

Church News
for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



March 2026



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

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org

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

Clergy:

Vicar: Revd Catherine Wilson 825665
vicar@bromhambenefice.org
Assistant Priest: Revd Di Harpham 07973 953744
Associate Minister: Revd Petra Yates - revpetra@bromhambenefice.org
07504 118405

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Wedding.....} (Mon & Thurs 9.30 -12.00: Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm
organisation..}
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Pew Leaflet Sarah Smale, as Administrator

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

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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 R Farquhar 307996

Altar Guild Mrs M Parrott 824402

Who's Who in Bromham cont....

Children & Young	}Emma Harrison	07752 186808
People's work	}Rene Farquhar	307996
Electoral Roll	Mrs Rene Farquhar	307996
Ringers	Mr Robert Jones	881741
Thursday Prayer Gp	Mrs C Wisson	306833
Friends of St Owen's	www.friendsof stowens.org	
Secretary:	Mr David Butler	407351



Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Katrina Hyden	07908 987959
	oakleypccsecretary@bromhambenefice.org	
PCC Treasurer	Mrs S Ball	ls.ball@btinternet.com
Organist & Choirmaster - contact Jenny Sudworth		822859
Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers		
	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
St Mary's Ringers	Mr Bill Sellars	823473

Who's Who in Stagsden

Church Officers

Churchwarden	} Post holders names not published	
PCC Treasurer	} please contact through Revd Di Harpham	07973 953744
PCC Secretary	Caroline Heaton	
Ringers	Mr Richard Brown	823289
Flowers Team	please contact through Revd Di Harpha	07973 953744
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 March

9.00am

10.30am

2nd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

8th March

9.00am

10.30am

3.30pm

3rd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Evensong (Bromham)

15th March

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

3.00pm

Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion (Bromham)

All-Age Mothering Sunday Service
(Bromham)

LEP Mothering Sunday Service (Oakley)

Alternative (reflective) Mothering
Sunday Service (Bromham)

22nd March

9.00am

10.30am

Passion Sunday

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

29th March

10.30am

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Service with donkey
procession (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)



In March we find ourselves at the threshold of change. The days grow longer; the evenings shorter; the temperature warms the soil and bulbs blossom; the emerging signs of spring quietly and gently remind us of the possibility of new life. This changing season beautifully mirrors what happens within our hearts during Lent. Matthew's Gospel offers encouragement, alongside the potential stillness of Lent, to recalibrate and reorder life's priorities, to 'store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also', (Matthew 6:20,21).

Lent is a focused time of preparation which leads us towards Easter through deeper reflection, prayer, and repentance. These forty days invite us to slow down and look inward where we can honestly ask: Where have we grown distant from God? What distractions have taken priority over prayer? What habits have absorbed our time, making it difficult to find space for God? In the stillness of personal reflection, we may often discover where God is gently calling us closer, nudging us to take small steps in our journey of faith. It may be a slow, winding path of spiritual growth but we are reassured that just as winter gives way to spring, God is with us even when such growth feels slow or unseen.

Perhaps the Church of England's resources may help us to explore, through this year's booklet 'Draw Near: Life-giving

Habits for Lent' and copies are found in our churches. Do pick up a copy.

During Lent Christians may choose to give something up, as a reminder of Jesus' time of temptation in the desert, before he began his ministry. Lent is about making intentional choices and actions, to try and create space for God to shape us.

May this month be one of spiritual awakening where we feel able to embrace prayer more deeply, and self-reflection with honesty and rigour. Let us allow God to prune, nurture, and strengthen our faith. As we journey through Lent together, may we grow not only in understanding, but in a deeper, more vibrant relationship with Christ—ready to celebrate the hope and light of Easter with renewed and joyful hearts.

Petra

Dear Lord Jesus,

Lent is a time to be with you in a special way. A time to pray, a time to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

Please be with me in every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life which you have prepared for me.

Amen.

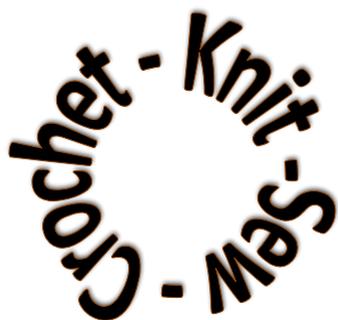
The Road to Daybreak - Henri J. M. Nouwen*
1990

**Dutch Catholic priest, professor, theologian and writer
(1932-1996)*



Next meeting - **Thurs 26th March**
at 2.30pm

For further info contact Tessa Woodcock
07766 118258



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

St Owen's Altar Guild

Decorating St Owens Church for Easter will take place on Holy Saturday 4th April from 10am. Anyone who would like to help will be most welcome. Donations for the purchase of flowers will be gratefully received.

