

Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



February 2024



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 **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

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Wedding.....} (Mon & Thurs 9.30 -12.00: Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm
organisation..}
Fees Accounts...} administrator@bromhambenefice.org
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Parish News

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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	823133
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

4th February

9.00am

10.30am

2nd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

11th February

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

LEP Covenant Service (Oakley Methodist)

Evensong (Bromham)

Weds 18th Feb

11.30am

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion (Bromham)

18th February

9.00am

10.30am

4.30pm

1st Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Wild Church (Bromham Scout Site)

25th February

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

2nd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Evensong via Zoom

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)



From the Vicarage

In February, the world thinks about celebrating Valentine's Day on the 14th, and the shops fill up with sweet treats, cards and flowers that are either red or heart-shaped (or probably both!).

St Valentine seems to have been a real person, who lived and was martyred in the third century in Italy. Few concrete facts are known, but there are various legends about him, which gave rise to the adoption of his feast day (14th Feb) as a lovers' festival around the 14th century.

It's an opportunity, should we wish to use it, to express our love for someone special to us – what would you do, on Valentine's Day or on any day of the year, to let someone know you love them?

According to author Gary Chapman*, there are five 'languages of love' which he identified as giving gifts, acts of service, quality time, words of affirmation and physical touch, and he suggested that each person has a preferred 'language' they would generally use. But just as if someone speaks a different verbal language to their partner the meaning can get lost, so it is with love languages. We need to recognise and learn the way our loved ones express and receive love.

If like me you enjoy the film 'Love Actually', you'll remember Jamie, the English author who goes abroad to find a space to write, and Portuguese Aurelia who comes to do his

housekeeping. When they are separated, they both start learning the language of the other – which makes for a touching scene when eventually Jamie proposes in broken Portugese!

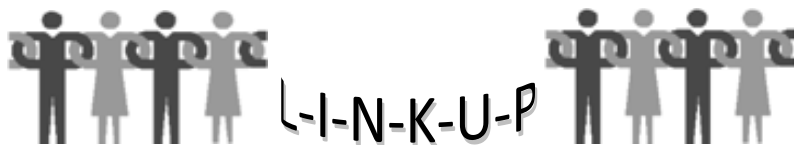
This year 14th February is also Ash Wednesday in the church's calendar – the first day of Lent. It's a time when Christians are encouraged to focus on growing in their spiritual life; the 40 days of Lent mark the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Our self-discipline is a way of remembering his time of self-denial and temptation.

Its curiously appropriate that these two events coincide: as we begin a time that leads us to Holy Week, and Jesus' death, we are also in the middle of a celebration of love. Love is the reason Jesus went through all that he did – to show us that 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son...' (John 3:16). Jesus the baby in the manger grew up to teach and serve those he met, reaching out to heal the sick, demonstrating God's love for us in word and action, and ultimately dying for us.

So how can we express our love for God this Lent? Maybe by giving extra time to prayer and Bible reading, being part of a Lent Study group, or denying ourselves treats like chocolate or wine? Perhaps it will depend on our own language of love – God has demonstrated his love for us – how will we show that we love him too?

Catherine Wilson

**The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman, publ 1992*



Next meeting - **Thursday 8th February**

at St Owen's Fellowship Room

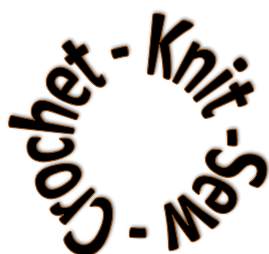
at 12.30pm

Bring a photo of yourself when young!

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 2nd February

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 4th February

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

More information:

Vivien Butler

407351

Don't Forget

Thursday

29th February

Yes folks

It's a **Leap Year**



FoSO AGM

Thursday 15th February

at 7.30pm in

Fellowship Room at St Owen's

There are many ways in which you can support your Parish Church so do come along and find out what we do.

New members always welcome

St. Mary's Church Annual Soup Lunch

Sunday 25th February

following 10.30 am service

Donations for Christian Aid





The war in Gaza-Israel – Bishops urge people to pray and act

“The first thing Christians can do in response to war is to pray for peace and for those affected.” That is the message of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

The Archbishops are praying for “those mourning, those injured, and all those fearing for their safety,” and for “restraint on all sides, and renewed efforts towards a just peace for all.”

