

# *Church News*

for the Parishes of  
**Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**



**October 2023**



*Need a plumber at any time?  
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vicar@bromhambenefice.org  
Assistant Priest: Revd Di Harpham 918691  
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PCC Secretary	Mrs Vivien Butler	407351
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Emma Harrison	823121

	Mrs F Bulmer	602718
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
	 <b>facebook</b> Friends of St Owens	

## Who's Who in Oakley

### *Church Officers*

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Mrs C Ord	823477
PCC Treasurer	Mrs S Ball	823133
Organist & Choirmaster - contact Jenny Sudworth		822859
Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
Flowers	Mrs A Rolph	824849
St Mary's Ringers	Mr Bill Sellars	823473

## Who's Who in Stagsden

### *Church Officers*

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

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

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



### **Principal Services in the Benefice**

<u>1st October</u>	<u>17th Sunday after Trinity / Harvest</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	All Age Harvest Service (Bromham)*
10.30pm	LEP Harvest Service (Oakley Methodist)* <i>[*Service followed by lunch]</i>
<u>8th October</u>	<u>18th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>15th October</u>	<u>19th Sunday after Trinity / St Luke</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
4.30pm	Wild Church (Bromham Scout Site)
<u>22nd October</u>	<u>20th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
6.00pm	Evensong (Oakley)
<u>29th October</u>	<u>Last Sunday after Trinity</u>
10.30am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)

### **Weekday Services**

#### **Mondays**

11.30am Messy Church (Bromham)

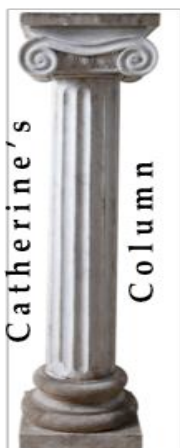
#### **Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)**

11.30am Holy Communion (Bromham  
Fellowship Room)

#### **Thursdays**

10.00am Messy Church (Oakley)

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



## *From the Vicarage*

### **'Come, ye thankful people, come!'**

The words of this familiar and well-loved hymn invite us to join the Harvest celebrations with grateful hearts – grateful that food has been gathered in ready for the winter months ahead. This is perhaps less relevant to us today than

when it was written in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century – after all, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we can eat strawberries in December and fresh green salad in February if we want to! However, Harvest is still a good opportunity to be thankful for our food and those who produce it, and to share generously with others who have so much less than us: our Harvest gifts this year will go to Bedford Foodbank and to buy chickens for families in Uganda (see <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org> and follow the Harvest Appeal link).

When we stop and think about all that we are thankful for, top of many peoples' list is the people we love and care for, and who care for us. Our families, friends and neighbours who do things like babysit, give lifts, put out our bins or help with other tasks – and who smile, phone for a chat, or offer a cup of tea or a hug. Sharing our lives in these ways brings us closer together and gives us good reasons to be thankful for each other.

Sadly, some of these special people are no longer with us, but we are still so grateful for all that they shared with us and the

memories that live on. There is a Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving in each of our 3 churches this month [*see note below*] and they are open to anyone who wants to come and give thanks for someone who has died, whether recently or longer ago. There's a chance to light a candle and have time to reflect, and of course there's the offer of tea and cake afterwards.

At Harvest we give thanks for the crops that have grown during the summer, which means that we will have food for the coming cold months. The celebration of the work done in the summer tells us that the future is more secure – Harvest looks both back and forward.

Soon we'll be looking ahead to Christmas – the very best reason we have to be thankful! We celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son, who came to earth to be our Saviour – and give thanks that what he did on the cross two thousand years ago means our future can be secure with him. (If you're not sure what that means, do consider coming along to our Alpha course (*see page 18*) for an opportunity to ask questions, enjoy a meal and make new friends). St Paul wrote 'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!' (2 Cor 9: 15).

So 'Come, ye thankful people, come!' – at Harvest, at Christmas and all year round as we give thanks for God's amazing love for us past, present and future.

