

Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



Summer 2026

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References

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Who's Who in Bromham cont....

Children & Young	}Emma Harrison	07752 186808
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:		
Secretary:	Mr David Butler	407351
website:	www.bromhambenefice.org/friends-of-st-owens	

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Katrina Hyden	07908 987959
	oakleypccsecretary@bromhambenefice.org	
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
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 through Revd Di Harpham	07973 953744
PCC Secretary	Caroline Heaton	
Ringers	Mr Richard Brown	823289
Flowers Team	please contact through Revd Di Harpha	07973 953744

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>5th July</u>	<u>5th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>12th July</u>	<u>6th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (Oakley)
<u>19th July</u>	<u>7th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>26th July</u>	<u>8th 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)



From the Vicarage

"The sun has got his hat on,
hip-hip-hip hooray.
The sun has got his hat on
and he's coming out today!"

Sitting writing this article on a hot and sticky afternoon, with the promise of a heatwave to follow during the rest of the week that will break all existing records, I'm not sure we'll all be cheering as we struggle to keep cool and hydrated! Soon it will have passed, but there will be more to follow as our climate changes and the UK's weather becomes warmer and wetter. In the dark cold winter days, we long for a glimpse of the sun and we welcome the longer days and warmth of Spring – but temperatures of 30+ degrees, and the effect they have on our daily lives, do test our appreciation of the sun!

By the time you read this we will have passed the longest day, and as happens every year, people will have marked the solstice by going to monuments like Stonehenge. Built by our ancient ancestors, these were places where they worshipped the sun as a god, recognising the power it had over their lives by giving light and heat. Of course, with all our scientific knowledge today about the enormous star at the centre of our solar system, we understand that it is only an object, albeit an extremely hot one, that is part of God's creation of the universe. But it does remind us of enduring truths about God.

On dark days when clouds cover the sky, the sun appears to

be absent, hidden from view. But we know that it is still there, and the daylight we have even on those days comes from the sun, just filtered through the cloud barrier. In the same way, sometimes we may feel that God is absent from us – perhaps we are waiting for answers to prayer, or going through difficult times. ‘Where are you, Lord?’ we ask. The answer is that he’s still there, giving us light for our journey until the time when our cloud clears and we can recognise his presence once again.

One of the famous quotes about the sun is ‘the sun shines on the righteous and the unrighteous’, which comes from words of Jesus in Matthew 5 v45. Whatever moral state we are in, still God makes the sun rise on us all every day – if the sun only shone on the righteous, the world would be a very dark place! So we should treat all people with the same compassion and kindness irrespective of who they are, just as God looks on each person with the same unconditional love, no matter what they have or haven’t done.

So when the sun comes out again this summer, get out your hat and suncream and enjoy its warmth if you can, remembering God’s presence and love – you could even try singing that song!

Catherine Wilson

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>2nd August</u>	<u>9th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>9th August</u>	<u>10th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>16th August</u>	<u>11th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>23rd August</u>	<u>12th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
<u>30th August</u>	<u>13th 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

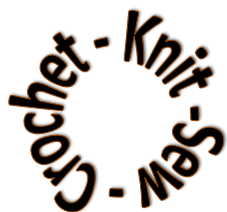
10.00am Messy Church (Oakley)

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)



Next meeting - **Thursday 9th July**
2.30pm - 4.30pm

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

Each Sunday

3.30 - 5.00pm

until 13th September

First Friday Coffee Mornings

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

Please contact Flora for more information on
822094





*Archbishop of Canterbury
Sarah Mullally*

What the PM said to the Archbishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury paid a recent visit to the Prime Minister at Downing Street.

They discussed “the importance of social cohesion, inter-faith relationships and celebrating the UK’s diverse communities in the face of division, including rising antisemitism and anti-Muslim hostility”, according to a spokesperson for No. 10.

They also discussed world events, “including the war in Iran, and its impacts on communities here. They reflected on the millions of individuals around the UK whose selfless acts of service build up the nation.”

Sir Keir is the first explicitly atheist British Prime Minister. But he told Archbishop Mullally that that it was “important that we talk to each other and we have a proper partnership.”

Sir Keir said: “Government and faith should not be two separate things operating in separate spheres. Many of the values we hold are the same, and therefore we should be trying to work in partnership wherever we can.”

