

# *Church News*

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



**June 2025**



*Need a plumber at any time?  
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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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	Mrs F Bulmer	602718
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vivien Butler	407351
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Sarah Smale	07957 126145

	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**

1st June

9.00am

10.30am

7th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

8th June

9.00am

10.30am

Pentecost

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

LEP Service with Holy Communion  
(Oakley)

6.00pm

Evensong (Bromham)

15th June

9.00am

10.30am

Trinity Sunday

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

22nd June

9.00am

10.30am

1st Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

29th June

10.30am

2nd Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

## **Weekday Services**

Mondays

11.30am

Messy Church (Bromham)

Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am

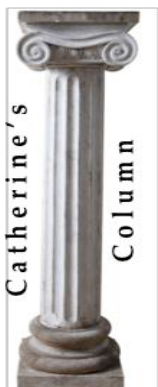
Holy Communion (Bromham FR)

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))



## *From the Vicarage*

It all started with an email two years ago, inviting me to consider taking Extended Study Leave (aka 'a sabbatical') during or after 2024 as it would then be 10 years since I was ordained. Last summer I began to think more carefully about the

possibility, and to explore ideas for what it could include. An online meeting followed in the autumn with the Director of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese, to outline my thoughts and gain approval to go forward, and the planning began in earnest. Fast forward eight months and here we are – in not many days I will step back from the busy-ness of being a vicar for three months.

I am excited to have the chance to do something different – to be heading off to Devon, to London and to Cambridge for a variety of activities. I'm also happily anticipating some holiday, time with family, and a chance just to be at home without a full diary to manage each day. There will be challenges too – living in London's East End for 4 weeks will involve learning to use London Transport efficiently, helping at a drop-in centre and food bank, and working and praying with new colleagues, all in a very different cultural context. And later in Cambridge I'll be listening to lectures and asking

my brain to engage with Biblical Studies for 2 weeks!

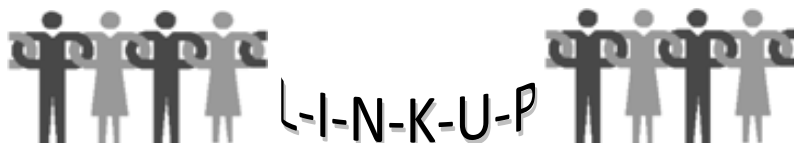
When months of planning finally come to fruition I feel a sense of achievement, that the effort has produced a result. Of course, along the way there were changes to my ESL plans, as I looked into different ideas and then how they would fit together, but now I hope everything is in place, and it all begins on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

An old Jewish proverb goes something like this: 'People plan. God laughs.' We all too often behave as though we are in control and decide what we will do, and are then surprised when God's way turns out to be different. Tim and I became Joint Rural Deans of Sharnbrook Deanery last week – something neither of us was expecting or seeking. But as we explored the idea, it became clear that this was God's plan for us now, to begin a new role alongside our existing ones.

The Bible has many things to say about God's plans for our lives, and one of my favourite verses is this: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29 v11). We like to decide what we're going to do, but our Father God has a plan for each of us too, and sometimes that is different. Faith means trusting that God's way is the best, and being willing to follow where he leads us.

Have a good summer, and I will see you in September with lots to share – God willing!

*Catherine*



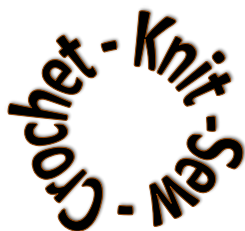
Next meeting - **Thursday 12th June**

2.30pm - 4.30pm

For further 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  
Frances on 07470 032296



### **Teas in Church**

**at St Mary's**

New Season begins

Sunday 1st June

3.30 - 5.00pm

### **First Friday Coffee Mornings**

Next coffee morning on Fri 6th June

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

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



## **New Rural Deans of Sharnbrook**

The Church of England is structured around individual parishes in an area known as a Diocese, which has a Bishop; within a Diocese there are smaller areas known as Archdeaconries which have Archdeacons to oversee and support them. However an Archdeaconry is still quite a large area, so parishes are grouped into smaller areas known as Deaneries which generally consist of around 10 clergy. The clergy meet regularly together as a Chapter for mutual support and encouragement, and to discuss various issues, and each parish elects lay representatives to the Deanery Synod which supports parishes in their mission and ministry.

Our benefice is in the Diocese of St Albans, the Archdeaconry of Bedford, and the Deanery of Sharnbrook.

