prelate of the Catholic Church. He served as Archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels from 1961 to 1979, and was elevated to the cardinalate in 1962. Suenens was a leading voice at the Second Vatican Council advocating for reform in the Church.

# LOVE MATTERS

Summary Report of the Archbishops'  
Commission on Families & Households

## Foreword

It is appropriate that the third in a trilogy of reports we have commissioned since 2019 – the first on housing, the second on care and support – should conclude with a focus on families and households. Our flourishing as a society depends on the flourishing of our families and households, the base unit of our communities. We can only solve the most intractable policy challenges of our times by ensuring that families and households are at the heart of our collective thinking and actions.

‘Love Matters’ focuses on issues to which we can all relate in some way, for good and ill. Whether it is those we live with, are related to, or the people we choose, family is usually the source of both our greatest joy and deepest sorrow. It is the place where we find our most profound fulfilment and most intense disappointment, where we experience the messiness and wonder of life.

As its title suggests, this report reminds us about the force that has an almost unique power to transform lives and communities: love.

Love is what must bind us together if we are all to flourish. We

are not referring here to love as an emotional feeling, but rather that which takes us into the realm of deep, sacrificial, enduring commitment to the flourishing of one another. This kind of love is at the very heart of the Good News: for God so loved the world that he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to live among us, to demonstrate a radical new way of relating to one another, to show abundant care, grace and mercy to the least likely people.

We pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ in eager expectation that Jesus will return to establish a perfect new creation, but also in the knowledge that its realisation feels distant for many families and households. The pandemic touched every aspect of our family life and relationships. The cost-of-living crisis means that life can become a perpetual struggle for survival. Too many children and young people grow up in the midst of conflict. Discrimination, division and deep inequality are pernicious barriers to those seeking life in all its fullness.

‘Love Matters’ delivers a powerful, deeply compelling call to action for all of us: put families first – place the hopes, needs, priorities and aspirations of families at the very centre. The Government must be attentive to the material and relational needs of families and households. The Church of England must lead by example, witnessing to the love of God, seeking the common good, providing a place of safety and welcome for everyone. As individuals, whether married, single, in a couple, or any other form of household, we are called to commit to relationships of all kinds that build up one another.

For the sake of our families and households, this report asks us to reimagine a kinder, fairer, more forgiving society: kinder, because we all need the support, care and love of others; fairer, because we are all diminished when any are held back; more forgiving, because we all make mistakes and

*Continued on next page*

are all dependent on the mercy of one another and of God.

We thank the Commission Members for their work, which is the product of deep thought, care and vision. They have asked us to do something radical: to prioritise family; to say loudly and boldly that love-in-action is the foundation of all human life.

Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

*Ed: you can read the full report on-line at:*

*[www.archbishopofcanterbury.org](http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org) and scroll down to "Archbishops' Commisions" and click the link*

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### **Benefice Fellowship Lunch**

**Sunday 4th August**

at St Owen's Fellowship Room

after morning service

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

More information:

Vivien Butler - 407351

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### **Belonging**

A vicar tells the true story of how, when he was a curate, the rector of a nearby parish used to like not only to attend all the parish groups, but also to identify himself with them by belonging to them, so that he could address them as "We Scouts", "We Rotarians," etc. One day he went too far and began: "We mothers..."

# AFTERNOON TEAS

at

**St. Mary's Church, Oakley**

Every Sunday from 26<sup>th</sup> May until  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2024

3.30pm to 5.00pm

Come along and enjoy a delicious cream tea  
or home-made cake with plenty of tea or  
coffee for £4.00 per person including  
children aged 12 or over / £1.50 for younger  
children.

Cold drinks also available

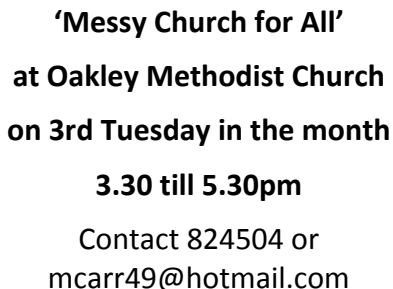
**Afternoons with live  
musical entertainment!!**

4<sup>th</sup> August - Saxophrenia

11<sup>th</sup> August - Small Pipes

with Donald & Catherine Reid  
& Jackie





Greenhouse 6'x 8' aluminium and glass construction  
View by appointment 823387

## Weddings:

6<sup>th</sup> July Rebecca Remnant & Stuart Hodson  
(Stagsden)

27<sup>th</sup> July      Natasha George & Alexander  
Holdsworth (Oakley)