The Archbishops and Bishops are also encouraging Christians throughout the UK to join them in prayer, and to consider practical action, by supporting organisations “working to promote peace and human flourishing in the Middle East.”

The following is posted on the Church of England website:

Christian Aid is the official ecumenical arm of Churches in Britain and Ireland and has been working with the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Middle East since the early 1950s, when it provided humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees.

The Church Mission Society is a historic Anglican mission society which supports mission partners across the region.

The Council of Christians and Jews is a leading interfaith charity which works to help Jews and Christians to meet, to understand each other better and to create meaningful engagement between the communities.

Embrace the Middle East is an ecumenical Christian charity working to help marginalised and vulnerable communities in

the Middle East.

Friends of the Holy Land is a non-political Christian Charity whose mission it is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan - the part of the world that Christians call the Holy Land.

The Jerusalem Middle East Church Association has supported the life and work of the Anglican Church across Jerusalem, the Middle East and North Africa for more than 120 years and other many ways for individuals to get involved in supporting the Church in the Holy Land.

USPG is a historic Anglican mission agency that has a long-standing partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

O God of all hope and peace,
we bring to you the needs of our broken and
hurting world.
Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost
and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.
We pray for an end to violence and warfare so
that the challenging work of rebuilding may
begin.
Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common
humanity so that in our differences we may
build together for justice and peace.
In Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



Re-introducing the 'common cup'



Since the pandemic, we have had the practice at communion of offering a wafer 'intincted' (ie dipped in the wine) by the priest. However, most churches now have reverted to the 'common cup' ie everyone is invited to receive wine from the chalice, as we did before the pandemic. The Churchwardens and clergy feel it is time for us to return to that method of distribution in this Benefice, and intend we should do so starting on Easter Sunday Mar 31st 2024.

This will mean that from Easter 2024, communicants will either receive a wafer and a sip of wine, or receive a wafer only if they prefer not to drink from the chalice. Intinction by individuals – ie allowing people to dip their own wafer in the chalice – isn't allowed as this is more likely to spread Covid and other viruses, and nor is the use of individual cups.

It is important to stress that receiving communion 'in one kind' (ie the wafer only) is still receiving full communion, and by not drinking from the chalice, a person is not in any way receiving less of the sacrament.

We would like to know congregation members' views as we seek a way forward that is as welcoming as possible to everyone. Please speak to a member of the clergy or a churchwarden.

Nature forms us; sin deforms us; school informs us; Christ transforms us. - *Anon*

Lent 2024

Lent starts on **Ash Wednesday** (February 14th this year), and there will be a service of Holy Communion at 11.30am in St Owen's (including ashing for those who would like to receive it), followed by tea and coffee.

Lent is a time when we are all encouraged to spend a little extra time in personal prayer, reflection and study, and to meet together to share and discuss our faith, so we can help one another to grow. There are two resources available to prompt our **daily reading and prayer**:

OT Replay – following the 'Walk through the Bible' day on Saturday Feb 10th, all participants will be given a booklet of 40 readings to help us embed what we will have been taught. We will have some extra (free) booklets to give to anyone who wasn't able to attend the course, and they are suitable to be used through Lent.

Watch and Pray: this is the Church of England Lent Resource for 2024; booklets of daily readings will be available in the churches, price £2 each. The material "invites us all to wait expectantly for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face. You can also receive the daily reflections in your inbox by going to <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/watch-and-pray-lent-reflections>.

The **Benefice Lent groups** will take place in St Owen's Fellowship Room at 2.15pm on Tuesdays in Lent, and on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm; we will announce the course we'll be following nearer the time.

Revd Catherine

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’: the Nunc Dimittis

St Luke tells us in his Gospel that the angels sang praises to God at the birth of Jesus, and he has given us three poems that have become part of Christian song: the *Magnificat*, the *Benedictus* and the *Nunc Dimittis*.

The first two are full of praise and rejoicing. The last comes as Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law of Moses and bring the child Jesus to Jerusalem. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon represents each of us who can look back over life with gratitude in the face of death as he says, ‘Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.’ It is a story that has inspired preachers and artists, and also composers.