A Deanery is led by a Rural Dean (one of the local parish clergy) who co-ordinates Chapter meetings, and who, together with the Lay Chair, organises Synod meetings and liaises with the Archdeacon and Bishop regularly. The current Rural Dean of Sharnbrook Deanery, Revd Stephen Liley, stepped down at the end of May, and this role is being taken on jointly by Revds Catherine and Tim Wilson, who will also continue in their current parish roles.

Please pray for them as they begin this new area of ministry.

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What makes life dreary is absence of motive. What makes life complicated is multiplicity of motive. What makes life victorious is singleness of motive. - *George Eliot*

But do not confuse multiplicity of task with multiplicity of motive! - *Editor*



*Rt Revd Richard Atkinson  
Bishop of Bedford*

### **Riverside service marks step of faith for four adults**

On Saturday 10 May, two adults were baptised by full immersion in the River Rib, and two others reaffirmed their baptismal promises, in a service led by Bishop Richard in the United Benefice of Standon, the Mundens and Sacombe.

Following a recent course held in the parish, two candidates came forward for baptism. They were joined by two others who wished to make a public commitment to Christ by reaffirming the promises made for them when they were



baptised as infants.

The service took place in spring sunshine, with around 70 people gathered on the riverbank. They joined in singing, took part in the liturgy and offered encouragement as the baptisms took place. The crowd included several people who do not usually attend church, drawn in to mark the occasion.

Dean and Emily, Sue and Lewis were all immersed in the River Rib and later confirmed in the church by Bishop Richard.

The Revd John Chitham, Rector of the United Benefice of Standon, the Mundens and Sacombe, said:

“We have the great joy of a chalk stream (the River Rib) running through Standon. Three years ago, we had some adult candidates for baptism and discussed the possibility of baptism by immersion with them, following the biblical pattern.

Rather than bring a baptistry into the church, it seemed obvious to explore whether the river could be used. Fortunately, not far downstream from the church, there is a place where children have swum for generations. It has proved very suitable for baptisms, with both a gathering place and an easy entrance into deep water”

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*With Trinity Sunday in mind:*

Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered this problem and no one has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have invented. It must be a revelation. - G H Lang

## **Retirement of Bishop Alan**

In his last letter to the Diocese Bishop Alan wrote:

As I look back on my years here, I increasingly realise the debt that I owe you. Thank you for your dedication and witness to the Gospel, much of which is unseen and often goes unacknowledged. You have taught me so much about what it is to be a Christian today.

I look back in thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, but I also want to look forward with hope to all that lies ahead. Farewells and partings are painful experiences, but sadness is not the dominant theme. The New Testament is laden with yearning for the coming of God's Kingdom, for His rule and reign to be fully revealed, for the day when evil will be finally vindicated and love will be seen to have triumphed.

We live in a world disfigured by war and violence. Poverty and disease are all around us. Yet we worship a God who is at work in His creation and who invites us to respond to the working of the Holy Spirit. Someone once said, "Pray as if everything depends on God, and work as if everything depends on you." It is that deep prayer to which we are called and, in response, to give our lives in God's service.

As I bid you farewell, I pray God's continued blessing upon this wonderful diocese, inspired by the costly example of St Alban.

Please pray for me, as I pray for you.

+Alan

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### ***And with Pentecost in mind:***

To be filled with the Spirit is to have the Spirit fulfilling in us all that God intended him to do when he placed him there. - *Lewis S Chafer*



## **31<sup>st</sup> May - Day of Pentecost: Whit Sunday**

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man

*Continued on next page*

who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

*Parish Pump website*

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### **Open Doors**

St Leonard's

Stagsden

Every Tuesday

3.00 - 4.30pm

All welcome for refreshments & fellowship

St Owen's

Bromham

Next date

Saturday 21st June

10.00am - 12 noon

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### **Fellowship Lunch**

**Sunday 1st June**

**at 28 Bridge End, 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





**SUMMER**

**CONCERT**

**FRIDAY 13TH JUNE**

**7pm, St Owen Church, Bromham  
Entry £10 . Raffle and refreshments**

**Reservations recommended,  
contact Edward on 01234 826551**

in support of



**Because no one  
should face death  
or grief alone**

*Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that God is Trinity.*

## **The Nicene Creed: Who is God?**

*'We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.'*

2025 sees the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. We use it at Communion services, but how much notice do we take of the words? In this new series we are looking at what it means to believe in God as Trinity.