Continued on next page

Archbishop Mullally has called for the need to tackle anti-Semitism, and says that identity in the UK has been “misused to intimidate and divide”. She calls for “a renewal of hope”, “a rejection of hatred and division, and a turning towards one another”.

Christians are suffering “immense pressure and emotional trauma” in India

Since an ultimatum was recently given to tribal Christians, cases of reconversion have been spreading across Chhattisgarh, a state in central India.

Open Doors* reports that “Christians remain highly vulnerable to forced attendance at ‘Ghar Wapsi’ (reconversion) ceremonies, and some have sadly given in to the mounting pressure.” “Tribal Christians are facing immense pressure, emotional trauma and economic hardship from village leaders and Hindutva extremist groups,” says Dhruv Baiga, an Open Doors local partner.

“They are socially boycotted from the village, and no one comes to their rescue. Pastors and missionaries are restricted from entering the villages, and outsiders are not allowed.

“As a result, many tribal Christians in Chhattisgarh live in fear and intimidation, choosing not to share their faith publicly. Despite this, some Christians continue to stand firm in their faith in Jesus despite the opposition and threats.”

Please pray for these brothers and sisters in India who desperately need your prayers amidst the fiery trials they are facing.

Parish Pump website

**Open Doors is a UK Registered Charity (No 1125684) which helps Christians in over 70 countries, from training leaders to raising awareness about global persecution. Learn more of their work at www.opendoorsuk.org*

St Thomas the Apostle – remembered on 3rd July

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.



From Simon Danes, the Chair of Trustees of SMART

Thanks very much for reading!

SMART runs the Prebend Street day centre in Bedford, and a host of other services for men and women who are homeless. We have emergency beds for people who are sleeping rough, as well as longer-term accommodation. We give professional advice to families who are at risk of becoming homeless, too. Some of our services are funded by the Council.

We have to raise all the money to run the Prebend Centre ourselves, though. To help with this, we have a new initiative called **The SMART 500**.

The idea is to bring together 500 people who'd be willing to help us by making a monthly donation. It's going well! The thing is, we need to bring in around 20% of our total fundraising income from regular gifts like these; 20% is about standard for a charity of our size.

Please, is this something you'd like to support? It's easy to sign up and only takes a couple of minutes. Please just go to our website at smartcjs.org.uk – and thank you very, very much!

Continued on next page

As you can probably guess, running the Prebend Centre is expensive: we need to raise more than £300,000 this financial year. This pays for things like showers, hot meals, clean clothes, laundry, healthcare, heating and electricity – but it also pays the salaries of our specialist support staff. They're crucial because they provide professional advice. Most of our clients have very complex needs, including severe mental health issues. Our mission is to help them turn their lives around.

The fundraising also pays for Kate's Place, our specialist project for women who are at risk.

One-off gifts do help, of course. But monthly gifts are crucial to charities because they help us to predict what's coming in. We can then plan our projects accordingly, knowing that the cash for them is going to be there.

While SMART isn't a specifically Christian charity, many of our staff, volunteers and supporters are Christians. Please do pray for us, for our clients, and for our work.

If you're able to sign up, **thank you very, very much indeed**, and all best wishes,

From the Registers

Funerals:

1 st June	Michael Taylor (Oakley)
2 nd June	Doreen Hull (Bromham)



'Messy Church for All'
at Oakley Methodist Church
on 3rd Tuesday in the month

Next event 21st July

3.30 till 5.30pm

Contact 824504 or
mcarr49@hotmail.com



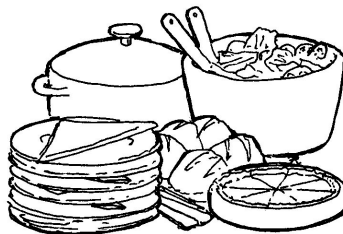
I would be happy to undertake alterations or mending. My fee, I will donate to St Mary's Oakley. For more information please call Maureen on 01234 356354.

Fellowship Lunch
Sunday 5th 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



OPEN DOORS

St Leonard's Stagsden

First Tuesday 3-4.30pm

St Owen's Bromham

Sat 11th July 10-12 noon

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

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Bible: 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul's letters, written when he was in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1–18) in 49–51 AD. Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, as well as being a flourishing centre for trade and philosophy. After founding the church (Acts 17:1–9) Paul was forced to leave, when he was falsely accused of speaking against Caesar. As the new Christians were left with little spiritual support, Paul wrote this letter to encourage them.