Margaret Parrott

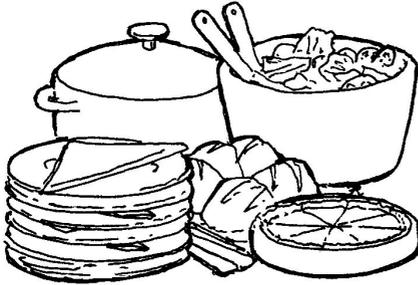
First Friday Coffee Morning

Next coffee morning on **Fri 6th March**

10.30am- 12.30pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.





Fellowship Lunch
at St Owen's
Next event
Sunday 1st March
at 1230

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



- If you haven't been confirmed (made your baptism promises for yourself as an adult) and would like to explore what this means, please talk to Catherine.
-



'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



Archbishop of Canterbury promises Synod new priorities

The Most Revd Sarah Mullally's debut reflected values that have been neglected recently, suggests Rebecca Chapman, a General Synod representative for the diocese of Southwark, writing in Church Times.

Just as this quinquennium (5-year term) of the General Synod draws to a close, an archiepiscopate begins (a new archbishop's period of office). Our final London meeting was the first with the new Archbishop of Canterbury in post, and began with a standing ovation for her. The Archbishop of York observed that, as a former Chief Nurse, she would make "a very, very good chief shepherd".

They say that a change is as good as a rest, but, after an archiepiscopal interregnum, there could be no doubting the breath of fresh air in the chamber as Archbishop Mullally addressed the Synod — our first female archbishop. She promised "calm, consistency, and compassion" as we seek to together be a stable presence in an unstable world.

A careful checklist for various themes and groups was worked through, and boxes were ticked. Despite this, her words remained heartfelt: she spoke warmly of "the pearl of great price — glimpsed in faithful, local, sensitive, intelligent ministry". There was talk of hope, of love and service, rather than of developing "new programmes and initiatives". A tired Synod was refreshingly proffered compliments rather than criticism: "I see the personal sacrifices you make to be here" and the "love you pour into this task". The Archbishop made time to have the odd chat with members in the tea-

Continued on next page

room. A quiet presence for a quiet revival?

Tone set, the Synod moved on to business. The new Archbishop brought us the motion on reimagining care: considering how the Church could contribute to the flourishing of all those who received care, and those who provided it to them. This was the work of a commission set up by her predecessor, but felt particularly pertinent, given her nursing experience. Serving and caring was a theme that ran through many of her speeches in this group of sessions. On safeguarding, she had a realism and honesty about how “earning trust, creating an environment of transparency, and the willingness to speak truth to power when abuse occurs” would work.

It felt good to have leadership from someone comfortable with uncertainty. In a debate on Bishop’s Mission Orders, she confessed, mid-debate, to not yet knowing how she would vote. She would listen, then decide. It is something that we might all aspire to, as, if members knew how they would vote before any debate, what a waste of money our time in Westminster would be. And our financial ecosystem, parochial fees, and Project Spire look set to provide plenty of grit to form our pearls.

Much has been made of the new Archbishop’s penchant for following process, something that I am delighted by. Within those processes, however, there is much that remains uncertain. The struggle over Living in Love and Faith (LLF) continued in one final debate before its rebranding. Here, the Synod was offered a framework for the next steps.

As ever, wildly different views were expressed. After the debate, both sides appeared to claim victory. It made for quite the conversation between two polarised speakers on the

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Radio 4 *Today* programme the morning after, as both the Revd Dr Charlie Baczyk-Bell and the Revd Dr Ian Paul appeared to claim victory. They wondered aloud whether they had attended the same Synod debate. The presenter implied that the motion was merely obfuscation.

Despite the differing views, our new Archbishop of Canterbury called us to have hope about LLF. Hope was a muscle that we needed to flex, she reminded us. For many, hope felt long gone. Have hope not in the Church, but in God, she urged.

