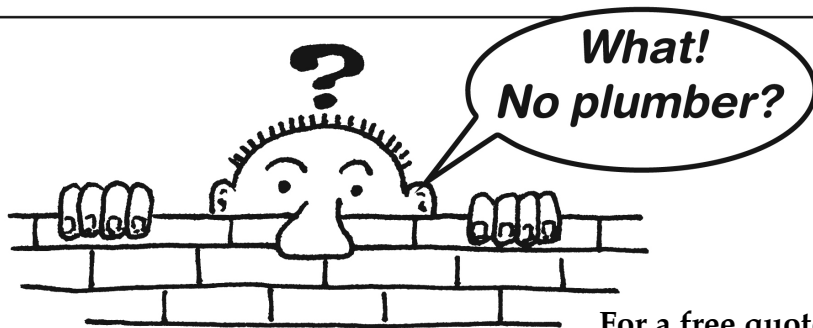


Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



October 2025



*Need a plumber at any time?
Today that could be a crime,
But not with my competitive rates,
I'll soon get you out of a state.*

*Need an new bathroom, or washing machine fitted?
Just call on me – I'm very well kitted.
Need central heating or just a tap washer changed?
Give me a ring and get it arranged.*

**For a free quote
contact:
P J Bartram
25 Bedford Road
Clapham
MK41 6EJ**

**Tel:
07785 716716**

Bedford Carers

Maria O'Byrne

melita564@hotmail.com

Tel. 07817 191820



Domiciliary Care

Companionship

Housekeeping

Outings/Shopping

Providing simple meals

Overnight stay and/or Personal Care if or when required

DBS checked

Experienced

References

Full Drivers Licence

Liability Insurance

Member of NACAS & Registered with Bedford Borough Council

**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 918691
Curate: Revd Petra Yates - curate@bromhambenefice.org 07504 118405

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 340089

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	}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	ls.ball@btinternet.com
Organist & Choirmaster - contact	Jenny Sudworth	822859
Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
Flowers	Mrs A Rolph	824849
St Mary's Ringers	Mr Bill Sellars	823473

Who's Who in Stagsden

Church Officers

Churchwarden	} Post holders names not published	
PCC Treasurer	} please contact thru Revd Di Harpham	918691
PCC Secretary	Caroline Heaton	
Ringers	Mr Richard Brown	823289
Flowers Team	please contact thru Revd Di Harpham	918691

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

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



Principal Services in the Benefice

<u>5th October</u>	<u>16th Sunday after Trinity / Harvest</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Family Harvest Service with Communion (Bromham)
<u>12th October</u>	<u>17th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion LEP (Oakley)
3.00pm	Remembering Service (Bromham)
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>19th October</u>	<u>18th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
3.00pm	Remembering Service (Oakley)
<u>26th October</u>	<u>Last Sunday of Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)

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



When I was at school one of my favourite subjects was history – I loved learning about the Kings and Queens and the things that had happened to create the country we now live in.

As a teenager I read historical novels by authors like Jean Plaidy, which widened my general historical knowledge in an easy-to-read (and not necessarily completely accurate) way, and I've always enjoyed historical dramas and films based on true events – *Wolf Hall* and *The King's Speech* come to mind.

History has power to interest and inform us, as we discover how the events of years ago unfolded, and how actions or words had significant impacts on the lives of many thousands of others. It can sadden us as we remember happy times now gone, or unnecessary suffering in conflict or disaster. And it can educate us – how might we live differently in the light of what has gone before?

Just recently Tim and I have been watching 'King and Conqueror', an account of the events leading up to the death of Edward the Confessor in January 1066, and the subsequent struggle between Harold Godwinson and William of Normandy for the throne of England. It's not for the faint-hearted – there is a lot of 11th century violence and some 21st century strong language – but to see the story unfold, and the reconstruction of what life was probably like even for the

ruling classes, is fascinating. And of course, there's no cliff-hanger – we know how the conflict ended!

In the same vein, it's always interesting to read the 'all in the month of...' section in this esteemed publication, as it notes the significant anniversaries of events in the month we are in. Last month marked the 200 year anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington railway, and during August we visited a (free!) museum called Locomotion just outside Bishop Auckland. It is built near the route of that first public railway and among the exhibits was a replica of Stephenson's Rocket which made the first journey, on display as part of the 200th celebration event. It's a great museum – do visit it if you are up that way.