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### **Remembering Services**

1st October	3.00pm – St Leonard's, Stagsden
8th October	3.00pm – St Mary's, Oakley
29th October	3.00pm – St Owen's, Bromham



Next meeting - **Thursday 19th October**

*NB not our usual 2nd Thursday*

at St Owen's Fellowship Room

for a fun Quiz

Contact Tessa Woodcock

01234 340089

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## **Sewing Group**



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

Further information from Frances on 07470 032296

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## **First Friday Coffee Mornings**

Next coffee morning on Fri 6th October

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

Collection in support of Pancreatic Cancer Research



Please contact Frances for more information  
(602718 or francesbulmer@btinternet.com)



Date for your Diary:

**St Owen's Bazaar and Grand Draw**

Saturday 25th November 2023

12 noon to 4pm

Stalls, Grand Draw and refreshments of light lunch of ploughman's and tea, cake etc.

**Past & present**

As half-term ended, the English teacher returned to teaching with a sigh. He felt nostalgic. He found the past perfect and the present tense.



**Prove it**

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

**Here's a tip**

Lean outside and ring your own doorbell on your way to bed at night. This will clear the dogs off the bed long enough for you to get in and be comfortable.

**From the Registers**

**Weddings:**

16 <sup>th</sup> September	Michelle Walker & Carl Perri (Stagsden)
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**Funeral:**

19 <sup>th</sup> September	Sue Owen (Oakley)
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**Crematorium Services:**

20 <sup>th</sup> September	Olive Parsons (Oakley)
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*Bishop of Bristol  
Rt Revd Viv Faull*

Legislation clarifying that parish and town councils can provide support to churches for repairs and improvements has cleared its final stages in the House of Lords.

A Government amendment to the Bill makes it clear that local authorities can provide grants for parish churches or places of worship, following many years of legal uncertainty.

The amendment was introduced after the Bishop of Bristol, Viv Faull (pictured) highlighted the need for clarification of the law during the Bill's Committee Stage in the House of Lords.

Bishop Viv, who is the Church of England's joint lead bishop on church buildings, said: "This amendment brings clarity to the law which will give local authorities confidence to award grants to local church buildings to enable them to serve their communities better.

"I have long been in conversation with Government about bringing in this change and have been contacted by both local authorities and church councils who are anticipating this change with enthusiasm and gratitude."

Speaking on behalf of the Bishop of Bristol in the House of Lords today, the Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, thanked Baroness Scott of Bybrook, the Heritage Minister

who brought the amendment.

“We would like to record our thanks to Baroness Scott of Bybrook for the constructive work that is represented in this Bill,” he said.

“There is a widespread welcome for clarification of the question of local authorities being permitted to offer financial support to church buildings including parish churches.”

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill received its Third Reading in the House of Lords today. It will now go to the House of Commons for final consideration ahead of Royal Assent.

The clarification comes after the Taylor Review of the Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals, published in 2017, proposed a clarification through guidance or a change in the law.

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Please remember.....

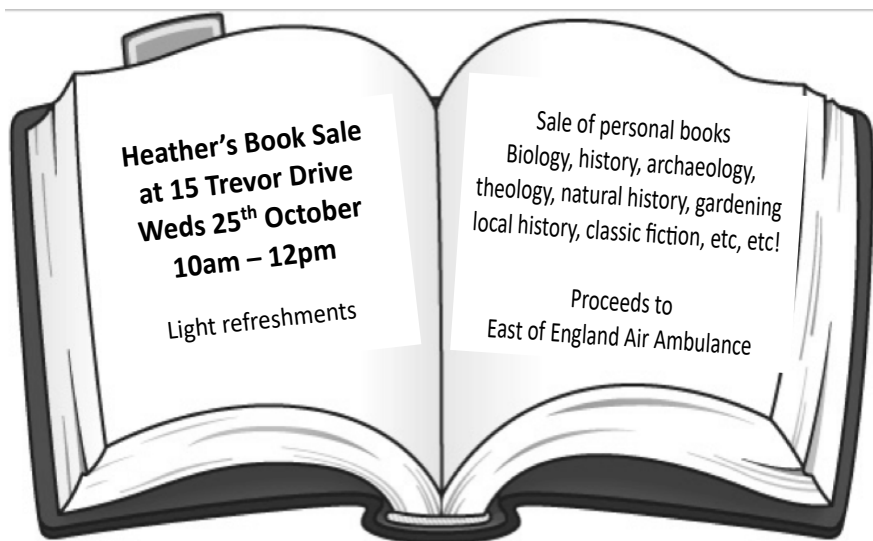
Bishop Alan's Harvest Appeal

For instructions for the various ways that you can donate,  
please go to:

[www.missiondirect.org/bishops-harvest-appeal-2023](http://www.missiondirect.org/bishops-harvest-appeal-2023)

or scan the QR code.





