

# *Church News*

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



**June 2024**



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## Clergy:

## Benefice Administration

Wedding.....} (Mon & Thurs 9.30 -12.00: Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm  
organisation..}

Fees Accounts...} administrator@bromhambenefice.org

Safeguarding Officer - Judith Denyer 07981 928522

## Parish News

Editor Mr Edward Jones stowensnews@btinternet.com 826551

Distribution	Mrs B Cryer	825463
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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
	 <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**

### 2nd June

9.00am

10.30am

### 9th June

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

### 16th June

9.00am

10.30am

### 1st Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

### 2nd Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)

Evensong (Bromham)

### 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion + Baptism

(Bromham)

### 23rd June

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

### 4th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion + Baptism (Oakley)

Evensong (Oakley)

### 30th June

10.30am

### 5th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (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](http://www.bromhambenefice.org))



As a teacher, my awareness of the passing seasons always looped into a slightly different cycle to everyone else's, there were the usual punctuation marks of Christmas and New Year, and personal anniversaries, but for me the anticipated gear change began in summer. There was a different feel to the school day, as the calendar slowly inched towards the end of the academic year. The weeks were punctuated with school trips, themed teaching, (a joy as a Humanities teacher), House competitions, preparing for the end of year celebrations, and the whole school photo, (which took an age, required much patience and even more tie and jumper straightening!).

Since being ordained my time has flowed with the rhythm of the church's liturgical seasons as we remember the life of Jesus and his ministry, all set within the bigger story of God's plan. This year is especially poignant as I look back on my priesting last summer, which followed my ordination as deacon a year earlier, when my ministry here began. Through all the years and different stages, the busyness and the waiting there has been, and still is, a personal need to' trust in the slow work of God', in the words of the theologian, Teilhard de Chardin.

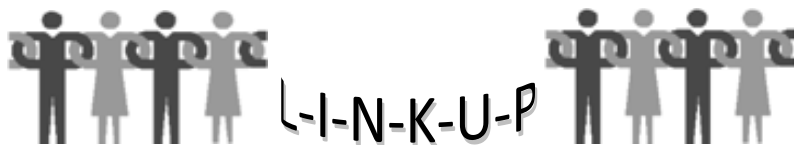
Reflecting on the rhythm of life I'd like to use, (somewhat predictably!) baking imagery here, after all it is the season for

a cuppa and a slice of cake in the sunshine, so let's go with a Victoria Sponge. Life could be seen as the whole cake, from the basic ingredients through to the decorated cake. Ingredients are added and well mixed, with much eager anticipation of what will appear, ever hopeful that the layers will sit together without wobbling, (well in my kitchen anyway!). Daily life provides the basics - the wonderful, the challenging, those understated moments of joy, the disappointing and everything in between. Life, like baking, can be complex and multi layered, with many diverse ingredients, all rooted with the hope and trust that life, and the recipe, will work out ok.

Rather like the cake mixture coming together and forming something wonderful and appetising, so our village life revolves around the 'ingredients' that we bring and offer to others, those moments that we may share through our local groups and connecting points, whether church based or not. So as the days edge towards summer we can look back, with our own memories of what has brought us together in recent months.

May we be well mixed, continue to make connections, (the village newsletters and social media list a comprehensive diary of events), and of course enjoy that slice of cake with a cuppa or something fizzy. Whether we enjoy the simplicity of a Victoria Sponge or the wonderfully casual and complex combination that is a Rocky Road may we be aware of the slow work of God in our communities.

*Petra Yates*



Next meeting - **Thursday 13th June**

at 33 Princes Road

at 2.30pm

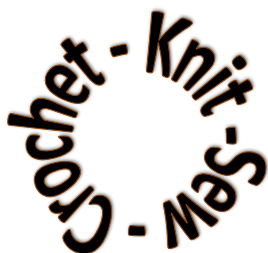
for strawberries and cream in Gill Cheynes' garden

(St Owen's Fellowship Room if wet)

For further details

contact Tessa Woodcock

01234 340089



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### **Sewing Group**

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

Further information from Frances  
on 07470 032296

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### **First Friday Coffee Mornings**

Next coffee morning on Fri 7th June

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.



