Church News

for the Parishes of Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



October 2022

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Welcome to Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org

f facebook Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

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Assistant	Priest: Revd Di Harphan	
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Pew Leaflet Sarah Smale, as Administrator

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

Ms T Woodcock	340089
Mrs F Bulmer	602718
Mrs Vivien Butler	407351
Mrs Emma Harrison	823121
	Mrs F Bulmer Mrs Vivien Butler

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams

Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers				
	Mrs Suzi Webb	07967 311628		
Altar Guild	Mrs M Parrott	824402		

Who's Who in Bromham cont....

Children & Young }	Carol Jones	823307
People's work }	307996	
Electoral Roll	Mr Terry Rooke	409916
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
	F facebook Friends of St Owens	

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers		
Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Mrs C Ord	823477
PCC Treasurer Mrs S	Ball	823133
Organist & Choirmaste	r - contact Jenny Sudworth	822859
Messy Church for pre-s	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>2nd October</u> 9.00am 10.30am	<u>16th Sunday after Trinity</u> Holy Communion (Bromham) Harvest Festival with Holy Communion (Oakley)			
3.00pm	Service of Remembering (Bromham)			
<u>9th October</u> 9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	<u>17th Sunday after Trinity</u> Holy Communion (Stagsden) LEP Service (Oakley Methodist) Evensong (Bromham)			
<u>16th October</u> 9.00am 10.30am 4.30pm	<u>18th Sunday after Trinity</u> Holy Communion (Oakley) Holy Communion (Bromham) Wild Church (Bromham Scout site)			
<u>23rd October</u> 9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	<u>19th Sunday after Trinity</u> Holy Communion (Stagsden) Holy Communion (Bromham) Service of Remembering (Oakley)			
<u>30th October</u> 10.30am	<u>All Saints Day</u> Holy Communion (Stagsden)			
Weekday Services				
Mondays 11.30am Thursdays	Messy Church (Bromham)			
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)



"The Naming of Cats is a difficult matter, It isn't just one of your holiday games; ...I tell you, a cat must have THREE DIFFERENT NAMES..."

So wrote TS Eliot – and whether or not you own a cat, it's a great poem so do look it up and enjoy it.

It came to mind, because I recently acquired a third name. Of course, I have the name I was given by my parents, Catherine, which is how I introduce myself to anyone I meet. I didn't choose it – but I have chosen over the years not to shorten or change it. I regularly hear stories about why a baby has been given a particular name, or why someone is always known as something quite different to the name on their birth certificate: my late step-father was known to all the grandchildren as 'Boo' due to the hiding game he played with my niece when she was tiny.

Secondly, there's the name that only four people in the world are entitled to call me – Mum. I well remember explaining to one of our sons aged about 2 that although he heard everyone else saying 'Tim', only he and his siblings could call him 'Daddy' – it was their special name for him (and he should use it!). When we hosted a German student some years ago, from a family that had decided their children would use the parents' Christian names, it was very odd to hear him speaking about his parents in that way.

My third name? In August we became grandparents for the first time, which raised an interesting question – what will Henry (and his potential siblings and cousins) call us? We realised that in this situation we could choose our names - and so to just this one person, a small (but rapidly growing!) baby in Australia, I am now 'Grandma' – and we are looking forward to meeting him in person in January!

Some name choices have particular significance – did you know that a new monarch can choose any of their Christian names to be their 'Regnal' name? The Queen's father chose to become King George VI rather than using Albert, his first name; her son has become King Charles in preference to his other options (a second King Arthur?).

The names we are given, and the names we choose to be known by, become part of the people we are. At present a small group of young people in the Benefice are exploring whether they want to be confirmed; in the Confirmation service the Bishop addresses each candidate saying 'God has called you by name...' A reminder that we are known to God as individuals, that he knows who we are and all that lies behind the name we have, whether given or chosen.

Have a think about the names you have – which ones did you choose and which were given to you? God knows and loves each and every one of us –and calls us by name, to love and follow him.

Catherine Wilson

Parishes facing soaring bills for energy?

Until very recently it was thought that churches would not qualify for the cap on energy bills, and would have seen prices soar to hitherto unimaginable heights.