Archbishop Mullally made a point of thanking Synod members for their tone, their engagement, and their remaining part of the debate, despite its difficulties. She also made a point of thanking the support staff at Church House, as the Synod concluded.

Other small details provided lighter moments: in the debate on working-class ministry, the Revd Robb Sutherland spoke of having found himself invited to Lambeth Palace, to partake of the Iceland Christmas-buffet icon that is the prawn ring, by our comprehensive-educated Archbishop. And, having to read out a long list of names of new Synod members, Archbishop Mullally admitted that, as a dyslexic, this was something she was fearful of. Self-deprecation by an archbishop in the Synod isn't new. But showing us (with a smile) that it is OK to struggle, that it is OK not to know, that it is OK not to be OK — that felt fresh.

We have clear signs of a renewed focus on parishes, of a desire to serve people, of a move away from big-picture programmes. When I think about my parish, process matters, people matter, and being present matters. The tone in which things are said also makes a huge difference. At this Synod

Continued on next page

meeting, we saw our new Archbishop prioritising listening to people, thanking those who serve, promising to serve us, and encouraging us to have hope in God.

None of this is staggeringly novel. But it is refreshing, and a model that each of us can look to, whether we are serving in parishes or in positions of greater power. Perhaps this is a new way to live out being simpler, humbler, bolder, at every level of our Church: listening, thanking, and serving, all the while putting our hope in Christ. No programmes or initiatives required.

Church Times

Record number of young adults join ministry experience year

A record number of young adults have joined a year-long placement scheme to experience ministry in the Church of England.

The Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) intake this year is 121, the largest the scheme has had since it was founded more than a decade ago. This year's total means that more than 1,000 young adults, including this year's intake, have been part of the Scheme since it was set up in 2013.

How many words does it take?

Lord's Prayer - 66 words

Ten Commandments - 179 words

Shakespeare's 'To be, or not to be' soliloquy – 260 words

US Constitution with all 27 Amendments - 7,818 words

EU regulations on the sale of cabbages - 26,911 words

Puts things into perspective, doesn't it?

A Different Challenge?

Extract from Lenten address for 2026 by Pope Leo

"However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility.

In this regard, **I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence:** that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.



St Owen's Open Church

We are hoping to be able to have St Owen's open one Saturday morning a month for people to drop in. We are looking for volunteers who could spend a couple of hours in the church in pairs, so that this can happen. If you would be willing to do this, please talk to Tessa. 07766 118258

1st March - On St David's Day, why the leeks?

St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear proudly wear a leek or daffodil.

Shakespeare refers to the custom in Henry V, Act 5 Sc.1, where Gower berates Pistol for mocking at "an ancient tradition begun upon an honourable respect and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour."

According to some sources, the wearing of leeks may be based on a legend that Welsh archers fought bravely at the Battle of Crecy in a field of leeks and, as a reminder of their bravery and loyalty, the Welsh began to wear a leek in their caps every St David's Day. The legend, true or not, could be a source of the 'honourable respect' which the Welsh had for their valorous archers.



We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

Bromham Benefice Away-Day

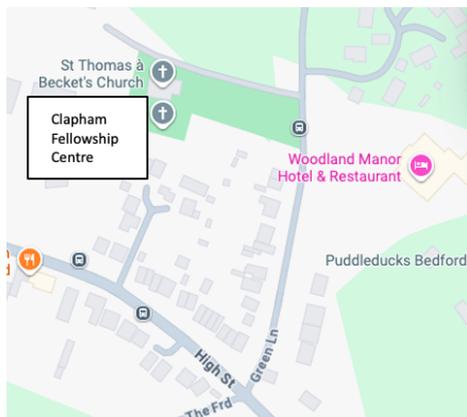


Yes, that would be nice wouldn't it! But Clapham is a bit more convenient!! So.....
.....you are invited to join members of our PCCs for a day trip to.....

Clapham Fellowship Centre on Saturday 18th April 10.30am to mid afternoon

- to discuss our aims for the future as a Benefice and as individual parishes
- to develop priorities for the next 2 years

Look out for the Sign-Up sheet in each church





One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety'...

Book Review

The Works of the Lord: 52 biblical reflections on science, technology and creation By Ruth Banciewicz, BRF, £12.99

'Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them,' says Psalm 111:2. We all benefit from science, and we all make choices about how to use its fruits.

