

Church News
for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden
November 2026





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References

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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

Benefice Administration

Website &.....}	Administrator	07494 069540
Wedding.....}	(Mon & Thurs 9.30 -12.00: Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm	
organisation..}		
Fees Accounts...}	administrator@bromhambenefice.org	
Safeguarding Officer -	Judith Denyer	07981 928522

Parish News

Editor	Mr Edward Jones	stowensnews@btinternet.com	826551
Distribution	Mrs B Cryer		825463
			07767 272584

Pew Leaflet Sarah Smale, *as Administrator*

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

Churchwarden	Ms T Woodcock	07766 118258
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:		
Secretary:	Mr David Butler	407351
website:	www.bromhambenefice.org / friends-of-st-owens	

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Katrina Hyden	07908 987959
	oakleypccsecretary@bromhambenefice.org	
PCC Treasurer	Debbie Armstrong	07932 456335
	armstrong.debbi@gmail.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 Harpham	07973 953744

If you know of further details for this page, or have information or articles to publish please send all material to the Editor by post or (preferably) by email - see details on page 3.

The Editor thanks Contributors and Advertisers for their material with acknowledgements to the "Parish Pump" website. Nevertheless, views expressed, and goods and services advertised are not endorsed by the PCC. **Please send material for publication to the Editor by the 22nd of the month.**



Principal Services in the Benefice

<u>1st November</u>	<u>All Saints' Day</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion & Baptism (Bromham)
3.30pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>8th November</u>	<u>Remembrance Sunday</u>
9.30am	Service of Remembrance (Oakley) followed by War Memorial ceremony
10.30am	Remembrance Service (Bromham)
3.00pm	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial (Stagsden)
<u>15th November</u>	<u>2nd Sunday before Advent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>22nd November</u>	<u>Christ the King</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
<u>29th November</u>	<u>Advent Sunday</u>
10.30am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
6.00pm	Readings and Music for Advent (Bromham)

Weekday Services

Mondays

11.30am Messy Church (Bromham)

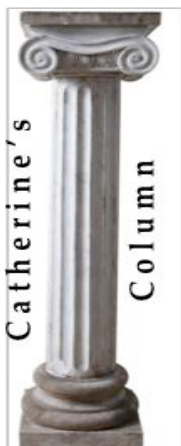
Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am Holy Communion (Bromham FR)

Thursdays

10.00am Messy Church (Oakley)

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



From the Vicarage

'An elephant never forgets' is something I was told as a child - one of those sayings that slips its way into our consciousness. Is it true? Scientists who have studied elephant behaviour report that while elephants do forget some things, on the whole they have

very good memories. It could be the location of a water hole - or it could be the appearance or smell of a threat to their safety. November is a month when we are called on to be like those elephants - to have good memories for things that are important to us individually and collectively.

As a nation, Remembrance Sunday is a yearly landmark that forbids us to forget the horrors of war and the appalling suffering it brings to the innocent. We stand together to pay our respects to those who were injured or died in the two World Wars and in many conflicts since, and are inspired to work for peace. Our annual Act of Remembrance is all the more important as the World Wars are passing from living memory, so we must work hard to ensure that we don't forget.

At the very beginning of the month there are two opportunities to remember particular people who have inspired us. On Nov 1st the church celebrates All Saints' Day, commemorating the heroes of faith, who set us an example of holy living, of commitment to living out our faith, and of witness. And then on November 2nd, All Souls' Day is an

opportunity to give thanks for people we loved who cared for us and who are no longer with us - who may not be great heroes in the eyes of the world, but who are very precious to us, and whose memory sustains and helps us.

And one event that is forever etched in our nation's 'elephant memory' is to 'Remember, remember the fifth of November' - while it's probably a good thing that burning effigies of Guy Fawkes is less common than it was, the yearly telling of the story of the Gunpowder Plot gives us both an excuse for fireworks and bonfires, and the reminder that attempts to assassinate the monarch have usually ended in failure!