I am holding a Book Sale with the help of my son Geoffrey and the proceeds will go to the charity East of England Air Ambulance, based in Norwich, which was dear to my late husband Paul's heart.

When Paul died we sent £670 to EAAA in his memory which included donations from many of our local friends.

We look forward to seeing friends with lots of room on their bookshelves on 25th October!

*Heather Fawcett*

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### *Miscellaneous thoughts on daily life...*

One thing all nations have in common is the ability to see each other's faults. - *Anon*

Don't let the littleness in others bring out the littleness in you. - *Anon*

Some people are born great, some achieve greatness, and some just grate. - *Anon*

**St Owen's Church, Bromham**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

**7.30pm at**

**The Church in the Park**

**MK43 8LL**

*Ouse Valley Singers*

**Make a welcome return with an**

**Autumn Concert**

**Tickets: Adult £10**

**Child under 16 Free**

Price includes glass of wine/squash & 'nibbles'

Pay at the door (cash or card)

Reservations Line - 01234 826551

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Offers of Raffle Prizes to Edward please - 826551

*You are invited to the*

Sharnbrook Deanery

# *Quiet Day*

*A time of rest and spiritual renewal, on the theme of*

## *The Kingdom of God*



**Wednesday 4 October 2023**

**9.30-3.30**

**St Owen's Church**

**off Village Road, Bromham MK43 8LL**

*image: Christ Pantocrator, mosaic from Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (Dianelos Georgoudis)*

*See details on next page*

**‘Thy kingdom come’**  
(Matthew 6.10)

Every time we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we ask for God’s kingdom to come. But what did Jesus mean by the ‘kingdom of God’ (sometimes called ‘the kingdom of heaven’)? What should it mean for us today? And in the future?

Led by Revd Nick Munday and Mrs Jane Templeman, the day will start at 9.30 with tea/coffee from 9.00, include a Communion service followed by a simple lunch, and finish with tea at 3.30. We will look at the Biblical sources for the kingdom and examine some relevant art, music and poetry. It will be a relaxed day, with quiet time and opportunities for conversation and fellowship – a similar format to last year’s Quiet Day on The Resurrection.

The cost (including lunch and refreshments) is £5 payable on the day. For catering purposes, please book your place in advance by Sunday 1 October by texting/phoning 07966 377108 or emailing [n.j.munday@btinternet.com](mailto:n.j.munday@btinternet.com)

Revd Nick was a teacher and deputy head. After ordination he was Rector of a parish of eleven rural churches in Lincolnshire. Now retired, he lives in Felmersham and is Assistant Rural Dean of Sharnbrook Deanery. Jane was also a teacher and is a Lay Leader of Worship. She has worshipped for many years at St Mary’s Felmersham.

## **Thank you, Dr Luke!**

‘Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on’ - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day - 18<sup>th</sup> October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a ‘physician’ - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, ‘only Luke is with me’.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark’s Gospel may have more drama, Matthew’s more prophetic background and John’s a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly story-teller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions (‘your son, this brother of yours’), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling’s alleged reformation, the ‘prodigal’ himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father’s mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and



there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

*Parish Pump website*

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### **Eight months on from Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal, Christian Aid thanks supporters**

Eight months on from the devastating earthquakes that killed at least 58,000 people across southern Turkey and northwest Syria, Christian Aid has thanked the generosity of their supporters for raising over £3.4m to help "tens of thousands of people who lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones."

Since the deadly earthquakes on 6<sup>th</sup> February, the first of which struck in the early hours of the morning when many people were asleep and destroyed thousands of buildings, survivors have faced torrential rains and flooding and then the extreme summer heat affecting much of southern Europe.

In northwest Syria, working through local partners and with funding from several donors, Christian Aid has been able to reach more than 60,000 people badly impacted by the earthquake and another 5,000 people in Southern Turkey.