This series of reflections lets scientific discoveries fuel your worship and helps you to consider how we can move forward wisely in a scientific society. Written by a diverse group of scientists and theologians associated with the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, UK, you are invited into the conversation whether you are a scientist or not, and you are given the opportunity to respond in both praise and practical action.

God in the Arts

Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? We continue our procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the railings and kneelers. By the Revd Michael Burgess

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ - railings and kneelers

This month we visit St Nicholas’ Church, Compton in Surrey. It is a very fine building with an unusual double sanctuary on two floors at the east end. Our eyes look up to see a gallery and an altar, and then at ground level is another altar surrounded by a glorious Norman arch with Jacobean railings and kneelers.

As we enter this church, we realise with T S Eliot in *Little Gidding* that we are here ‘to kneel where prayer has been valid.’

With the liturgical reform of the last century, it is customary in many churches to stand to receive Holy Communion. Sitting and standing seem the norms now for worship, in spite of all the beautifully embroidered kneelers that many



Photo by Colin Smith / St Nicholas, Compton / Wikimedia Commons)

Continued on next page

churches boast. But open the *Book of Common Prayer*, and there is a multitude of rubrics on kneeling, whenever people gather for services. It is a posture that takes us back to those vivid images of Jesus praying on His knees in St Luke's Gospel, Peter kneeling to pray in Lydda, and the people kneeling on the beach with Paul in Acts 21.

The Psalmist invites us to kneel before the Lord our Maker, and Paul wrote to the Philippians, 'At the name of Jesus every knee should bend.' As we kneel at the Jacobean railings of St Nicholas, Compton or in our own churches, we are heirs to that tradition.

Cranmer in the Prayer Book said that kneeling was a sign of gratitude for benefits received. But it is more than that. Buildings like Compton church bring us to our knees quite naturally as we gaze and wonder at the beauty and majesty of the building. Kneeling is a sign of reverence and adoration of the God who inspired such architecture of old and who feeds us now in the sacraments.

Parish Pump website

Lent is the time for spiritual self-examination, for taking stock of oneself before God. With that in mind....

God requires a faithful fulfilment of the merest trifle given us to do, rather than the most ardent aspiration to things to which we are not called. - *St Francis de Sales*

In order to arrive at that which thou knowest not, thou must go by a way that thou knowest not. In order to arrive at that which thou possesseth not, thou must go by a way that thou possesseth not. - *St John of the Cross*

What's next? is the title for this year's Deanery CYPF (Children, Young People and Families) conference taking place on March 28th in Clapham Fellowship Centre. (See flier opposite)

Our deanery has been working with Becky and Rebecca from the charity Rural Missions (ruralmissions.org.uk) to explore and expand our work with the young people in our villages. Messy Church Plus in our benefice is one result of that collaboration. The conference will look at what the next steps might be as we plan for a new phase of this work.

Everyone is welcome, lunch is included!

**The
Children's
Society**

Charity Reg No.
221124

As a Benefice we support the work of The Children's Society (see childrensociety.org.uk): some people have collecting boxes at home, and when we have a Christingle service the money raised there is also for the Children's Society.

Our reps in Oakley and Stagsden have stepped down, and we are looking for someone to take this on. Its not an onerous task – once a year collecting boxes, counting and paying in the cash, and then returning empty boxes to be refilled. Talk to Anne Rooke for more information 01234 602718.

SHARNBROOK DEANERY
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE
AND FAMILIES HUB



WHAT'S NEXT?



DAY CONFERENCE
28TH MARCH 2026

9:30AM – 2PM

THE FELLOWSHIP CENTRE,
CLAPHAM PARISH CHURCH

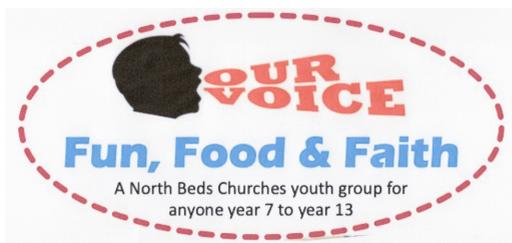


For all those across North Bedfordshire interested in the further development of our mission and ministry with children, young people and families.

Join us for this free conference to celebrate all that God has been doing through the work of the Sharnbrook Deanery CYF hub as together, we explore the vision God is giving us for the future.