Please contact Frances for more information  
(602718 or [francesbulmer@btinternet.com](mailto:francesbulmer@btinternet.com))



## **Benefice Fellowship Lunch**

**Sunday 2nd June**

at 28 Bridge End, Bromham

12.30pm onwards

after morning service

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

More information:

Vivien Butler - 407351

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## **Teddy Bears' Picnic - Saturday 15th June**



**At St Owen's Church** from 1130 to 1330

Bring your own food and drink

Bring your Furry Friend for a thrilling 'Zip-Wire' ride



## **Lychgates – the What? Why? and Wherefore?**

*Ed - An extract from an article by Ann Wise, the Historic Church Buildings Support Officer at St Albans. If you want to read the original in full search on-line for [stalbandsdiocese.org>news>church buildings](http://stalbandsdiocese.org/news/church-buildings)*

I can't be the only one who has arrived at a picturesque old church and seen that they have a fine lychgate at the entrance to the church grounds. I've admired the woodwork and then wandered through the gate and not thought about why the church has a lychgate – surely, it's just a nice decorative archway and a great focal point for photographs?

It's useful to note that lychgate can also be spelt *lytch gate* or *lych gate* and it gets its name from the medieval English; *lyche* meaning "body or corpse" and *yate* meaning "gate". It may come as a surprise to learn that lychgates, constructed with a roof and generous in width, actually had a purpose and the clue is in the name.

Lychgates, also known as *resurrection gates*, date from the medieval ages before there were mortuaries. They mark the division between consecrated and unconsecrated ground. In some parts of England, it was the place to where corpse bearers carried the body of a deceased person and laid it on the parish bier; in other parts of the country the parish bier was wheeled to the deceased's home to collect the body and then taken to the lychgate. The body would be left on the bier until the funeral service. Often one or more bearer stayed with the body overnight or for a couple of days, until the funeral

service, to prevent body snatchers stealing the corpse. So, it was important that the interior of the lychgate was big enough to shelter a bier and several people, which is why some lychgates have small stone or wooden benches on either side of the passageway. It would be at the lychgate that the priest would carry out the first part of the burial ceremony.

It's thought that lychgates have existed since the 7<sup>th</sup> Century but the majority that still exist were probably built during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The oldest surviving lychgate is claimed to be the one at St George's churchyard in Beckenham, South London, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century which was restored in 1924. The earliest lychgates were entirely constructed of wood; gradually over time brick walls replaced wooden walls, and the wooden roofs sometimes replaced with clay tiles or thatch. Very few lychgates survive in their original state. The large timber beams framing the gateway are often carved with decorative features, a phrase or inscribed with the names of people.

During the Middle Ages, most people would have been buried in a shroud (a length of linen or woollen cloth that would be tightly wrapped around the body) instead of a coffin. Until the late 1700s only a few wealthy people would have their own coffin to be buried in. The "Burying in Woollen Acts of Parliament" (1666–80) made it compulsory for English woollen shrouds to be used for burials instead of using foreign made textiles (except plague victims and the very poor). The intention was to support the English woollen trade and the Acts made it a legal requirement that a member of the deceased family or a family friend had to swear in front of a Justice of the Peace confirming that the deceased had been buried in a woollen shroud. A fine of £5 would be made if it was discovered that a corpse had not been correctly

*Continued on next page*

shrouded. It is interesting to note that £5 in 1680 was equivalent to £572.25 in 2017 (National Archives Currency Converter).

