



Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



March 2023



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 **facebook** Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

Clergy:

Vicar: Revd Catherine Wilson 825665
vicar@bromhambenefice.org
Assistant Priest: Revd Di Harpham 918691
Curate: Revd Petra Yates - curate@bromhambenefice.org 07504 118405

Benefice Administration

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

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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 Emma Harrison	823121

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams

Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers
Mrs Suzi Webb 07967 311628

Altar Guild Mrs M Parrott 824402

Who's Who in Bromham cont....

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

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Mrs C Ord	823477
PCC Treasurer	Mrs S Ball	823133
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

5th March

9.00am

10.30am

2nd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

12th March

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

3rd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion (Stagsden or Oakley)¹

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Evensong (Bromham)

19th March

9.00am

10.30am

4th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion (Stagsden or Bromham)¹

All Age Mothering Sunday Service

(Bromham)

4.30pm

Wild Church (Bromham Scout Site)

26th March

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

Passion Sunday

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Evensong by Zoom

¹ At St Leonard's if heating problems resolved

Weekday Services

Mondays

11.30am

Messy Church (Bromham)

Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am

Holy Communion (Bromham
Fellowship Room)

Thursdays

10.00am

Messy Church (Oakley)

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

From the Vicarage



Although we have been back from Australia for 5 weeks now, and our wonderful holiday has become a happy memory, we are being kept in touch with our grandson's progress through WhatsApp. We regularly receive pictures and little videos, especially now that Henry has started to discover solid food.

'Solid' is a bit of a misnomer for the pureed fruit and vegetables he is being introduced to, and the first few pictures showed his beaming face covered in puree, not to mention the bib, the highchair, his head, hands and arms, and his parents' hands as well. What a mess!

A suitable amount of mess was created at the Youth group pancake party on Shrove Tuesday too. Batter was mixed enthusiastically and spooned into frying pans, and various toppings applied liberally to the finished products which were then consumed with much enjoyment – and considerable stickiness!

Lent gives us a chance to look at the mess we all create – not simply with food, or in a lack of tidiness perhaps, but in our lives as we consistently get things wrong however hard we try not to. The mess that results is usually in our relationships: with others when someone is upset or hurt by us, or with ourselves as we realise what we've done, and have to come to terms with our failure. Above all, we spoil our

relationship with God when we don't live the way he calls us to.

So what can we do about our messiness? A pack of baby wipes, or a bath in extreme circumstances, will sort out Henry; the dishwasher and plenty of hot water and cloths meant we could leave the Fellowship Room looking pristine. If only spoiled relationships could be restored so easily, and we could forgive ourselves as well as asking forgiveness of others and of God.

This year's Lent booklet of daily readings is called 'Dust and Glory' and invites us on a journey of 'faith, failure and forgiveness' through daily readings and reflections. It 'encourages us to take a fresh look at [our] ...failings... and seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them'. If you didn't pick up a paper copy from church, there may still be one available (please ask) – or you can have it delivered to your inbox – search 'Dust and Glory' to sign up.

For our Lent groups we will be using The Lectio Course. Meeting either in person in Phyllis's house, or online via Zoom, we will be finding out about the ancient practice of Lectio Divina and trying it out for ourselves, using video clips and discussion questions. Do join us and try a different approach to Bible reading – look on page 9 of this magazine for more details of times and venue.

As we think in Lent about the messiness of our lives, we can look ahead to Good Friday and Easter Day, remembering that God already has the clean-up operation sorted for us if we will pray with the Psalmist 'Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin' (Psalm 51:2).

Catherine Wilson

Ed: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

Time for some good news?

If you can't bear to watch or read the news, you're not alone.

Newly published research shows that more than seven out of ten news publishers are concerned about increasing levels of 'news avoidance.'

More and more people are turning away from the news because it's just too difficult to take. And that may present an opportunity for Christians to present our life-giving gospel message.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has published its '*Journalism, media, and technology trends and predictions 2023*' report, based on a wide-ranging survey of 303 news leaders in 53 countries. It explores the latest developments in journalism and the priorities for the year ahead.