# Curious about Faith?

## Come and find out more at Alpha!



- St Owen's Fellowship Room
- Monday evenings, starts Mon Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 6.30pm to 8.30pm
- Enjoy a meal followed by a video
- Opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, listen to others
- All welcome

Why not invite a friend to come too?

Please let us know if you are hoping to join us on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
email Catherine: [vicar@bromhambenefice.org](mailto:vicar@bromhambenefice.org)

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

### **Is now a good time to grow old?**

“Don’t grow old,” a parishioner of advanced years warned me some while back. “You won’t like it.”

Sadly, that dear woman is no longer with us, and I’m a whole lot older than when she offered me that kind advice. But was there wisdom in her words?

It’s true that generally people are living longer and in better health than in generations before, but there are increasing challenges for older men and women in our society.

My friend, Maggie Dodd is an ‘Anna Chaplain’ for older people. She is one of around 300 such chaplains up and down the country. They spiritually support people – of strong, little or no faith – in care homes, sheltered housing or in their own homes.

Maggie has told me how life is becoming harder for older people, and we’ve swapped notes on what we have both observed.

She told me: “Some of the basic services older people need are becoming more difficult to access. I hear about doctor’s surgeries asking for patients to print out their own forms or send photos to or from smartphones. Banks are phasing out high street branches, pushing everyone towards online banking. Many older people feel very uneasy about going online, worried of being scammed out of their savings.

“A trip to the shops is also becoming more complicated. Checkouts in supermarkets are increasingly self-service. Mobility can also be affected as car parks often need an “app”

to be uploaded onto a smartphone to park. In many car parks there is no option to pay by card or cash!"

Plans to remove the ticket offices at train stations will make matters worse for many older would-be rail travellers.

Maggie told me "This gradual marginalisation of people can leave them feeling lonely and isolated. Loneliness can have a huge detrimental effect on health and wellbeing. Prolonged social isolation and loneliness are the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day."

It's good that many churches run special events and activities for older people, as well as groups for all ages. But is this enough? Christians are called to follow Christ's example and speak out for those at risk of being marginalised in our society.

Today, that could be our older brothers and sisters.



**'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](mailto:mcarr49@hotmail.com)



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

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### Noise

As I rolled my trolley through the supermarket, one wheel was making a horrible scraping sound. Nevertheless, when I finished my shopping I saw a woman looking for one so I offered her mine, explaining, "It makes an awful complaining noise, but it works."

"That's okay," she said cheerfully, taking it. "I have a husband at home like that."

Some people treat God as they do a lawyer;  
they go to Him only when they are in trouble.  
- Anon

Sudoku -  
medium

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

Solution on  
page 31

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## FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

SEPTEMBER 2023

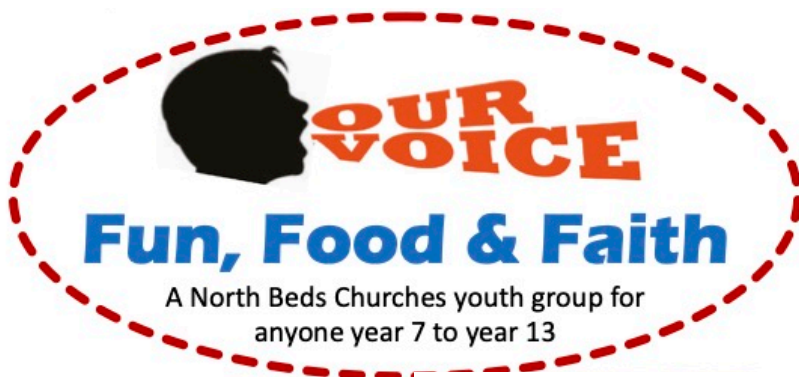
First Prize: Ken Sanders

Second Prize: Terry Rooke

Third Prize: Tim Hatton

Fourth Prize: Tim Hatton

Fifth Prize: Anne Tombs



### Dates for your diary

Sat 14th Oct - 5-6.30pm

Sat 11th Nov - 5-6.30pm

Sat 9th Dec - 5-7pm



Saturday events are held at:

The Fellowship Centre

Clapham

MK41 6ER

For more information see

[sharnbrookdeanery.co.uk](http://sharnbrookdeanery.co.uk)

or contact us at

[ourvoicetoo@gmail.com](mailto:ourvoicetoo@gmail.com)