Paul addresses a number of issues throughout this letter. As they weren't expecting persecution, Paul reminds them that this is normal Christian experience (3:3–4). He also challenges those in the church who were living off wealthier Christians rather than earning their own living (4:9–12; 5:14).

However, the most prominent theme in letter is the second coming of Jesus. It is mentioned in every chapter of the book (1:10; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–11, 23–24). The Thessalonians were unclear about the timing of the day of the Lord (5:1–2). Some church members had died (4:13), and people weren't sure what would happen to them at Christ's return (3:10; 4:13). However, Paul assures them that when Jesus returns, the dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord with the living (4:15–17). Therefore, believers don't need to fear God's wrath, but rather are assured of inheriting his salvation.

Living in the light of Christ's return calls for holy and blameless lives (3:11–4:8; 5:23). *'May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* (5:23).



Gone Fishing

We were entertained last month at Link Up to an informative and amusing talk from Graham Palmer on his passion for fishing and the various rods and bait required to catch a variety of fish from chard to shark.

He gave us a demonstration with the help of Dorothy his wife on all the different types of rods he owns.

Unfortunately, we didn't catch anything but we now know how to if required.

Thank you, Graham. *Tessa*

Ed - Since that event, Graham has needed hospital treatment but has come through that and is home again. We wish him well and happy fishing ahead!

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on aspects of Christianity.

Reflected Faith Series: Intercessions

Last month we reflected on the Creed within our service. This month, we consider what comes next.

In the Book of Common Prayer, the Creed and the sermon appear in a different order, but in both traditions intercessions follow. In Common Worship, they come straight after the Creed.

By this point, we may feel we have already prayed a great deal, so what makes intercessions different?

Intercessions focus entirely on the needs of others. They are public prayers, not centred on 'me' but on the wider world. They gather the concerns of the Church, the world, our community, those in need, and those who have died, along with those who mourn and as a whole congregation we bring them before God.

They are not, repeat not, a time to slip in a couple of adverts for next week's summer fair and a prayer for enough volunteers to come forward – please see Mrs Jones after the service - or to tell the congregation of someone's ill health or funeral arrangements!

These prayers usually follow that order, though sometimes in reverse. Either way, there is a clear pattern that helps the congregation engage. We may begin broadly with the world and move towards the local and personal, or start close to home and widen our view.

For example, with a theme such as farming, intercessions might include churches in rural communities worldwide, countries dependent on food production, government ministers responsible for agriculture and fisheries, local farmers and food workers, and those in need or recently bereaved within the community.

Style matters as much as content. These are the prayers of the people, so they should use language that feels natural and accessible. Often, simplicity works best.

This month: listen carefully to the intercessions when you attend a service. Do they follow a clear, engaging pattern? Is the language accessible? Which prayers stay with you through the week? Who leads them, and from where?

Ed: having listened carefully you may wish to share your thoughts with the Vicar, Churchwardens or your editor; contact details on pages 3 & 4.

Friends of St Owen's
Present

An Entertainment of
Words

A series of sketches
recited by
Edward Jones

&

Music

A series of pieces
on organ and keyboard
played by
David Williams

Saturday 11th July at 2.00pm in St Owen's the
Church in Bromham Park
Pay at the door £10

PLUS optional
Cream tea for £5
Booking essential @
01234 826551

Proceeds in aid of Friends of St Owen's Regd Charity No 1022947

You are invited to the
Sharnbrook Deanery

Quiet Day

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

Who is Jesus?



Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 September 2026
9.30-3.30

St Owen's Church, Bromham Park
off Village Road*, Bromham MK43 8LL

***turning opposite Grange Lane**

image: 'I am the Good Shepherd' 19th century Russian icon (Wikimedia Commons)

'God said to Moses, "I AM has sent me to you."'
(Matthew 11.5)

'I am the good shepherd', 'I am the door', 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' These familiar 'I am' statements of Jesus in John's Gospel are deceptively simple. But what did Jesus mean by them? And what do they mean to us today?