27<sup>th</sup> July- Samantha Gibbons & Daniel Brown  
(Bromham)

## Funerals:

25 <sup>th</sup> July	Peggy Stevenson (Oakley)
29 <sup>th</sup> July	Eric Tiley (Oakley)

### Burials of Ashes:

3<sup>rd</sup> July- Robert Herron (Bromham)

10<sup>th</sup> July- Mary Chaplin (Bromham)

24<sup>th</sup> July- Kathy Churchman (Bromham)



**Benefice of Bromham, Oakley &  
Stagsden**



**Annual  
Summer  
BBQ**

**August Bank Holiday Monday**

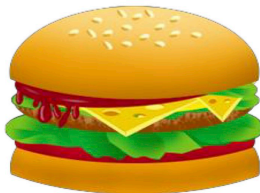
**from 12.30pm**

**In the garden at the Vicarage**

**Sign-up on sheet in church please**

**Cash donations towards catering  
& offers of salads & puds  
gratefully received**

**Bring your own drinks and garden chair**



**Plus raffle - Proceeds shared by 3 PCCs**

*You are invited to the*  
Sharnbrook Deanery

# *Quiet Day*

*A time of rest and spiritual renewal, on the theme of*

## *The Parables of Jesus*



**Wednesday 25 September 2024**

**9.30-3.30**

**St Owen's Church**

**off Village Road\*, Bromham MK43 8LL**

**\*turning opposite Grange Lane**

*image: The Lost Sheep (detail) Jean Baptiste de Champaigne (Wikipedia)*

*'Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables;  
without a parable he told them nothing.'*

(Matthew 13.34)

The parables are such a familiar part of Jesus' teaching that we can often take them for granted. But why did Jesus use parables, and what did they mean for the crowds? And what do they mean for us today?

Led by Revd Nick Munday and Mrs Jane Templeman, the day will start at **9.30** with tea/coffee from 9.00, include a Communion service followed by a simple lunch, and finish with tea at **3.30**. We will look at the parables in their Biblical context and examine some relevant art, music and poetry. It will be a relaxed day, with quiet time and opportunities for conversation and fellowship – a similar format to the last two years' Quiet Days.

**The cost (including lunch and refreshments) is £5 payable on the day. For catering purposes, please book your place in advance by Sunday 22 September** by emailing [n.j.munday@btinternet.com](mailto:n.j.munday@btinternet.com) or texting/phoning 07966 377108.

Revd Nick was a teacher and deputy head. After ordination he was Rector of a parish of eleven rural churches in Lincolnshire. Now retired, he lives in Felmersham and is Assistant Rural Dean of Sharnbrook Deanery. Jane was also a teacher and is a Lay Leader of Worship. She worshipped for many years at St Mary's Felmersham and now lives in King's Sutton in Northamptonshire.

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

### **Surely angels play Mozart at home**

The German theologian, Karl Barth, is reputed to have said, “Whether the angels play only Bach in praising God, I am not quite sure; I am sure, however, that *en famille* they play Mozart.” It is a lovely image of angels in the heavenly courts above, mirroring the human enjoyment of music making here on earth. And what more wonderful music than Mozart’s! From child prodigy to fully mature composer in the space of just 35 years – encountering frustrations and disappointments, poorly paid and exploited, beset by problems of debt and ill-health – and yet rising above all that to create a wealth of music for voice and instrument that continues to lift the human heart.

Mozart was nothing if not life affirming in his music. He enjoyed life, in spite of the disasters and tragedies that occurred along the way. This from a letter he wrote to his father after the performance of one of his symphonies: “It was performed on *Corpus Christi* day with great applause. I was so happy that as soon as it was over I went off to the Palais Royal, where I had a large ice.” Enjoying this world, he had that rare ability to transcend it, and open up a greater world of beauty and harmony. That realisation caused Schubert to write in his diary in 1816, “O Mozart, immortal Mozart, how many, how infinitely many inspiring suggestions of a finer, better life have you left in our souls!”

As illustrations of that, we focus this month on two works, one early and one late in his composing life. In January 1773 Mozart wrote a motet, *Exsultate, jubilate* for a castrato who had appeared in one of his operas. It is almost a concerto in miniature for the voice. The opening *Allegro* calls on heaven

to join in the praises of earth and leads into an *Andante* of great beauty, where Mary is praised as the mother who brings light to a darkened world. The work ends with a glorious *Alleluia* with notes cascading off the page and into the air. Perhaps Mozart had in mind a thank offering for the success of his opera *Lucio Silla*. Whatever the music's origin, we cannot deny the inspiration and skill with which Mozart weaves together words and music to dazzle and transport the listener.