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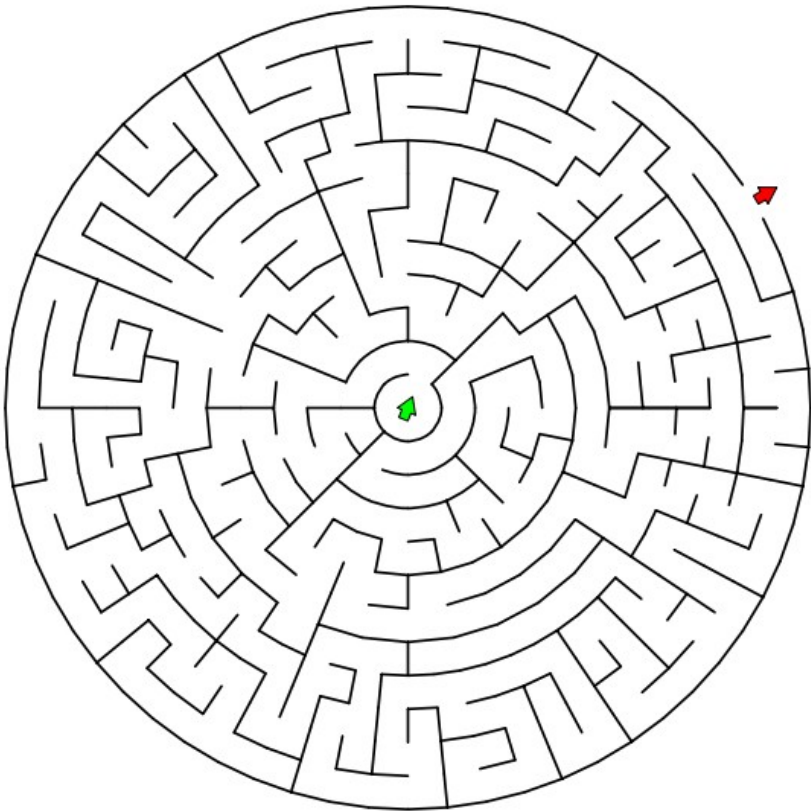
### *Thoughts on our Christian pilgrimage...*

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord. - *Anon*

God's biggest problem with labourers in His vineyard is absenteeism. - *Anon*

If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less. - *C E Jefferson*

Can you find your way out?



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### **What would Jesus do?**

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookshop, a man in front of me asked the assistant about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. She explained that WWJD stands for 'What would Jesus do?', and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.

The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think He'd pay £17.99 for that hat."



For younger readers.....

# The Good Samaritan

JERICO

ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.

...WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.

A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO. ON THE WAY...

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!

HELP!

THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!

LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID THE RELIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!

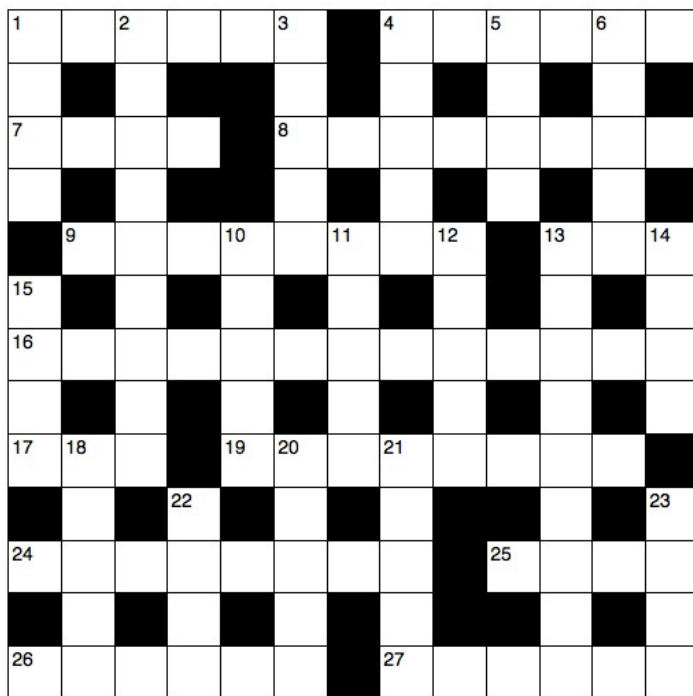
BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.