In the Christian Church these words of the *Nunc Dimittis* have become part of worship at the end of each day, not just the end of life. Cathedral and parish church choirs have sung settings of these words in that great tradition of Anglican choral music at Evensong – settings that have captured the sense of quiet resignation, but also conveyed the glory of the light that is Jesus shining for all people. Rachmaninov’s setting is part of his Vespers, the night-long vigil sung in the Russian Orthodox Church on the eve of great feasts.

Rachmaninov composed the work (and it comprises 15 pieces) at great speed, but even so, the Vespers are now seen as one of the great masterpieces of religious music.

This was no more so than in his beautiful setting of the 5th canticle, the *Nunc Dimittis*. Just 36 bars long, it begins with a rocking, undulating figure in the upper voices. A solo tenor

enters as the voice of Simeon, and it ends with the basses moving down to a low B flat: 'a sigh of wonder and resignation on the threshold of eternal rest and peace,' one critic has called it.

Rachmaninov later recalled, "After I played the passage at the end of the 5th canticle where the basses slowly descend to that low note, the conductor shook his head, saying, 'Now where on earth will we find such basses? They are as rare as asparagus at Christmas!' Nevertheless, he did find them." It was one of the composer's favourite pieces, and he asked for it to be sung at his funeral in the hope that it would send his 'ship of death gently towards the unknown region.'"

On 2nd February we shall hear these words as part of the Gospel on the feast of Candlemas.

To hear a recording of this piece search on-line for https://youtu.be/TQ3ASt9c4Wk?si=NII-_RArjMbTESWD

Book Review

Lent and Easter for Everyone – by Tom Wright, SPCK, £10.79

Join Tom Wright on a transformative journey through the Gospels, as he explores the life and impact of Jesus. Offering seven weeks' worth of daily readings and reflections, the book enables you to relive Christ's journey – from His temptations in the wilderness to the darkness of the cross and beyond, into the glory of Easter.

Whether used individually or in groups, *Lent and Easter for Everyone* can be a trusted companion, encouraging spiritual growth, deepening understanding, and fostering a renewed sense of hope and purpose in your Christian journey.

A Walk through the Bible

Jesus – brought up on the Old Testament
He knew it so well He could lecture in the Temple.
Have you ever wished you knew it better than you do?

Join our expert guide to the Old Testament

Saturday 10th February 2024

9.30am – 4.00pm

at

**The Fellowship Centre
Clapham Parish Church**

£14 – b-y-o packed lunch

Sessions promise to be FUN, MEMORABLE & with such
CLARITY

that you will be able to retell the whole storyline.

Book with Revd Min-Min Peaker,
Curate at Clapham Parish Church

curatecpc@btinternet.com

07739 391037

*The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on the Christian symbols
in our churches.*

Reflecting Faith: Memorial Stones

When you last visited a churchyard with very old memorials,
what did you notice?

The oldest stones probably just had the name of the person,
date of death and perhaps their age.

But the slightly more recent stones may well have included
where the person had been born, lived, and who they had
married. These stones probably belonged to the wealthier
people, as they needed to be large, to include all this
information!

Continued on next page

As for the poorer folk, as cheaper stone became available, they also wanted to mark their loved one's place of rest, even with just the bare details.

With the advent of the railways, a firm in Scotland started a business for shaping the stone with recessing, into which a local stone mason would be able to carve the words. This is why you will see many similar shaped stones in every churchyard in England, Wales and Scotland for that period.

In different areas of the country, both locally sourced stones and the availability of the stonemason create very different looks – whilst within that area are many reproductions.

Also, the 'floweriness' of the inscriptions grew over the years. What started with just the name of the person later had added before the name, 'With affection', then 'With great affection', then, 'Greatly loved' and so on. It was almost as if people were trying to outdo each other on who loves who most.

Meanwhile, by the early 20th century many churchyards were 'full', and if adjoining land was available this was consecrated, but otherwise separate land was purchased – which became a 'cemetery' and was usually not the responsibility of the church.

A churchyard, on the other hand, is by definition under the auspices of 'the church', whether open or closed.

Because people continued to want to be interred in 'holy land', eventually all cemeteries were set aside and consecrated by and for the different religions and denominations, reflecting the needs of the local communities.

This month Think about where you'd like to have as *your* final resting place. Whether you choose cremation or burial, is being in a set-aside 'holy place' important to you and to those who will visit?



"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."



