

# *Church News*

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



**Summer 2025**



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

**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

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                                 organisation..}  
Fees Accounts...} administrator@bromhambenefice.org  
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***Pew Leaflet***      Sarah Smale, as Administrator

**Who's Who in Bromham**

***Church Officers***

Churchwardens    Ms T Woodcock      07766 118258

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 in July**

<u>6th July</u>	<u>3rd Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>13th July</u>	<u>4th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (Oakley)
<u>20th July</u>	<u>5th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>27th July</u>	<u>6th 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 FR)

Thursdays

10.00am            Messy Church (Oakley)

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



Writing this on a warm, sunny June afternoon reminds me of the hope and light of coming months. A time that may run to a different beat with the start of the school holidays and a change of rhythm in our villages, with the absence of the school run. Perhaps we are hoping for that long-promised summer sunshine and warmth with a chance to relax, to travel to yet unknown destinations, to tame the garden, begin new projects, or simply just be? Whatever you are hoping for, whatever your plans, I wish you a summer filled with light, hope and happiness.

While randomly mulling over the weather I remembered the story of Saint Swithun. A 9th-century Bishop of Winchester, well known for his association with the weather—legend has it that if it rains on his feast day, 15th July, it will rain persistently for 40 days.

Yet beyond this charming folklore, St Swithun's life embodies the quiet strength of simple faith. Unlike many saints celebrated for grand acts or fiery sermons, Swithun's faith was humble and unassuming. He dedicated his life to serving others, showing kindness to the poor, and living a life of quiet devotion. When pondering his death, he specifically requested to be buried outdoors—under the feet of passersby rather than in a grand tomb—reflecting his deep humility.

His simplicity speaks powerfully to us today, in a world often fuelled by the pursuit of recognition and status, St Swithun's legacy reminds us that faith does not require extravagance. Living a life of simple faith means focusing on love, kindness, and service rather than position or material wealth. It calls us to see God in the small, everyday moments—a smile shared, a gentle act of kindness, maybe a pause in our busy day to think about how we may see God in the actions of others.

Even if it should rain on Saint Swithun's Day, such rain so desperately needed by our local farmers, perhaps we may see this as the renewal and care for God's creation, rather than being disappointed, and needing to change our plans? Refreshing raindrops, a sign of renewal and future growth, nourishing the earth just as faith nourishes our souls.

Whether our summer brings sunscreen or umbrellas let's take each day as it comes, pausing occasionally to see the wonders of the season and welcoming those small different glimpses of God's love at work in our lives.

*Petra Yates*

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### **Remember, Remember**

Church News will take a break in August and there will be no magazine that month.

This Summer edition covers July and August.

AND there are 4 extra pages for you.

*Editor*





### **Principal Services in the Benefice in August**

<u>3rd August</u>	<u>7th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>10th August</u>	<u>8th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service with Holy Communion (Oakley)
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>17th August</u>	<u>9th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>24th August</u>	<u>10th Sunday after Trinity</u>
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
<u>31st August</u>	<u>11th Sunday after Trinity</u>
10.30am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)

### **Weekday Services**

Mondays

11.30am Messy Church (Bromham)

Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am Holy Communion (Bromham FR)

Thursdays

10.00am Messy Church (Oakley)

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





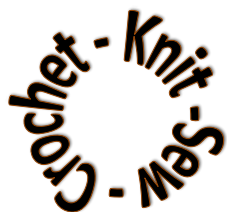
Next meeting - **Thursday 10th July**

2.30pm - 4.30pm

for Afternoon Tea

For details contact Tessa Woodcock

01234 340089



### **Sewing Group**

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

Further information from  
Margaret on 822094



### **Teas in Church**

**at St Mary's**

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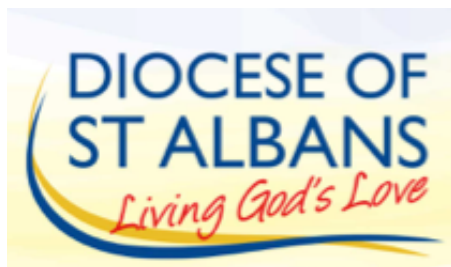
### **First Friday Coffee Mornings**

