

Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



July 2024



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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

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 07767 272584

Pew Leaflet Sarah Smale, *as Administrator*

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

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

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams

Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers

 Mrs F Bulmer 602718
Altar Guild Mrs M Parrott 824402

Who's Who in Bromham cont....

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

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

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

Who's Who in Stagsden

Church Officers

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

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

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



Principal Services in the Benefice

7th July

9.00am

10.30am

4.00pm

6th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Wild Church (Bromham Scout Site)

14th July

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

7th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

LEP Service (Oakley)

Evensong (Bromham)

21st July

9.00am

10.30am

8th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

28th July

9.00am

10.30am

4.30pm

9th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Songs of Praise (Stagsden)

Weekday Services

Mondays

11.30am

Messy Church (Bromham)

Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am

Holy Communion (Bromham

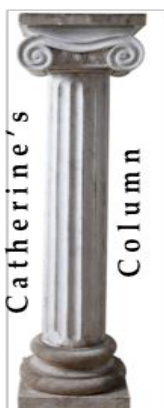
Fellowship Room)

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

Just two weeks to go as I write this – two more weeks of televised debates, question and answer sessions, and canvassing on the doorsteps as each party tries to persuade us that they are the ones who deserve our vote. The

General Election is almost upon us – and maybe for some it can't be over quickly enough! It seems that the politicians are never without a word to say, each determined to give their opinion on the state of the country.

But soon their voices will be silent and the whole electorate will have a chance to have their say. We are so fortunate to live in a democratic country where each person is able to express an opinion through the ballot box, without fear of intimidation and with confidence that the votes will be properly and fairly counted. Our voices can be heard, and we can contribute to the outcome.

So I hope we will all go to the polling station, to cast a vote for whichever party we choose – and then await the results as they are gradually announced in the hours following. We are rightly being urged to pray for the candidates and the outcome at this important time, and that the new Government will act justly and fulfil their duty to help everyone to flourish.

There are other places where people are using their voices this

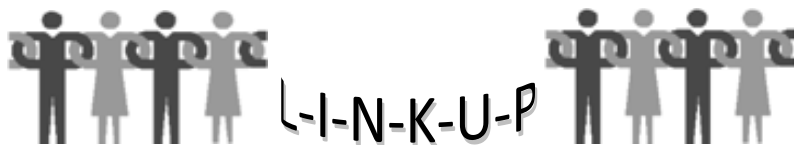
summer to make a choice. We have more weddings taking place in our churches this year than for several years past, and it is a joy when couples choose to come to church to declare publicly and before God their love and life-long commitment to each other. The congregations also get asked a question – to state their support for the couple about to make their vows – and their positive affirmation for the relationship is always good to hear.

And another situation where people have something to say is for the Churchwardens in our churches. Having agreed to stand, and been duly elected at the Annual Meetings in May, they are summoned to appear before the Archdeacon this month, at a service where they will be admitted to office, and to swear an oath that they will fulfil their duties to the best of their ability. The four Churchwardens in our Benefice work really hard to support and encourage the clergy and the people – thank you Hilarie, Graham, Tessa and Frances!

Some specific occasions then when people will have their say this summer – whether to ask for a vote or cast one, declare their love for their partner or take on a responsibility in the life of the church. But there will also be lots of other times when we can use our voices, as we interact with those around us. The Psalmist wrote ‘Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day’ (Psalm 96 v2). May we all use our voices for those purposes every day.

Catherine Wilson

What life have you if you have not life together? There is no life that is not in community, And no community not lived in praise of God. - *T S Eliot (The Rock)*



Next meeting - **Thursday 11th July**
at St Owen's Fellowship Room
2.30 - 4.30pm
open to ALL for Afternoon Tea at £5

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 5th July
11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.



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

Benefice Fellowship Lunch

Sunday 7th July

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

Dr Peter Brierley reflects on Britain's Prime Ministers

Prime Ministers

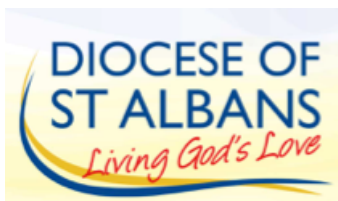
Britain had its first Prime Minister (PM) in 1721 when Sir Robert Walpole took the job; he was a Whig. In total thus far we have had 81 Prime Ministers; this excludes First Ministers and doesn't count separately an existing PM who wins the election and continues in office. If s/he loses but subsequently wins another term, each term is counted separately.