Understandably this was not popular especially with the poor. It's not known how strictly the law was followed especially in remote parishes, but historians agree that after 1770 it was universally ignored across England. The Act itself wasn't repealed until 1814. The act of placing a corpse on a bier within a lychgate before a funeral declined during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and many of these gateways were left to decay or were dismantled and repurposed elsewhere.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, especially during the Victorian period, lychgates were repaired or rebuilt not to accommodate the dead but as memorials to prominent or wealthy locals; in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century some were adapted to commemorate those who lost their lives in the two World Wars. Lychgates not only played an important role in the life of the church, they have a very emotive place at the heart of any community's history.

*Nearby lychgates are at St Leonard's, Stagsden; All Saints, Turvey; All Saints, Milton Ernest.*

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Greenhouse 6'x8' aluminium  
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View by appointment 823387

In order to keep a true  
perspective of one's  
importance, everyone  
should have a dog that  
will worship him and a  
cat that will ignore him.

*Dereke Bruce*

# AFTERNOON TEAS

at

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

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

3.30pm to 5.00pm

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

Cold drinks also available

**Afternoons with live  
musical entertainment!!**



16<sup>th</sup> June - Saxophrenia

23<sup>rd</sup> June - Lickerish Allsorts four  
clarinets and a singer



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

11<sup>th</sup> August - Small pipes with Donald  
and Catherine Reid and Jackie



Ed - **Parish Pump**, from which I draw much of the content of Church News, celebrates its **25th Anniversary** this month.

In a message to celebrate the anniversary, Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell said, "Well-produced magazines can play a vital role in helping churches reach out into their local communities, and to bring the Christian gospel into many people's homes. Even in a digital world, paper-based communications can help build bridges for local churches.

"I'm deeply appreciative of the effort put in by numerous church magazine editors, and of the important, creative support that Parish Pump has provided over the past 25 years. I congratulate its editor, Anne Coomes, on her commitment to first-class communications through those years."

Parish Pump has supplied up to 3,000 publications each month since its launch at the Christian Resources Exhibition in May 1999.



### From the Registers

#### **Baptism:**

5th May      Casey Matthew Salisbury (Bromham)

#### **Wedding:**

25th May      Craig Stewart & Louise Wisson  
(Bromham)

#### **Funeral:**

16th May      Jean Clifton (Bromham)

#### **Burials of Ashes:**

15th May      Alan Rutter (Bromham)  
16th May      Shirley Worrall (Stagsden)  
29th May      David Bennett (Bromham)





# UNI & SONG

Community choir

## Summer Concert

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00pm**

**St Owen Church, Bromham.**

**Tickets £10 on the door.**

**Includes refreshments.**

**Raffle & proceeds in aid of**

**Bedford Hospital's Blossom Service**

**Reservations recommended! ...**

**Call 01234 826551**



**'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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### **Columba of Iona, missionary to the UK commemorated on 9<sup>th</sup> June**

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a



fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

*Here is a prayer of St Columba:*

Christ With Us

My dearest Lord,

Be Thou a bright flame before me,

Be Thou a guiding star above me,

Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,

Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,

Today and evermore.

---

God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with.

We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. - *Billy Graham*

*Editor: civil war in Sudan and South Sudan makes into our news media from time to time. Meanwhile UN Agencies, UK Government and several international aid agencies, including Red Cross, Save the Children and MSF are struggling to bring relief to the homeless and starving. This article by Tim Lenton gives some of the background to this ongoing tragedy.*

## **The back story to what is happening in Sudan**

Some 125 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1899, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan was established. It was granted independence in 1956 as the Republic of Sudan, and South Sudan gained its independence in 2011.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan, resulting in the displacement of more than 8.6 million people. There are now an estimated 25 million people in need of aid in Sudan.

Northern Sudan and southern Egypt were together once known as Nubia, one of the world's most ancient civilisations, referred to in the Bible as Cush. After 1899, despite being nominally independent, Sudan's sovereignty and administration were nominally shared between Egypt and Great Britain, with Britain having by far the greater influence and power.