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

Please contact Flora for more information on  
822094





*Rt Revd Richard Atkinson  
Acting Bishop of St Albans*

*In his opening address at the Diocesan Synod (Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June) Bishop Richard reflected on the Vacancy in See, the Church's mission priorities and the call to continue growing younger, more diverse and spiritually renewed.*

"One of the most powerful and most moving moments in the wonderful farewell service for Bishop Alan was his laying down of his Crosier, taking off his cope and mitre and then walking through the Cathedral symbolically and literally into retirement. It marked the end of his sixteen years as Bishop for which we continue to give thanks. It also emphasized that we were entering a vacancy. A vacancy in See. We will hear more about this later from the Dean.

I grew up and ministered through years when the mantra was that in a vacant parish – *'we can't make any decisions until the new Vicar arrives'*. Indeed, sometimes it got mutated into almost *'we can't do anything until the new vicar arrives'*. Apart from being an unhealthy fruit of clericalism, it is not the truth. Whilst vacancies may not be the time for radical decisions, it is a time for continuing with agreed mission priorities. It is no different from a parish where the journey of mission should not be dependent on the incumbent but is to be owned by all. Mission Action Plans are just that – or should be – prayed over,

*Continued on next page*

discerned, priorities and goals that set the agenda. There may be a vacancy in the See but there is not vacancy in our mission, evangelism and outreach. The task of proclaiming Jesus Christ in word and deed goes on.

We are committed to growing younger and more diverse. This is at the heart of our SMIB bid\*. A church that reflects more fully the diversity of God's people including in relation to ethnicity, disability and social background, and which is getting younger, including, but not exclusively, the inclusion of young people and children, is a priority for us all.

*\*A bid for funding from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board of the C of E.*

We are committed to flourishing parishes, schools and chaplaincies. That healthy church, rooted in the local, supported and enabled by our gifted and dedicated staff at Holywell Lodge. The church that enables people of all ages to come to faith. To grow in their love of Jesus.

We are committed to looking after one another. To doing all we can to further our mutual well-being. We are only halfway through our Year of Spiritual Wellbeing and Renewal with many opportunities still available from retreats to walking the Bunyan Way. Essential to this is continuing to become a safer church.

We are committed to creative mission – to finding contextually related expressions of mission that reflect all aspects of the five marks of mission; that continues our shared priority of *Living God's Love* in ways that are filled with generosity and joy, imagination and courage. To enable revitalization where we can.

We are committed to be a church that helps people make sense

*Continued on next page*

of the world we are in. A world that is increasingly threatening. As I explored recently in a sermon, how do we preach peace in a world that is not peaceful? After that sermon a mother said to me on the way out – *thank you for connecting with what I am feeling; not just my fears about the world but my inner turmoil. It's why I came back to church. I'll bring the children next week.* We preach Christ, crucified, risen and ascended because in Him we find hope.

If anything let us preach more boldly in relation not just to peace and war, but the misuse of AI and abuse of social media, the needs of the poor and the concerns of the mentally ill.

I and my colleagues on Bishop's Staff look forward to sharing with you in all this and more. The proposed agenda for our next Synod reminds us that there is much to attend to – Education, our SMIB Bid, a Ministry Strategy, finance including taking forward the welcome proposals on stipends and pensions, as well as agreeing our Budget are all anticipated. We have work to do together.

And yes, there will be a new Bishop of St Albans. What better inheritance for her or him than a church going forward in mission.

The journey from Ascension Day to Pentecost apart from being the Season of '*Thy Kingdom Come*' begins with a vacancy. Jesus returning to heaven, leaving his newly commissioned disciples to take forward the Good News. It ends with Pentecost – the new church equipped by God to be his witnesses. As we embark upon our vacancy let us rejoice that we are commissioned to go forward, but like those disciples we are not left dependent on our own resources. We too are equipped by that same Spirit."