It is important that we remember all these things - the events and people that inspire us to live together well, and the consequences of not doing so.

An elephant may never forget - or not often - but it's a bit of a surprise to discover that God does! He promises that if we are sorry and turn away from the wrong things we do, he will forgive and forget those wrong words and deeds. Speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, he says 'I will be their God and they will be my people... I will forgive their sins and will no longer remember their wrongs' (Jeremiah 31:33-34). It's a promise that can make an enormous difference to our lives - lets make sure we add it to our own 'elephant memory'.

Catherine Wilson





Next meeting - **Thurs 26th November**

Meet at 12:00 at The Fox, Carlton
for pre-Christmas lunch

Please let Tessa Woodcock know if you wish to come
07766 118258



Sewing Group

1st and 3rd Wednesday
afternoons 2pm - 4pm in
St Owen's Church
Fellowship Room.
Contact Margaret 824402



Readings and Music for Advent

6.00pm on Advent Sunday
29th November
at St Owen's, Bromham

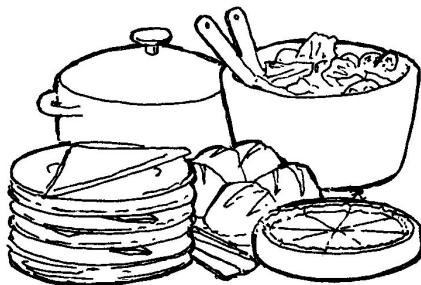
First Friday Coffee Morning

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

10.30am- 12.30pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.





Bring & Share Lunch

at St Owen's

on

Sunday

1st November

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

ADVANCE NOTICE

COFFEE MORNING EXTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2026

Suggestions, Stall and Raffle
donations to Elaine or Flora



'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



Rt Revd Andrew Rumsey
Bishop of St Albans

The Alban Way is a year-long discipleship and leadership programme for young adults (18–35) who want to grow in their faith, discover their calling, and make a difference in their churches and communities.

A group from The Alban Way recently travelled to Lindisfarne, following in the footsteps of the saints who helped establish Christianity in the North East of England. Through prayer, reflection and shared experiences, the pilgrimage offered an opportunity to step away from the routine of daily life and spend time exploring faith together.

Walking in the footsteps of saints

The pilgrimage began at St Swithun's Church, Sandy, where the group gathered for Morning Prayer before setting out on their journey. Travelling together by car, the pilgrims made their way to Durham, where they spent time exploring the beauty and spiritual heritage of Durham Cathedral.

In Durham, the group visited the Cuthbert Centre for Pilgrimage. Through talks and discussion with the Revd James Shelton, Director of the Centre, they learned more about the northern saints and the part they played in the growth of Christianity across Britain. The group also spent time reflecting on the Seven Principles of Pilgrimage, which

Continued on next page

originate from Vadstena, the pilgrimage centre in the Diocese of Linköping, one of the Diocese of St Albans' link dioceses.

Continuing their journey north, the pilgrims stopped at St Aidan's Church, Bamburgh, where they caught their first glimpse of Holy Island of Lindisfarne. The sight of the island, so closely associated with Saints Aidan and Cuthbert, provided a fitting introduction to the next stage of their pilgrimage.

Arriving on Holy Island

The group spent two nights on Lindisfarne, with time for prayer, reflection and exploring the island together. One of the highlights was an early morning barefoot walk across the sands, followed by communion on the beach. Time was also set aside for exploring the island, visiting places of historical and spiritual significance, and sharing daily times of prayer together. Alongside this, the pilgrimage offered opportunities for conversation, laughter and growing together in faith as they journeyed.

Heather, one of the young adults on the pilgrimage reflected on her experience:

"Going on the pilgrimage to Lindisfarne with The Alban Way gave me the chance to step away from everyday life and spend time with God. Travelling together made me feel part of something special and helped me realise that faith is not just a personal journey, but something we can share and strengthen through others.