One area of deep concern was increasing levels of 'news avoidance' with 72 per cent of publishers worried about the phenomenon. Many readers and viewers were avoiding news, especially, says the report "around important but often depressing topics like Ukraine and climate change."

Does this widespread 'news avoidance' have any messages for the Church and for Christians generally? Well, maybe two.

The first is for ourselves. How guilty are we of scrolling past bad news on our social media feed, switching off the TV or radio, or pausing a podcast when the subject matter becomes tough to take?

That's tempting to do, but it's important for Christians to be

aware of events and trends across the globe, to enable us to pray intelligently, and to be able to support organisations and people working to make the world a better place.

The second is about how we present our gospel message. We have 'good news' to proclaim, while we are living in a time when people are turning away from news of any kind, seeking instead to look for entertainment and distraction.

In our preaching, in our personal testimonies and in the wide range of ways that we communicate the gospel message of 'abundant life' through Jesus Christ, we are called to be positive and upbeat.

In a world that is turning away from bad news, we have good news to offer. Our mission is to present this good news in ways that can catch the attention of a distracted world that's tired of the gloom and looking for something better.

Benefice Lent Groups 2023

Every Wednesday in March

(ie 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th)

In person at 35 Ruffs Furze, Oakley 10.30am - 12 noon

or

on Zoom 7.00 - 8.15pm

(Link on website and will be mailed out)

We will be following the Lectio Course which includes a 15 minute video about Lectio Divina, discussion questions and a chance to try this ancient method of praying the Bible for ourselves.

All welcome, whether you've been to a Lent group before or not!

Living in Love and Faith



*Dr Alan Smith
Bishop of St Albans*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

You will have seen reports in the media about the deliberations of General Synod in early February, following the six years of listening and discerning as part of the Living in Love and Faith initiative. We know that some of you will be pleased with the outcome, whereas others will be disappointed, either that it has gone too far or that it stopped far short of what you had hoped for.

After eight hours of debates and twenty-eight amendments, all three Houses of the synod passed a motion which included an apology for our failure to welcome LGBTQI+ people into the life of the church and committed ourselves to work for the 'acceptance of every person by continuing to embed the Pastoral Principles in our life together'.

We agreed that further work needs to be undertaken on 'refining, commending and issuing Prayers of Love and Faith', which are a range of prayers that will be available for use with couples who wish to offer their relationship to God.

It is important to note that the General Synod motion does

not change the Church of England's doctrine of Holy Matrimony. The prayer material, once it has been issued for use, will be optional and no one will be obliged to use it or to do anything which goes against their conscience.

Despite strongly held differences, the debate was marked by a profound sense of listening and respect for one another.

We now need to pause and reflect, and I would urge everyone to pray that God will guide us. In particular, we need to find ways to journey together as God's people and continue in our work of Living God's Love for the sake of the world.

Please join me in prayer for our diocese and for the Church of England.

+Alan St Albans

+Richard Bedford

+Jane Hertford



From the Registers

Funerals / Memorial Service

1 st Feb	Eunice Hood (Bromham)
7 th Feb	Catherine Smith (Bromham)
23 rd Feb	Michael Tombs (Bromham)
27 th Feb	Dorothy Swann (Stagsden)

Burial of Ashes

1 st Feb	Lynn Curtis (Bromham)
14 th Feb	John Burness (Oakley)
16 th Feb	Diana Walsh (Oakley)

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his new series on the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow and deepen our faith.

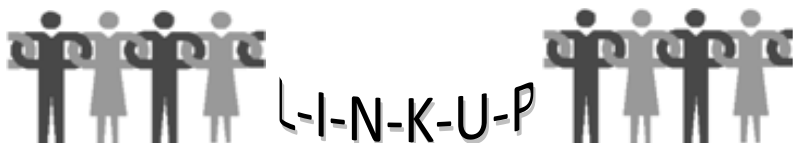
Spiritual Disciplines - Fasting

Spiritual disciplines are practices designed to help us grow as disciples of Jesus. This month we are looking at the practice of *fasting*.

Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but plays an important part in the Christian life, especially during Lent. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18).

Why Fast? Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and leads to a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to repentance, and a transformed life and a more attentive heart towards God.