We have had 56 different people as Prime Ministers.

The longest serving one was Sir Robert Walpole, who was PM for 21 years. In length he was followed by the Tory William Pitt the Younger in 1783, then by Robert Jenkinson, the Earl of Liverpool in 1812, also a Tory. These are the first three of PMs who have served over 7 years.

There were 16 PMs in the 18th century, 33 in the 19th, 25 in the 20th and so far seven in the 21st century. Labour and the early Tories had slightly more time in office than the number of Prime Ministers *pro rata*. Rishi Sunak is the first British Asian Prime Minister.

By the time you read this we will be on the verge of knowing whether we are to have our 57th different PM - Ed



Sunday 23rd June saw the official launch of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal for 2024 – **Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka** in partnership with **The Leprosy Mission**. It was kicked off with a fun filled evening at St Andrew's Church, Bedford.

Launch event at St Andrew's Bedford



The evening featured young members of the Toastie Club hosting a meal along with parents and helpers using Revd Joshua's* recipes, a coconut shy and a talk given by Chris Stratta, the Leprosy Mission's representative working on the Appeal with the diocese. **more about Revd Joshua next page*

Revd Joshua's Story



Revd Joshua is the founder of Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM), The Leprosy Mission's Partner in Sri Lanka. As a child, he and his family were displaced from their home due to the civil war. During his years growing up in

refugee camps, food was scarce, and he learned to make the most of whatever local produce he could find. His experiences also led him to dedicate his life to helping the poorest people in society.

As a young minister, he observed how people affected by leprosy were treated as outcasts and discriminated against – and he felt called to take action. Today, people like you are partnering with Revd Joshua to help people affected by leprosy live life in all its fullness.

A vital part of KKM's work is making sure that families affected by leprosy have enough nutritious food to eat and the opportunity to grow enough fruit and vegetables to sell, providing a good income. Revd Joshua brings people affected by leprosy together for community meals, a wonderful interactive way to learn more about food and nutrition.

More about the Bishop's Appeal next month - *Ed*

Demand for foodbanks increases

The demand for emergency food parcels distributed by the Trussel Trust's foodbank network has nearly doubled in five years, with a record amount being handed out over the past 12 months alone.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 3.1 million food parcels were given out; 65 per cent of which went to families with children.

Now the chief executive of the Trussell Trust, Emma Revie, has called on political leaders to set out policies that ensure that foodbank use will become obsolete in the UK.

She urges: "We must not let foodbanks become the new norm. A supportive social-security system is the bedrock on which we end hunger for good. Building on this, we need much more effective employment and financial support for parents, carers and disabled people. And action to ensure everyone can have the security we all need to access opportunities and have hope for the future."

Families with children and working-age adults are among the most frequent users of foodbanks, but there has been a 27%

increase in the number of pensioners in need of emergency food in the past year.

Looking for a new home:-

Greenhouse 6'x 8' aluminium and glass construction

View by appointment 823387

Bedford Foodbank is at:

8/9 Murdock Rd, Bedford
MK41 7PE

www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk

AFTERNOON TEAS

at

St. Mary's Church, Oakley

Every Sunday from 26th May until
15th 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!!**



16th June - Saxophrenia

23rd June - Lickerish Allsorts four
clarinets and a singer



4th August - Saxophrenia

11th August - Small pipes with Donald
and Catherine Reid and Jackie



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

From the Registers

Baptisms:

16th June Liliana Mirella Dolente (Bromham)

23rd June Megan Grace Cornfoot (Oakley)

23rd June Grace Evie Cornfoot (Oakley)

Wedding:

15th June Aidan Diffey & Perri O'Sullivan – Smith
(Bromham)

Funerals:

25th June Kathleen Churchman (Bromham)

27th June Olivia North (Oakley)

Rev'd Dr Jo White considers the history of our village churches

Reflecting Faith: Commissioner Churches

When you look carefully at churches in towns, you may notice there are many similarities in their designs.

That's because Parliament in 1818 and later in 1824 brought about an Act to enable new churches to be built particularly in towns where the population had grown exponentially due to the industrial revolution and general movement away from the countryside and into town-based work and homes.

These are known as Commissioners, Waterloo or even Million Act churches. The body overseeing the work was the Church Building Commission; the Act followed the end of the Battle of Waterloo and guess how much money was voted to be used by the first Act? The second amount in 1824 was only half a million. All the money was to be used for the Church of England as the 'established' church in Great Britain.