After Egypt shook off Britain's domination following the revolution of 1952, it pushed for the independence of Sudan (a much larger country), and this was quickly agreed. But things very soon went wrong in the new state, starting with two civil wars – the first ending in 1972, and the second lasting from 1983 to 2005 – and continuing with the War in Darfur (2003-2020).

Darfur is a region of western Sudan, and the war there is in

effect still continuing as a more general genocidal war against non-Arabs. Christians are a persecuted minority, and hunger is a problem.

Similar vicious fighting has plagued South Sudan, which has a much stronger Christian presence but has endured its own multi-sided civil war. It has been calculated that one in three people in the country have been displaced, with many more than two million escaping to neighbouring countries. Sexual violence against women and girls is commonplace.

*Tim Lenton – Parish Pump website*

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### **St Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr – commemorated on 22nd June**

Alban was the very first Christian martyr in Britain - or at least the first we know of. A 'martyr' is someone who has died for the faith - the word literally means 'witness'. He was probably killed during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian in the early years of the fourth century, in the late stages of the Roman occupation of Britain. His martyrdom took place in the amphitheatre outside the Roman city of Verulamium, which is now St Albans, in Hertfordshire.

The church historian Bede, writing six hundred years after Alban's death, records that Alban was a Roman citizen (possibly a soldier) who gave shelter to a priest who was being hunted by the Romans. During the priest's stay in his home, Alban was converted to the Christian faith. When the soldiers eventually tracked the priest down, they arrived at Alban's house and insisted on searching it. What they found was Alban dressed in the priest's clothes, while their real prey escaped. They arrested Alban and demanded that he make a sacrifice to the Emperor - a common test of loyalty. He

refused. He was then condemned to death and taken into the amphitheatre, which still stands in the fields below St Alban's Abbey, to be put to death. One of his executioners was converted, Bede claims, but the other one took a sword and beheaded him.

He was buried nearby, on a site where a shrine was later erected. In the early fifth century two Continental bishops, Germanus of Auxerre and Lupus of Troyes, were sent to Britain and record that they visited the shrine of Alban at Verulamium. The date of their visit was given as 429.

The martyrdom of Alban is a reminder that Christianity was planted first in these islands during the Roman occupation, though it was all but extinguished in England in the dark centuries that followed, until people like David, Cuthbert and the other Celtic missionaries restored the faith in many parts of the land - especially in the north. The fact that his shrine existed and was venerated right through to the time of Bede also demonstrates that the faith did not die out completely, even in the south of England.

Not a great deal is known about Alban apart from the story of his martyrdom, but what we do know is probably enough to give him a substantial claim to be the patron saint of England ahead of the foreigner St George. *Parish Pump website*

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### **Watching birds is positively good for you**

So says a new study out of North Carolina State University. It goes on to say that watching birds is even more beneficial to us than watching other forms of wildlife.

The new study found that birdwatchers' recorded 'distress' levels dropped by 13.7 per cent, compared to that of nature-walkers' at 6.9 per cent. The study suggests that the reason may be that birds provide their own narrative and sense of

**To the Cuckoo** - *William Wordsworth*

O blithe New-comer! I have heard,  
I hear thee and rejoice.  
O Cuckoo! shall I call thee Bird,  
Or but a wandering Voice?  
While I am lying on the grass  
Thy twofold shout I hear;  
From hill to hill it seems to pass,  
At once far off, and near.  
Though babbling only to the Vale  
Of sunshine and of flowers,  
Thou bringest unto me a tale  
Of visionary hours.  
Thrice welcome, darling of the Spring!  
Even yet thou art to me  
No bird, but an invisible thing,  
A voice, a mystery;  
The same whom in my school-boy days  
I listened to; that Cry  
Which made me look a thousand ways  
In bush, and tree, and sky.  
To seek thee did I often rove  
Through woods and on the green;  
And thou wert still a hope, a love;  
Still longed for, never seen.  
And I can listen to thee yet;  
Can lie upon the plain  
And listen, till I do beget  
That golden time again.  
O blessèd Bird! the earth we pace  
Again appears to be  
An unsubstantial, faery place;  
That is fit home for Thee!

drama, which  
can be enough to  
lift someone  
watching them  
out of the  
everyday.