**+Richard**

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

## **What's the Big Idea?**

### **An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Romans**

*'Paul's letter to Rome is the high peak of Scripture...all roads in the Bible led to Romans, and all views afforded by the Bible are seen most clearly from Romans' (J I Packer)*

Paul probably wrote his letter to the Christians in Rome around AD 57 at Corinth, on his third missionary journey. The original recipients of the letter were predominantly Gentile, although Jews would have constituted a substantial minority of the congregation.

Paul set out to explain the relationship between Jew and Gentile in God's plan of salvation, as the Jewish Christians were being rejected by the larger Gentile group in the church. Paul begins by showing that both Jews and Gentiles are sinners in need of salvation. He shows how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus eternally affects both world history and every person.

This salvation, secured by Jesus, must be received *by faith*, as the example of Abraham shows. As salvation is not just about starting the Christian journey, Paul goes on to show how believers are freed from sin, law and death. This is made possible both through their union with Christ in His death and resurrection and by the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The theme of the book centres on the Gospel of Christ, which brings us into a right standing with God through faith: *'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation*

*Continued on next page*

*of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (Rom. 1:16,17).*

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## **St James the Great**

Jesus, fresh from His baptism and fired with His new calling, bursts into Galilee. Coming upon four fishermen working on the shore of the lake, He says to them, 'Follow me'. Without further ado or even a second thought, they abandon what they're doing and set off with Jesus, they know not where. That is how Mark's Gospel records the recruitment of four of the apostles of Jesus. Talk about a sudden change of life!

That however is on a superficial reading of the text. In fact, we know from John's Gospel that one pair of brothers, James and John, and the other two called on the same day, had been disciples of John the Baptist. Subsequently two of them had sought Him out and spent some time with Him in the Jordan area. This was not quite the instant 'conversion' described by Matthew and Mark, though undoubtedly it evoked an instant response.

For James (whose feast day falls on 25<sup>th</sup> July) this moment was to turn his whole life upside down. He became a leader of the church in Jerusalem after the resurrection and was the first apostle to be martyred, being put to the sword by Herod Agrippa in 44AD. His brother John, in contrast, lived on as a senior figure in the life of the emerging Church. For all four who were called by the lake that day, nothing would ever be quite the same again. But then all those who set out to follow Jesus wherever He leads them are usually in for a few surprises.

*Parish Pump website*



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**Fellowship Lunch**  
**Sunday 6th July at St Owen's, Bromham**

Bring some food to share and  
enjoy the company of others  
as we eat together.

All welcome no matter  
where you live.

More information from  
Vivien Butler 407351



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**OPEN DOORS**

St Leonard's Stagsden

Every Tuesday 3-4.30pm

St Owen's Bromham

Sat 12th July 10-12 noon

*Editor: Our series on the Nicene Creed continues this month. Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that Jesus is the Son of God.*

## **The Nicene Creed part 2: Who is Jesus?**

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.*

This month we are looking at what the Nicene Creed affirms about the person of Jesus Christ.

*‘We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God’:* Jesus is presented as the unique Son of God. This reflects the big debate at the time, which was to counter the teachings of Arius, who taught that Jesus was the first and greatest of God’s creatures, but not the same as God the Father.

Today we can be more concerned about Jesus’ authority as a moral teacher, neglecting that Jesus the man is also truly God. *‘We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father’* (John 1:14).

*‘eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father’:* These words affirm the divinity of Jesus. The phrase *‘begotten not made’* is crucial in understanding Jesus as the unique Son of the Father, who existed eternally of the same divine nature as the Father.

*‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning’* (John 1:1,2). It is a powerful reminder that our belief revolves around trusting a person, not simply in a set of beliefs and moral teaching.

*Continued on next page*



*'through Him all things were made':* The Creed affirms that Jesus the Son cannot be made, because through Him all things were made and only God can create from nothing.

*'Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'* (John 1:3). This implies that our world was made good, with a purpose in which we can share.

Also, Jesus has the last word in promising to bring everything in heaven and on earth together at the end of time under His Lordship (Ephesians 1:10). This makes a real difference to how we see and treat God's Creation and those created in God's image.

In response to this, can we say that Jesus is Lord of every area of our life?