How can I fast? Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, or giving more time to prayer and Bible Study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!



The next link up will be on Thursday March 9th when we will meet in the Fellowship Room at St Owen's Church

Do get in touch if you would like to join us - 822949

Anne Tombs

Coffee at St Owen's

Next coffee morning at St Owen's is on

Friday 3rd March

Spring cleaning day

at St Owen's Church

Saturday 25th March

from 10am to 3pm

Light lunch will be served.

Jobs for all abilities

All welcome.

Names please to Tessa
340089



ST OWEN'S ALTAR GUILD

Decorating St Owen's Church for Easter will take place on Holy Saturday 8 April from 10 am. Anyone who would like to help will be most welcome. Donations for the purchase of flowers will be gratefully received. *Margaret Parrott 18 Tudor Close*

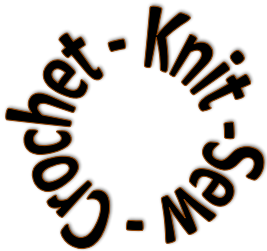
Fellowship Lunches

With the change in service times, we have decided to hold the Benefice Fellowship Bring and Share Lunches after morning service on the first Sunday of the month.

Next event - Sunday 5th February

For more information please contact Anne Tombs 01234 822949 annetombs712@btinternet.com

New sewing group



For those who wish to get together and do hand sewing, crochet or knitting. To take place on 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons 2pm to 4pm in the Fellowship Room at St Owen's Church.

Further information from Frances on 07470 032296

AMIGO - Forthcoming Events

More information, if required, from John Dixon: Tel 01234 824959 or e-mail jwdixon30@gmail.com

Tuesday 28th March 2023

A light-hearted quiz hosted by Sue Brecknock beginning at 7.30 p.m. in Oakley Methodist Church. JWD

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep: talk to the Shepherd. -
Anon



'Messy Church for All' continues this school year!

Do come and join us next on Tuesday 21st March



After school from around 3.30pm till 5.30pm
Oakley Methodist Church, High Street, Oakley MK43 7RQ

Future Dates:

May 16th, June 20th

All ages welcome - all children accompanied.

If possible, please do let us know that you can come

01234 824504 mcarr49@hotmail.com

Sessions for pre-schoolers meet in term time

Every Monday at St Owen, Bromham 11.30am – 1.30pm

and every Thursday at St Mary's, Oakley 10am -11.45am

Learn to bell-ring for King's Coronation!

The Coronation of the King and the Queen Consort will be held in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May. It will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A Palace statement has said that it will “reflect the monarch’s role today and look towards the future while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry.”

Meanwhile, in preparation for the Coronation, a national call has been made to recruit thousands of new bell ringers to ring in the new King in May.

A new website, Ring for the King, (ringforthe king.org) has been set up for this purpose by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, especially hoping to encourage young people to try their hand.



The website says that bellringing is “an activity like no other – a unique mix of physical exercise with mental agility that is a deep part of our history but still practised and evolving today.” It suggests that after ten to 15 hours of one-to-one tuition, a beginner can learn to handle a bell, use a bell rope, and begin to ring with others.

There are about 38,000 church bells, but only 30,000 ringers in the UK. The Central Council has said that while a swell of new recruits in time for the Coronation would be ‘fantastic’, “we hope that people find this new hobby, skill and social activity something they would want to continue with beyond 6th May.”

Anyone interested in “giving it a go” please contact Bob Jones 881741.

Cuthbert, beloved monk and bishop of Lindisfarne

On 20th March we remember Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (c 634-87) who has long been northern England's favourite saint. It is easy to see why: Cuthbert was holy, humble, peaceable, prayerful, faithful in friendship, winsome, and really kind.

Cuthbert was born into a fairly well-off Anglo-Saxon family, and he became a monk at Melrose in 651. He and another monk, Eata, were sent to start a monastery at Ripon, but Alcfrith, who owned the land, insisted that they adopt the Roman customs, which Cuthbert's Celtic church did not allow. So, Cuthbert and Eata quietly returned to Melrose, where Cuthbert became prior in about 661. Then came the Synod of Whitby in 663/4, and the Celtic Church formally decided to adopt the Roman customs. After this, Cuthbert was sent on to Lindisfarne as prior, where he sensitively introduced the new ways, and won over the monks there.