"My favourite moment was walking barefoot across the causeway to Holy Island. Surrounded by the open sky and sea, with the cool water and sand beneath my feet, I felt a deep sense of peace and a stronger connection to God's creation. Sharing Communion on the beach made this feeling even

Continued on next page

more meaningful, bringing us together in a special moment of faith.

“The pilgrimage helped me see my faith in a new way, reminding me that it is not just about what I believe, but how I live each day and make time to listen to God. I came home feeling refreshed and grateful, with a renewed desire to hold on to the peace I felt and carry what I learnt into my everyday life.”

If you are interested in finding out more about The Alban Way or would like to register your interest in joining next year's cohort, please visit thealbanway.com

Retirement of Bishop Richard:

The retirement of the Bishop of Bedford is to be marked by the following events:

At St Paul's, Bedford on Sunday 15th November at 3pm - a service of Thanksgiving and Farewell.*

At a Deanery Synod in Bletsoe at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th November where he will be guest speaker.

And at St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 21st November at 5pm - a Farewell service of Evensong.



*Tickets available at: <https://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/event-details-registration/bedfordshire-service-of-thanksgiving-and-farewell-on-the-retirement-of-rt-revd-richard-atkinson-obe>.

Richard Hooker – priest, apologist, teacher – remembered on 3rd November

Richard Hooker lived at a critical time for the Church of England. He became one of the most important English theologians of the 16th century.

He provided the Church of England with a theological method which combined the claims of revelation, reason, and tradition. Traditionally, he has been credited as the originator of the Anglican *via media* – the middle way between Protestantism and Catholicism.

Hooker was born near Exeter around 1554, educated at Corpus Christi College Oxford, and was then made fellow there in 1577, and deputy professor of Hebrew in 1579. In 1581 he was ordained, and later appointed as Rector of Drayton Beauchamp near Aylesbury.

In 1585 Hooker was appointed Master of the Temple Church in London, but returned to rural ministry six years later, first at Boscombe in Wiltshire, and then at Bishopsbourne in Kent, where he died in 1600.

The 1580s and 1590s were a time of bitter theological disputes between the Church of England, after the 1559 Elizabethan Settlement* of the C of E, and the growing Puritan party within the Church.

**for more on what that was all about see the following article - Ed*

Hooker was implacably against Puritanism, and set about refuting it, and defending the Church of England in his magisterial eight-volume book *On the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.

The book has been called "probably the first great work of philosophy and theology to be written in English." In it,

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Hooker set out to demonstrate the superiority of episcopacy in the C of E, as opposed to bringing in the presbyterian system that the Puritans wanted.

Anglicanism, he said, was rooted in both Scripture and tradition, as suited a Church both Catholic and Reformed. And as human reason is a gift from God, he argued that this, too, was a vital element in interpreting both Scripture and tradition.

So, Richard Hooker was the first real apologist for Anglicanism. His contribution to Anglican thought was so huge that down the centuries he has won the backing of all wings of the Church: the evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, and central churchmen.

Parish Pump website

Religious problems in 1559

At the start of the 16th century everyone in Wales and England was **Catholic**. However, some scholars abroad were beginning to argue that the Catholic Church had become too wealthy, corrupt and had moved away from the Bible.

Martin Luther's protest in Germany against these issues started the **Protestant Reformation** which soon spread across Europe.

Wales and England did not begin to embrace Protestant ideas until the reign of **Edward VI**. His father, **Henry VIII**, had made himself Head of the Church in order to divorce Catherine of Aragon, but his Church had remained an English Catholic Church.

During Edward VI's reign, England and Wales became more Protestant, with the Prayer Book and services in English.

Continued on next page

However, upon his death, **Mary I** returned the country completely to the Catholic faith, burning over 280 Protestants during her short reign.

Therefore when Elizabeth became Queen, both Protestants and Catholics were eager to see what religion she would follow and whether religious persecution would take place.

The greatest problem for a **Protestant monarch**, such as Elizabeth, would be if a Catholic's loyalty to the Pope came above that to the Crown, especially when the Pope and Queen disagreed on an issue.