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**'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



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

## Book Reviews

### **Tasting Wisdom - A daily companion for meditation**

**By Laurence Freeman, Canterbury Press. £14.99**

Every day for more than a decade, members of the World Community for Christian Meditation worldwide receive a brief reflection, Daily Wisdom, from Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk and leader of the community.

In just a few sentences, each day readers can orientate themselves to a more reflective and less reactive approach to the challenges of the coming day and living wisely and well in a restless, noisy world.

This collection of daily meditations will last the whole year, and offers wisdom to begin, end or punctuate the day.

### **Being There - how to love those who are hurting**

**By Dave Furman, 10Publishing, £7.99** (*discounts for bulk orders*)

Everyone has friends or family who suffer from sickness, disability, depression, or the death of a loved one. But often, while we want to help them, we are also struggling in our own various ways.

Writing from the perspective of one who needs extra help on a daily basis, Dave Furman offers insight into the support that people need when helping others. Furman draws on his own life experiences, examples from the Bible, and wisdom from Christians throughout history. Deeply pastoral, this book points you to the strength that only God can provide as you care for those who are hurting.

*Parish Pump website*

## God in the Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his survey of sacred works of art which can be found in various museums.*

### **‘He gave us eyes to see them’: John Martin’s ‘Manfred on the Jungfrau’**

In July we start looking with eager longing to holidays, a chance to get away from it all - to rest and recharge the batteries of life. Holidays are also a time to explore and visit new places. It might be the wild splendour of the Northumberland coast or the serenity of the Italian lakes, the vastness of the Grand Canyon or the magnificence of the Lake District.

This month’s artist is John Martin. Born in 1789, he was drawn to religious and historical scenes on the grand scale. He illustrated the Bible and Milton, and his final works were on the theme of the Last Judgement. These are in the Tate Gallery in London, but for this July we visit the Art Gallery in Birmingham which is home to John Martin’s watercolour of 1837, ‘Manfred on the Jungfrau.’



It is a large work, almost 5 feet by 3 feet, capturing the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau. Now a railway takes tourists to the summit in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices. John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two characters: Manfred, tortured by guilt and about to throw himself off the edge, and the mysterious hunter who leads him to safety.

Byron's poem 'Manfred' inspired the music of Tchaikovsky and Schumann, as it inspired John Martin. They were each attracted by the romanticism of man and nature in the poem. Like Manfred and the hunter in the watercolour, we look at this grace and nobility and feel humble and insignificant. Byron wrote:

'How beautiful is all this visible world!

How glorious in its action and itself!'

Manfred seeks redemption, but, sadly, finds only the solace of death. As we look at this painting, we see reflections of the landscapes we shall visit on our holidays. Such beauty, such glory, evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that inspired John Martin.

Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Bernese Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.

*Editor: How do young people first connect with faith and the church? This article reports on a remarkable rise in interest – and how the young people are reached in the first place.*

### **‘I started noticing they had something I didn’t’ – students tell how they came to faith**

Students have been sharing their experiences of what first drew them to become Christians, and go on to speak about a “noticeable” increase in faith among Generation Z, in a recent national online service.

The students, Tegan and Gus, had began their journey to faith because of a simple invitation from friends to attend a church service.

For Tegan, it was a conversation with a friend at brunch which sparked her curiosity. For Gus, he needed to call into the church to borrow a camera for a university project.

“The first couple of times I came back just because I wanted to chat to the people - like it was a nice place to be,” Gus explains. “And from that community I noticed Jesus in them and that’s what I really wanted at the end of it.”

Tegan agrees: “I started noticing that they had something that I didn’t and it’s why I started going to the Alpha course and learned all about Jesus and who He was and what it meant for me.”

Gus admits he had previously struggled with his poor mental health. “Looking back at it now, I see Jesus in those moments, but now I interact with Jesus in those moments,” he says. “He’s actively helping me through those things now.”

Tegan speaks of the death of her mother since she became a Christian. “I think that is where I’ve known Jesus’s love the strongest - in my grief. I think grief is really dark and I don’t

*Continued on next page*

know if I would have been able to do it without Jesus. I think He's been my strength through that and also my comfort.