Looking back and remembering is a key part of the church's life at this time of year – in October, we hold our Remembering Services to give thanks for those who have died quite recently and whose memory we hold dear. Many people find it helpful to come along to listen, remember, and light a candle – everyone is welcome. And in November the whole country will pause for Remembrance Sunday as we honour those who died in two World Wars.

But the most significant event in the whole of history is remembered Sunday by Sunday as we celebrate Holy Communion and recall God's saving love for us in Jesus' death and resurrection. 'In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself' (2Cor 5: 19); it's HIS-story, not just history – and becomes part of our story as we share together around his table.

Catherine Wilson

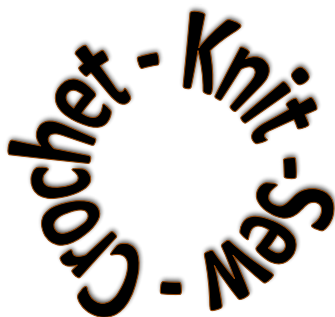


Next meeting - **Thursday 9th October**

2.30pm - 4.30pm

For further info contact Tessa Woodcock

01234 340089



Sewing Group

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



Music Music Music

Ray Cordell & Alan Howard

in a concert of their own & popular music

St Mary's, Oakley on Saturday 1st November

Tickets £12 from 07710 462535

First Friday Coffee Mornings

Next coffee morning on Fri 3rd October

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

Please contact Flora for more information





**NO
Fellowship Lunch
at St Owen's
this month**

But see page 15 for details of the Benefice Harvest Supper
More information from Emma Harrison.

Open Doors

St Leonard's
Stagsden

Every Tuesday

3.00 - 4.30pm

St Owen's
Bromham

Next date

Saturday 18th October

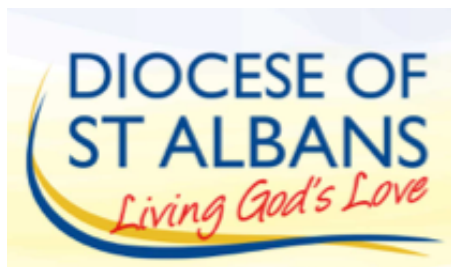
10.00am - 12 noon

All welcome for refreshments & fellowship

St Owen's Altar Guild

Decorating St Owens Church for **Harvest** will take place on
Saturday 4 October from 10 am. Anyone who would like to
help will be most welcome. Donations for the purchase of
flowers will be gratefully accepted.

Margaret Parrott



Harvest Appeal 2025

Rewrite
Their
Future



This year's appeal is called *Rewrite Their Future*, and we are once again partnering with Mission Direct. Their work in Uganda and Zambia is focused on building schools and improving access to education in some of the world's most under-resourced communities. After one year, these schools supported by Mission Direct will serve over 2,945 children, of which 1,170 will be benefitting from new classrooms —and over the next 20 years, 23,400 children will gain access to education that would otherwise be out of reach.

At a time when 250 million children globally are not in school, this is one small but vital way we can help change that reality.

Continued on next page

Thanks to the generosity of supporters over the last 20 years, Mission Direct have been able to build 49 schools. Nearly all of these are still open and have grown substantially.

The children who access these schools are given the opportunity to *Rewrite Their Future* because they are receiving the opportunity of a completely different life. They gain hope and aspirations that would have been out of reach if they could not attend a school.

In the Harvest Appeal video, you will meet Esther and Francis who want to become an airline pilot and an accountant, and you will also hear from the inspiring Dorothy who founded a school 20 years ago which now has 650 pupils, thanks in part to the support she has received from Mission Direct.

Mission Direct's education initiatives typically include building schools, helping to attract and retain teachers in rural schools, enhancing academic performance and health due to nutrition programmes and enabling girls to continue in education after puberty by providing better washing and sanitation facilities.

Your donation helps us continue this vital work – supporting a range of activities that enable us to *Rewrite Their Future*. Whether we are laying bricks, funding feeding programmes, providing teacher training or providing advocacy, policy and resource acquisition support – these all contribute to more children being able to go to school.