**We believe:** In Greek, the Creed begins *'we believe'* (in Latin, *'I believe.'*). It was formulated at the time of Arius, who declared that Jesus was the first and greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father. His teaching proved so damaging that the Emperor Constantine called an ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325) to clarify the core beliefs for all Christians.

**in one God:** We believe in a God who is both one and Trinity: *'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one'* (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the Old Testament God, who we know through the life and work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are to worship Him alone and not people or things.

**the Father, the Almighty:** God is both the almighty Creator and loving Father: *'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name'* (Matt 6:9). Although the Father of all that exists, He is specifically Father to those who are His children through their faith in Jesus.

**maker of heaven and earth:** God comes before anything that was created, and Creation is His alone: *'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty'* (Genesis 1:1,2). The implication is that He created *'ex*

*Continued on next page*

*nihilo*’ ie out of nothing. He is one God who is unchangeable, lacking in nothing and the source of all that exists.

*of all that is, seen and unseen:* God did not just create the physical universe, but also the spiritual powers: *‘For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.’* (Colossians 1:16). Reality is more than what we can see, smell, taste, touch or measure.

The Creed establishes the ‘big picture’ of who God is and challenges our commitment to Him. *How do these opening words of the Nicene Creed speak to us today?*

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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



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.



Link Up VE Day lunch organised by Tessa and Frances.

Around 20 people enjoyed a lovely lunch!



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## Ordination season is underway

Every summer the C of E ordains its new deacons and priests.

The services are traditionally held during Petertide (29<sup>th</sup> June), a feast day that remembers the martyrdom of Saint Peter. He was the fisherman who became a devoted disciple of Jesus, and who then went on to be an instrumental figure

*Continued on next page*

in the early Church in Jerusalem.

Although the ordinations this summer will be held in a variety of cathedrals across the country, those being ordained will have certain important things in common:

- They will have felt called by God to serve as a deacon or priest.
- They will have passed a rigorous selection process.
- They will have completed a two-to-three-year training course (diploma or degree) at one of the theological education institutes (TEIs) based around the country.

And so here they are now – called, accepted, trained and soon to be set apart for this specialised ministry. If you know a deacon or a priest, pray for them and their families this month, as they begin a lifetime of public service to God.

*Parish Pump website*

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### **From the Registers**

#### **Funerals:**

14th May     Nancy Smith (Bromham)

28th May     Sylvia Guerin (Oakley)

#### **Burial/Burial of Ashes:**

3rd May     Margaret Smith (Bromham)

13th May     June Allen (Bromham)

#### **Crematorium Service:**

22nd May     Jan Kuszlewicz (Oakley)



## **The work of the Prebend Support Hub**

An explanation and thanks for our support:

**Dear Catherine Wilson,**

We just wanted to take a moment to say thank you.

Because of your regular support, we've been able to make a real difference at the Prebend Centre—and beyond. Your ongoing commitment means that people experiencing homelessness don't just get through the day—they begin to rebuild their lives.

Here's what your support has helped us achieve over the last financial year:

☐ **1,300 breakfasts served** – Every weekday, people arrived to a warm space and a proper breakfast. It's more than food—it's a sign that someone cares.

☐ **5,980 hot lunches** – For those who don't know where their next meal is coming from, this is a lifeline.

☐ **3,840 support sessions and 1,203 prevention sessions** – These one-to-one conversations often spark the first steps toward recovery and stability.

☐ **2,860 showers** – A chance to feel human again. To get clean, get warm, and get ready for what's next.

☐ **670 medical sessions** – Vital GP and nurse appointments for people who might otherwise go without.

☐ **624 volunteer-led sessions** – Games, quizzes, chats, and a sense of community that reminds people they're not alone.

☐ And thanks to your support, we've been able to kit out our kitchen and keep it stocked with fresh ingredients via FareShare—so every meal we serve is both filling and nutritious.



But your impact doesn't end there. This year we opened our female only support clinic. The only one of its kind in our area.

### **Getting Away from the Streets**

Some of the women we meet through outreach or at Prebend Centre don't sleep rough in doorways or parks. Many are hidden—sofa surfing, or spending nights with people who expect something in return.

At SMART, we're creating ways out.

We offer a women-only drop-in space—somewhere quiet, safe, and welcoming. It's a place to talk, and access medical support without judgement. A place to get clean clothes, food, and the support to make decisions about what's next. This might seem small from the outside—but it can change everything.