Light lunch and refreshments will be included. Joining us as guest speaker will be Bob Goody.

**To book your place, or for more info,
please email becky@ruralmissions.org.uk**



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

For more information - ourvoicetoo@gmail.com

What God won't ask when you die

~ God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have a car of their own.

~ God won't ask the size of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

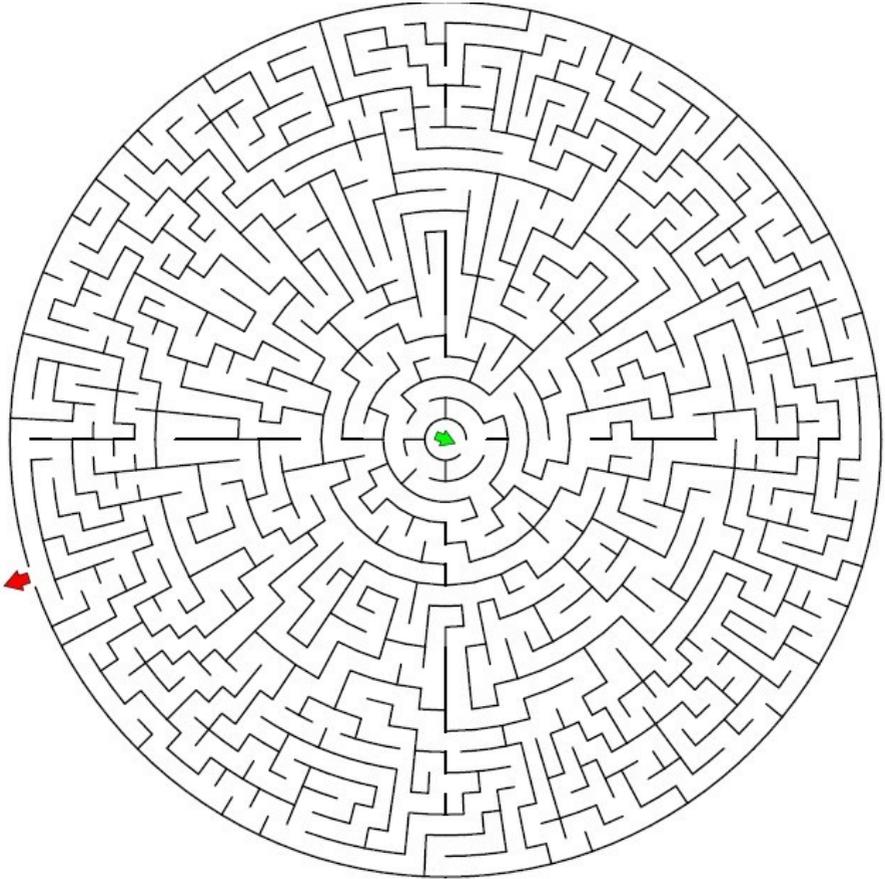
Sudoku - Medium

Solution on
page 33

2					3	4	1	
	1		8					5
		6		9				
5							6	
	2	4		7		8	3	
	6							2
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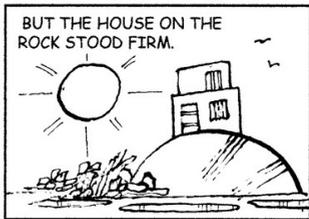
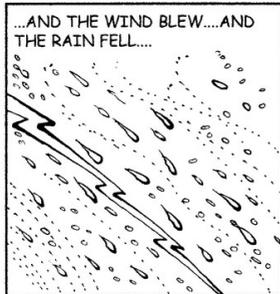
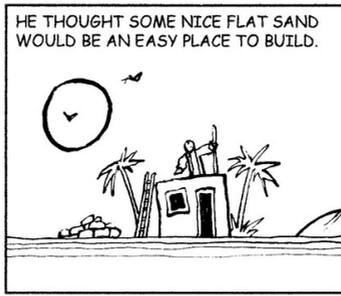
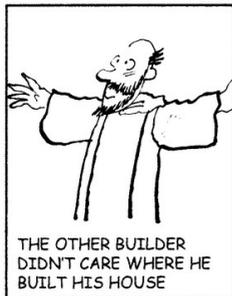
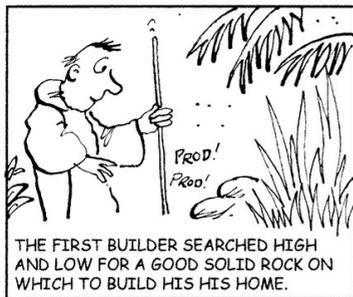
Can you find your way out from the middle?