A note from Bishop Richard and Bishop Jane:

As we give thanks for all that God provides, we also celebrate the incredible impact we can make when churches, chaplaincies and schools across our diocese act together in prayer, generosity and compassion. Over the past 16 years, our Harvest Appeals have raised more than £1 million, bringing lasting hope to communities around the world.

Continued on next page

This year, we invite you to help build on that legacy. We commend this appeal to you with deep gratitude for all you already do. Let's stand together once again, so more children can go to school, unlock their potential and thrive.

With every blessing,
+Richard, Bishop of Bedford
+Jane, Bishop of Hertford

Harvest Appeal Prayer

God of grace and mercy, whose Son, Jesus Christ, demonstrated his love through acts of compassion and offers freedom from the things that hold us back: we pray your blessing on the schools and families of Zambia and Uganda.

May we, your Church, overflow with compassion and generosity as we support efforts to help children to free themselves from poverty through education.

And may your good news of hope and salvation touch ever more people into a relationship with you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



'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

Tales from a Sabbatical – part I: Projects

Regular readers of this magazine will be aware that I spent June, July and August this year on Extended Study Leave (ESL) – also known as a Sabbatical. I'll be sharing some of my experiences in the magazine in the next couple of months – starting this month with Projects.

The longest element of my ESL was a four week block spent mostly in the London Borough of Newham, volunteering with London City Mission. LCM works alongside churches across London to empower, train and support them in sharing the gospel message with vulnerable people. I was with the East London team, and was able to visit and participate in some of their projects which sought to serve their predominantly Asian Muslim communities in practical ways, and offer the gospel message through conversation and friendship.

The Food Pantry in Manor Park is a project I visited each week, run by a local church and supported by LCM workers. Local people join their 'club' and are then able to spend £1, £2 or £3 and take 6, 12 or 18 items from the store, along with a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables that are free. While these meet the short-term problems, the underlying issues are English language skills and lack of digital competency, so guests are encouraged to sign up to free courses to help with these areas. Team members help distribute food, and chat to the guests offering friendship and an invitation to hear the gospel message.

The New Asian Friendship Centre in East Ham uses a single-fronted shop space to offer help and advice one day a week to

Continued on next page

local people who struggle to deal with bureaucracy and forms because English isn't their first language and they don't have computers. A small team are available to help on a one-to-one basis – whether it's coping with for example a Jury service summons, a phone call to the Housing Department, or dealing with a Universal Credit form. At times there were many people waiting – there is a great need there for volunteers willing to help, and for larger premises to accommodate the project. They provide drinks and lunch to whoever is there, and twice a day the project leader, Mike, explains that 'because we are Christians we ask our loving God to be with us and help us' and there is a short Bible reading (in English and Urdu) and a message which Mike speaks in English but is translated phrase by phrase into Urdu by an Asian team member. There is no pressure to stay and listen – but most do.

I also spent two days with a team who put on a multi-media presentation for local schools that provided information for children aged 9-11 from diverse backgrounds and faiths about what Christians believe about Jesus – again in a predominantly Muslim area. The project welcomed around 400 children from 5 local schools across the week – much appreciated by pupils and staff alike.

Across London, close to Waterloo station, LCM own a building they use for outreach and support. 4 days a week they serve breakfast to homeless people and offer showers, clothes, access to medical care and a friendly welcome into a warm dry building. I spent three mornings there serving hot drinks and talking to people; each morning there is a gospel talk telling the guests about God's love for them, which they don't have to sit and listen to – but I saw very few leave. One

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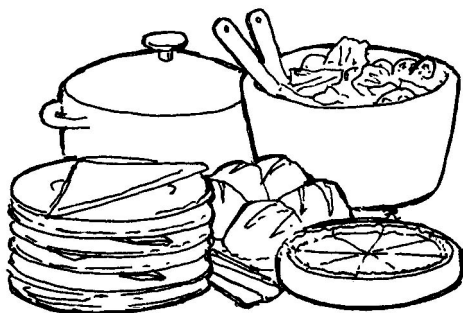
lady had recently been baptised having come to faith through the ministry of the Centre.

This is just a quick snapshot of my time in London – I'll share more about my sabbatical next month!