'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

Edward Elgar 2 June 1857 – 23 February 1934

Born in Lower Broadheath near Worcester on June 2nd 1857, Edward William Elgar came into the world in a countryside idyll that went on to dominate his creativity for the rest of his life.

Elgar became something of a musical odd-jobber, regularly accompanying local groups and choirs, as well as making early forays into composing. It wasn't the most lucrative path, though, and he spent some time working at a solicitors to make ends meet.

Elgar was particularly keen on sending letters to his nearest and dearest. Whether they were dewy-eyed love letters to his wife and other muses or simply humorous asides to colleagues, his collected correspondence has been the subject of much literary and musical scholarly discussion. He once wrote to August Jaeger (whom he called 'Nimrod', hence the title of one of his 'Enigma Variations') simply: "Dreary weather - Good music - Liver pills - Calomel - Income Tax - No Biking - New Boots - Bad golf - etc etc - Fill up the life of your despised E.E."

Elgar met the woman that was to become his wife, Caroline Alice Roberts, in 1886. She was from good stock and very wealthy, and was to become a hugely dominant force behind Elgar's creativity. He dedicated several pieces to her, including *Salut d'Amour*, which he composed as an engagement present.

One of Elgar's most popular works, the 'Enigma' Variations from 1899, is also his most mysterious. Each of the fourteen variations has a cryptic subtitle that relates to a particular person (or animal) in Elgar's life, including his wife, his publisher, and various friends and students

Cont on next page

Elgar was knighted by King Edward VII in 1904, finally achieving the kind of recognition his wife Alice was so keen that he should have.

Other notable works include the Pomp and Circumstance Marches and his Cello Concerto in E Minor although the latter was not well received until, in the 1960s, Jacqueline du Pré recorded what was then acknowledged as among the great works written for the cello.

As well as being behind some of the most beloved English music of all time, Sir Edward Elgar was also a keen amateur chemist. He would happily spend hours in his shed tinkering away at little experiments, but the culmination was most certainly his invention of the Elgar Sulphuretted Hydrogen Apparatus, which was a device for synthesising hydrogen sulphide that briefly went into production.

With acknowledgements to classicfm.com

You can listen to the Cello Concerto at

https://youtu.be/OPhkZW_jwc0?si=6I88ANi6J5IbAsvd



Thomas Bray, founder of SPCK

Thomas Bray was once called a 'Great Small Man', with good reason. This diminutive 18th century English clergyman (1658 – 1730) was founder of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) in 1698 and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (USPG) in 1701.

Those are long names for societies whose aim was to get Christian books and resources into the hands of those who desperately needed them. The early 18th century was not an easy time for poor clergymen: books were expensive, and many of them had few, or none to guide them in their ministry. And so, Thomas Bray, who had been educated at Oxford, joined with some other clergy friends to help them.

Bray became rector of St Botolph's, Aldgate in London in 1708. From there he served his parish, and through SPCK eventually established 80 parish libraries in England and a further 39 in the Colonies. SPCK and USPG worked by asking learned authors to donate copies of their books.

Thomas Bray's life has affected hundreds of thousands of people over three centuries and SPCK is still one of our leading UK Christian publishing houses today.

As if that was not enough, Bray also worked to help poor debtors emigrate to better lives, and homeless children to get care in England. He helped feed prisoners at Newgate prison in London and joined in the political fight against slavery.

When he died on 15th February 1730, thousands mourned him. A great small man indeed!

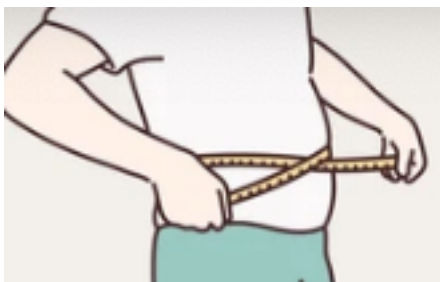
Parish Pump website

When bigger is not better

Women have added almost three inches to their waistlines over the last three decades.

A recent mass survey across England has found that the average woman now has a waist span of 35 inches. That is up from an average of just over 32 inches in the 1990s. A 'very high waist circumference' is defined as being 34.6in or above.

Male waistlines have also continued to grow, but at a slower rate. 36 per cent of men are now classed as having a 'very high waist circumference' – which is 40in (102cm) or above. In the Nineties, just 20 per cent of men were this big.