The author and  
presenter Kate  
Humble agrees.

"There is  
something  
reassuring about  
life continuing  
and nature just  
getting on with  
it, even if it feels  
like the rest of  
the world is  
falling to bits.  
Birdwatching  
makes me feel  
part of a bigger,  
richer, beautiful  
picture."

"Birds give me  
an excuse to  
explore and find  
some solitude  
and calmness  
away from the  
bustle of life,"  
says James  
Lowen, author.



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind

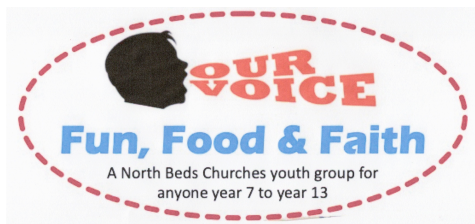
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Sudoku -  
medium

Solution on  
page 31

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

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**Saturday 8th June**

5-6.30pm

The Fellowship Centre

Clapham

MK41 6ER

contact us at

[ourvoicetoo@gmail.com](mailto:ourvoicetoo@gmail.com)

**Plus Special Event**



## The Greatest Commandment

Youth-led Service

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June

4-5pm

Clapham Parish Church



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

**MAY 2024**

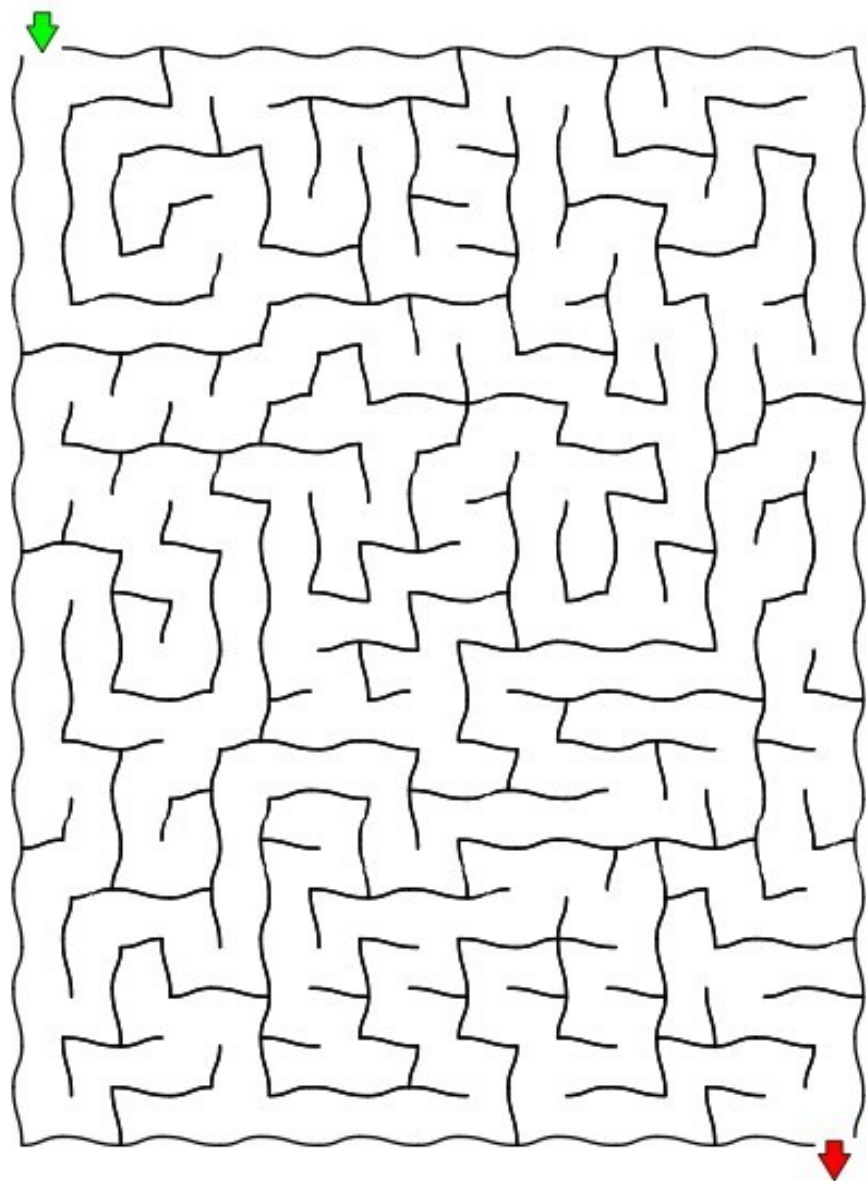
First Prize: Terry Rooke

Second Prize: Michael Rooke

Third Prize: Katrina Louca

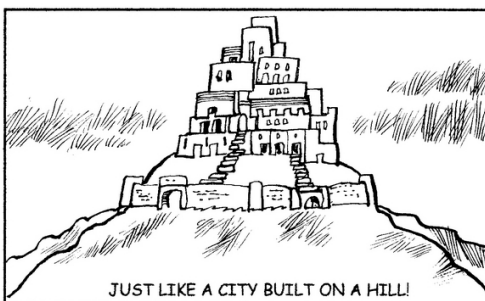
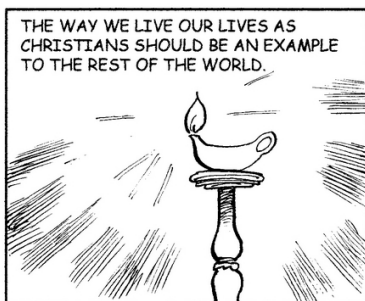
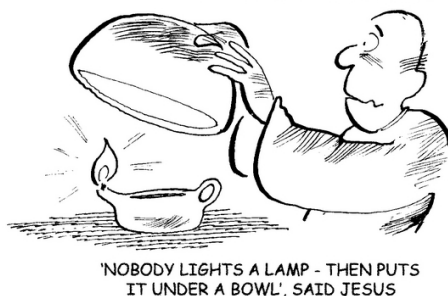
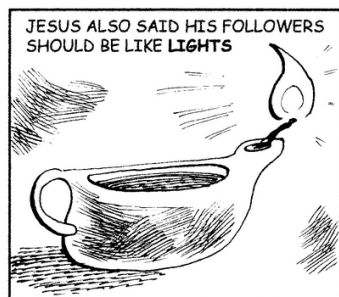
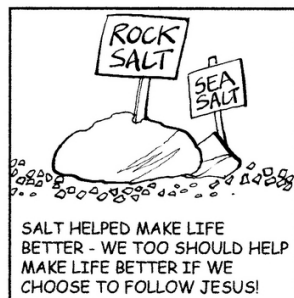
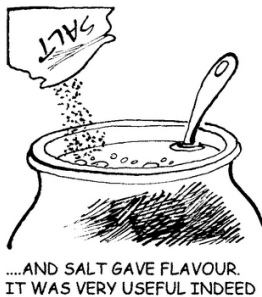
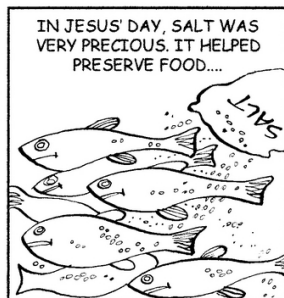
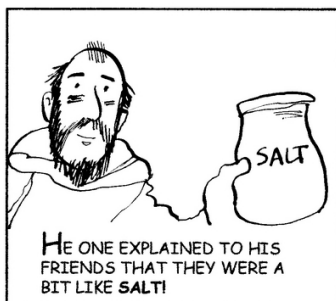
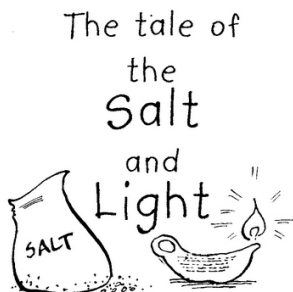
Fourth Prize: Lorna Holland

