

Church News

for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



September 2026



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**Welcome to
Church News in
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org



facebook Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

Clergy:

Vicar:	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
		vicar@bromhambenefice.org
Assistant Priest:	Revd Di Harpham	07973 953744

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Website &.....}	Administrator	07494 069540
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organisation..}		
Fees Accounts...}	administrator@bromhambenefice.org	
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Pew Leaflet Sarah Smale, *as Administrator*

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

Churchwarden	Ms T Woodcock	07766 118258
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vivien Butler	407351
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Sarah Smale	07957 126145

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams

Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers

	Mrs R Farquhar	307996
Altar Guild	Mrs M Parrott	824402

Who's Who in Bromham cont....

Children & Young	}Emma Harrison	07752 186808
People's work	}Rene Farquhar	307996
Electoral Roll	Mrs Rene Farquhar	307996
Ringers	Mr Robert Jones	881741
Thursday Prayer Gp	Mrs C Wisson	306833
Friends of St Owen's:		
Secretary:	Mr David Butler	407351
website:	www.bromhambenefice.org / friends-of-st-owens	

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Katrina Hyden	07908 987959
	oakleypccsecretary@bromhambenefice.org	
PCC Treasurer	Debbie Armstrong	07932 456335
	armstrong.debbi@gmail.com	
Organist & Choirmaster - contact Jenny Sudworth		822859
Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers		
	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
St Mary's Ringers	Mr Bill Sellars	823473

Who's Who in Stagsden

Church Officers

Churchwarden	} Post holders names not published	
PCC Treasurer	} please contact through Revd Di Harpham	07973 953744
PCC Secretary	Caroline Heaton	
Ringers	Mr Richard Brown	823289
Flowers Team	please contact through Revd Di Harpham	07973 953744

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

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



Principal Services in the Benefice

<u>6th September</u>	<u>14th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>13th September</u>	<u>15th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	No service this week
10.30am	Local Ecumenical Service + Holy Communion (Oakley)
4.00pm	Harvest Songs of Praise (Stagsden)
<u>20th September</u>	<u>16th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>27th September</u>	<u>17th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Harvest Family Service (Oakley)

Weekday Services

Mondays

11.30am Messy Church (Bromham)

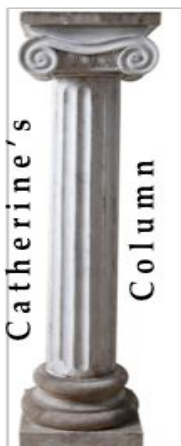
Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am Holy Communion (Bromham FR)

Thursdays

10.00am Messy Church (Oakley)

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



From the Vicarage

How has your summer been? Most likely rather hot, with large amounts of sun and a notable absence of rain, unless you have been to the northern parts of the UK! I hope you've had a chance to have a break, a change of routine or activity in some way that has brought you refreshment. Tim and I certainly benefited from a couple of weeks holiday: a slower pace of life, time with family, and a chance to step away from our usual activities. We were very thankful for that time.

As we move on through the year and into September, we are all invited to be thankful as we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving in our three churches – so what are you thankful for as you read these words? Why not stop reading for a moment and pause to think, or even make a list!

I'm sure the rain that has fallen recently will be on most people's lists, as we all look forward to our gardens becoming greener (I wonder how long we will remain thankful for rain, before we feel there is too much of it?!). Perhaps you are grateful for people – family, friends, neighbours – who support, encourage and bless us in so many ways; for the beautiful world we live in; for the things that enrich our lives like music, laughter and literature.

For Christians, the list can get so much longer – we are grateful

for God's love surrounding and upholding us, for Jesus' life, death and resurrection, for the Holy Spirit living in us and equipping us each day, for the certain hope of heaven and life with God forever when we die. And we are thankful that we can know about all of this, and learn more, as we read the Bible. This Autumn we will be running The Bible Course, which aims to give an overview of the Bible - you can join in on Monday evenings at 7.30pm on Zoom, or come along in-person to the Fellowship Room on Tuesdays at 2pm.