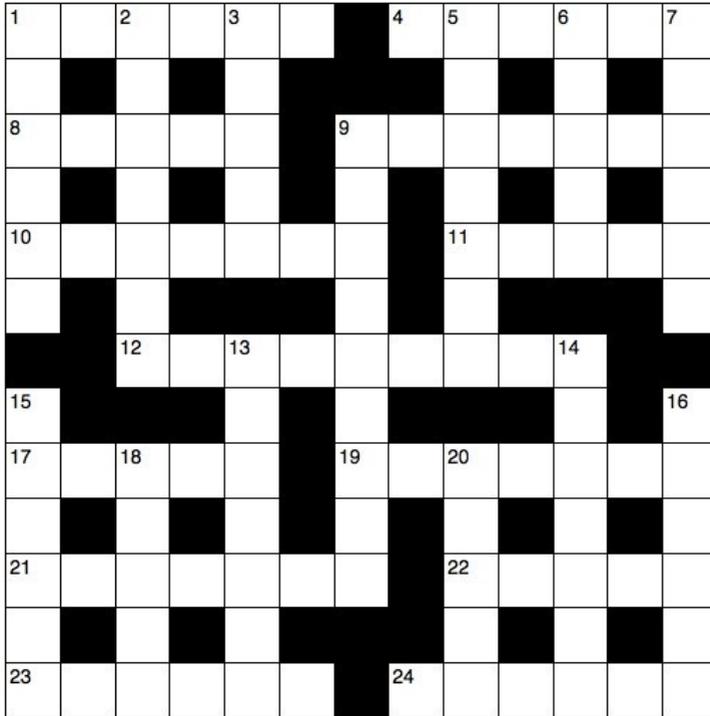
Cleared out

"Just cleared out some space in the freezer" sounds so much more productive than "I just polished off another tub of ice cream."

For younger readers.....



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.



Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

- 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Solution on page 33

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his seven-part series. This will conclude with the July issue.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Anger

'Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one.' (Benjamin Franklin).

Who or what makes you angry? In the third of our 7 Deadly Sins, we are looking at *anger* (or *wrath*).

It describes uncontrolled feelings of hatred and resentment, and it can lead to resentment and grudges, quarrelling and damaged relationships. Jesus warns us about the consequence of anger: *'I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.'* (Matt 5:22).

Jesus Himself got angry, notably when He saw the Temple being exploited by the money changers (Matt 21:12-13). Such *righteous anger* is a measured response to injustice or evil, motivated by love not vengeance.

However, it is important for us to deal with unrighteous anger in our lives: *'In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.'* (Ephesians 4:26,27). What practical steps can we take to do this?

Acknowledge your anger: What are the root causes of our anger? Often it comes from deeper feelings, like fear, inadequacy or the desire to control.

Control your anger: Stepping back before reacting can prevent anger from controlling us: *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19,20).

Seek to forgive: Practising forgiveness, not seeking revenge or

Continued on next page

holding grudges, will enable us to overcoming anger: *'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.'* (Colossians 3:12,13). Christ died to take the wrath of God we deserve, that we might know God's forgiveness.

'People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing' (Will Rogers).

Afternoon tea, anyone?

Do you take afternoon tea? Ever wondered where it started? The custom seems to date back to the mid-19th century, and the seventh Duchess of Bedford, Anna Russell. The Duchess got hungry at about 4pm each day, calling it "that sinking feeling". As it was still four hours until dinner (at 8pm), she began to have sandwiches or a small cake with some tea. Her friends thought this was marvellous, and the idea spread quickly through (hungry) upper class circles.



Soon, it seems, everyone in England was looking forward to Afternoon Tea, and a great British tradition was born. Though, during the last century, the sandwiches and cake gave way to biscuits, still we reached for the teapot each afternoon. Not so much anymore, it seems. In the last five years, sales of tea and biscuits have dropped. Perhaps we are drinking coffee? The research was done by retail analysts Mintel.

Parish Pump website

Granny retired? You've got to be kidding....

The idea that grandmothers retire into an unburdened world of gardening and tea-drinking, golf and knitting is no more than a pleasant fantasy these days.