Led by Revd Nick Munday and Mrs Jane Templeman, the day will start at 9.30 with tea/coffee from 9.00, include a Communion service followed by a simple lunch, and finish with tea at 3.30. We'll look at the 'I am' statements in their Biblical context and examine some relevant art, music and poetry. It will be a relaxed day, with quiet time and opportunities for conversation and fellowship – a similar format to the Quiet Days in previous years. As last year, in order to cater for as many as possible, we are running the same Quiet Day twice, but with a limit on numbers on each day.

The cost including lunch & refreshments is £7 payable on the day (cash or card). Please book in advance by Saturday 12 September. Email n.j.munday@btinternet.com or text/phone 07966 377108, with:

- Your name
- Which church you identify with, *and*
- Whether you prefer Wednesday 16 *or* Thursday 17 Sept.

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

Editor: We continue our series looking at the stories BEHIND some of our favourite hymns.

HYMN: The story behind ‘Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken’

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded,
Thou may’st smile at all thy foes.*

*See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...*

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon’s troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition ‘Emperor’s Hymn’. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II’s birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It

Continued on next page

quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied , which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

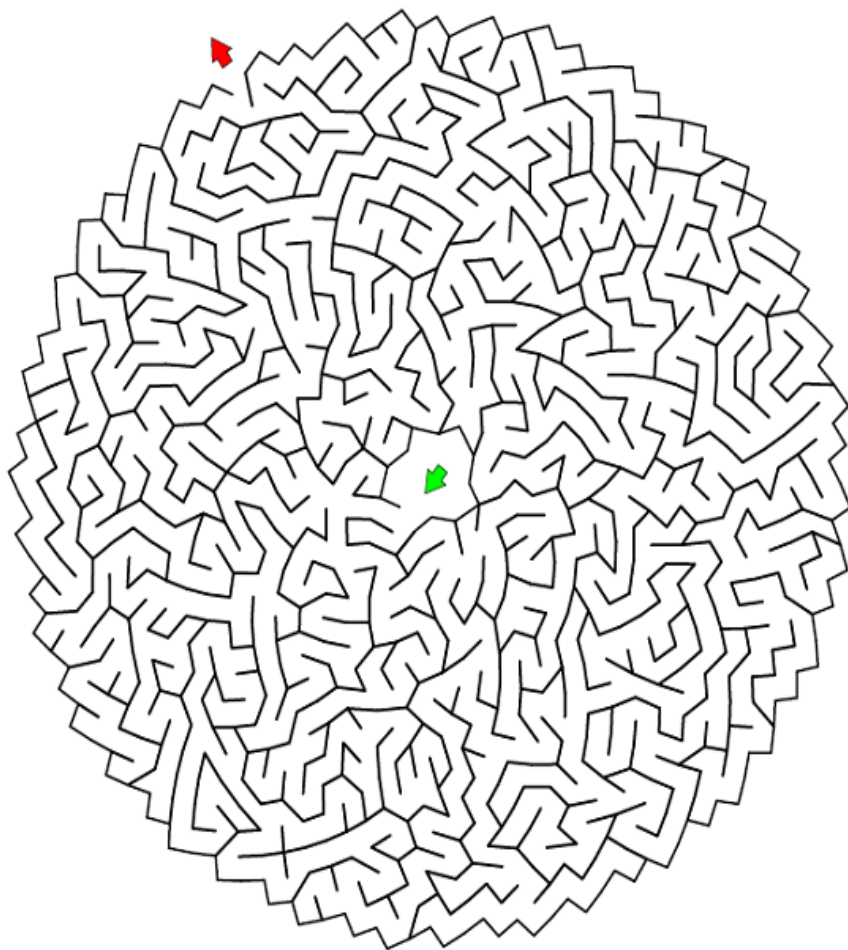
John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

Some church bulletin notices have a charm all their own, when you know that they MEANT to say....

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practise.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Can you find your way out from the middle?