Do come along to a Harvest service as we give thanks for God's provision for us in all the ways listed above (and all the other things on your list!). But remember too that gratitude is only half of 'thanksgiving' – the 'thanks' is expressed in our 'giving' to those who have less than we do. As usual at Harvest we will be supporting the Bedford Food Bank with our gifts of non-perishable foods to help those who don't have well-stocked cupboards, so please be generous (and check items are comfortably in-date before you give them).

St Luke tells the story of Jesus healing 10 lepers, enabling them to return from social isolation to life within their community. But only one of them returned to thank Jesus for what he had done. We too have so much to be thankful to God for – let's not neglect to give him the thanks and praise we owe him.

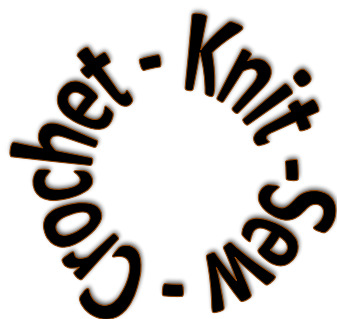
Catherine Wilson

'A wise man will desire no more than he may get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully and leave contentedly. - *Anon*



Next meeting - **Thurs 24th September**

.....
For further info contact Tessa Woodcock
07766 118258



Sewing Group

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

St Owen's Altar Guild

Decorating St Owens Church for Harvest will take place on Saturday 3rd October from 10am. Anyone who would like to help will be most welcome. Donations for the purchase of flowers will be gratefully received.

Margaret Parrott

First Friday Coffee Morning

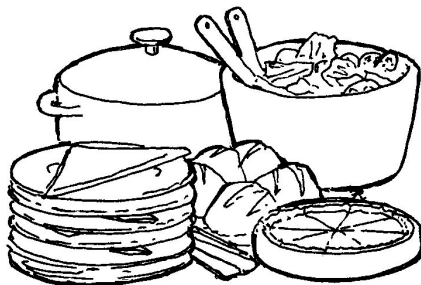
Next coffee morning on **Fri 11th Sept***

10.30am- 12.30pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

***NB change to normal schedule**





Fellowship Lunch
at St Owen's
Next event
Sunday 4th October
at 1230

Fast prayer

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran, she prayed. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

Suddenly, she tripped on the pavement, and fell over, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"



'Messy Church for All'
at Oakley Methodist Church
on 3rd Tuesday in the month

Next event

3.30 till 5.30pm

Contact 824504 or
mcarr49@hotmail.com



Rt Revd Andrew Rumsey
Bishop of St Albans
(Designate)

On the 4th of August, Bishop Andrew wrote to us all in the Diocese of St Albans.

Greetings from Wiltshire! Rebecca and I are still here, in our final preparations for removal to St Albans, deep in decisions about books, bedding, and the many maddening items we must decide whether to keep or discard. Our Lord's instruction that 'one's life does not consist in the abundance of worldly possessions' feels like an important reminder, as we cram them precariously into the vans that will shortly shuttle up the M4.

We are so ready to be with you, I might say. In these weeks since my Confirmation of Election as your new bishop, I have been getting ready in various ways – one of which has been reading John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. I remember the story from a parish weekend in Knebworth fifty years ago, when we painted pictures and acted out scenes from the tale – *Vanity Fair*, the *Slough of Despond*, and so on. Only recently did I learn how many of Bunyan's locations were drawn, naturally enough, from the Bedfordshire landscape he knew by heart, around Elstow Abbey, where he was Christened.

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I love the idea of grounding our route to heaven in the places we know on earth, which fills our ordinary world with potential for encounter with God. This was Jacob's realisation in the desert, back into the mists of Old Testament history, when he awakes from a dream to exclaim 'God is in this place, and I knew it not'. Thereafter, not only does he know God better, but he knows the place better, too: naming it 'Bethel' – the house of God, and the gate of heaven.