In some cases, the Commissioners provided the full cost of the new church; in other cases, they provided a partial grant and the balance was raised locally. In total 612 new churches were provided.

One can imagine the significance in those days for country folk to find a local church when they moved away from everything they had known. Not only would it have been spiritually uplifting but they would have been social hubs where connections and friendships were made as well as points of support and practical help; especially for those away from their extended families.



'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



1984 - the burning of York Minster

Forty years ago, on 9th July 1984, York Minster was struck by lightning, which set fire to the roof and destroyed the south transept.

It was the most recent of five fires that have occurred there over the years: the causes have ranged from workmen burning coals (1753) through arson using torn-up hymnbooks (1829) to an unattended candle (1840) and a tarpaulin catching fire (1971). Although night lightning was the official explanation in 1984, some suggested that God might have been reacting to the very recent appointment as Bishop of Durham of the Rt Revd David Jenkins, a famously controversial cleric whose comments had seemed to cast doubt on the virgin birth and the Resurrection. He had been consecrated at York Minster three days earlier.



The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, described that idea as “ridiculous”, though some – including a few members of the fire service – felt that arson by objectors could not be ruled out. As many as 114 firefighters from over North Yorkshire were involved in tackling the blaze. Insurance cover on the Minster had just been increased by its treasury department: the damage to the south transept, with its wooden vaulted roof, amounted to £2.25 million.

York Minster is a huge landmark and tourist attraction in the

city: many consider it to be one of Europe's most impressive Gothic buildings. The glass in its famous 16th century Rose



Window, which had recently been renovated, cracked into 40,000 pieces, but the new lead edges held it all together.

Queen Elizabeth attended the rededication ceremony in October 1988. This year a new exhibition called *Out of the Ashes* tells the story of the blaze and marks its anniversary.

Tim Lenton - Parish Pump website

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series which will run until the end of 2025.

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: 1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Samuel was originally a single work, which focuses on Samuel, Saul and David, around 1,000 BC, mid-way between Abraham and Jesus. It was Samuel who established the monarchy in Israel after the period of the judges. He was commanded by God to give the people a king, although their request is seen as a rejection of God's rule over Israel (8:7). The people simply wanted to be like other nations, however their king was still subject to God's law and the word of the prophet. Although Samuel anointed Saul, he soon showed an unwillingness to submit to these requirements, leading to his rejection as king (15:23). God chose David as Saul's successor, and 1 Samuel depicts David's years of waiting until the right time arrived to claim the throne.

2 Samuel depicts David's rule, in which the nation prospers and its enemies are defeated. The promise of the perfect king is fulfilled in Jesus Himself, as David's descendant. The second half of the book depicts the darker side of David's reign, describing his weaknesses and failures, including his adultery with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son Absalom.

Nevertheless, David remained a man after God's own heart: *'The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'* (1 Samuel 16:7). The characters in this book are not always great examples of faith, however, *'They do not show us how we should live but how in fact we do live, authenticating the reality of our daily experience as the stuff that God uses to work his purposes of salvation in us and in the world.'* (Eugene Peterson).

Book Reviews

Shaped by the Spirit – being formed into an outward-focused people by Kate Pocklington, SPCK, £10.00

Shun self-help in favour of spiritual-help and become the other-focussed disciple that Jesus is inviting you to be. In recent years, the Church in the West has witnessed a growing hunger to engage in spiritual disciplines that help us become more like Jesus. And yet, if our practices cause us to look inwards without looking outwards, then we can unwittingly distance ourselves from Him instead.

Jesus was inherently other-focussed, and in this immensely practical book, Kate Pocklington invites us to explore why being formed by the Spirit is only the beginning of the picture.

Grandparenting for Faith: sharing God with the children you love the most by Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

How can grandparents proactively encourage and equip their grandchildren to meet and know God?

Grandparenting brings the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren, offering tools and skills for the journey. Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice speaking into your grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.

Date for your Diary?

Sharnbrook Deanery Quiet Day

A time of rest and spiritual renewal on the theme of

The Parables of Jesus

Wednesday 25th September at St Owen's Church

More details next month

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

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: J S Bach’s joy and dance

In 1956 a small novel by a German writer, Johannes Rüber, appeared in an English translation. It was called ‘Bach and the Heavenly Choir’ and tells of Pope Gregory XIX’s desire to elevate Bach to the ranks of the saints. To bring together the Lutheran bishop and his own cardinals, he organises a great Bach festival in Rome. At the festival he announces his plan and the reasoning behind it: that in J S Bach ‘faith has become music.’