At Rogers Court, we've hosted **52 breakfast mornings**, delivered **252 in-depth support sessions**, and helped **6 residents move on to stable homes**.

Through our outreach team, we've connected with **443 people sleeping rough**—offering food, water, and the first steps towards safety and support.

We know times are tough for all of us right now. As the number of people facing homelessness continues to rise, there are days we feel out of our depth—wondering how we can keep going. And then your donation arrives. It reminds us that we're not alone. That others really care too.

We want you to know that every penny you give is spent prudently and in the best possible place. That's our commitment to you. What you give is more than just money—it's the push we need to keep going, to take those steps so that others can take theirs toward a better future.

We couldn't do any of this without you. Thank you for being part of this work. *Shirley*

# FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

MAY 2025

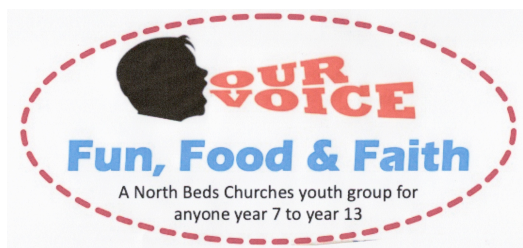
1st prize	Amanda Young
2nd prize	Terry Rooke
3rd prize	Rosemary Franklin
4th prize	Rene Farquhar

**Sudoku -  
Easy**

Solution on  
page 33

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

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**Next meeting**  
**Saturday 14th June**  
5 - 6.30pm  
The Fellowship Centre  
Clapham  
MK41 6ER

**PLUS - Youth led service at 4pm on Sat 14th June**  
in Clapham Parish Church  
for more info contact us at [ourvoicetoo@gmail.com](mailto:ourvoicetoo@gmail.com)

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### **Remember, Remember**

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

The July edition will become our Summer Edition.

So, if you wish to advertise an event in early September send me details by 22nd June - *Editor*



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### **Beware of the new Amazon scam.**

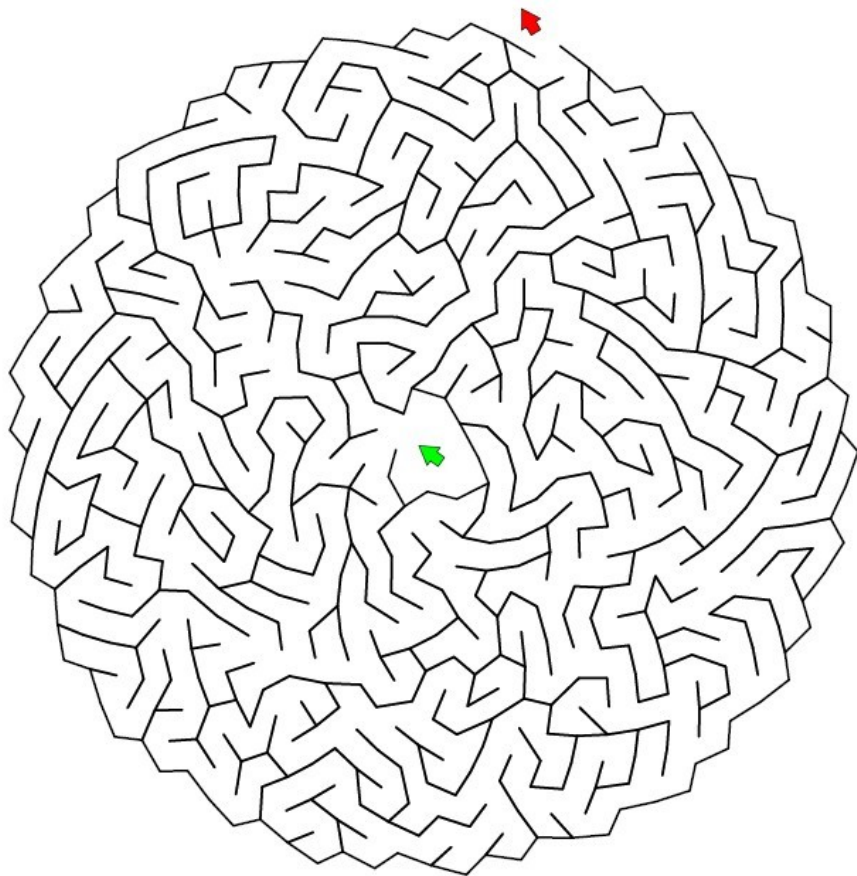


I asked my husband to order me some expensive jewellery, but motorcycle parts came instead!