Cuthbert was very much loved at Lindisfarne. His zeal was evident in his constant preaching, teaching, and visiting of the people. He was also said to have gifts of prophecy and healing. Occasionally, Cuthbert reached 'people overload'. Then he would retreat to a tiny islet called Inner Farne, where he could pray in total seclusion. When, to his horror, he was told he had been made Bishop of Hexham, he immediately 'swapped' sees with Eata, and stayed on at Lindisfarne as Bishop. Sadly, Cuthbert died on little Inner Farne, only two years later, on 20 March, 687.

Cuthbert was buried at Lindisfarne, but that is not the end of his story. For it was only now that his travels began. After the Vikings destroyed Lindisfarne in 875, several monks dug him up and set out to find Cuthbert a final, and safe, resting place. For the next 120 years Cuthbert was deposited in

various monasteries around the north of England and southwest Scotland. Finally, in 999, Cuthbert was allowed to rest in Durham, where a Saxon church was built over his shrine.

All that travel must have done him good; when his body was exhumed to be put into the 'new' Norman Cathedral in Durham in 1104, it was said to be still in perfect tact, and 'incorrupt'.

Parish Pump website

Giving the journey

In a remote village in Central America the word got out that one of the missionaries who had served their region for many years was about to return home because of her old age.

The people decided to hold an event of 'public appreciation' for her. One very old and very poor man walked for four days to reach the ceremony. He came in over mountainous terrain carrying two coconuts, which was all he had.

The missionary recognised the man as coming from the remote village in the mountains.

"Brother," she said, "I cannot believe that you would walk so far to present me with this gift."

His response? "Long walk part of gift." *Parish Pump website*

Remembering St David on 1st March

Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us. - *St David*



The Bible according to children

Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).

- ~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
 - ~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.
 - ~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
 - ~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.
- Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- ~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Editor: Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art.

'He gave us eyes to see them': Sandro Botticelli's 'Primavera'

Each month we are exploring a painting that celebrates the glory and wonder of creation. In this month of March the world around us is moving from the cold and harshness of winter to new birth as the earth comes to life again in the season of spring. It is the theme of 'Primavera' by the 15th century Florentine artist, Sandro Botticelli. His work in the Sistine Chapel in Rome brought him to the attention of the Medici court, which commissioned this painting in 1482. The Medici dominated the political life of Florence, but Cosimo and his descendants were also great patrons of the arts. Humanism, which debated the place of reason in a world of faith, was the mood of the day in court life, and the artists at that time expressed the human form in all its beauty.

Continued on page 20



Sandro Botticelli, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Scholars have never agreed on the exact meaning of 'Primavera,' but it is certainly a celebration of beauty and fertility. We can identify a host of classical figures: Mercury on the left of the canvas separating the clouds so that Spring may come; Zephyr, the west wind, on the right, who is pursuing Chloris; Flora, the goddess of abundance robed in a colourful dress and adorned with flowers. In the centre we see Venus, the goddess of beauty, with a blindfolded Cupid above, preparing to shoot an arrow at the three Graces, whose arms are joined in a stately dance. The setting is a wooded garden where the trees are filled with oranges, myrtle surrounds Venus, and wondrous flowers spring up from the earth.

At first glance the sensuousness and fruitfulness seem almost profane. But we look again and think we see not Venus in the centre, but the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose own fruitfulness gave birth to the Saviour. The three figures by her side could be the Christian virtues of beauty, truth and goodness who dance in her honour, while all around God's creation

blossoms forth to bring joy and new life. It is the world of the Song of Solomon, which the early Fathers could only accept as an allegory of Christian love, where the individual soul seeks the Saviour. But that book of the Old Testament was written in praise of the love that moves human life, as much as it moves the universe. And that can only be good because God the creator is good.