However, the Government's latest (at the time of going to print) scheme for relief for businesses does include church gas and electricity bills.

However, there has been no mention of heating oil and very many country churches use oil as they are nowhere near a gas main. Would you like to lobby your MP on behalf of our churches?

Heating our churches is under active consideration by our PCCs. Editor



Thank you

Paul and Heather Fawcett would like to thank everyone who has supported them on the death of their son, David, in France which was his permanent home.

Thank you for all the phone calls, cards and flowers during the eight weeks that we have been waiting to get David's ashes back to Bromham. Most of all we thank you for your prayers which have sustained us.

A final thank you to all who came to David's funeral on Friday 9th September and to Frances and her band of cake-makers who served us tea in the Felowship Room following the service. *Heather and Paul*

Coffee at St Owen's

Next coffee morning at St Owen's is on Friday 7th October when any money raised will be given to Pancreatic Cancer UK

Fellowship and Bring and Share Lunches

October: Traditional bring and share lunch in St Owen's Fellowship Room after morning service on October 23rd.

November: Sunday Nov 27th after morning service at St Owen's. All Age Advent special bring and share lunch with activities. More information nearer the time.

December: No Bring and share lunch. Information on Christmas festivities nearer the time.

Church Bazaar at St Owen's - Sunday 30th October 12 noon - 4pm

Ploughman's Lunches - Stalls - Raffle - Tea & Cakes More information in Pew Leaflet and on the website



Our next event is a meal out on Thursday 13th October . We will be going to Milton Ernest garden centre for lunch and a wander round the displays.

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

Anne Tombs

Bishop's Harvest Appeal

Events at St Owen's raised over £350 for this appeal for aid to people in Mozambique. Thanks to all who donated.

Frances Bulmer

AMIGO - Forthcoming Events

Please let John Dixon know if you wish to attend either event: Tel 01234 824959 or e-mail jwdixon30@gmail.com

Tuesday 25th October 2022

An opportunity to play skittles at the Bedford Arms, Souldrop beginning at 7.30 p.m. A buffet including a variety of sandwiches with chips will be provided at the cost of \pounds 6.00 a head, payable on the night. Please let John Dixon know by the 18th October if you wish to come and have the buffet. Please also let John know if you can offer or want a lift.

Tuesday 13th December 2022

Carol singing at the Bedford Arms, Oakley from 8.00 p.m. We shall also be able to use handbells. *JWD*

On 8th September the Archbishop of Caterbury issued this statement.

It is with profound sadness that I join the nation, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. My prayers are with The King and the Royal Family. May God draw



near them and comfort them in the days, weeks and months ahead.

As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty's extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty's faith in what and who we are called to be.

In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

As we sustain one another in the face of this challenge, our shared grieving will also be a work of shared reimagining. I pray that we commence this journey with a sense of Her Late Majesty's faith and confidence in the future.

As a faithful Christian disciple, and also Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she lived out her faith every day of her life. Her trust in God and profound love for God was foundational in how she led her life – hour by hour, day by day.

In The Late Queen's life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others.

Her Late Majesty found great joy and fulfilment in the service of her people and her God, "whose service is perfect freedom" (BCP). For giving her whole life to us, and allowing her life of service to be an instrument of God's peace among us, we owe her a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

The Late Queen leaves behind a truly extraordinary legacy: one that is found in almost every corner of our national life, as well as the lives of so many nations around the world, and especially in the Commonwealth.

It was my great privilege to meet Her Late Majesty on many occasions. Her clarity of thinking, capacity for careful listening, inquiring mind, humour, remarkable memory and extraordinary kindness invariably left me conscious of the blessing that she has been to us all.

In my prayers at this time I also give thanks for the marriage of The Late Queen and His Late Royal Highness Prince Philip. Theirs was an inspirational example of Christian marriage – rooted in friendship, nourished by shared faith, and turned outwards in service to others.

May Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace and rise in glory. Justin Welby

Whether or not you conceive of evil as personified in the form of Satan there can surely be no doubting that evil persists in the world. Here Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the very fundamentals of Christianity.

Christian Basics No 10: How can I resist evil?