Catherine

Ed - you can learn more about London City Mission at www.lcm.org.uk

Benefice Harvest Supper
Saturday 4th October at 5.30pm
at St Owen's Church



Info - Emma Harrison

Please sign up in church

Tickets

£7.50 (u16 - £5)

Donations invited for:

Food items to
Bedford Foodbank

& Cash to
Bishop's Harvest
Appeal

I would be happy to undertake alterations or mending. My fee, I will donate to St Mary's Oakley. For more information please call Maureen on 01234 356354.



The Friends of St. Owen's Church,
Bromham Park, Bromham MK43 8LL

present

Bedford Gallery Quire



In A *concert* of 'West Gallery' **musick** for the 'Harvest Home', being the *hymns psalms* and tunes of that *season*, with songs of celebration, set-pieces, an *anthem*, readings of a seasonal nature, and *music* upon the Flute, Fiddle, Ophicleide, Serpent, & Flageolet, also to Include **refreshments**.

Admission **£10** per ticket (*free* for those *in* full-time education) **payable** at the door.

Saturday 11th October 7:30 pm

www.bedfordgalleryquire.org.uk

Bedford Gallery Quire is a community group of singers and instrumentalists performing three and four part musical pieces from the West Gallery period, around 1700 to 1850. Come and Enjoy! Raffle too.

Editor: This month's 'saint' left such a legacy for our lives today that we think he is well worth bringing to your attention.

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury - the Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a 'horror' of 'cruelty and starvation'. The only love came from the family's housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: 'She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.' The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.

After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life's work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw,

Continued on next page

forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury's maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve conditions. He wrote: 'By God's blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.'

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of 'the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.'

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform took years. Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of 9 should work in the cotton or woollen industries below the age of 9, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

Miners. In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, 'I should die of a broken heart'.

Religion. Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical

Continued on next page

Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'. One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.'

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'. He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting generation', 'friend of every living thing', 'he had a 'fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.'

Parish Pump website



From the Registers

Baptisms:

14th Sept- Serena Giuseppina Sacco-Barrett

(Bromham)

28th Sept- Edward Owain Morgan Phillips (Oakley)

Weddings:

20th Sept- Emily Pope & Thomas Giles (Bromham)

Funerals:

26th Sept- Victor Inegbedion (Bromham)

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible, which will run until the end of 2025.

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Galatians

Paul's letter to the Galatians has been described as the '*Magna Carta of Christian Liberty*', because it emphasises the freedom that we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul vigorously defends the truth that people are justified ('*made right with God*') by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Our standing with God is not determined by what we do, but by dependence on what Christ has done.

It is generally believed that Paul wrote this letter in 48/9AD to the churches in the southern area of Galatia, which he planted on his first missionary journey. It was written before the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), making it the earliest of Paul's letters.

Paul is dealing with Jewish-Christians (or Judaizers) who were advocating ceremonial practices of the Jewish law, including circumcision, in addition to faith in Christ as the means of salvation. They were undermining Paul's authority as an apostle, by asserting that his gospel didn't agree with the apostles in Jerusalem.

In response, Paul defends his apostolic authority and presents the true gospel, by emphasising the unique importance of Christ and His cross in salvation. He argues that '*a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ*' (2:16). He appeals especially to the examples of Abraham (3:6-9) and Hagar and Sarah (4:21-31), who stand in contrast as being a 'slave' under the law and 'free' in Christ.

'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do

Continued on next page

not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.’ (5:1). We are justified through faith alone and it is by faith alone that we live out our new life in the freedom of the Spirit.

Editor: Would anyone be able to volunteer?

The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month.

The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.

The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer please go to: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.

FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

SEPTEMBER 2025

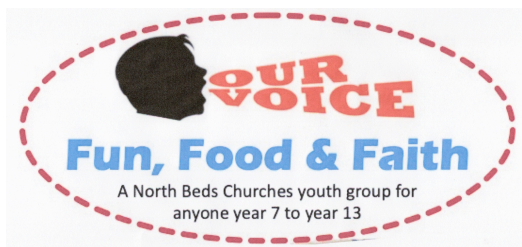
1st prize	Margaret Parrott
2nd prize	Barbara Crawford
3rd prize	Joyce Halpin
4th prize	Fiona Peacock

Sudoku - Medium

Solution on
page 33

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

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Next meeting
Saturday 11th October
5 - 6.30pm
The Fellowship Centre
Clapham
MK41 6ER