The data comes from the Health Survey of England carried out in 2019, when waistlines were last measured. Tam Fry, from the National Obesity Forum, said: "The figures are alarming – too many of us are eating as though it is Christmas every day."

Draft guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) urges everyone to regularly measure their waistline. It should be less than half their height.

A recent study by the University of Oxford has found that every extra inch on the waistline increases the risk of heart failure by 11 per cent.

Parish Pump website



Next event

Saturday 11th February 5-6.30pm

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

JANUARY 2024

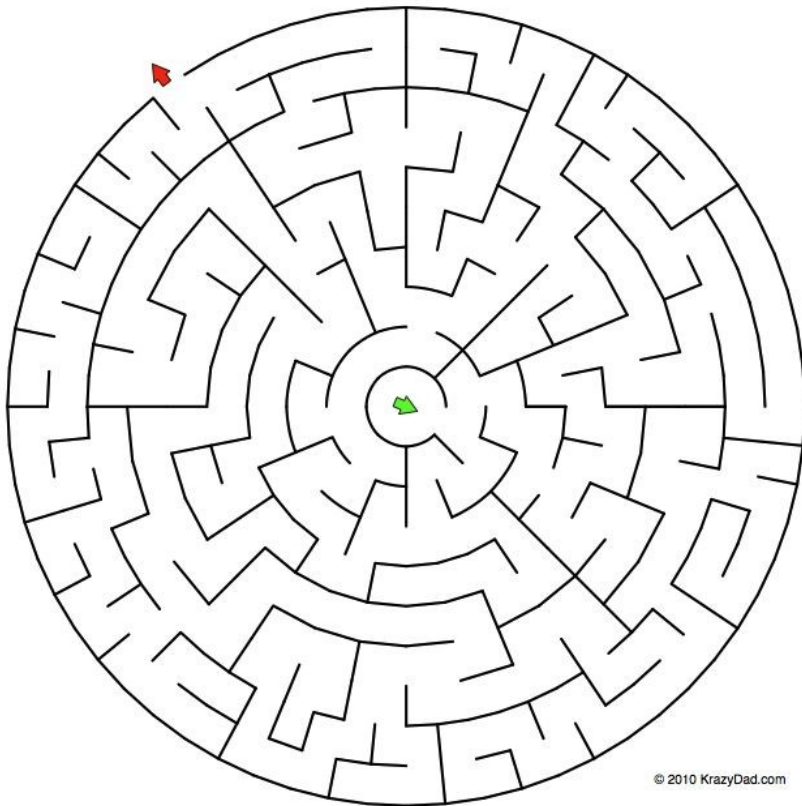
First Prize: Peter Vinson

Second Prize: Jo Clark

Third Prize: Peter Hood

Fourth Prize: Katrina Louca

Can you find your way out from the middle?



© 2010 KrazyDad.com

Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the kitchen sink"

For younger readers.....

The gardener and the Vine

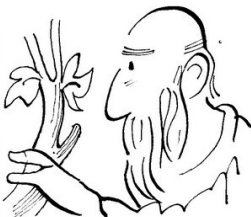


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...