With Halloween coming up, we shouldn't forget that Satan's existence is assumed throughout the Bible and Jesus prayed 'deliver us from the evil one' (Lord's Prayer). Paul adds: 'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms' (Ephesians 6:12).

The spiritual world directly affects the physical, when evil powers oppose God's work. However, God is sovereign and evil can only operate as He permits. We cannot blame Satan for our own wrong choices! 'There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall into about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.' (CS Lewis).

How does Satan operate in our lives? By spoiling God's work in us (John 10:10) By hindering our spiritual understanding (2 Corinthians 4:4) By sowing doubts into our minds (Matthew 4:3,6) By tempting us to break God's law (Genesis 3:6)

How do we resist evil? On the cross Jesus secured victory over Satan, 'And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross' (Col 2:15). Although Satan is still active today, his power is broken and he will be destroyed when Jesus returns. In the present we should put God first in our lives: 'Submit yourselves, then, to *God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*' (James 4:7). Making Jesus our Lord, gets Satan on the run!!

There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan' (*CS Lewis*).

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. *Edmund Burke* (1729 - 1797) *Irish-born British statesman, economist and philosopher*

British Royal Crowns

On the day of the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II you may well have been one of the many millions watching on TV the ceremony in St George's Chapel, Windsor. We saw the royal regalia - Sceptre, Orb and State Crown - placed upon the altar.

We shall see the Sceptre and Orb again at King Charles' coronation but, if tradition is followed, it will be a different crown.

A crown dedicated to St Edward the Confessor has been used at coronations since the 13th century.

The current version (pictured) was made for King Charles II in 1661, the previous one having been sold or melted down during the Civil War.

Edward Jones with acknowledgments to wikipedia.com



Edward the Confessor (1003 – 66) – helping to found Westminster Abbey

If you approve of giving money to help cathedrals survive, then Edward the Confessor is the saint for you; he is remembered by the Church on 13th October. This early King of England was the virtual founder of Westminster Abbey. And never mind entrance charges - at one point in his life, Edward was giving a full tenth of his income to Westminster Abbey.

Edward was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his second, Norman wife, Emma. After various ups and downs which included a brief exile in Normandy, Edward was made King of England in 1042.

As King, Edward had a tricky time of it – trying to keep the peace for over 20 years while various Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power (which eventually led to the Norman Conquest). Scholars have argued over how much of a success he was as a king.

As a Christian, there is no doubt: Edward's holiness was evident to all. He made himself accessible to his people, he was generous to the poor, and chaste. He was also reputed to have seen visions and even achieved miraculous cures for people through prayer.

Edward did much to help the Church in many ways. His lasting contribution was the original Westminster Abbey - a huge Romanesque church, 300 feet long, with a nave of 12 bays. Westminster Abbey became the place of coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. It was finished and consecrated just before his death. Edward was buried there, and his relics are undisturbed to this day.

Parish Pump website

Calling all Quizzers

By popular request we are reviving our friendly zoom quizzes last held in lockdown. The idea is that they will take place on 4 winter evenings Nov 3, Dec 1, Jan 5, and Feb 2 from 7-8 p.m. Dark cold nights when you won't want to go out !

Edward (stowensnews@btinternet.com) will be the host and I (annetombs712@btinternet.com) will be the coordinator and send out the links.

Please let me know if you would like to join us and if you would like to volunteer 10 questions.

Looking forward to seeing you again.

Anne Tombs



"Never mind, let's just be happy that Baz came to church in the first place."

Winter challenge for Ukrainians

Eight months since Russia's invasion, Christian Aid is warning that millions of Ukrainians face a bleak winter in temporary shelters and damaged homes.

Christian Aid is working hard to help Ukrainians get through the cold months, when temperatures can plunge to -20C.

Alongside its local partners and other charities, the programme for winter includes insulating shelters, restoring toilet and shower blocks, and handing out cash, food, blankets, toiletries and other essentials to support 57,000 people.

Christian Aid CEO Patrick Watt said:

"Thanks to the unprecedented generosity of the British people, Christian Aid is helping local people to take the lead in tackling their own priorities. But with disrupted power, freezing temperatures lie ahead for conflict-hit Ukrainians already struggling with trauma and a lack of medical treatment. We must do more, and quickly.