"And I think people can see it within you, right? Like they see, wow, you have this sort of peace or joy that, is almost *unreasonable*, like that you couldn't have from anything but Jesus."

Both also speak about their own sense of growing interest in faith in their generation.

"I have noticed since being in a church myself lots more people joining that have never even heard the name of Jesus or don't know much about Him and seeing other people come to Him is just so exciting," says Tegan.

Gus adds: "The amount of people each year has definitely been increasing. It's noticeable each time the new year comes up it's 'oh we've got even more people now' it's just so encouraging."

*Parish Pump website*

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### From the Registers

#### Weddings:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 7th June  | Molly Brand & Aaron Wright (Bromham)            |
| 14th June | Margaret Maddams & Malcolm Wilding<br>(Bromham) |
| 28th June | Carolyn Garner & Thomas Latham<br>(Stagsden)    |

#### Burial of Ashes:

- |           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 14th June | Edward Skevington (Bromham) |
|-----------|-----------------------------|

#### Funeral:

- |           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 30th June | Keith Williams (Bromham) |
|-----------|--------------------------|

## **CofE attendance rises for fourth year**

Attendance at C of E churches grew for the fourth year in a row last year.

The overall number of regular worshippers across the Church of England's congregations grew to 1.02 million in 2024, a rise of 1.2 per cent, according to an early snapshot of the annual Statistics for Mission findings.

It was the second year in a row in which the Church of England's 'worshipping community' – the combined number of regular members of local congregations – has stood above a million since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The numbers in the pews on a typical Sunday was up by a further 1.5 per cent to 582,000 in 2024, extending rises over recent years.

And overall, the in-person attendance across the week edged upwards by 1.2 per cent in a year, and stood at just over 701,000 last year, according to the early figures.

The increase was driven by a recovery in attendance by adults (over 16), among whom average Sunday attendance was up by 1.8 per cent, and weekly attendance rose by 1.5 per cent.

While the overall figures show that in-person attendance has not fully reached pre-pandemic levels, the figures suggest it is moving closer to the pre-pandemic trend.

The preliminary snapshot of Statistics for Mission returns follows separate figures which show there has also been a sharp increase in traffic on the Church of England's church-finder website, AChurchNearYou.com.

The number of page visits to AChurchNearYou.com jumped by 55 per cent last year to almost 200 million as people searched for their local congregation.

*Continued on next page*

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "The Church of England exists to share the good news of Jesus Christ. So it is encouraging to see further signs that more people are coming to faith in Jesus Christ and having their lives changed.

"Although this is just a snapshot and we don't know the ages of those who have started attending church in the past year, other evidence suggests that many of these are young adults.

Debbie Clinton, the Church of England's Director for Vision and Strategy, said: "Our statistics are much more than numbers, each represents an individual. In 2024 we have heard and seen exciting stories of growth in parishes, in our estates and in post-industrial and coastal towns.

"Nationally we aim to ensure that each young person has a flourishing children, youth and families' ministry within reach of them, we are seeing growth in the number of churches with more than 25 young people attending."

*Parish Pump website*

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*Miscellaneous observations on life today...*

If you can't shine, at least twinkle! - *Alistair Begg*

Worry is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere. - *Anon*

People who cannot bear to be alone are the worst company.  
- *A Guinon*

You must not always expect the wind to be at your back all the way to heaven. - *William Tiptaft*

Age: the only thing that comes to us without effort. - *Anon*

If you will be cherished when you are old, be courteous while you are young. - *John Lyly*



## **Staring at beautiful objects really does spark inspiration**

Next time you see something beautiful – pause for a moment and simply enjoy it. Especially if it counts as ‘art’.

For recent research has found that contemplating beautiful works of art really can inspire you.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge have found that beautiful art can induce ‘psychological distancing’. This is the process of zooming out on your thoughts, in order to gain better clarity on your life.

One professor at Cambridge put it this way: “Many philosophers throughout history have suggested that engaging with aesthetic beauty invokes a special kind of psychological state.”