As such, religion was one of the problems that Elizabeth had to deal with straight away. If Elizabeth, who had been raised a Protestant, forced the Protestant faith on Catholics, her chances of remaining Queen for a long time, as well as the stability of the country, would be threatened.

She therefore aimed to create her **own form of religion**, known as the **Religious Settlement**, in which she hoped to satisfy the demands of both elements. The Settlement became known as the *Via Media* or '**middle way**'.

The Religious Settlement 1559

The Religious Settlement aimed to ease the tensions created by the religious divisions of the previous 25 years. It tried to take elements from both Protestantism and Catholicism, but since many Protestants had become MPs, the Settlement was perhaps more Protestant than Elizabeth would have liked.

The Elizabethan Religious Settlement was contained in two acts – the Act of Supremacy which made the monarch the Supreme Governor of the C of E, and the Act of Uniformity which made Protestantism the official state religion.

with acknowledgements to BBC website

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

What's the Big Idea? - an introduction to 1 Timothy

This month we look again at the books of the New Testament. Paul wrote to Timothy, *'my true son in the faith'* (2), as leader of the church in Ephesus. Timothy had a Greek father and Jewish Christian mother (Acts 16:1). Paul led him to faith during his first visit to Lystra and on his second visit invited Timothy to join him on his travels. He circumcised Timothy so that his Greek ancestry would not be a liability to working with the Jews (Acts 16:3). Although somewhat timid and often unwell, Timothy was a faithful servant of the Lord and Paul.

Paul writes his letter to challenge false teaching and to give instruction on aspects of church life, including worship, the appointment of leaders, and their attitude to money.

Paul gave Timothy authorisation to challenge the false teachers in the church. They taught a strong emphasis on Jewish myths and genealogies and were legalistic about Jewish laws. They also taught that the resurrection had already come and Christians no longer needed to look to Christ's coming, judgment, and resurrection of the dead. They were so immersed in speculative controversies that they neglected the very core of the Christian faith. Not an unfamiliar situation today!

Therefore, like Timothy, we are called to enable the church to bring glory to God: *'But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.'* (6:11,12)

Sunday of Christ the King

The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next.... the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – *it is promised more than 250 times!*

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13–5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man

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standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '... His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work, watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tell us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is 'seated at the right hand' of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father's timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

Parish Pump website

You are invited to



At Christmas

Saturday 5th December

at 7.30pm

in St Owen's Church

Bromham

**Choral music for the Christmas
Season – from Advent to Epiphany**

Adults: £10 Children u16: Free

Tickets at the door – cash or card

Includes interval refreshments

www.bromhambenefice.org



Burnham wants to approve bishops

The Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, wants to advise the King on the appointment of bishops and archbishops in the Church of England and Church of Scotland.

The practice of the King being involved dates way back to the Reformation, when the monarch was head of the Church, and so took responsibility for appointing clergy.

Burnham is currently barred because he is a professing Roman Catholic. But he has called the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829** an “antiquated and archaic anomaly” and is determined to change it.



These days, of course, the Prime Minister’s approval of such appointments is symbolic. The Church puts its candidate forward, who will be approved. In the meantime, there are nine current or upcoming vacancies for diocesan bishops.

Parish Pump website

**The Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 also known as the Catholic Emancipation Act 1829, is an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that removed the sacramental tests that barred Roman Catholics in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from Parliament and from higher offices of the judiciary and state.

It was the culmination of a fifty-year process of Catholic emancipation during which Catholics had been progressively relieved of their civil and political disabilities under the penal laws of what had been, until 1801, the formally separate kingdoms of Great Britain and of Ireland

with acknowledgements to Wikipedia.

Why you should not squeeze your teabag

More than eight million of us drink at least two cups of tea a day. Many of us drink five cups or more. As a nation, we love tea.

George Orwell loved tea. Back in 1946 he even wrote an essay, 'A Nice Cup of Tea' to set out his 11 rules for making the perfect brew. But nowadays, we turn to chemistry professors on the Tea Advisory Panel for their tea-making tips.



