

Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



September 2025



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MK42 0PE**

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org



Clergy:

Benefice Administration

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
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07767 272584

Pew Leaflet Sarah Smale, as Administrator

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

Churchwardens Ms T Woodcock 340089

Mrs F Bulmer 602718

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 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
	 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>7th September</u>	<u>12th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>14th September</u>	<u>13th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)
6.00pm	Evensong (Oakley)
<u>21st September</u>	<u>14th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham) *
4.00pm	Harvest Songs of Praise (Stagsden)
<u>28th September</u>	<u>15th Sunday after Trinity / Harvest</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)

* Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook attends to license Revd Petra as an Associate Minister in our Benefice.

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)



With the final days of summer unfolding, we can anticipate the richness of autumn colours in our villages and maybe adding local seasonal produce into our recipes. The changing seasons herald a sense of reflection, and thanksgiving, as I travel from village to village through beautiful countryside, seeing nature evolving through the year. The summer has brought its own unique pace, and we hope that the sabbatical was all that it could have been for Catherine: a mixture of challenges, opportunities, rest and relaxation, and some time to 'just be'. We have had our share of 'life' in our villages, personally and collectively. Moments of joy, with weddings in each parish church, luckily blessed with good weather, Bromham Show, and Oakley Show, (eagerly anticipated on Sunday 7th September), along with the usual pattern of village activities, but with a lighter programme with the summer holidays. Moments of sadness too as we have mourned the deaths of several longstanding villagers, and we have supported each other through this.

As the months turn, we are open to new things, both opportunities and challenges, things that we are aware of and

things which may surprise or startle us. Looking to the future, whatever opportunities or challenges that we may face, we can be assured that whatever each one of us is doing, or contemplating in the days and weeks to come, that we are all held within the love of God, who loves each one of us as we are. To paraphrase the service of Morning Prayer, which we share on zoom on Mondays at 9am, do join us, where we look to the day which '*lies open before us*' with open hearts and minds as to how God is present in our villages.

Thinking of God's call on our lives, after 2 years and 9 months, (give or take a few days!), on September 21st at our 10.30am St Owen's service I will be licensed to continue my ministry in the Benefice. With grateful thanks to Catherine, as my Training Incumbent, along with the encouragement, and considerable patience of the church wardens, our administrator, and the Benefice family. My ministry will remain much the same, although my title will change from Assistant Curate to Associate Priest, (proving that the C of E uses complex labels!).

Revd Petra

Welcome Back

Revd Catherine!

We trust your Study Leave was inspiring
and
we look forward to your
"Tales from a Sabbatical"



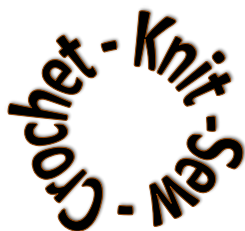
Next meeting - **Thursday 11th September**

2.30pm - 4.30pm

For a Quiz & Reminiscence

contact Tessa Woodcock

01234 340089



Sewing Group

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



Teas in Church

at St Mary's

Each Sunday until

14th September

3.30 - 5.00pm

First Friday Coffee Mornings

Next coffee morning on Fri 5th Sept

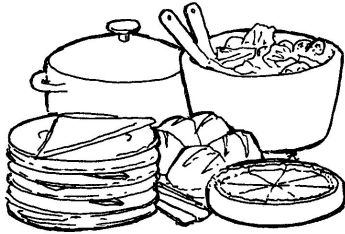
11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

Please contact Flora for more information



Fellowship Lunch
Sunday 21st September
at St Owen's



NB This event to be held later in the month than usual to coincide with the visit of Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook to license Revd Petra as an Associate Minister in our Benefice.

Bring some food to share and enjoy the company of others as we eat together. All welcome no matter where you live.

More information from Vivien Butler 407351

Open Doors

St Leonard's
Stagsden

Every Tuesday

3.00 - 4.30pm

All welcome for refreshments & fellowship

St Owen's
Bromham

Next date

Saturday 13th September

10.00am - 12 noon

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



*Rt Revd Richard Atkinson
Bishop of Bedford*

On Monday 11th August, two clerics, the Revd Christina Rees and the Revd Patrick Forbes, embarked on an 85-mile fundraising journey down the Great Ouse, the fifth-longest river in Britain, which flows from Bedford to King's Lynn. They set off from Bedford after a riverside blessing from Bishop Richard.