In the last year of his life in 1791, when his mortal body began to fail, his mind took on a new vitality with the composition of two operas, a clarinet concerto, a Requiem, and a wonderful, concentrated setting of *Ave verum corpus*. This motet in praise of Jesus on the cross and in the sacrament was written for the choirmaster at Baden. It is just two pages in the manuscript, written out by Mozart without any corrections. There are no flourishes and runs here as in the earlier work. The music is simple and yet sublime as Mozart conveys a sense of holiness and serenity. Michael Levey has written of this work: "Short but not slight, it seems to float like a cloud of incense on the air." Here, as in all Mozart's music, a creation of this world opens up for us that greater world where all is light and joy.

*Ed - hear Ave verum corpus sung by Kings College Choir at*  
<https://youtu.be/pscsAvGjQI0?feature=shared>

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## **Yum yum**

A notice outside Chichester Cathedral advertised lunchtime concerts with the encouragement that: "Sandwiches may be eaten." Someone had scribbled underneath: "So if you are a sandwich, don't come!"

# OPEN GARDEN & PLANT SWAP

24TH & 25TH AUGUST

10.00AM TO 4.00PM

at

"Fox Covert" Westfield Drive, Oakley

MK43 7SU

Swap plants 1 for 1 (no money involved)

Tea & cake available

Info 01234 825164

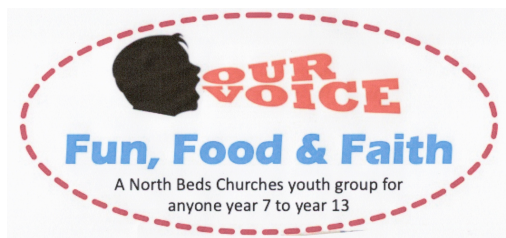
**DONATIONS TO  
Tibbs Dementia Foundation**

Sudoku -  
Easy

Solution on  
page 33

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

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**No meeting in August**

**Next meeting**

**Saturday 14th Sept**

**5 - 6.30pm**

**The Fellowship Centre**

**Clapham**

**MK41 6ER**

contact us at [ourvoicetoo@gmail.com](mailto:ourvoicetoo@gmail.com)

A very long train with two engines was making its way across America when one of the engines broke down. Slowly, the train chugged on. Then, the other engine broke down, and the train shuddered to a halt in the middle of nowhere. Not to be discouraged, the train driver announced: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for a couple of days until relief engines arrive. The good news is that we are not making this announcement **on a plane.**"