Why chemistry professors? Because there are almost 2,000 chemicals in tea, which is a “wildly rich molecular mix”. And everything you do to your tea changes its chemical makeup.

So – some tips:

First of all, use boiling water on the tea leaves.

Secondly, warm your mug or teapot. That ensures the water is HOT when it hits your tea leaves.

Thirdly, swirl the bag or pot – swirling releases more of those subtle flavours.

Fourthly, let it mash, steep or brew for three to five minutes, to get the best flavour.

Fifthly, never squeeze your teabag! That releases bitter tannic acids.

Sixth – add the milk last, or the water won't be hot enough to brew your tea. Apparently, adding milk first is a historical relic from when boiling tea could break fragile china cups.

Seventh – take a moment to enjoy your tea. Chemists stress

Continued on next page

that medium to strong tea is really good for you. It increases your hydration, your cognitive function, and your bone health. It even helps cut the risk of type-2 diabetes and heart disease.

Finally, beware tea in America! They do odd things with it there. They use lukewarm water over indifferent tea bags. Even worse, they sometimes put a teabag in a mug of cold water and then boil it in a microwave. This is sacrilege!

Parish Pump website

Cats and teenagers

Neither teenagers nor cats turn their heads when you call them by name.

No matter how much you do for them, it is never enough.

Cats rarely deign to walk with you when outside, and the same is true of teenagers.

Cats have nine lives. Teenagers live as if they did.

FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS - 2026

SEPTEMBER

1st prize	Edward Jones
2nd prize	Heather Fawcett
3rd prize	Pam Vincent
4th prize	Frances Bulmer
5th prize	John Franklin

Sudoku - Medium

Solution on
page 33

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

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From the Registers

Funerals/Memorials:

1st October	Alexandra Graham (Oakley)
2nd October	Brian Boulton (Oakley)
21st October	Jean Cannon (Bromham)
29th October	Mary Gilboy (Bromham)

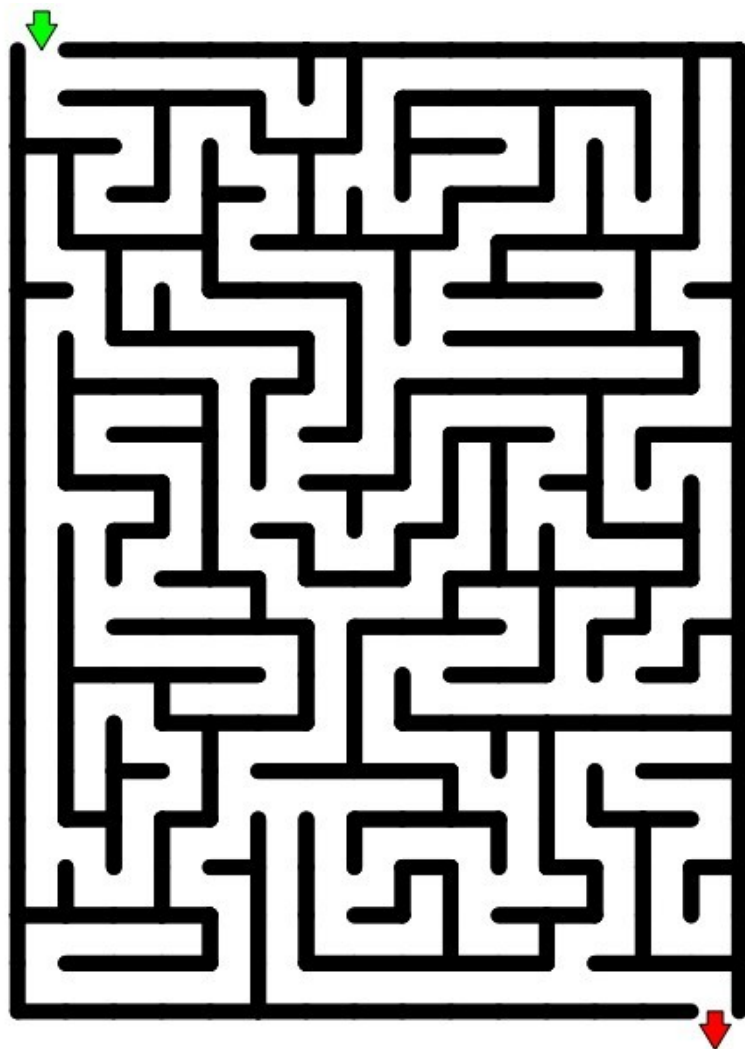
Burials/Burial of Ashes:

5th October	David Allen (Oakley)
6th October	Patricia Lightfoot (Bromham)

Wedding Vow Renewal:

31st October	Alan & Carol Langley (Bromham)
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Can you find your way from top to bottom?



Cats and teenagers are known to creep home at all hours of the night. Neither will tell you where they've been.

For younger readers.....

The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

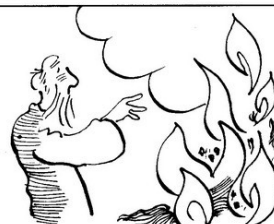
... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...

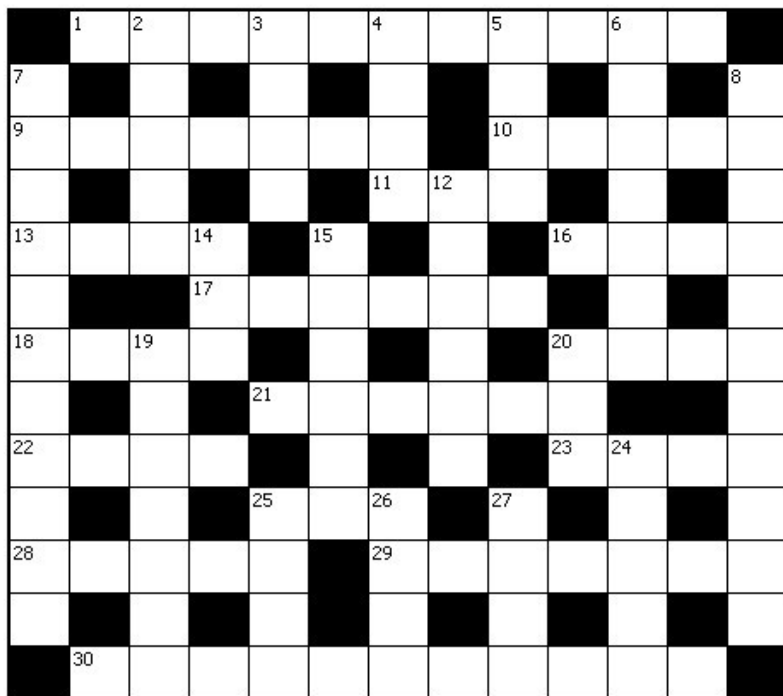


...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _ Lord of all _ whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
- 11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We

must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _
 Eareckson Tada (4)
 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into
 a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be
 heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the
 Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your
 children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal
 life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

Solution on page 33

God in the Arts

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

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – the altar

In ‘The Temple’ the reader travels through the poems of George Herbert and makes a pilgrimage through the church to arrive finally at the altar where Love bids us welcome to make our communion.

For the poet and for us, the altar is a sign of Christ: His presence in the sacrament of His body and blood. At the Reformation stone altars gave way to wooden holy tables, but in 1972 a stone altar was created for a London church that was designed not only as a sign of Christ, but as a reminder of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem – the place where Abraham was ready to offer Isaac.