Advance Notice:

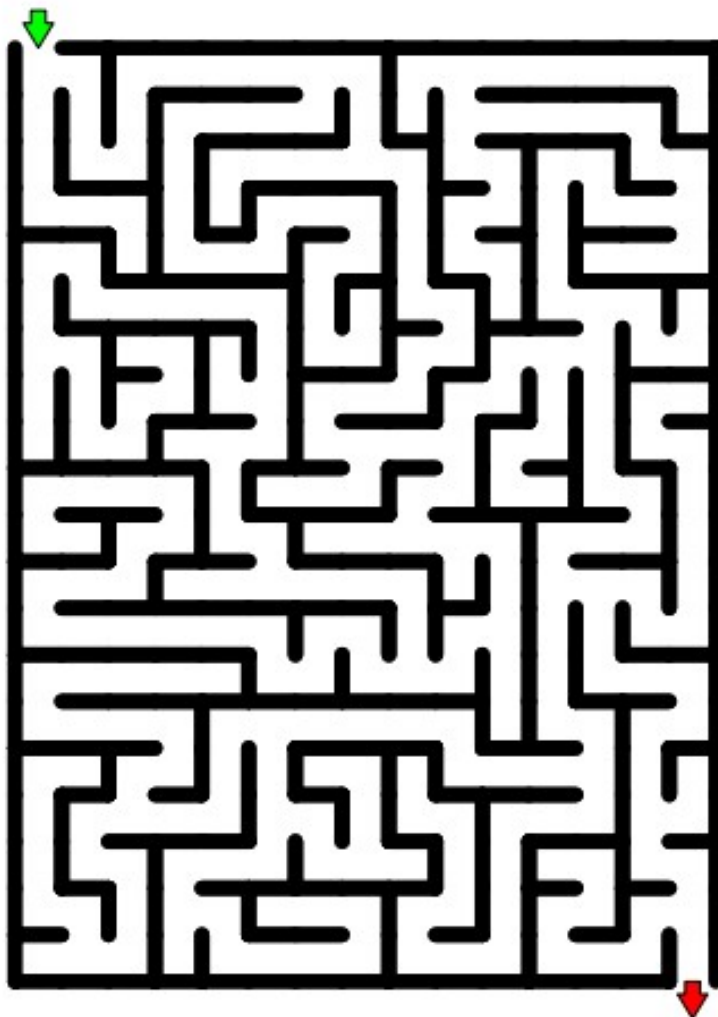
Youth Led Service
Saturday 8th November at 4pm
in Clapham Parish Church

for more info contact us at ourvoicetoo@gmail.com



*...if you have been affected by any
of the issues raised in this sermon...*

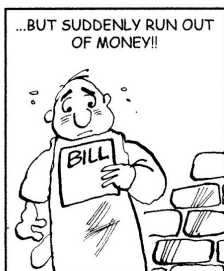
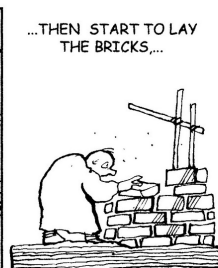
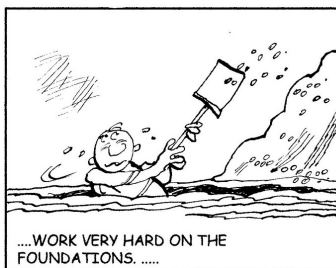
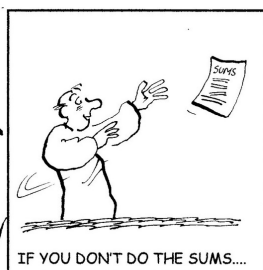
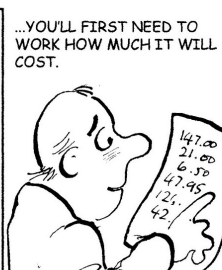
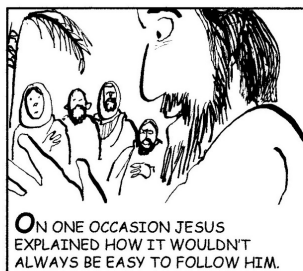
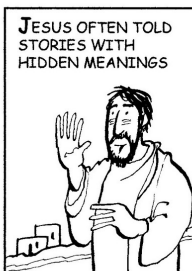
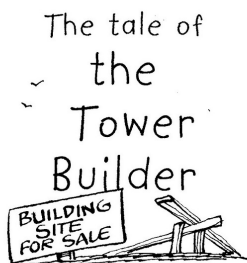
Can you find your way from top to bottom?