The pair, lifelong friends, paddled a two-seater, inflatable kayak — “seaworthy, but not built for speed” — for up to eight hours a day. The potential five-day challenge, they said, was not just to raise money, but “because the Church of England could use a good news story”.



On just their second day, they described themselves and their support team — Mrs Rees's husband, Chris, and Mr Forbes's

son, Stephen — as “exhausted but euphoric”.

Mrs Rees spent a decade of her childhood and teenage years on the sailing boat that her parents bought after selling their home and possessions. Mr Forbes, who is 86, was a Merchant Navy Radio Officer, a parish priest, St Albans diocesan communications officer, an information officer at Church House, and then press officer for the Missions to Seamen. He had never paddled a kayak in his life until January, when the pair embarked on serious training.

The current will have been in their favour but the 16 locks necessitated disembarking and “portaging” — carrying the kayak overland. To that end, dead-weight lifting had been part of the training, along with squats and tricep lifts. Peanut-butter energy balls were planned to keep them going.

Speaking from Hollywell on the second night, Mrs Rees described the stretch of river that they had travelled that day. They had seen “four kingfishers, many blue herons, weeping willows trailing their branches, swans with their cygnets. . . In terms of nature, it’s been absolutely exquisite.”

Mr Forbes, who was one of 117 people to walk through the Channel Tunnel before it opened in 1994, is raising money for the Tibbs Dementia Foundation and Mrs Rees for the Li Tim-Oi Foundation, of which she is director. Florence Li Tim-Oi was the first Anglican woman to be ordained. The foundation named after her supports women following a calling to Christian work.

If you wish to support either cause, you can do so at justgiving.com using one of the links below:

justgiving.com/page/christinarees

justgiving.com/page/patrick-forbes-1

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

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: 2 Corinthians

'For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Cor.5:9; 1 Corinthians; a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3-4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

- To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9,12-13).
- To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).
- To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).
- To warn them not to be "yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14-7:1).
- To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).
- To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chs. 8-9).
- To deal with the opposition (chs. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3,10).

In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials. A

Continued on next page

Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ's death and his endurance reveals God's glory: *'He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'* (2 Cor 12:9).

Remembering Albert Schweitzer

Sixty years ago, on 4th September 1965, Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. He was winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

Schweitzer was born in 1875 in Alsace, where his father was a Lutheran-Evangelical pastor. Schweitzer was a devout Christian with a passionate allegiance to Jesus. His key philosophy was “reverence for life”: no-one, he felt, should harm or destroy life unless it was absolutely necessary. It was this philosophy that gained him the Nobel Peace Prize, and led him in later life to campaign against nuclear weapons.

In 1903 he became Principal of the Theological College of Saint Thomas, from which he had graduated. In 1906 he published his key work, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, which was published in English in 1910.

Schweitzer made a proposal in 1912 to work at his own expense as a physician in the Paris Missionary Society's mission at Lambaréné on the Ogooué river, in what is now Gabon, in Africa, then a French colony. He would not go before a committee to have his doctrine examined, but met committee members individually and was eventually accepted, raising his own funding partly through concerts. His wife, Helene, served as an anaesthetist for surgical operations.

There was some criticism much later of the informal, spartan arrangements (patients living on the hospital grounds during treatment, for instance), but his biographer – also a volunteer surgeon – pointed out that surgical survival rates were as high as in many fully equipped western hospitals.

Schweitzer died at Lambaréné, his grave marked by a cross he made himself.

Tim Lenton

Schools to teach children that being worried is not a mental health condition

More children and young people are in danger of confusing the normal anxieties of life with a genuine mental health condition.

So says the government, and it has issued new guidance to schools to try and correct the trend.

The guidance states that pupils should be taught “that worrying and feeling down are normal, can affect everyone at different times and are not in themselves a sign of a mental-health condition”.

Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, believes that too many children are relying on social media to learn about managing their moods and emotions. Instead, she says that they need more balanced guidance from their parents, teachers and trained professionals.

The new government guidance comes in the face of a soaring amount of young people being signed off as too ill to do anything. The number of 16 to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (Neet) has surged to a near-decade high of a million.