In that realisation lies the grace and glory of Bach’s achievement, and why we treasure his works today. The irony is that the bulk of his music was never published in his lifetime. The six Brandenburg Concerti, beautifully copied out and offered, were never performed and the music put in a cupboard. His music in all probability would have been lost for ever had it not been for a young Mendelssohn, who just happened to find a manuscript of the St Matthew Passion in his music teacher’s house. He recognised it for its brilliancy and beauty and ordered a massive search to unearth the decaying manuscripts.

So much of Bach’s music was inspired by his joy in believing. Just consider one of the six motets, ‘Jesu, meine Freude’ (Jesus, my joy). It was probably written for a memorial service in July 1723. In his other works, *freude*, or ‘joy’, releases new movement. In this motet, the word is kept within the constraints of the chorale melody that acts as a framework for the motet. The word that brings a joyous release is *Geist*, Spirit – when it appears, then each voice joins in the chase as notes spill over the page and into our ears, proclaiming the

inspiration of God's Spirit in human life.

This spirit of joy helps us realise that what makes Bach's music so vital and rewarding is that total sense of movement and dance. Wilfred Mellers wrote a book 'Bach and the Dance of God,' showing how so much of Bach's music is dance-inspired from lively gavottes to more stately sarabandes that can be heard in both the instrumental and choral music. Widor, like Bach a great organist, wrote that 'For me Bach is the greatest of preachers.'

And what does he preach? That in the end, all is dance and life in the power of God's Spirit. In 'Jesu, meine Freude' as in all his music we hear and relish the movement and pulse of his compositions that open up for us a world where all is joy and dance. That is how Dante ended his vision of Paradise, where everything is movement and dance, and what moves the sun and the other stars is love.

Sudoku -

medium

Solution on

page 33

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | | | 5 | | | | | 2 |
| | | 5 | | | | | | |

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Saturday 13th July

5 - 7.00pm

The Fellowship Centre

Clapham

MK41 6ER

contact us at

ourvoicetoo@gmail.com



Calling all year 6s

For our BBQ on Saturday 13th July we would like to invite everyone from year 6 and above. Come and find out what we are all about and enjoy sharing the fun, food and faith.

FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

JUNE 2024

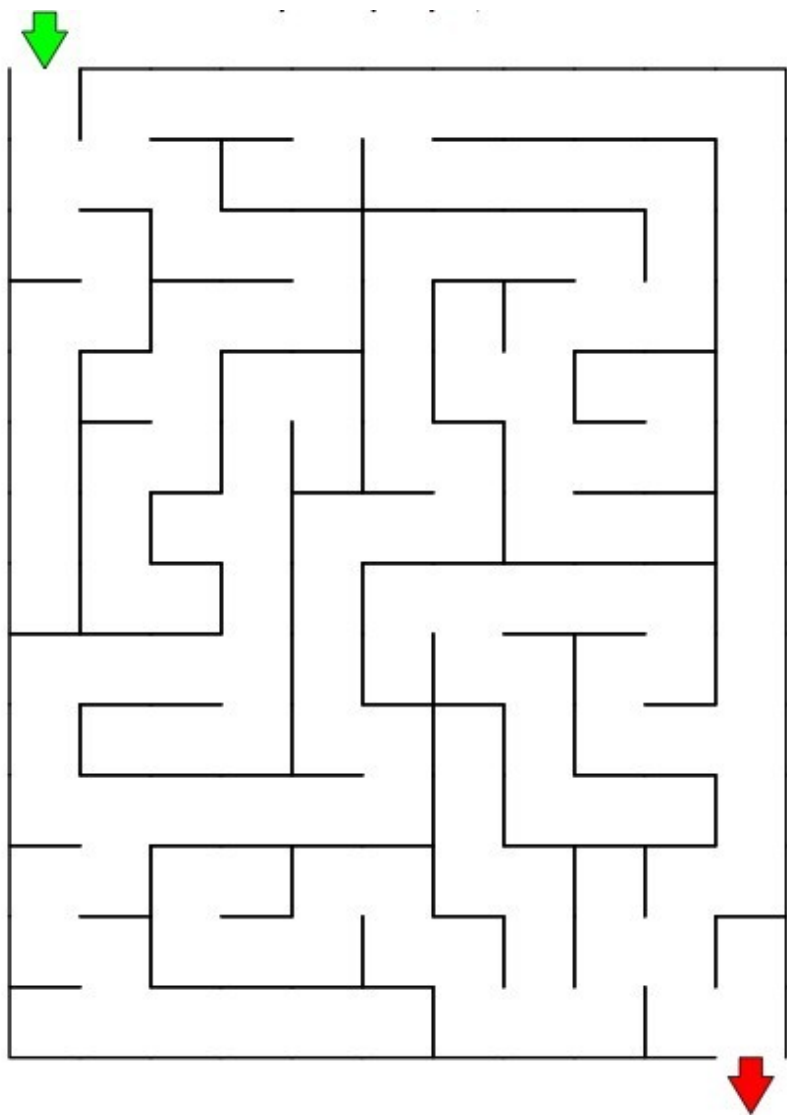
First Prize: Edward Jones

Second Prize: Win Boulton

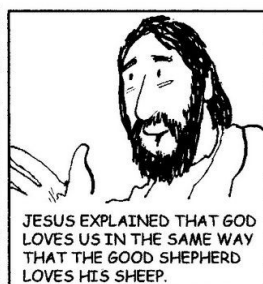
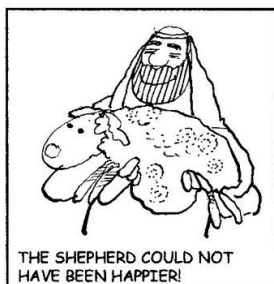
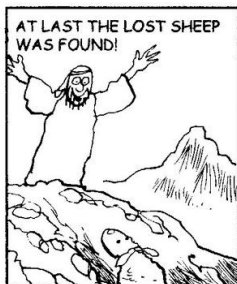
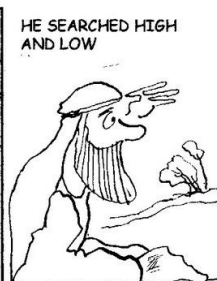
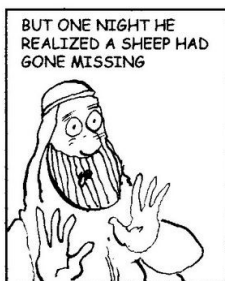
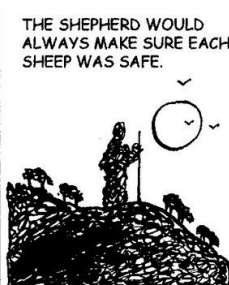
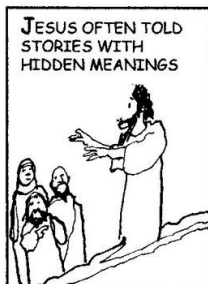
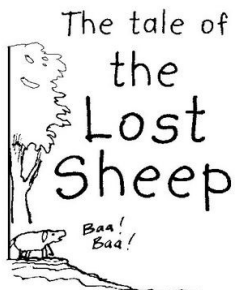
Third Prize: Edward Jones