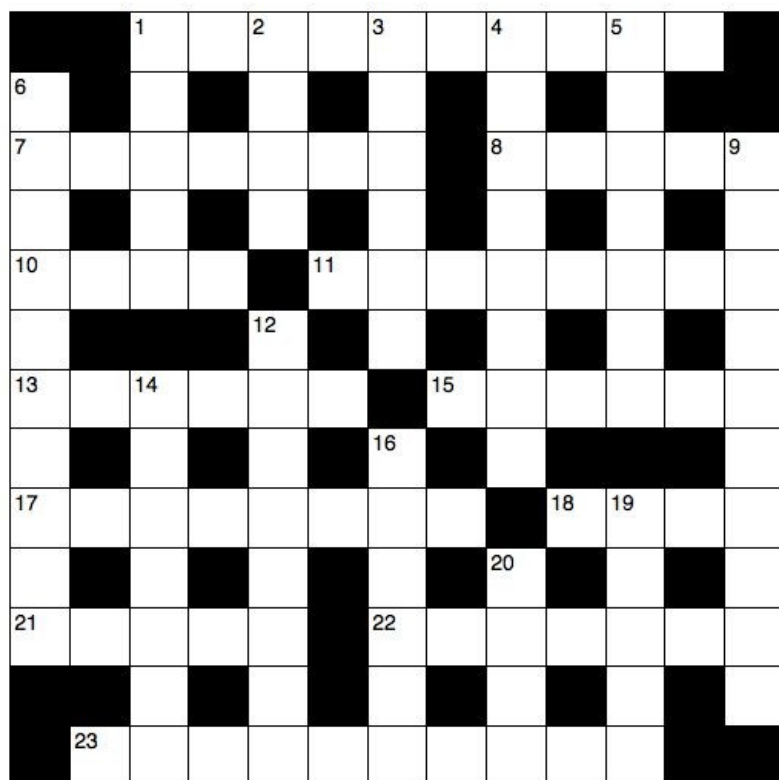


...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)

- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Solution on page 31

Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The staff knew him and would call me to come and pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccination. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

20 years of Facebook

Twenty years ago, on 4th February 2004, Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

Originally known as thefacebook.com, it was intended by Mark Zuckerberg and four other Harvard students – Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes – to create “a directory of information for college students”, but it soon expanded and each of the five co-founders developed different roles. All except Moskowitz are now not part of the Facebook empire, but all are extremely rich.

A year after it was launched, Facebook lost the “the” from its name, and the following year it got rid of its students-only restriction. In its new form Zuckerberg, from an early stage the main man of Facebook, said the original aim was for Facebook users to take their online identities with them around the internet without having to register individual accounts for each website or app.

The swift development of Facebook, which went public in 2012, has involved Zuckerberg in many lawsuits, and he has demonstrated a wide-ranging ability to win people over. He is also extremely clever. He has never revealed his own political affiliation or voting history, and is hard to pin down. He was raised as a Reform Jew, went through a period when he espoused atheism, but more recently has said he “believes religion is very important”.

In September last year his net worth was estimated at not far short of £50 billion, but he receives a one-dollar salary as CEO of Facebook, and he and his wife Priscilla Chan give away huge amounts of money, some of which goes to fighting

Continued on next page

antisemitism and backing educational and community initiatives. Facebook is banned in China.

As of late September 2023, Forbes estimated Zuckerberg's net worth at about \$64.4 billion, making him the 16th-richest person in the world. *Tim Lenton-Parish Pump website*

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Sudoku -

medium

Solution on

page 31

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

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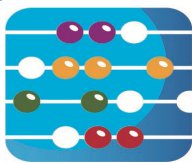
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Solution to puzzle
on page 29

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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



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All in the month of February

It was:

150 years ago, on 15th Feb 1874 that Sir Ernest Shackleton was born. This Irish-born British polar explorer was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

100 years ago, on 5th Feb 1924 that BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time.

Also 100 years ago, on 12th Feb 1924 that George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* was performed for the first time, in New York.

90 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1934 that Edward Elgar, the British composer, died. See page 19.

75 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1949 that Niki Lauda, Austrian racing driver was born. He was Formula One World Champion in 1975, 1977 and 1984. He was severely injured and burnt in a crash at the 1976 German Grand Prix. (Died 2019.)

70 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1954 that the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh. It grew into a year-long national trial involving 1.8 million children.

65 years ago, 3rd Feb 1959, became 'the day the music died', when American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

60 years ago, on 7th Feb 1964 that the Beatles arrived in New York for their first US tour. They were met by thousands of screaming fans.

50 years ago, on 7th Feb 1974 that Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the

miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.

40 years ago, on 14th Feb 1984 that figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice-skating at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.

30 years ago, on 25th Feb 1994 that serial killer Fred West was arrested in connection with the disappearance of his daughter. Police then discovered human bones buried in his garden. He was eventually charged with 11 murders, and his wife Rosemary with ten murders.

25 years ago, on 1st Feb 1999 that the International Maritime Organisation stopped using the Morse code 'SOS' distress call. All sea-going vessels were required to have a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) fitted by this date.

15 years ago, on 7th Feb 2009 that the Black Saturday bushfires took place in Australia. The worst in Australia's history, they destroyed 1.1 million acres of land, killed 173 people, injured 414, and burned down more than 3,500 buildings, including 2,000 houses.

With Valentine's Day in mind....

Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - *Anon*

Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction.
- *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*



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