The writer invites the beloved to accompany her to the fields and vineyards and find fruits in blossom and plants in bloom: a wilderness transformed by growth and goodness. Just so, we enter the garden of this painting. The characters may be classical, some may be Christian, but as we look we see a creative Love that transforms the winter of death and darkness into light and Spring – the birthday of creation.



Carry on

The vicar was making an appeal for more help with the Sunday School: "At the moment I'm just carrying on with a couple of single ladies!"

Sudoku -

medium

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

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Solution on

page 31

FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

FEBRUARY 2023

First Prize: Katina Louca

Second Prize: Fiona Peacock

Third Prize: Ken Sanders

Fourth Prize: Katina Louca

Fifth Prize: Rosemary Franklin



Fun, Food & Faith



For anyone from school Yr 7 to the age of 18.

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 5-6.30PM

The Fellowship Centre, Clapham, MK41 6ER

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL 5-7PM

EASTER SPECIAL

The Fellowship Centre, Clapham, MK41 6ER

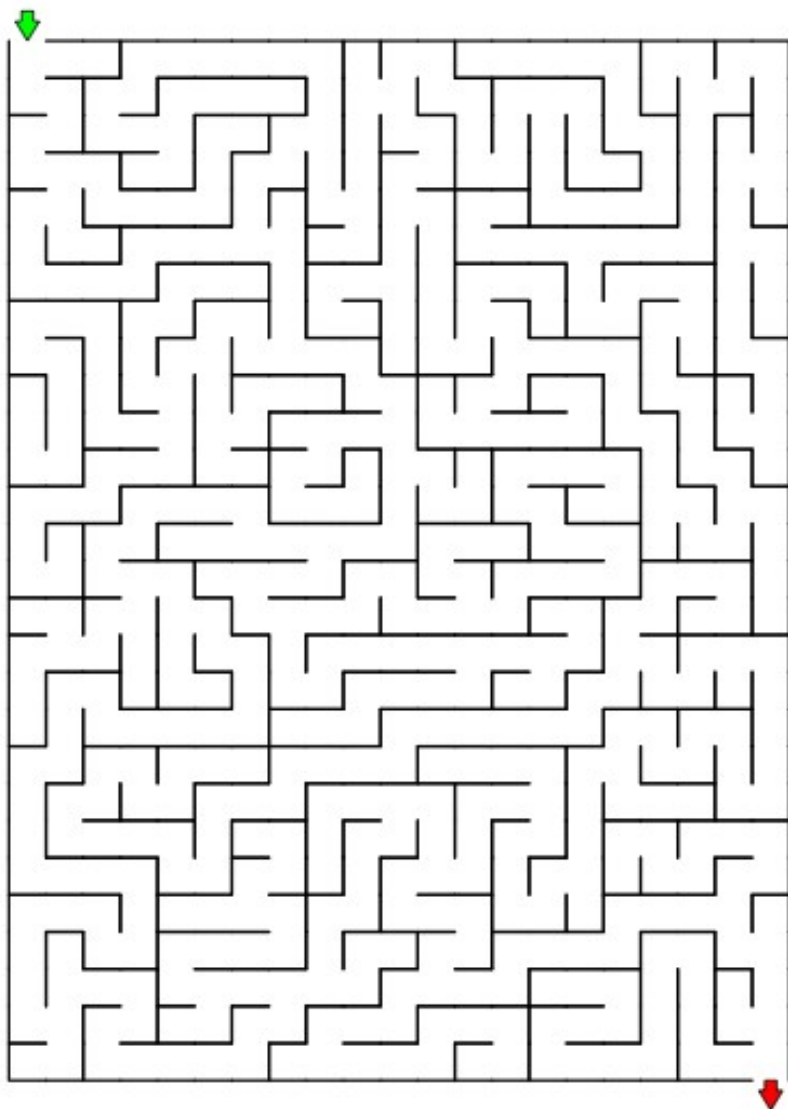


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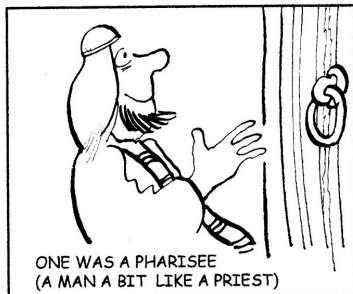
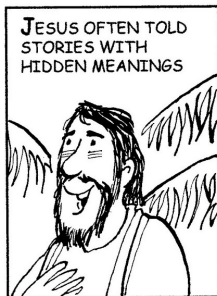
You do not get stomach ulcers from what you eat. You get stomach ulcers from what is eating you. - J F Montague

Can you find your way from top to bottom?