And so it is that schools have now been instructed to make sure that lessons help pupils understand and differentiate between genuine mental health conditions and ordinary feelings.

Parish Pump website

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. - *FP Jones*

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 *musick* 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: Here is another article on prayer by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle. If you would like the earlier ones in the series, I could arrange to email them to you.

Praying with Prayers of the Bible - Learning to Pray by Example

Luke 11:1: 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Luke tells us that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray after He had just prayed. This is very important. In His preaching Jesus had spoken about prayer; (e.g. Matt. 6:5-8) He had also included prayer in His teaching; e.g. Luke 18:1. But it was neither His preaching or teaching on prayer that inspired this request from His disciples; it was His *example* in prayer. Also, Jesus had sent His disciples out to preach, yet their request was not, 'Lord, teach us to preach.' They had witnessed the mighty miracles that He performed and saw the astonishment of the crowds (Luke 9:43), but they did not ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to perform miracles.' No, they asked instead, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

The disciples were beginning to learn that there was a direct link between the prayer life of Jesus and His Spirit-anointed ministry. We need go no further than what we find here in Luke's Gospel to see the consistent prayer life of Jesus. As news of His mighty ministry spread far and wide, 'great multitudes gathered to hear and be healed' (Lk. 5:15). This was 'high noon' in the ministry of our Lord and as the crowds gathered to hear Him, 'He withdrew to the wilderness and prayed' (v.16).

The next chapter tells us that Jesus made a habit of having whole nights of prayer. 'In those days He went out into the hills to pray, and He continued all night' (6:12). A little later the evangelist records that immediately following the feeding

Continued on next page

of the five thousand, the disciples were with Jesus – and He was praying (9:18). When Luke recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus, he says the Lord took Peter, John and James up the mountain ‘to pray’ (9:28).

Luke wants his readers to know about the prayer life of Jesus. At every step of His ministry we see Jesus praying. He prayed early in the morning before the day began; He prayed late in the evening after hours of demanding ministry; He prayed in secret; He prayed with His disciples, and He often prayed all night. He prayed in homes; He prayed by the roadside; He prayed on mountains; He prayed in boats; He prayed in the wilderness; He prayed in the synagogue; He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane; He prayed on the Cross.

No wonder that Jesus’ example in praying prompted His disciples to ask, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’ As we read and study the life and ministry of our Lord, we will be likewise moved to ask Him, ‘Lord, teach *us* to pray.’



‘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

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.



'Postcards' from the Annual BBQ

Whilst some enjoyed
convivial company in
the shade or in the
sun.....



.....others slaved over a fiery BBQ
to feed the masses!

Many thanks to hosts Vivien & David,
all the lifters and dumpers, the buyers
of the food, the donors of the puds
and raffle prizes, and all those who
bought raffle tickets. The raffle raised
£122 and there was £28 in donations
after expenses.



God in the Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums...you can see the image by searching for the title of the painting and the artist.

'He gave us eyes to see them': William Holman Hunt's 'Scapegoat'

14th September in the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is a time of fasting and prayer, and its observance is regulated by Leviticus 16.

The Old Testament ritual involved cleansing the priesthood and the people when a scapegoat bearing the sins of the faithful was sent into the wilderness. Much of that ritual has lapsed, but the heart of Yom Kippur is prayer that the relationship of love and service between God and His people would be renewed and restored. The goat that was sent by relays into the desert had a scarlet cord – a reminder that 'though our sins be scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow.'

It is the subject of William Holman Hunt's famous painting that is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight.

Work on 'The Scapegoat' began in 1854 and was completed two years

later. Holman Hunt went to the Dead Sea to paint the goat in situ, following the Pre-Raphaelite principles of art



*Willian Holman Hunt's Scapegoat,
Wikipedia, public domain*

Continued on next page

embodying exact detail and accuracy in its subject matter. There is a photograph of the artist by his easel, a paintbrush in one hand and a rifle in the other. It was a time of political tension between Syria, Palestine and Turkey, which combined with the constant danger of hostile tribesmen in the area.