INN

JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"

- ☐ PRIEST
- ☐ TEMPLE MAN
- ☐ FOREIGN MAN

WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?



### Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)

4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)

7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)

19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)  
 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)  
 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)  
 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)  
 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

## **Down**

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)  
 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)  
 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)  
 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)  
 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)  
 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)  
 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)  
 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)  
 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)  
 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)  
 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)  
 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)  
 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)  
 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)  
 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)  
 22 Bats (anag.) (4)  
 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

*Solution on page 31*

## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### **Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?**

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of Science and Religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they

weren't intelligent, but because Science, as we know it, wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about Science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

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## **Book Review**

### **My Baptism Book – a child's guide to baptism**

**By Diana Murrie and Craig Cameron, CHP, £4.99**

This book aims to help children understand one of the most important days of a child's life. It is a beautiful personal reminder of this special day and one that a child can return to again and again. It can be used by adults and children together, or in more formal baptism preparation and includes a number of inspiring ideas on ways to use the material creatively. This is an ideal gift for children aged 3+.



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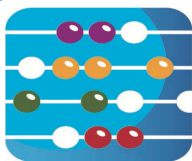
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Solution to puzzle  
on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle  
on page 26

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



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## **Those over-the-top words that we use**

I'm trying to stop saying the word 'incredible'. It's overused and has become almost meaningless. "We are incredibly grateful"; "I had an incredible meal". As the word really means 'beyond belief or understanding', it can't actually apply - in either case.

'Unbelievable' is similarly misused. So is 'fantastic', which is meant to describe something belonging to an imaginary world. So, strictly speaking, a fantastic tennis player can't be a real one.

How about 'amazing'? Count how many times you hear it today. It should be reserved to describe something astonishing, out of this world. If you think about it, if everything is amazing or incredible, then nothing really is. When the exceptional becomes normal or commonplace, nothing is special.

We seem to be struggling to find words to convey something out of the ordinary. Try 'iconic'. Iconic only appeared recently and has been distorted to mean 'historic' or 'traditional' or 'classic'. My dictionary tells me iconic actually means something to do with an icon, which is a depiction of Christ, the Virgin Mary, or a saint.

In fact, most of these over-the-top words, now in everyday use, have a religious association. Originally, they were reserved to communicate otherness, difference, deep respect. For example, what about 'awesome'? It should mean 'awe' or reverence. It's a take-your-breath-away word. Awe is what Moses felt when he saw a bush on fire, because it didn't actually burn away, and he sensed the presence of God. Awe is something St Peter experienced, when he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!'

If you try to imagine what Moses and Peter actually felt, words like ‘unworthiness’ and ‘fear’ might come to mind. They really were experiencing something out of the ordinary, too hot to handle. They were out of their depth. An experience like that stayed with them for life. They had encountered holiness. Now there’s a word worth using.

*Ven John Barton*

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## **A Bear called Paddington**

It was 65 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1958, that Michael Bond’s children’s book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was published.

Paddington starred in more than 20 books written by Bond, who died aged 91 in 2017. The original story was inspired by the author witnessing Jewish and British evacuee children passing through Reading station. Bond wanted the bear to have come from “darkest Africa”, but this was changed to Peru when his agent pointed out that there were no bears in Africa.

Many people have found Christian characteristics in the bespectacled, kind, red-hatted, innocent Paddington, who always tries to do the right thing but often gets into trouble as a result. He is invariably polite, but has a “hard stare” for those who behave badly.

Paddington has also reached the very top of society. Comedian and later President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky dubbed him in the Ukrainian version of the films, and to cap everything, Paddington joined the late Queen in one of her last public appearances – a brilliant comedy segment in the Platinum Party at the Palace on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, in which the Queen ‘revealed’ that she always carried a marmalade sandwich – Paddington’s favourite food – in her handbag.

*Tim Lenton – Parish Pump website*

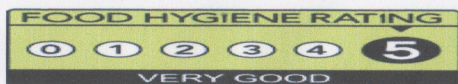


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