So, visiting an art museum “is not just a pleasant way to spend an afternoon, it may actually change how we think about our lives.” Beauty appreciation seems to “help people detach from their immediate practical concerns and adopt a broader, more abstract perspective.”

“Admiring the beauty of art may be the ideal way to trigger the abstract cognitive processes increasingly lost in a world of screens and smartphones.”

Researchers say this shows the importance of public art venues. The findings were published in the journal *Empirical Studies of the Arts*.  
*Parish Pump website*

---

*‘living well’ in difficult times...*

Make the least ado about your greatest gifts. Be content to act, and leave the talking to others. - *Baltasar Gracian*

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

**JUNE 2025**

1st prize      Flora Dawson  
2nd prize      Edward Jones  
3rd prize      Edward Jones  
4th prize      Rosemary Franklin

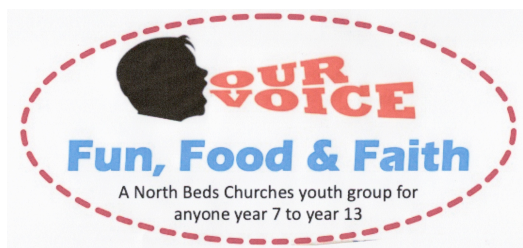
*NB the July & August results will be published in September*

## **Sudoku - Medium**

Solution on  
page 33

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

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### **Preaching hazards**

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806.

“When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation.”

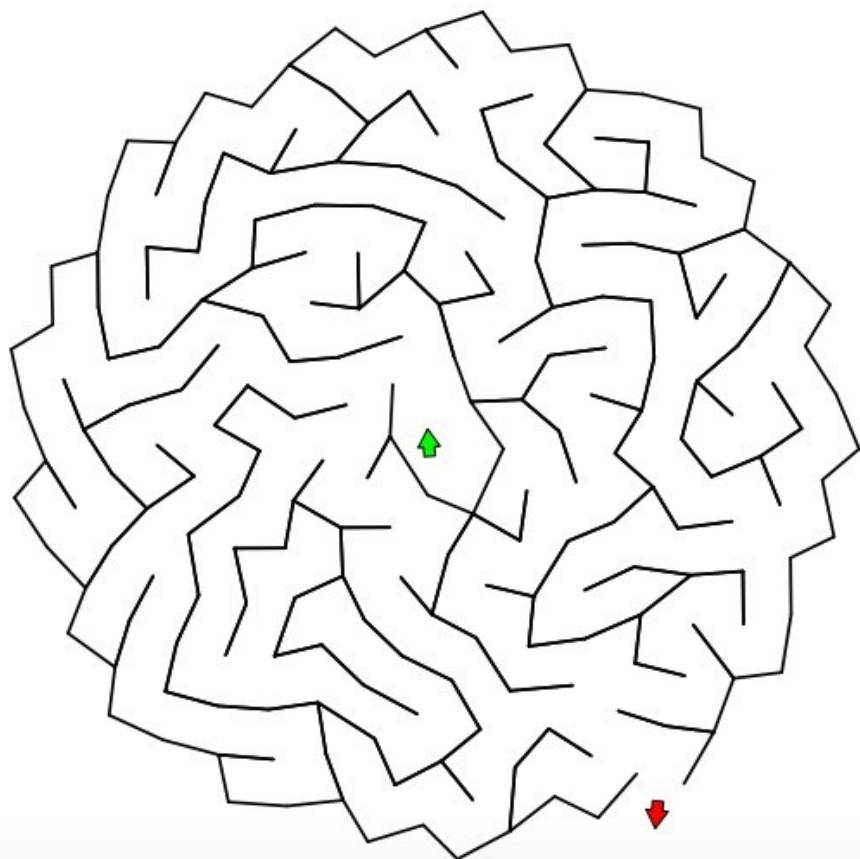
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Wherever you take your picnic this summer do heed this warning from **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service**. The combination of higher-than-normal temperatures and dry ground creates the perfect conditions for fires

to spread quickly. Even something as seemingly harmless as improperly discarded cigarette butts, a disposable barbecue on grass, or glass bottles left in the sun can trigger a fire that spreads rapidly.