Undaunted, Holman Hunt sketched by the sea and then finished the details off in his rooms in Jerusalem. He described the scene as a 'beautifully arranged horrible wilderness.' In the distance are the hills of Edom against the sky, and in the foreground the solitary goat with the scarlet cord over its head. It is a bleak landscape, and on the frame surrounding the picture are the words from Leviticus: 'The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.'

At the time critics were not sure what to make of the painting, as there was no recognisable story or moral so beloved of the Victorians. Elegant ladies inquired if the artist was going to put in the rest of the flock, and one critic said it was an excellent portrait of Lord Stratford.

We look at the painting with the eyes of faith and realise that the scapegoat was sent over the river Kidron into the wilderness, the very same river our Lord and His disciples crossed to the Garden of Gethsemane which heralded the passion of Jesus. We can see this sad creature, isolated and alone, bearing the sins of God's ancient people, and think of Isaiah's words: 'He was despised and rejected by others.' A scapegoat in the Old Testament bearing the sins of the people: the Lamb of God in the new covenant who takes away the sin of the world.

FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

JULY

Lorna Holland
Emma Harrison
Terry Rooke
Flora Dawson

2025

1st prize
2nd prize
3rd prize
4th prize

AUGUST

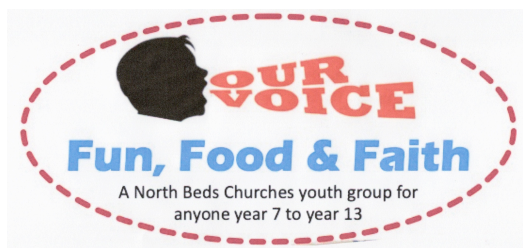
Kevin Rutter
Edward Jones
Claire Kelley
Frances Bulmer

Sudoku - Medium

Solution on
page 33

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

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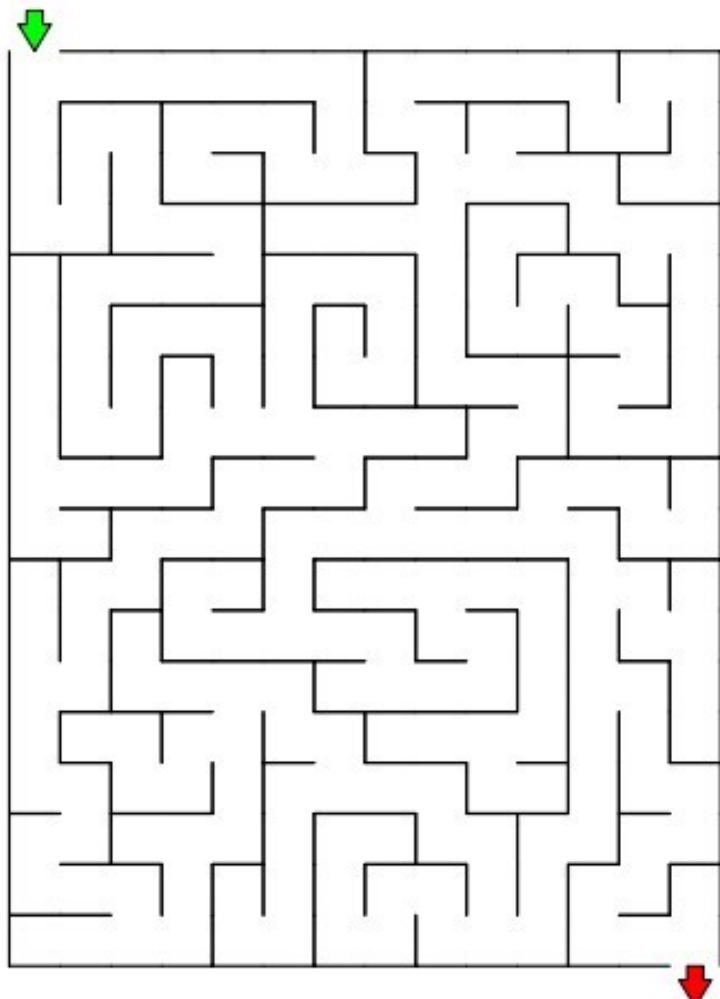
Next meeting
Saturday 13th Sept
5 - 6.30pm
The Fellowship Centre
Clapham
MK41 6ER

in Clapham Parish Church
for more info contact us at ourvoicetoo@gmail.com



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy
alternative to a basket of groceries..."