The altar is a focus of offering. Its sculptor was Henry Moore who began his work 300 years after Sir Christopher Wren began the new church of St Stephen, Walbrook in 1672. Neither Wren nor Moore were afraid of innovation and experiment. As a result, Wren created one of the most beautiful of

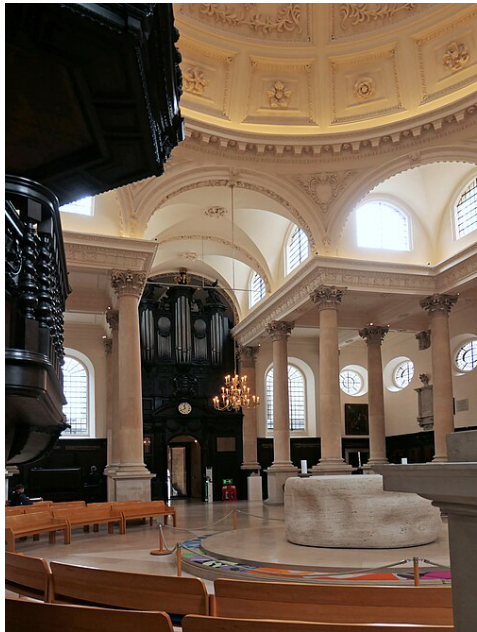


*Photo: amandabhslater, via
Wikimedia Commons*

Continued on next page

London churches, famous and admired throughout Europe, with its central dome carried on 12 columns. His concern was that in worship all should hear and see, just as Moore's concern was to show the altar at the heart of the church, and consequently a church that is at the heart of the city.

The placing of that altar led to a lengthy court case in 1987, and opinions may still vary over this marriage of stone and building. But it remains as a focus for offering and worship, just as the church of St Stephen stands nearly 350 years after it was rebuilt. Both take us in faith and prayer to an earlier age when Jesus shared a meal with His disciples in the Upper Room. We rejoice that the same Jesus welcomes us to the Eucharist now at this altar of St Stephen and at the altars of all our churches.

With Remembrance Sunday in mind

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. - Aron Kilbourn

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. - President John F. Kennedy

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Major General Douglas MacArthur

War is a tragedy which commonly destroys the stage it is acted on. - Matthew Henry

Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind. - John F Kennedy

Book Reviews

Dementia, God and the Church: Journeying with Hope

By Wendy Gleadle and Frances Attwood, BRF, £12.99

Dementia is one of today's most feared health conditions. Christians may worry about losing their connection to God. However, those living with dementia can still find meaning in their faith.

Although there are difficulties of expressing one's faith as cognition declines, the spirit remains intact, and spiritually aware. And churches can support those living with dementia through giving what support they, their families and carers most need.

The Lord's Prayer – the Prayer Jesus taught 2,000 years ago

By Lois Rock, Lion Cub Books, £8.99

Specially commissioned to provide a brief, lucid and reflective commentary on the prayer for children aged 5 to 11 years, this colourful book helps them understand and bring the words to life. There is a one line of reflection to each line of prayer, to help explain how the prayer is applicable for their everyday experiences.

Treasures in Straw: Exploring the griefs and gifts of the Christmas story By Tanya Marlow, BRF, £9.99

For some, Christmas is a magical time. For others, it can be painful, and the usual tinselled tellings of the Christmas story feel unbearably saccharine. Yet in that first Christmas, all of life is there – disgrace and honour, danger and protection, uncertainty and hope, temptation and tyranny, sorrow and celebration. This book explores the themes of loss and blessing throughout the nativity. However you feel about Christmas, this book will leave you with a deeper understanding and genuine joy in living with Christ.

Can't scare me

My wife and I were watching the gorillas at the zoo when several of them charged at the enclosure fence, yelling terribly, rolling their eyes around, and clenching their fists. They looked quite terrifying. The crowd scattered except for one frail, elderly lady, who did not bat an eye.

Later, my wife asked how she had kept her composure. "Oh, easy," she said cheerfully. "You see, I used to run the youth group at my local church."



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Solution to puzzle
on page 23

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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



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The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

Bedtime Story

It was Dad's turn to read young Jamie a bedtime story. After 20 minutes, Mum called up the stairs, "Is he asleep?"

Young Jamie called softly back, "Yes, finally."



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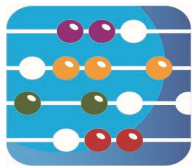
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