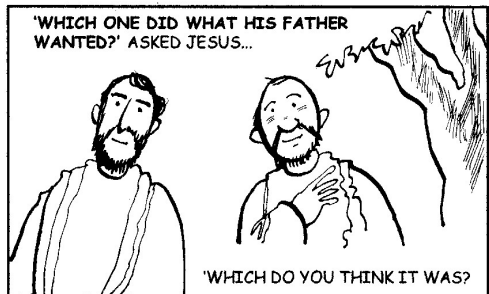
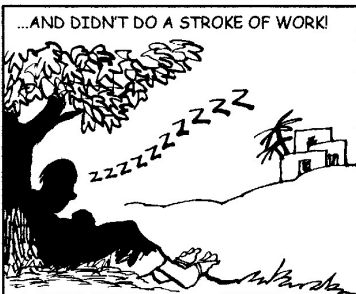
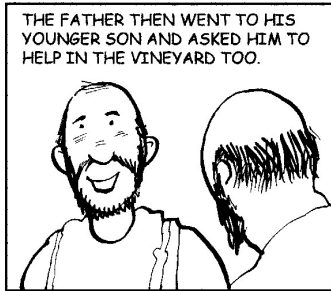
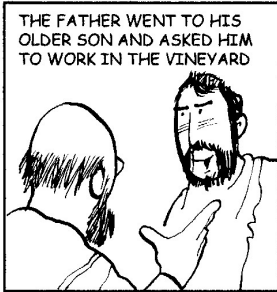
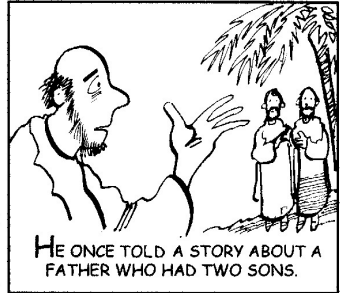


With the sales in mind:

Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months. - *Oscar Wilde*

For younger readers.....

The tale of the Two Sons



**Benefice of Bromham, Oakley &
Stagsden**



**Annual
Summer
BBQ**

August Bank Holiday Monday

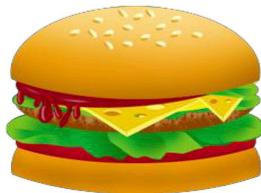
from 12.30pm

In the garden at the Vicarage

Sign-up on sheet in church please

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

Bring your own drinks and garden chair



Plus raffle - Proceeds shared by 3 PCCs

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church pulpit.

God in the Arts

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – Church Pulpits

It is a steep climb of 199 steps that leads the visitor to Whitby from the streets below to the church of St Mary’s that stands near the ruined abbey.

Having negotiated the climb, the visitor enters the church and is greeted by a glorious array of Georgian furnishings: box pews and a triple decker pulpit with candlesticks and cushions. The clerk would sit at the bottom level to give out the notices, the parson would lead the service in the middle, and then he would ascend to the third level to expound the Word of God.



George Herbert says that for the country parson the pulpit should be ‘his joy and his throne.’ Sydney Smith had a

different slant when he wrote on going into the pulpit of 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.’ Not so at Whitby where the church is cared for and well loved.

Photo by Chris06, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia

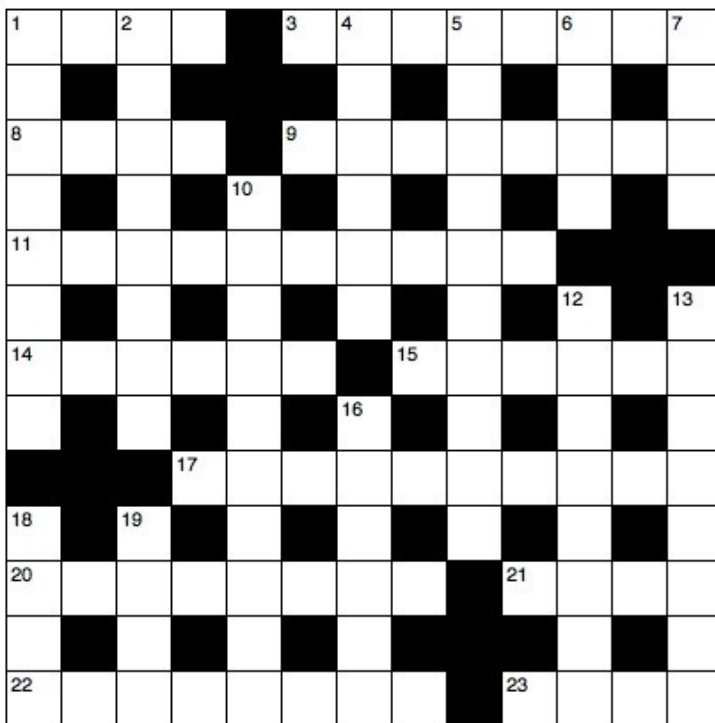
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Today preachers often remain at ground level, the better to interact with their congregations, but here at St Mary's Church the pulpit is a sign of the importance of teaching the Word: not because the preacher stands eight feet above contradiction, but to allow people to see and hear.