As October brings St Luke's Day, Canon Paul Hardingham considers healing...

Healing for Today

This month we focus on healing, as we remember St Luke (18th October), who was a doctor by profession. The healing of the paralytic man by Jesus (Luke 5: 17-26) gives us some key principles for healing for our lives, as the man was lowered to Jesus through the roof!

Faith:

It was the adventurous and persistent faith of man's four friends that brought him to Jesus to be healed. Jesus was the focus of their faith, as they trusted His ability and willingness to transform the man's life. We are also called to such trust, exercising faith in a great God!

Wholeness:

Jesus' first words are surprising, "Friend your sins are forgiven" (20). Before anything else, Jesus wants the man's relationship with God to be right. God wants to bring wholeness to our lives, including spiritual, emotional, relational, as well as physical healing. Often, He needs to deal with sin, hurt, unforgiveness, guilt or fear before physical restoration.

Authority:

Jesus challenges the Pharisees with the question, "Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?" (23). By healing the man's legs, Jesus not only confirms that He has authority over sin and sickness, but that He is truly God. We can confidently bring all our needs to Him prayerfully 'in the name of Jesus'.

'Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the

gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give Your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.' (Collect, Common Worship).

Agatha Christie's Mousetrap

It was 70 years ago, on 6th October 1952, that the world premiere of Agatha Christie's play, *The Mousetrap*, opened in Nottingham. It then opened in London on 25th November, and is still going, making it the world's longest-running play.

Originally a short radio play written as a birthday present for Queen Mary, it was broadcast in May 1947. The stage play, a murder mystery, has been performed more than 28,000 times – the only break being, because of the Covid pandemic, between 16th March 2020 and 17th May 2021.

The play also made theatrical history by having an original "cast member" survive all the changes since its opening night. The late Deryck Guyler can still be heard, on a recording, reading the radio news bulletin in the play. There have been many physical alterations, with the set being changed in 1965 and 1999, but one original prop survives – the clock above the fireplace in the main hall.

Christie regarded detective fiction as a distinctively moral genre because it deals with questions of guilt and justice that are at times almost theological. The society and milieu of her stories are distinctively Christian. She was baptised into the Church of England and kept her mother's copy of *The Imitation of Christ* – a spiritual handbook – by her bedside. Its flyleaf carried a quotation from Romans, beginning "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" *Tim Lenton*

God in the Sciences

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 9th-16th 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 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 landmanagement 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 could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably!



Please remember Bedford Foodbank

George Cadbury – the chocolate man with a heart for welfare

One hundred years ago, on 24th October 1922, George Cadbury died. He had transformed his father's failing chocolate and cocoa business into one of the world's most successful companies and provided low-cost housing and improved working conditions for his employees.

George was the third son of John Cadbury, a Quaker who founded Cadbury's cocoa and chocolate company. With his brother Richard, George took over the family business in 1861 and founded the chocolate producer Cadbury Brothers. But his consuming interest was in the welfare of his employees and others: having taught in an adult school he was aware that poor housing was a major problem.

One of his first moves was to relocate his factory to a greenfield site south-west of Birmingham with access to canals and the new railways. It was here that he later founded a Quaker higher educational institution – now the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

But apart from his chocolate he is best known for his creation of a rural factory village (designed by architect William Alexander Harvey), called Bournville after the nearby river Bourn. The houses – not exclusively for factory employees – were never privately owned, and they remain attractive and affordable to the present day: a huge change from the poor living conditions in town.

Cadbury was a keen proponent of Quaker values. In 1901 he bought the *Daily News* (later the *News Chronicle*), where he campaigned for improved working conditions and social security. He was prominent in setting up the Birmingham Civic Society in 1918, and he gave a country park to the people of Birmingham, as well as a large house to use as a hospital. It is now the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. *Tim Lenton*



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

SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER 5-6.30PM The Fellowship Centre, Clapham, MK41 6ER SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 5-6.30PM The Fellowship Centre, Clapham, MK41 6ER



For more information see www.sharnbrookdeanery.co.uk or contact us at ourvoicetoo@gmail.com

Henry Ford's secret

When the late Mr and Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a reporter asked them: "To what do you attribute your fifty years of successful married life?"