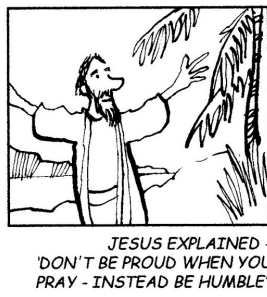


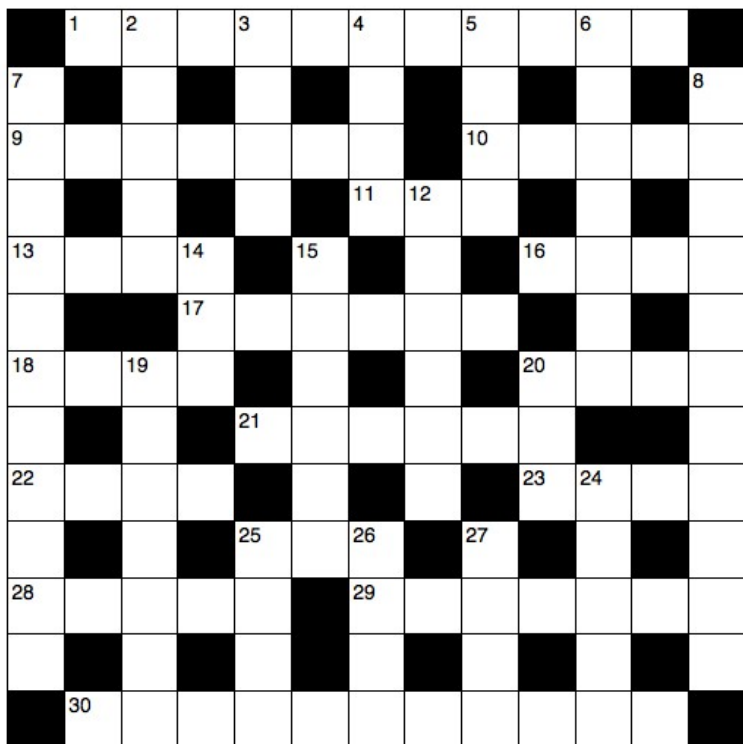
For younger readers.....

The Tale of the TWO MEN SAYING THEIR PRAYERS



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





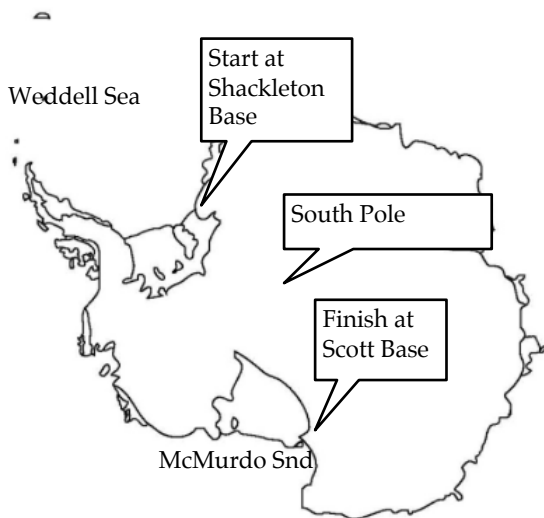
Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit

and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)
 Down
 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Solution on page 31

Antarctica



First crossing of Antarctica

The first land crossing of Antarctica was completed 65 years ago, on 2nd March 1958, by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs. The team of 12 men travelled 2,158 miles from Shackleton Base to Scott Base (via the South Pole) in 99 days, using six vehicles.

The journey – nearly 22 miles a day, much of it in appalling conditions and obstructed by huge crevasses – started from the Weddell Sea and ended at McMurdo Sound. It was well prepared and strongly supported. The advance team at the Shackleton Base had to over-winter in weather much more severe than they had anticipated, but still they remained healthy.