Thankfully, they fit his bike!!

Can you find your way out from the middle?



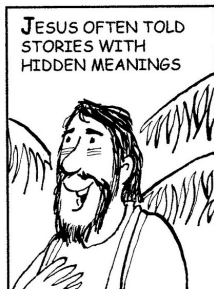
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### Sweets

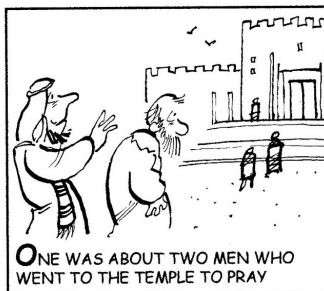
I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

## For younger readers.....

### The Tale of the TWO MEN SAYING THEIR PRAYERS



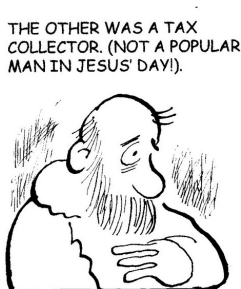
JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO  
WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY



ONE WAS A PHARISEE  
(A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)



THE OTHER WAS A TAX  
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR  
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).



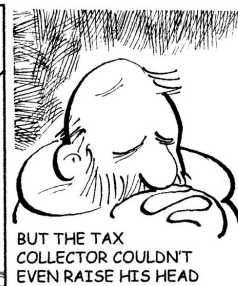
THE PHARISEE BEGAN  
TO PRAY



WHAT A GREAT CHAP I  
AM! I NEVER DO  
ANYTHING WRONG!!



I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF,  
ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL,  
LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!



BUT THE TAX  
COLLECTOR COULDN'T  
EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD



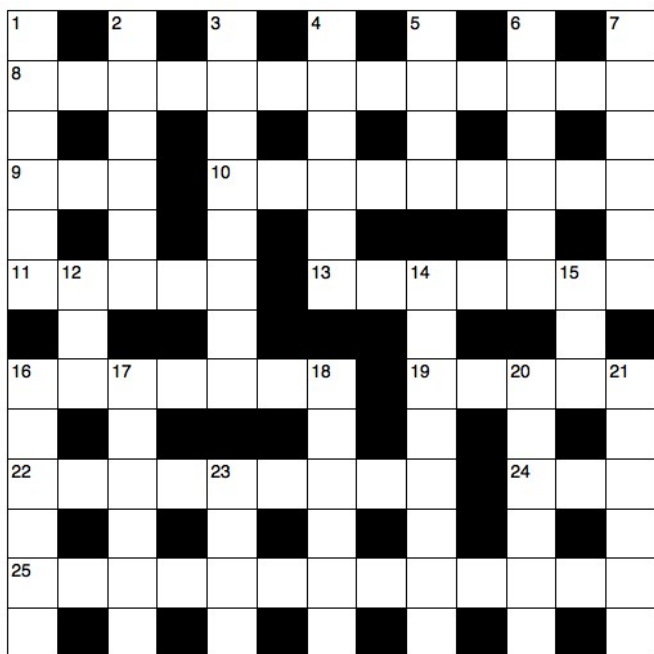
DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY!  
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR  
ALL THE WRONG THINGS  
I HAVE DONE.



IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR,  
NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE  
PRAYERS WERE HEARD!



JESUS EXPLAINED -  
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU  
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE'.



### Across

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)

9 In favour of (3)

10 'The child's father and mother ----- at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors ----- him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to ---- out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land" (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

### **Down**

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and ----- sceptre will pass away' (Zecharia 10:11) (6)

2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in ----- with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)

4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)

5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6-12) (4)

6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)

7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set ----' (Jeremiah 31:50) (6)

12 Ate (anag.) (3)

14 'We ourselves ...groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our ---- as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)

17 'Yet to all who received him....he gave the right to ---- children of God' (John 1:12) (6)

18 'I....asked him the true meaning of all ---- , -- he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)

20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)

21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to ---- her to public disgrace (Matthew 1:19) (6)

23 Diva (anag.) (4)

*Solution on page 33*

*The Revd Michael Burgess surveys various works of sacred art that can be found in various museums...you can see the image by searching on-line using the title of the painting and the artist.*

**He gave us eyes to see them: El Greco's 'The Tears of St Peter'**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century John Bowes, the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore, built a museum in the French style, with landscaped gardens, at Barnard Castle in Teesdale. He bequeathed it 800 paintings, including a previously unknown Van Dyck.