Can you find your way out from the middle?



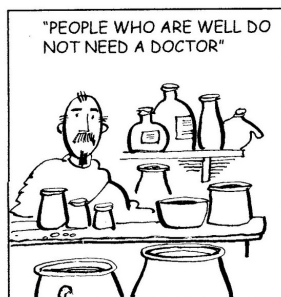
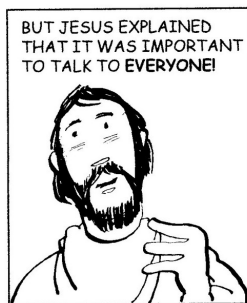
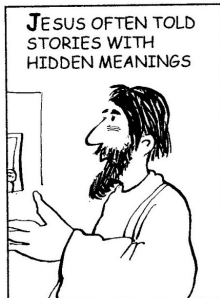
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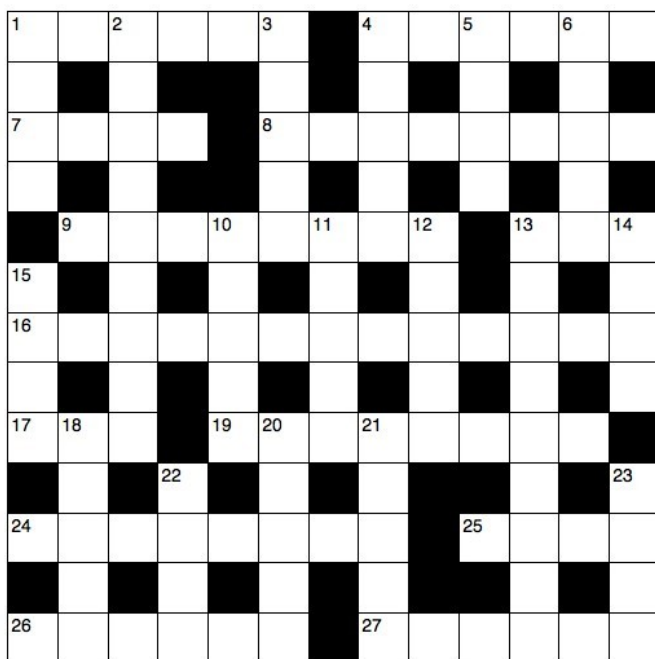
### Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect she's studying for her final exams," came the reply.

For younger readers.....

# The doctor and the ill person





### Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left

with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)  
 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for  
 salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)  
 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)  
 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

### **Down**

1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find  
 — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)  
 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times  
 (Luke 22:55) (9)  
 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a  
 convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)  
 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned  
 in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)  
 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature  
 of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon  
 looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)  
 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your  
 waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)  
 10 Trout (anag.) (5)  
 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)  
 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)  
 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers  
 26:38) (9)  
 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread  
 into the bowl with me"" (Mark 14:20) (4)  
 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)  
 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)  
 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)  
 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)  
 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)  
 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the  
 Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

*Solution on page 37*

## **The online world has a real-life environmental impact - here's how to reduce it.**

It might seem ethereal, but everything we do on the internet has a tangible effect in the real world. Here's how to cut your digital carbon footprint

**Every time we go online to visit a website, stream a TV show, catch up on social media or join a video call, we're using energy.**

Devices such as smartphones, tablets, TVs, laptops and game consoles all use electricity when in use – but this is usually in low amounts compared to other household appliances. However, behind the scenes, a vast amount of energy is being used to keep the internet running 24/7.

Wireless streaming, digital downloads and cloud storage might all sound light as air, but the data centres that underpin online services leave a heavy footprint on the physical environment. The recent boom in artificial intelligence (AI) has increased the energy demand and carbon emissions of computing at an alarming rate.

Your digital carbon footprint is made up of the energy your devices use and, more significantly, by the vast data centres and global networks involved in storing, processing and delivering online data as it moves to and from your devices.