## **FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS**

**JULY 2024**

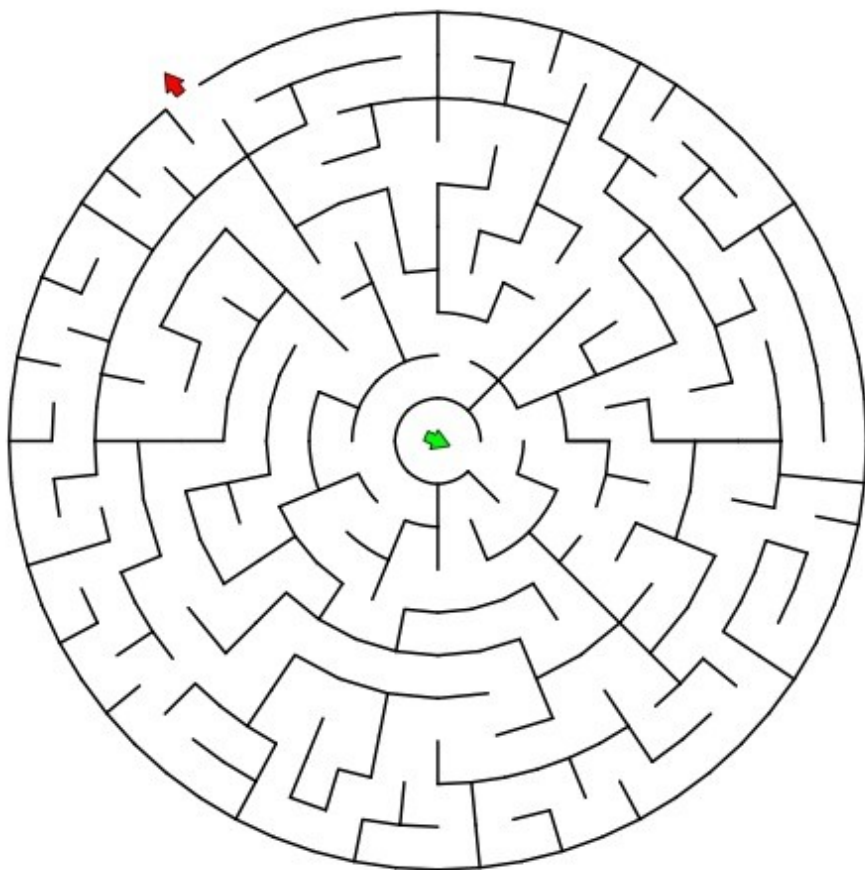
**First Prize: Frances Bulmer**

**Second Prize: Kevin Rutter**

**Third Prize: Rosemary Franklin**

**Fourth Prize: Jenny Hope**

Can you find your way out from the middle?



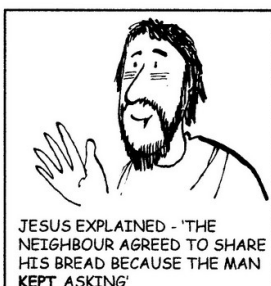
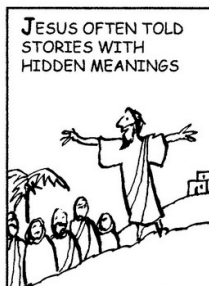
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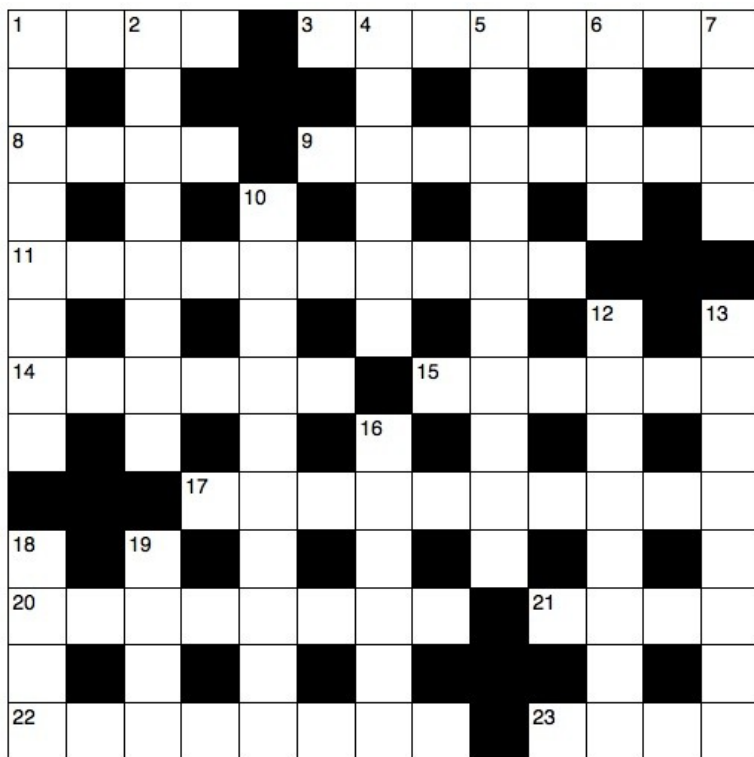
The person who never worries may not be smart enough to know what is going on.

By the time you have enough experience to be smart, your memory is shorter, your stamina is lower, and you are bald. - HV Prochnow



# For younger readers.....





### Across

1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

3 See 1 Across

8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)

9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)

11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)

14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)

15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle

(2-4)

17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)

20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)

21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)

22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)

23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

## **Down**

1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)

2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his ---- kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)

4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)

5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)

6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)

7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)

10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)

12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)

13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)

16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)

18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)

19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

*Solution on page 33*

*Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series looking at Books of the Old Testament*

## **An Introduction to the Books of 1 & 2 Kings**

1 & 2 Kings is a single literary work telling the history of Israel's monarchy from the end of David's reign until the Babylonian exile following the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC). After Solomon's reign, Israel was divided into two kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah in the south. In the north 20 rulers reigned over 210 years until the fall of Samaria (722 BC).

In the southern kingdom there were also 20 rulers, spanning a period of 345 years.

This account is not like reading a modern history book. The author views the story through the lens of God's relationship with His people. The welfare of Israel depended on their leaders' trust and obedience in God, e.g. Solomon building the Temple, as well as listening to the prophets e.g. Elijah and Elisha. The kings who receive the most attention are those whose disobedience is greatest (e.g. Ahab and Manasseh) or those who truly follow God (eg. Hezekiah and Josiah).