The word 'pulpit' means a platform or raised area to address the gathered family of God. As we look on in the pews, it stands often on our left. But God looks at us from the east end of the church and the pulpit stands at his right hand: a sign that the sermon can be the divinely inspired message of prophet and teacher, and so become living and active in the minds and hearts of its hearers.

Ed: in St Owen's, Bromham, the pulpit stands on the 'wrong' side of the nave because, when the chancel arch was widened in 1868, there was no longer room for a pulpit on the north side.





Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being ‘of noble character’ (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 ‘Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?’ (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 ‘Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ’ (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 ‘Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—’ (Psalm 139:6) (6)

- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
 23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
 19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Solution on page 37

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A Scientist Reflects: Suffering and the Image of God

Since the cost-of-living crisis in 2021/22, Food Banks have become a necessity for many desperate families. When they are given food, people reveal a variety of emotions: from relief, happiness and hope, through to quiet sadness, resignation, and desperation. Most often they display a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of Creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the *potential* for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn’t broken down, and evil hadn’t been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more

Continued on next page

particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Some of the people who receive food are, in the words of one community leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

July is a time for visiting beautiful country churches, and reflecting that....

Holy people have a sense of inner peace. In their presence, it is the God of the still, small voice that one perceives. - *T Harrison*

The name of Jesus is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

Is danger lurking in your fridge?

When you look in your fridge, what do you see? Milk, butter, vegetables and last night's leftovers?

So far, so good. But what about the things that you don't see? A recent survey of people's fridges found that more than half of them were harbouring dangerous bacteria such as E. coli, salmonella and listeria. So, it seems that unless we take care of our fridges, they can become playgrounds for germs.



Veggie drawers with bits of slimy carrots or liquefying greens have been found to harbour more bacteria per square centimetre than a toilet seat. Plates of raw meat can be a bacterial timebomb. Even door seals and fridge handles can be a germ hotspot.

The key thing is to regularly wipe shelves and drawer down with a mild disinfectant, remove stale food, and to keep the temperature of the fridge at five degrees. Don't overcrowd your fridge (which can block air circulation) and don't engage in the classic 'fridge food linger,' staring into the fridge while deciding what you want to eat. The longer that door is open, the more the warm air rushes in.

Your fridge is the hardest working appliance in your kitchen, but it needs your help.

Parish Pump website



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Editor: Tim Lenton considers the founding of America.

The US Declaration of Independence – 4th July 1776

It was 250 years ago, on 4th July 1776, that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in Washington, but copies were quickly printed and distributed on the day – not all of them totally accurate. Its creation followed considerable conflict between the colonies and the British Parliament, reaching a head in late 1775 when Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies. This followed other measures, including what was regarded by some as unfair taxation without representation.

An original draft of the Declaration was made by Thomas Jefferson, but it was amended by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, who omitted passages likely to offend the more conservative colonists, such as the suggestion that King George III was to blame for transatlantic slave trade, or anything that accused the British people rather than their government.

The most important effect of the Declaration from a diplomatic point of view was to make possible relationships between the colonists and friendly foreign governments. But it had a substantial effect elsewhere. Anglican clergy felt conflicted because they had sworn an oath to the King as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and supporting independence would mean breaking that oath. Many colonies made public prayers for the King acts of treason, and this in part led Anglicans to recreate themselves as the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The Declaration itself could be described as a Christian

Continued on next page

document, reflecting Judeo-Christian values, as Abraham Lincoln made clear in his Gettysburg Address in 1863, quoting its second sentence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Flight path

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of American tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One particularly annoyed tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"

Solution to puzzle on page 26

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

Solution to puzzle on page 30

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



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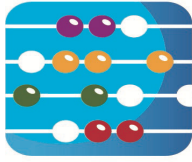
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