Instead, nearly 63% of grandparents provide some sort of childcare to their under-16-year-old grandchildren. That amounts to around seven million older people, aged mostly between 55 - 74.

As many as one in three is doing the school run. Nearly one in five is spending more than 10 hours a week giving other childcare.

America has a nickname name for them: the 'granny nannies.'

Granny nannies do it for good reason: to enable their own children to be able to work longer hours. But granny nannies not only care for their grandchildren, they may also be providing comfort for elderly relatives of their own – and hold down a part-time job at the same time.

Perhaps Super-Granny-Nannies is the correct name for them!

Parish Pump website

Our love affair with our phones

It was 150 years ago this month, on 10th March 1876, that the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell called his assistant and said: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

That phone call was the beginning of a worldwide addiction to phones. Phones spread quickly, constantly improved, and after more than 100 years of landlines, mobile phones arrived.

Continued on next page

The first was introduced by Motorola in 1983 in the USA. The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X weighed nearly two pounds and cost around \$3,995.

The first smartphone, the IBM Simon Personal Communicator, was released in 1994, combining phone calls with PDA features like email, fax, and a calendar on a touchscreen. It was so expensive it sold only about 50,000.

But by the late 90s, the BlackBerry had become a top favourite, with its popular email and messaging services beloved by Barak Obama, among many others.

Then in 2007, Apple released the first iPhone, informally known as the iPhone 2G, with an advanced multi-touch interface and app ecosystem.

Fast forward nearly 20 years, and there are now about **7.5 billion** active smartphones in the world. The total number of all connections (SIMs/ devices) now even exceeds the human population of about 8.3 billion.

Parish Pump website

Editor: have you too wondered why these phones don't interfere with each other when there are so many close together? Here are 2 reasons :

Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA): Phones divide data into tiny packets and take turns transmitting, often within milliseconds of each other, ensuring they do not use the same channel at the same time.

Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) / Spread Spectrum: Each phone's signal is coded, allowing the receiver (the tower) to pick out the specific signal from a mix of others.

There are others but you will have to 'Google' those for yourselves!



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Solution to puzzle on
page 23

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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

All in the month of March

It was:

300 years ago, on 26th March 1726 that Sir John Vanbrugh, architect and playwright died. Best known for designing Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard.

250 years ago, on 24th March 1776 that John Harrison, carpenter and clockmaker died. Known for inventing the marine chronometer, which enabled sailors to calculate longitude at sea.

175 years ago, on 11th March 1851 that the premiere of Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*, was held in Venice.

150 years ago, on 10th March 1876 that the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Grham Bell used his telephone to call his assistant. The first words ever spoken on a telephone were: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

100 years ago, on 30th March 1926 that Ingvar Kamrad,

Swedish businessman, was born. He founded IKEA, the furniture retail company, in 1943, when he was just 17 years old. (Died 2018)

90 years ago, on 4th March 1936 that the German airship *Hindenburg* made its first flight. It was the largest airship ever constructed, and was destroyed in a fire in May 1937.

80 years ago, on 25th March 1946 that London's Heathrow Airport first opened as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow Airport in 1966.

75 years ago, on 15th March 1951 that Dennis the Menace first appeared in the British children's comic, *The Beano*.

70 years ago, on 23rd March 1956 that Pakistan became the world's first Islamic Republic.

65 years ago, on 6th March 1961 that George Formby, the 'Ukulele King,' comedian, singer and actor died. Known for his comic songs.

Also 65 years ago, on 8th March 1961 that Sir Thomas Beecham, British conductor and impresario, died.

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1986 that Queen Elizabeth II signed the Australia Act, severing Australia's remaining legal ties with Britain and granting it full independence.

30 years ago, on 13th March 1996 that the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. Thomas Hamilton entered Dunblane Primary School, shot dead 16 children and a teacher, wounded 15 more, and then committed suicide. As a result, the private ownership of handguns was banned in the UK.

20 years ago, on 21st March 2006 that Twitter, the online social networking/micro-blogging service, was founded. Its website went live on 15th July that year.

10 years ago, on 31st March 2016 that Ronnie Corbett, Scottish films and tv comedian, actor, screenwriter and broadcaster (*The Two Ronnies*) died.

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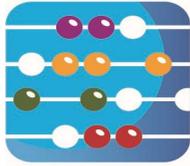
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