The book ends with exile in Babylon, fulfilling God's warning of the consequences of disobedience for both kingdoms (cf Dt 28:64–68). However, this doesn't mean that there is no hope for the future. At the end of the book, Jehoiachin is released from prison in Babylon, and he is given a place of honour (2Ki 25:27-30). The future remains open for God to fulfil His promises to the house of David.

'We begin to realise that if God's sovereignty is never cancelled out by the so deeply sin-flawed leaders ('kings') in both our culture and our church, we can quite cheerfully exult in God's sovereignty as it is being exercised in all the circumstantial details of the actual present.' (E Peterson).



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## **Getting along with your neighbours - Parish Pump website**

Summertime outdoor living reminds us just how close we live to our neighbours. How well you live beside them can make a huge impact on your life.

If you are happy with your neighbours, it is hugely beneficial. One behavioural psychologist says: "Even just sharing a kind smile and eye contact with a neighbour is a strong connection." But, if you do NOT get along with them, it can badly affect every day of your life.

So – here are some tips to consider, concerning those people next door.

### **Noise -**

Out of sight does not mean out of sound. Hedges and fences may give you visual privacy, but laughter and loud talking will be heard. Your wide open bi-fold doors may even let your private INDOOR conversations OUT of doors!

### **Barbecues -**

These are great fun, when they are in your garden. But other people's barbecues can make your life a smoke-filled misery – tainting laundry on the clothesline and ruining a peaceful afternoon. Barbecues situated far from boundary fences are always best.

### **Music -**

If you want to play music at an event, warn your neighbours in advance, say what time you will turn the music off, and *stick to it*. On the night, don't deafen the entire neighbourhood, and remember that the general rule for ALL noise is to be quiet between 11pm and 7am.

*Continued on next page*

## **Noisy dogs and children -**

We love dogs and children and are ferocious in defending them - unless they belong to other people, and are driving us crazy! If you need to talk to your neighbours about problems with either, choose a time when you are both calm and controlled, and try to remain objective. (Eg: Don't say YOUR dog, say THE dog – it sounds less accusatory.)

## **Becoming best friends -**

No matter how much you like your new neighbours, take it slowly as you get to know them. Keep some boundaries, and be careful at the outset, as it is hard to rein in, if they become too attached to you. There is a fine line between being social, and losing all your privacy - you probably don't want them moving in with you!

## **Parking -**

No one has the right to 'claim' and protect the space right outside their house, if it is on a public road. No one has the right to block your access to your own parking space, or make it difficult for you to get in.

## **Hedges and boundaries -**

There are quite specific laws on what is and what is not allowed – Citizens Advice can help you with the details.

## **Ever need help?**

Head for the Citizens Advice website (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>). It has advice on all types of neighbours and their disputes. Also, consult your local police force's website, and [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). If you are ever physically threatened, ring the police on 999. If you are harassed because of your religion, ethnicity, or sexuality, call the police on 101.

## George Stubbs and his horses



Three hundred years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1724, George Stubbs was born in Liverpool. Best known for his paintings of horses, he lived mainly in the north of England at first, but eventually his success enabled him to move to Marylebone in London, where he remained for the rest of his life.

*'Whistlejacket' G Stubbs National Gallery, London*

Fascinated by anatomy, which he studied in depth by dissecting horses, he also became known as a printmaker and was well respected, but during his lifetime he was classified as a sporting painter and so was excluded from full membership of the Royal Academy.

His common law wife/companion, Mary Spencer, was probably a Roman Catholic and a Jacobite, but although Stubbs may have shared her views to some degree, he was not associated with any particular spiritual practice. She described him as honest, genial, manly and kind. He had an aversion to the Hanoverian dynasty until, 15 years before his death, he painted the Prince of Wales – on horseback – in 1791.

As well as horses, Stubbs – who was self-taught – painted exotic animals, which he observed in private menageries.



These included a giraffe and a kangaroo – novelty value for society at the time. Mainly because of his superb horse paintings, he was patronised by several dukes and earls, and, despite his anti-Hanoverian feelings, the Royal Collection of the British royal family holds 16 of his paintings.



*Scene at a Summer Wedding*

“My dear, how thoughtful, wearing something all the guests could shelter under in case of rain!”

Solution to puzzle on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle on page 26

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

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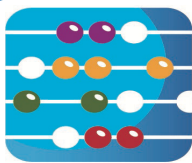
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