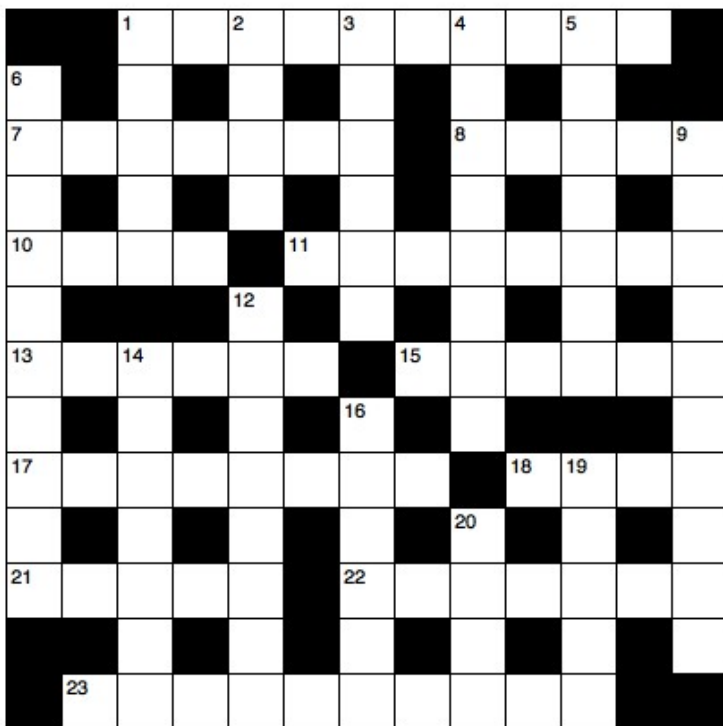


If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

For younger readers.....





Across

1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)

7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

8 Relieved (5)

10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears.
 Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an
 — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison
 and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't —
 yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the
 whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings
 21:1) (10)
 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires
 overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1
 Timothy 5:11) (10)
 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his
 discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus
 (Matthew 2:14) (5)
 20 See 18 Across

Solution on page 33

God in the Sciences

Editor: This series is written by Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Continuing the Celebration!

On 6th-13th October this year many people around the world will be celebrating the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. They will celebrate the Harvest, and also remember God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert.

The biblical book of Deuteronomy contains a description of what Tabernacles should have been like back then. "Celebrate... for seven days. Be joyful... you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns."

These festivals were not just a celebration, but also an expression of gratitude to God: "celebrate the festival to the Lord your God...For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." Tabernacles was a proper holiday, with two whole days off normal work and seven days of feasting.

Farming looks very different today. Very few of us have had to sweat long hours over crops, so we're not as ready for (or deserving of) a rest and a party as our ancestors were at this time of year. That might be even more the case in future, as the agri-tech revolution unfolds. For example, small autonomous tractors are already becoming available that do

Continued on next page

less damage to the soil and make better use of steep or oddly shaped fields.

Many arable farms already hire contractors to do the routine work with large specialist GPS-equipped machinery. In future years those people might find themselves using very different kinds of high-tech kit, acting more as land-management advisors, helping farmers to gather data and to find ways of improving soil quality, biodiversity and the water cycle.

I'm very grateful for the food that arrives on my shelves. Instead of worrying about whether or not we earned it, our modern-day Tabernacles or Harvest celebration could include ways of encouraging those involved in agriculture and developing new agricultural technologies, as well as enjoying how we can learn about and benefit from God's creation through Science.

So, after you celebrate Harvest at church, why not follow it up with a trip to a local farm this month? Why not learn from the ancient Israelites, and follow it up with a meal together? It stands to reason that those of us who live in countries where food is plentiful and cheap* could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably! *Ruth Bancewicz*

**Ed – perhaps that should say “comparatively cheap”. The UK charity, Christian Aid which is working with farmers in northern Gaza to supply hot meals to thousands of families, said recently that – where available – onions on sale in the south are now 50 times their pre-war price, lemons 35 times and sugar more than 26 times at around £17 per kilogram.*

Leafy vegetables such as spinach, molokhiya (jute leaves) chard, and khubbazah (a type of mallow) cost 25 times more than they did before October 7, with a head of cabbage selling for about £4.30.