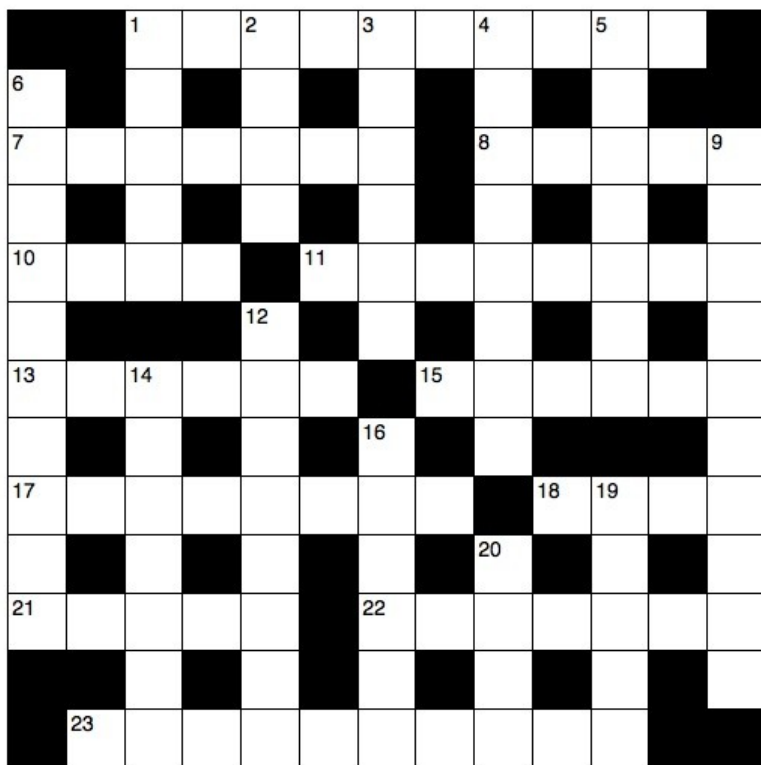
Fourth Prize: Simon Clark

Can you find your way from top to bottom?



For younger readers.....





Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became on the the UK's biggest, Sir John --- (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the "seven churches" (Revelation 3:1-6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was --- in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)

- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches what use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will --- over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and --- from me" (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

Solution on page 33

Cricket is the game which the English, not being a spiritual people, have invented to give themselves some concept of eternity. - Lord Mancroft - businessman and Conservative Party politician

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'



On the perils of 'standing in' for another vicar

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever *you* do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit.

Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be *nothing of the sort*. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the coming General Election....

General Election expressions and terms

Here are words and phrases we use at this time and explanations on how they started.

Parliament - This comes from French meaning a conference or assembly. Dates from around 1300.

Vote - Comes from Latin votum "a vow, wish, promise to a god, solemn pledge, dedication."

Poll - Again from about 1300, originally meaning a single head, then counting heads, from about 1620s.

Going to the country - A phrase from end of 18th Century, meaning to call for a General Election and test the mood in the country.

Canvass - This originally meant to sift things in a sheet, and then to examine items carefully, then "solicit votes or test support before an election" (1550s).

Hustings - From about 1720, it means a temporary platform from which, previous to the Ballot Act of 1872, the nomination of candidates for Parliament was made, and on which these stood while addressing the electors.

Ballot - From late 16th Century, meaning a box in which balls or pebbles are put to indicate votes.

Parish Pump website

Editor: Many people will recall the popular film Chariots of Fire which came out in the 1980s. We are approaching the centenary of that big race...

Remembering the faith of Eric Liddell – 100 years ago at the Paris Olympics

The 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July – 11 August) will soon be here. It was 100 years ago this summer, also at the Paris Olympics, that a young science student at Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell, ran an astonishing race that caught the imagination of millions worldwide.

Liddell had been born in China in 1902, to Scottish missionaries there. Early on, he had made a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, and sensed he was being called to spend his life in serving others. But Liddell was also an outstanding sportsman, playing rugby for Scotland before settling on athletics.

When he was chosen for the Paris Olympics, he expected to run his preferred 100m. But then came the news that the race would be run on a Sunday, and Liddell refused. Quickly, he trained for the 200m and 400m. He took bronze at the 200m, but no one expected much from him at the 400m. Instead, he won, and even broke the world record in the process.

After the Olympics, Liddell felt God calling him to his life's work. He went back to China, to teach in a Christian college. As the Second World War loomed, he sent his wife and children home, but stayed on himself. By 1943 Liddell was confined to a brutal prison camp, where he shone among the fellow prisoners – encouraging them, teaching Bible classes,

and praying for both his fellow inmates and the prison wardens. Deeply malnourished, his health failed and in 1945, just months before the war ended, he died, aged only 43.

In 1981 his story was made into the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*.

How did you spell that?

A friend who wished to check some point on aeronautics asked in his library for books on Metropolitan Vickers. He was handed a copy of Crockford's Clerical Directory. - *The Times Diary* 7 January 1987

Den

When W A Gilbert arrived at a provincial hotel to stay the night, he was alarmed to find it filled by clergymen attending a theological conference. He confessed: "I felt like a lion in a den of Daniels." *Hesketh Pearson, Gilbert & Sullivan*

Solution to puzzle
on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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| I | | O | | A | | E | | D | | | | S |
| A | D | U | L | T | E | R | Y | | F | L | E | A |
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| S | W | A | Z | I | | A | C | E | T | A | T | E |
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| | R | E | V | E | L | A | T | I | O | N | | |

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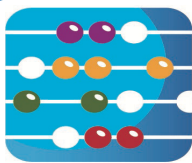
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