Mount Everest conqueror Edmund Hillary, starting at the 'end', was responsible for laying supplies for the crossing party and forging a route for vehicles through the western

mountains, but he and his group also made an unscheduled dash for the Pole, becoming in the process the third group to reach it, and the first to do so in vehicles.

The expedition had been timed to cash in on the worldwide interest created by the International Geophysical Year, a global project designed to stimulate scientific co-operation. Under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth II, the expedition was funded by the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. The continent was not crossed again until 1981.

Fuchs, whose determination was key to the expedition's success, was the son of a German immigrant and his British wife. He was educated as a geologist – a profession he chose so that he could pursue his interest in the outdoors. He was knighted on his return to the UK and became one of very few explorers to whom the Royal Geographical Society has awarded a Special Gold Medal. He also became Director of the British Antarctic Survey until 1973 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society the following year.

Tim Lenton – Parish Pump website

If biblical headlines were written by today's secular media

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOR STRIKE

Pursuing environmentalists killed

On the birth of Christ:

STABLE OCCUPIED, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS

Animal Rights activists enraged by insensitive couple

On feeding the 5,000:

PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH

Disciples mystified at leader's callous behaviour



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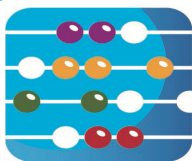
What's a perfect gift for a person who has everything?
 Storage space.

Solution to puzzle
 on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle
 on page 26

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



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All in the month of MARCH

It was:

300 years ago, on 8th March 1723 that Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, died. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral.

125 years ago, on 16th March 1898 that Aubrey Beardsley, British illustrator, died. His black ink drawings, influenced by Japanese woodcuts, contributed to the development of Art Nouveau.

100 years ago, on 4th March 1923 that Patrick Moore, the amateur astronomer, TV presenter, writer and musician was born. Best known for presenting the TV astronomy show *The Sky at Night* for over 50 years. (Died 2012)

80 years ago, on 13th March 1943 that the final liquidation of Krakow Ghetto in Poland took place. 8,000 Jews were transported to Plaszow labour camp, 2000 more were simply killed in the streets, and the rest were sent to Auschwitz.

70 years ago, on 19th March 1953 that the Academy Awards ceremony (the Oscars) were televised for the first time.

Also 70 years ago, on 26th March 1953 that Dr Jonas Salk announced that he had completed the first small-scale test of a polio vaccine. Larger tests began in February 1954, and mass vaccinations began in April 1955.

65 years ago, on 2nd March 1958 that the first land crossing of Antarctica was completed by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs. The team of 12 men travelled 2,158 miles from Shackleton Base to Scott Base (via the South Pole) in 99 days, using six vehicles.

60 years ago, on 22nd March 1963 that the British Secretary of

State for War, John Profumo, made a statement in the House of Commons in which he denied there was any impropriety in his relationship with Christine Keeler, a model who was also in a sexual relationship with a drug dealer and a Soviet naval attaché. (In June he admitted he had lied, and resigned.)

50 years ago, on 8th March 1973 that the citizens of Northern Ireland voted in a referendum to remain within the United Kingdom. That same day the IRA carried out its first bombing in Britain since WWII, planting car bombs in London. One person died, 200 were injured.

40 years ago, on 6th March 1983 that Donald Maclean, British-born Soviet spy died. He was a member of the Cambridge Spy Ring.

Also 40 years ago, on 26th March 1983, that Anthony Blunt, British art historian and Soviet spy, died.

25 years ago, on 16th March 1998 that Rwanda began mass trials for the country's 1994 genocide. There were 125,000 suspects for 500,000 murders.

20 years ago, on 1st March 2003 that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the al-Qaeda terrorist who masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA, was captured in Pakistan.

Also 20 years ago, on 12th March 2003 that the World Health Organisation issued a global alert about a severe form of pneumonia (now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – SARS) that was affecting people in China, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

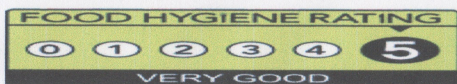


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