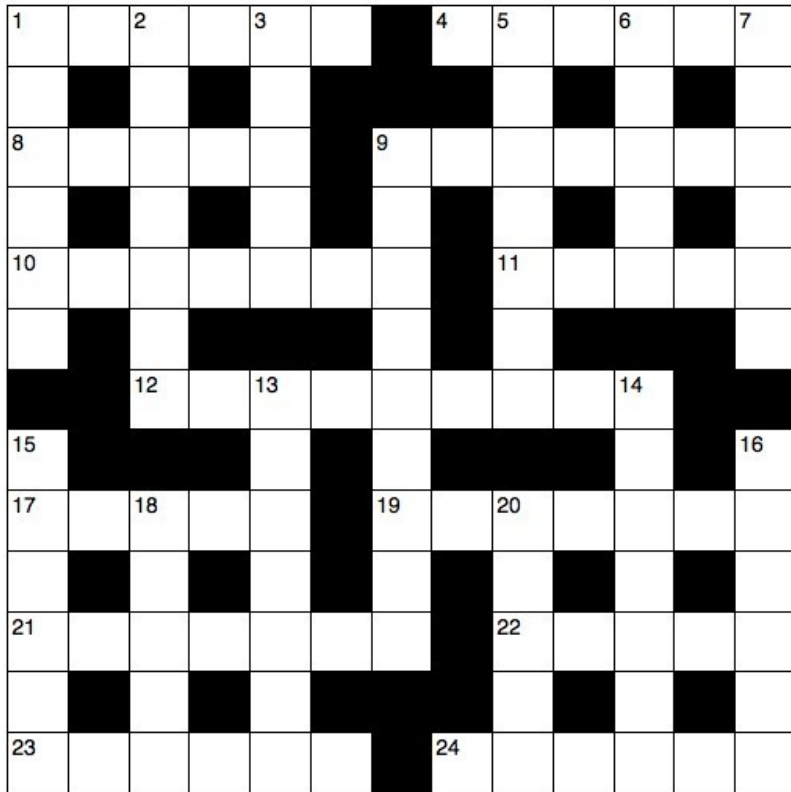
Can you find your way from top to bottom?





## For younger readers.....





### Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)

- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

### **Down**

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

*Solution on page 31*

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

### **‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Johannes S Bach**

‘Surprised by Joy’ is the title C S Lewis gave to his spiritual autobiography. To him, joy meant not just the name of the woman he eventually married, but also an awareness of God’s glory and goodness. It was something that, like Wordsworth, he experienced in childhood, and later in his thirties when his faith was relit. That experience of joy Jesus shared with His disciples at the Last Supper: it is a word that permeates chapters 16 and 17 of St John’s Gospel.

And it is a word that lies at the heart of the music of J S Bach. Whenever he set Freude, the German word for joy, his music rises to a new level of movement and excitement. The joy is there, not just as a word set to music, but as the heart and life of all his compositions. Almost a thousand works with many for church worship: two Passions, three oratorios, six motets, a Magnificat, a great mass setting, nearly 200 church cantatas, 143 chorale preludes for organ, and dozens of other works – and that is just the music we have, for much has been lost.

When Bach moved to Leipzig in 1723, he had the task as choirmaster of composing cantatas for each Sunday of the year for five years, as well as looking after the choir, teaching, and tending his own family. And all with a reduced salary and social status, dreary living conditions, and a choir that was ill-fed and badly housed. The miracle is that he produced work of such beauty and wonder and grace. There is a logic and a technical precision behind his music, but also a living pulse. One moment he can reach into the depths of the soul as it faces the realities of sin, death and judgment. The next, it is ecstasy and joy at the birth and resurrection of Christ.