Can you find your way from top to bottom?



What biblical characters might have said:-

~ Adam: "You are what you eat."

~ Eve: "At least he doesn't compare me to his mother."

For younger readers.....

The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

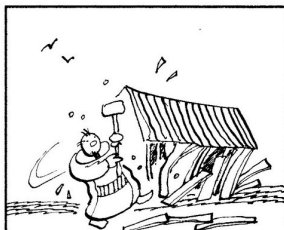


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN
MY BARNs AND BUILD
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS
OLD BARNs....

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD
NEW ONES.



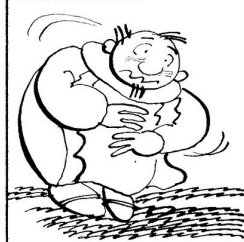
SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST
MAN IN THE TOWN!



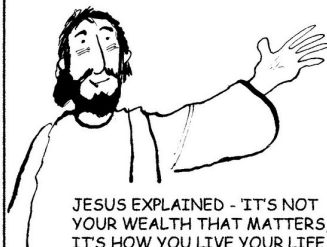
I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN
EAT, DRINK AND BE
MERRY!



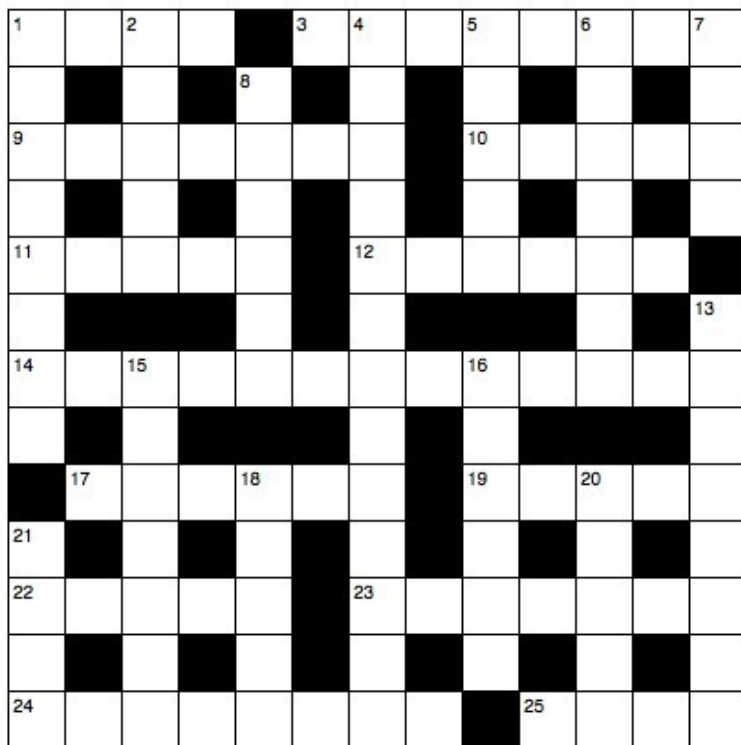
BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE
THAT'S IMPORTANT



Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)

- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

Solution on page 33

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace' to his, newly ordained, nephew.

On hymns – ancient and more ancient

From The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, your church does not bother with hymnbooks but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am not bothered, as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics.



In my fortunately limited experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse, but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

When we decided to move from *Hymns More Ancient* to *Hymns Slightly Less Ancient* some years ago, our Sunday attempts to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord' threatened to get lost in the noise of battle.

Continued on next page

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymnbook might even offer hymns written in the last 50 years. At this, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village (and church).

Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing. Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. But there was still a crisis to come: her young (and radical) niece decided to add a note in the front of every copy. It suggested that if the page for the hymn you wanted was missing, then you could share with the person sitting next to you. Of course, no one has done that yet; it would be an experience almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

And so, we struggle on with our *Hymns More Ancient*, whenever we can find the words. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

All in the month of September

1,100 years ago, on 4th Sept 925 that England gained her first ever king. He was Aethelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons (924-927) and then King of England (927-939). Aethelstan was grandson of Alfred the Great, and 30th great-grand uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825 that the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

150 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1875 that Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian-born German automotive engineer was born. He designed the Volkswagen Beetle and Tiger tank, and founded the Porsche sports car company.