Wherever you are today while reading this, my prayer is that you will find the Lord God to be there too: calling you – like Christian, Bunyan's traveller – towards the heavenly city. We are greatly looking forward to joining you on that journey and hope to see many of you in St Albans Cathedral in September*, for my installation service. Until then, please know I pray for you and hopefully we'll fit everything useful into the van, and leave the needless things behind! God bless you.

Bishop Andrew

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

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Daniel

This month we return to looking at Old Testament books. The book of Daniel describes his life in Babylon during the sixth century B.C., when he served both Babylonian and Persian rulers.

As a teenager, Daniel and his three friends were deported in 605 B.C. to Babylon, where he lived for over 70 years. They were trained as officials in King Nebuchadnezzar's court for

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three years. Their names and diets were changed to reflect Babylonian culture and take away their Jewish identity. However, Daniel and his friends showed the superiority of their Jewish diet and gained the favour of the king.

Chapters 1-6 are largely narrative, with Daniel and his friends (renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) demonstrating that God is in control. The three friends refused to worship the pagan Babylonian gods and were thrown into a fiery furnace. However, they emerged unharmed because of God's miraculous protection. He also delivered Daniel from a den of lions when he refused to worship the Persian king Darius. Daniel also interpreted several visions and dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. The second half of the book (chaps.7-12) consists of a series of visions, which show that God is in control of history.

The book affirms that God is the sovereign ruler of the world and rewards His faithful servants, as expressed by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego: *'If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'* (Daniel 3: 17,18)

Editor: Some insights into what Christianity is all about...

Confessing your sins is no substitute for forsaking them. -

Anon

I am too blessed to be stressed! - *Anon*

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. - *Anon*

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. -

Anon

Government consultation on weddings proposes greater flexibility and cheaper options

Couples will soon be able to marry almost anywhere, including forests, beaches, cruise ships at sea, canal boats, and at home, under Government proposals that “shift the focus from bricks and mortar to people and promises”.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is to consult on plans to allow “authorised officiants” of any religion or belief to conduct weddings, in what are being described as the most radical changes to marriage law in England and Wales since the 19th century.

The Government says, however, that the “permanence” of marriage will be strengthened by enabling more questioning of candidates before their weddings.

“To protect against forced, predatory and sham marriages, couples must complete a two-stage process, including in-person interview, to verify their identity and demonstrate eligibility to marry.”

Anglican banns of marriage would continue “as an important part of the established Church”, the document says.

It continues: “The Government agrees with the Law Commission’s recommendation that Anglican weddings should continue to be conducted as they are now. It recognises the unique role of the Church of England and the Church [in] Wales in relation to marriage and has no plans to alter . . . these roles.”

The MoJ says that the proposals will reduce costs. The average wedding in England costs more than £20,000 and venue hire alone typically costs around £6,000 - before any food.

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About 470,000 people marry in England and Wales each year. Anglican weddings are generally required to take place in a church or chapel, although they can take place in a private home by special licence. *Parish Pump website*

Ed: Typical fees at one of our churches are:-

Statutory Fees

Publication of Banns - £39

Banns Certificate - £20

Marriage Service £566

Extra Church Fees

Verger(s) (*minimum 1*) £40 each

Optional Church Fees

Heating £70

Organist £85

Choir £80

Bells £180

Video recording £40 (*payable to church for copyright costs*)

Sound operator £35

Zoom operator £65

Based on these figures a wedding at church could cost from £665 to £1,220. What people choose to spend on clothes, flowers, cars, photographers and the 'wedding breakfast' is, of course, a personal choice.

Wedding guest

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterwards.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

AI Guidelines for Churches - By Chris Goswami.

Ed: the purpose of this article is to demonstrate that the C of E is neither shunning AI nor embracing it without due care.

Recently, a friend at church told me of her Sunday school session. It was for primary-aged children and focused on Elijah on Mount Carmel. The teaching material she had seemed uninspiring, so she turned instead to ChatGPT which she was already using at work:

“Write a song to the tune of ‘Twinkle twinkle’ based on this passage, that young children will enjoy singing and will make this story memorable,” she asked.

.... A few seconds later out pops a song.