But visitors to the Bowes Museum often make a beeline for its amazing 18<sup>th</sup> century silver swan automaton. As the music plays, there is the illusion of flowing water: the swan preens itself, bends down and catches a fish in the water. It is a thrill and a joy to watch.

At the other extreme and striking a different mood and emotion is El Greco's painting of 1580: 'The Tears of St Peter.' It was reluctantly purchased in 1869 for a price less than that paid for the monkey puzzle tree in the grounds outside.

The gospels tell us that St Peter wept bitterly when he heard the cock crow, as he had denied knowing Jesus three times. El Greco shows the saint, his eyes welling with those tears of betrayal,



*Continued on next page*



kneeling and turning to heaven for forgiveness. The sky is overcast, reflecting the sad scene below, and we can see ivy growing as a sign of the constancy so lacking in Peter's life.

At the Last Supper he had been the opposite: ready to follow, brave and generous with his words. But Peter leaves Jesus to drink the cup of sorrow alone in Gethsemane. In the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself by the fire, he utters that threefold denial. This was the lowest moment in his life, when instead of being solid rock, he showed that he was merely shifting sand.

And then the wonder and glory of Easter. We glimpse it in the background of the painting with the angel and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. And we know that everything changes for Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Like the silver swan in the Bowes Museum looking for fish, the disciples have returned to their old way of life.

But it is the risen Lord who directs them to a marvellous catch, and the charcoal fire of betrayal in the courtyard is now the charcoal fire of breakfast, a new day, and a new way of life for Peter. No denial now – he answers the three questions of our Lord positively and realises that he is loved by Jesus in his failure and weakness. It might have seemed the end for Peter in the courtyard, but the risen Lord comes to tell him 'I make all things new' and that includes you.

Peter is often known as the stumbling saint. Here, in El Greco's painting, he has stumbled and fallen to his knees in prayer. We celebrate St Peter at the end of this month. As we look at him, we know ourselves to be as weak and fearful. But the Lord comes to us as He comes to Peter. He lifts us up and puts us back on our feet again. With Peter, we know Him as our crucified and risen Lord.

*David Pickup, a solicitor, considers what might happen to your Facebook page when you die.*

### **What about Facebook after you die?**

*The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death' (Isaiah 57:1-2 NIV)*

What happens to our Facebook page when we die is probably the last thing on most of our minds. However, many people have an 'online presence' such as Facebook pages, Linked-in, email accounts, Instagram and all sorts of bank accounts and website pages. Who can get access to that information?

Depending on the type of account, a relative or friend might want to close it, retrieve information or images or preserve it in some way. Making a Will is an opportunity to make a clear decision about what happens to things you own, and this includes something electronic and who carries out your wishes.

According to Facebook, you can choose to either appoint a legacy contact to look after your account, or have your account permanently deleted from Facebook. If you do not choose to have your account permanently deleted, it will be memorialised if Facebook are told about the death. Memorialised accounts are a place for friends and family to gather and share memories after a person has passed away.

Google encourages people to think about these issues and they have something called an Inactive Account Manager to let them know who should have access to your information, and whether you want your account to be deleted.

They recognise that many people pass away without leaving clear instructions about how to manage their online accounts.

They work with immediate family members and representatives to close the account of a deceased person where appropriate. In certain circumstances they may provide content from a deceased user's account.

The best advice is to think carefully and make choices about what happens in the event of your passing, and carefully select someone you trust to do this. As ever this is a light-hearted introduction and if in any doubt get proper advice. Different companies have different policies and procedures so always check carefully.

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## Are bananas really good for you?

On the one hand, bananas offer good things. They count as one of your five a day, carry only about 90 calories, and are packed with the essential mineral potassium (good in lowering blood pressure.) But they are not perfect...

So, here are some pros and cons of bananas:

**Pros:** High in potassium, good for heart health, lowers blood pressure, has Vitamin C, helps digestion, provides energy, full of fibre, cholesterol-free.

**Cons:** Can raise potassium levels too much (avoid them if you have kidney disease), can lead to wind and bloating, cause blood sugar spikes, weight gain, and disrupt sleep.

Overall, experts recommend eating no more than two bananas a day.

*Parish Pump website*

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Solution to puzzle on  
page 22

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

Solution to puzzle  
on page 26

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

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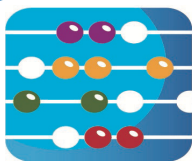
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