Golf

There was a clergyman who was an avid golfer. One Sunday was a picture-perfect day for golf, and the minister could not resist the temptation. He rang his assistant and told him he was too ill to attend church. Then he packed up the car, drove 30 miles to a golf course, and began to play. But an angel watching the minister was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, "Look at the minister. He should be punished for what he's doing."

God nodded in agreement as the minister teed up on the tenth hole. He swung, and the ball sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup, 350 yards away. A perfect hole-in-one. The minister was overjoyed. The angel turned to God and said: "Begging your pardon, but I thought You were going to punish him." And God smiled: "Think about it; who can he tell?"

.....



Miscellaneous observations on life

You know you're a bad driver when Siri says, "In 400 yards, pull into the layby, stop and let me out."

Golf balls are like eggs. They are both white, sold by the dozen, and a week later you have to go out and buy more.

You know you're getting older when you begin to realize that your parents were right, after all.

You can learn many things from children. Like, how much patience you have.

The most fattening thing you can put in an ice cream sundae is a spoon.

All in the month of October - It was:

750 years ago, on 27th Oct 1275 that the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 that Johann Strauss II, was born. This Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including *The Blue Danube*.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013.)

90 years ago, on 12th Oct 1935 that Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born. Considered one of the finest tenors of the 20th century, and one of the most commercially successful of all time. (Died 2007.)

70 years ago, on 20th Oct 1955 that *The Return of the King*, the third and final part of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, was published.

65 years ago, on 12th Oct 1960 that, at a meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have removed his shoe and pounded his table, in protest at a speech by another delegate.

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.

50 years ago, on 9th Oct 1975 that the IRA detonated a bomb near the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly. One person was killed and at least 20 injured.

40 years ago, on 1st Oct 1985 that riots broke out in Toxteth

Continued on page 33



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in Liverpool and Peckham in London. Five days later (6th Oct) Met Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed in the Broadwater Farm housing estate riot in Tottenham. He was the first British constable to be killed in a riot since 1833.

20 years ago, on 3rd Oct 2005 that Ronnie Barker, TV comedian, actor and writer, died. Known for *The Frost Report*, *The Two Ronnies*, *Porridge*, *Going Straight* and *Open All Hours*.

15 years ago, on 13th Oct 2010 that 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued. Around one billion TV viewers around the world watched them being pulled to the surface one-by-one, in a specially designed capsule.

10 years ago, on 26th Oct 2015 that the Hindu Kush earthquake hit Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. At least 399 people were killed, and 2,536 more injured.

Solution to puzzle on
page 22

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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

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Those magnificent men in their flying machine...

It was 125 years ago, on 20th October 1900, that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina.

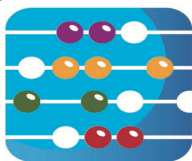
This was a key moment in the history of aviation, although their first powered flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft came three years later, on 17th December 1903, also at Kill Devil Hills, which is near Kitty Hawk.

Orville and Wilbur Wright, who lived in Dayton, Ohio – more than 600 miles from Kitty Hawk – were the sons of a bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and were both named after clergymen. However, they became inventive mechanics and owned a bicycle shop at a time when cycling was becoming safer and popular. They chose the Kitty Hawk area for flight attempts, based on advice from the US Weather Bureau.

There had been many unpowered glider flights in Europe before, and the Wrights, who were in their thirties, were particularly impressed by the successful German pioneer Otto Lilienthal, who had been killed in 1896. The Wrights' big leap forward, however, was a system of three-axis controls that made fixed-wing powered flight possible. It enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft and maintain its equilibrium. It remains standard on aircraft today.

Flying changed the world for us all. It had long been a dream, dating back at least as far as the Greek legend of Icarus and Daedalus, and including kite-flying in China and ballooning in 18th-century France, with the Montgolfier brothers. A small piece of the Wright Flyer is now on Mars – a piece of cloth attached to a small but active reconnaissance helicopter called *Ingenuity*.

Tim Lenton - Parish Pump website



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