Data Centre & Network News magazine recently reported that data centres are responsible for producing around 3% of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions, which is more than global aviation (around 2.5%). AI tools such as ChatGPT, Microsoft CoPilot and Google Gemini use far more energy than non-AI tools, which has resulted in a recent surge in energy consumption. The International Energy Agency

*Continued on next page*



reported that data centres accounted for around 1.5% of the world's electricity consumption in 2024, or 415 terawatt-hours (TWh). It expects this will more than double to around 945TWh by 2030. That's around three times the annual electricity consumption of the UK.

There are several ways to reduce your energy consumption when online or using digital services. While they won't affect your home energy use much, they will cut the amount of energy needed by data centres and reduce carbon emissions.

1. **Cut down social media use**
2. **Reduce streaming and video calls**
3. **Game efficiently**
4. **Manage emails**
5. **Organise your cloud storage**
6. **Opt out of AI when it's not needed**

Read more about it at [www.which.co.uk/News/Home & Garden/Heating & Energy](http://www.which.co.uk/News/Home%20&%20Garden/Heating%20&%20Energy) and search for the title of this article.

Question. How much energy is consumed by a single Instagram post from footballer Cristiano Ronaldo to his 240 million followers? *Answer on page 37*

---

## **Open wide**

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible.

The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'

## **All in the month of July**

It was:

175 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1850 that Robert Peel, Prime Minister (1834-35, 1841-46) died. He founded the Metropolitan Police Service and is seen as the father of modern British policing.

150 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1875 that Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst was born. He was the founder of analytical psychology.

100 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1925 that racing driver Malcolm Campbell became the first person to travel at over 150 mph. He set a new land speed record of 150.87 mph at Pendine Sands in Wales in a Sunbeam 350HP. He also went on to break the 250 mph and 300 mph records, in 1932 and 1935.

80 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1945 that WW2 leader Winston Churchill lost the General Election to Clement Attlee's Labour Party.

75 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1950 that the Law of Return was passed in Israel. It granted all Jews the right to immigrate to Israel.

Also 75 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1950 that the first rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida. It reached a height of 25 miles.

70 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1955 that Stirling Moss became the first British driver to win the British Grand Prix.

Also 70 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1955 that racing driver Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record and became the first person to break the 200-mph barrier at Ullswater in Cumbria.

65 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1960 that US President Dwight D

Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev traded threats over the future of Cuba.

60 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1965 that Great Train Robber Ronnie Briggs escaped from Wandsworth Prison in London. He lived in Brazil until 2001, when he returned to London and was re-imprisoned. Released in 2009, he died in 2013.

40 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1985 that the two Live Aid concerts were held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, as well as at other venues such as Sydney and Moscow. They raised millions of pounds for famine relief in Africa.

30 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1995 that Amazon.com first opened its website to the public.

25 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2000 that Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury (1980 – 1991) died.

Also 25 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2000 that an Air France Concorde crashed outside of Paris, shortly after taking off for New York. It killed all 109 people on board, along with four people on the ground.

20 years ago, that the 7<sup>th</sup> July (2005) London bombings took place. The coordinated series of four suicide bomb attacks on London's transport system during the morning rush hour killed 56 people and injured more than 700. It was the worst-ever terrorist attack on Britain, and the country's first attack by suicide bombers.

Also 20 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005 that the IRA ended its 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland and ordered all units to dump their weapons. IRA leadership said that they would continue their campaign exclusively through peaceful means.



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## It's cool

I was at summer scout camp where the final service was to be taken by a bishop. It was a very hot, humid day and the clergy from local churches were slowly melting in their various heavy robes. Finally, one snapped: "When is that flipping bishop going to turn up?"

Whereupon a man close by, dressed in Scouts shirt, tie and short trousers, said mildly: "I'm already here."

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## Answer to the Ronaldo question.

According to a study conducted by Channel 4, a single Instagram post from footballer Cristiano Ronaldo to his 240 million followers consumes as much energy as ten UK households use in a year. Fortunately, most of us don't have that kind of impact, but spending time on social media platforms can quickly add up.

---

Solution to puzzle on  
page 26

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 30

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

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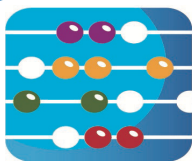
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