## **Do you forget where your keys or wallet are?**

It may be irritating, but don't worry – it does not mean that you are losing your memory. Instead, it is merely your brain forgetting them on purpose, so that it can store other information.

That is the verdict of two academics whose book *The Psychology of Memory*, sets out to explain why we forget some things that we assume we should always know.

Dr Megan Sumeracki and Dr Althea Kaminske argue that storing and retrieving information is far more complicated than people think.

Dr Kaminske of Indiana University School of Medicine said: "Because we are most aware of our memory when we have trouble remembering something, our intuitions about how memory works might be a little biased.

"For example, I spend an embarrassing amount of time looking for my phone, water bottle, and keys. You may be unsurprised to learn that our memory systems are not necessarily designed to remember where we put our phones. Or keys. Or water bottles.

Co-author Dr Sumeracki of Rhode Island College added: "A degree of forgetting is natural to allow the brain to remember more general information. Memory does not work like a recording device, they say, but 'more like a Wiki page' because details can be edited." *Parish Pump website*

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## **Advice to young clergy on preaching**

'Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.'



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## Lost in translation

A certain vicar had a kindly, pastoral heart. He often wrote little notes to any parishioners in distress, assuring them of his prayers. Then came the day he heard that one of his favourite old ladies in the church had been injured in a bad fall. The vicar felt so much sympathy that he wanted to add a note of pastoral affection. He thought of the little postscript that his young niece always added to her emails to him, which he took as a sign of her affection, and decided to add that to this note.

It read: "Dear Mrs Gantry, I am told that you fell down the stairs, broke both legs, and may be in hospital for some weeks. This is just to assure you that you are much in my thoughts." Then he added the postscript: LOL. (Hopefully she didn't know what that stood for either!)

---

Solution to puzzle  
on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle  
on page 26

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

## **All in the month of June**

It was:

200 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1824, that a London vicar, Arthur Broome, and some 22 of his friends, including the MP William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner) met at Old Slaughters Coffee House to found the SPCA - the first national animal protection society in the world. By 1840 Queen Victoria had given permission for it to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

125 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1899 that Anglo-Egyptian Sudan was established. It was granted independence in 1956 as the Republic of Sudan. South Sudan gained its independence in 2011. On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan, resulting in the displacement of more than 8.6 million people. There are currently about 25 million people in need of aid in Sudan.

100 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1924 that George Mallory, British mountaineer, disappeared on Mount Everest. His body was found in 1999.

90 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1934 was the Night of the Long Knives: Hitler's execution of a number of senior Nazi officials and hundreds of other (perceived) political opponents.

80 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 that D-Day and the Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Allied victory.

Also 80 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1944 that Germany launched the first V-1 flying bomb ('doodlebug') attack on London. 9,521 V-1s were fired at London and south-east England during the war.



75 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1949 that George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was published.

70 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1954 that Alan Turing, British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, and computer scientist died. Noted for his contributions to code-breaking during World War 2. Considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. Prosecuted for his homosexuality.

60 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1964 that the Beatles' first world tour was held. Over two months they played 30 concerts in seven countries, beginning in Copenhagen.

50 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1974 that chemists at the University of California, Irvine, published the first report that warned that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) could damage the Earth's ozone layer. CFCs were widely used in refrigerators, air conditioning systems and as aerosol propellants.

40 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 1984 that Indian government troops stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, which was being held by a Sikh militant group. More than 1,000 people were killed, including the group's leader. The resulting anger and fighting led to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Ghandi that autumn.

30 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1994 that Brian Lara scored 501 not out while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. It is the only individual score of 500 or more in first-class cricket history.

25 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1999 that former British cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken was sentenced to 18 months in prison for perjury and perverting the course of justice. He served seven months, and is the only British cabinet minister to have been imprisoned.

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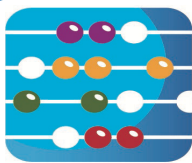
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