100 years ago, on 7th Sept 1925 that Laura Ashley was born. The Welsh designer and businesswoman was known for her traditional printed fabrics, soft furnishing and women's clothing. Co-founder (along with her husband) of the Laura Ashley textile company and chain of shops. (Died in 1985 when she fell downstairs, aged 60.)

Also 100 years ago, on 8th Sept that Peter Sellers, actor and comedian was born. Best known for the Goon Show, and as Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther film series. (Died 1980.)

90 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1935 that British driver Malcolm Campbell set a new world land speed record of 301.13 mph in *Bluebird* at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. First person to break the 300mph barrier.

70 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1955 that Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly.

1825 – 200 years of the train

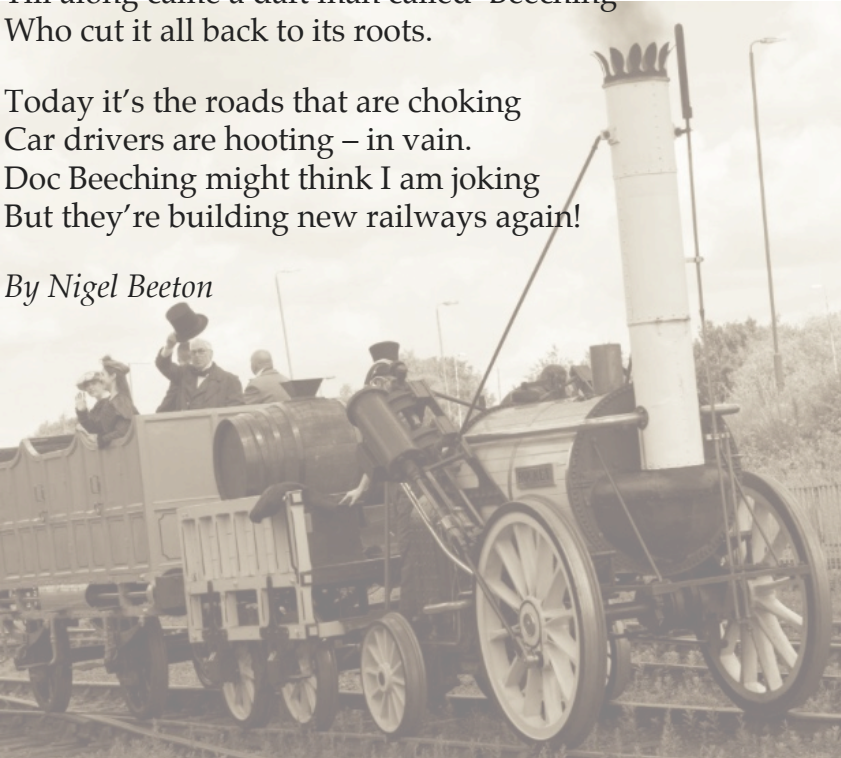
The engine, all clanky and smoky
The passengers standing in trucks
A journey both shaky and choky
But a new age of travel was struck.

The railways spread out like spiders
Till covering all of our Isles
In general delighting their riders
Who normally got there with smiles.

So many long years of reaching
Our goals with whistles and toots
Till along came a daft man called 'Beeching'
Who cut it all back to its roots.

Today it's the roads that are choking
Car drivers are hooting – in vain.
Doc Beeching might think I am joking
But they're building new railways again!

By Nigel Beeton





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Book Review

Good News Bible – The Youth Edition

Bible Society, £24.99

Winner of the Christian Resources Together Bible of the Year award 2019, this award-winning Bible produced by Bible Society and Youth for Christ is still helping young people to explore the Bible, regardless of where they are on their faith journey.

Key features include:

- links to a dedicated YouTube playlist with 30 videos unpacking key themes
- hundreds of interactive elements to encourage a deeper engagement with the text
- space for writing, doodling and drawing
- a full-page introduction to each book of the Bible
- 32 colour pages of key things to know about the Bible, and help with tough topics

Solution to puzzle on
page 22

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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

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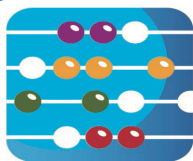
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