"The formula," said Ford, "is the same formula I have always used in making cars – just stick to one model." Can you find your way from top to bottom?



For younger readers.....





Across

1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)

4 As balm (anag.) (6)

8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)

9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)

10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)

11 Banishment(Jeremiah29:1)(5)

12 'And now I will show you the most —

way'(1Corinthians12:31) (9)

17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not —— the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)

19 Mice den(anag.)(7)

21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)

22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)

23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)

24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

Down

1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)

2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)

3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)

5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)

6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)

7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)

9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)

13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)

14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)

15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark9:43)(6)

16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)

18 Track(Job41:30)(5)

20 Religious doctrine(5)

Solution on page 31

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On publishing my book

The Rectory St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

After all these years, who would have believed it: to have my own book printed! I must admit, I had imagined a leatherbound volume with gold leaf lettering on the spine – perhaps even titled 'Volume One', implying future delights when further work would appear. A paperback, held together with glue was a slight disappointment. The publisher's reason for a print run of 50, saying that it meant fewer would have to be dumped in cut-price bookshops, was not what I had expected either.

He seemed to think that my commentary on Eusebius's tables for cross-referencing the gospels, as explained in his letter to Carpianus, would not have mass interest. While I concede it will be unlikely to dent the sales of Harry Potter, and that I am unlikely to be involved in negotiating the film rights, I had hoped for slightly more enthusiasm for this stride forward in global knowledge.

The excitement of the book launch and signing was also tempered when only the bishop arrived, expecting a free copy, so he could mark it for theological errors. My suggestion that he take a copy to colour it in did not go down well. I suspect I will not now be asked to deliver a paper on it at the next clergy conference.

I was briefly excited when several parishioners came into the shop. But it turned out that one wanted to book a baptism with me, and another wanted to complain that at his recent wedding, I had nearly married the best man to the bride. I was tempted to tell him that the time may come when he wished that I had, but decided that would be another sale lost.

I could not even console myself with a free drink. The publisher had only brought two bottles of that particular white wine that seems specially reserved for book launches and retirement parties. One bottle he kept for himself and the other disappeared after my Confirmation class came in to ask whether the book would be serialised on TV.

In the end, I bought all 50 copies myself, placed a note in the bookshop window saying that, due to exceptional demand, the print run had been entirely sold out. It has also solved the annual problem of Christmas presents; in your case, a second copy will probably arrive for your birthday too.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Sudoku - medium; solution on page 31

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All in the month of OCTOBER

It was:

200 years ago, on 20th October 1822 that the Sunday Times newspaper was first published in the UK.

175 years ago, on 6th October 1847 that Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre* was first published, under the penname of Currer Bell.

150 years ago, on 12th October 1872 that Ralph Vaughan Williams, British composer, was born.

100 years ago, on 18th October 1922 that the BBC was officially founded as the British Broadcasting Company (now the British Broadcasting Corporation.)

80 years ago, from 23rd October to 5th November 1942 that the Second Battle of El-Alamein in Egypt took place. This important Allied victory marked the beginning of the end for the Axis in North Africa.

Also 80 years ago, on 30th October 1942 that crew members from the British destroyer HMS Petard retrieved codebooks from the German submarine *U-559*, enabling cryptographers at Bletchley Park to decipher the version of the Enigma code used by U-boats.

65 years ago, on 9th October 1957 that the Lovell Telescope began operating at the Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire. At the time it was the world's largest steerable dish radio telescope.

60 years ago, on 15th October 1962 that British weather forecasts switched from the Fahrenheit scale to Celsius.

Also 60 years ago, from 16th to 28th October 1962 that the Cuban missile crisis began when the USA discovered that the Soviet Union had deployed ballistic missiles in Cuba.

40 years ago, on 11th October 1982 that Henry VIII's flagship the *Mary Rose* was raised from the bottom of the Solent, off the coast of southern England, 437 years after it sank.

Parish Pump website



Solution to puzzle on page 26

Solution to puzzle on page 29





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