And then: *“Suggest a craft activity based on this passage that they will enjoy doing – we have 25 minutes and basic craft materials.”*

Her verdict afterwards? *“Amazing! Our kids loved it!”*

Just one example of how AI is making inroads into church life. But it also raises important questions:

- *Is it OK to use AI in church?*
- *How do we use it well?*
- *And what areas of church life should AI not be involved in?*

Used well, AI could be a great asset for Christian ministry, used badly it could leave us with fast-food ministry – great on the outside but lacking humanity and depth on the inside.

To help churches think through these issues, the AI Christian Partnership has published *AI Guidelines for Christian Ministry*, a practical guide for church leaders and volunteers. The Guidelines were piloted in churches from four denominations and reviewed by UK experts.

Among its recommendations are:

- Use AI to critique, not create

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- We need to maintain our own skills and dependence on God – so do the work yourself but use AI for suggestions, alternative perspectives or constructive criticism.
- Use AI as an assistant not an expert

AI can be an excellent research assistant, but it doesn't know your church or your community. **Always** treat its answers as advice that needs careful human judgement.

The Guidelines explain the benefits and risks of AI, offer practical guidance for everyday use, and include a simple Church Statement that congregations can adapt to start their own conversations about AI.

Download *AI Guidelines for Christian Ministry* free at www.aichristian.org/guidelines.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers

Saint Matthew – called just as he was

This month we remember Matthew's call to be an apostle of Jesus and ask what it means for us to follow Christ.

Jesus calls us where we are:

'Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.' (Matthew 9:9).

It was just an ordinary day at Matthew's tax booth, when Jesus called him. He simply got up and followed! Despite Matthew's past, his occupation and what people thought of him, Jesus still called him. Are we ready to follow when Jesus calls us into a relationship with Himself?

Continued on next page

Jesus comes to where we are:

'While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' (10,11).

Jesus went to Matthew's home and ate with tax collectors and sinners, demonstrating that He meets people where they are, despite their sin and shame. The Pharisees avoided sinners, because they believed only the perfect could have access to God. When God is at work in the lives of those we don't expect, allow Jesus to open our hearts to embrace what He is doing.

Jesus comforts us where we are:

'On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.' (12).

Jesus came to save sinners and to give hope to the hopeless. The Pharisees were so committed to keeping the law, that they had forgotten God's heart of compassion. However, Jesus reminded them that they were witnessing God's love in action. In what ways can we express compassion towards others, especially those outside the community of faith?

When you try and do God's work:-

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. - *St Augustine of Hippo*

He who labours as he prays, lifts up his heart to God with his hands. - *St Bernard of Clairvaux*

The real mark of a saint is that he or she makes it easier for others to believe in God. - *Anon*

Reflections on being a Christian

The humble knowledge of thyself is a surer way to God than a deep search after learning. – *Thomas a Kempis*

The kingdom of God is not for the well-meaning, but for the desperate. - *J Denney*

How many Christians live their lives packed up and ready to go? - *J I Packer*

From the Registers in July and August

Weddings:

25 th July	Bethany Belger & Benjamin Ashpole (Bromham)
6 th August	Francesca Dawson & Cameron Howe (Bromham)

Baptisms:

5 th July	Alexander Cyril Groves (Bromham)
26 th July	Aurora Alana Teresa Clarke (Bromham)
30 th August	Summer Chloe Salisbury (Bromham)

Funerals:

9 th July	Barbara Anne Crawford (Bromham)
29 th July	Wendy Boa (Bromham)
5 th August	Mary Carmel Owens (Bromham)
10 th August	Patricia Ann Lightfoot (Bromham)

Burials:

14 th August	Alan Paul Craigen (Bromham)
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Service at Crematorium:

3 rd August	Malcolm Claude Lewis (Oakley)
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My Flying Life

or

“How I slipped the surly bonds of earth”

An illustrated Talk

by

Edward Jones

Saturday 26 September

2pm

at St Owen's Church

Tickets £5

Limited seating - Booking essential
by voice or text to 07798 881483

Tea and biscuits

Proceeds in support of Friends of St Owen's
Regd Charity No 1022947

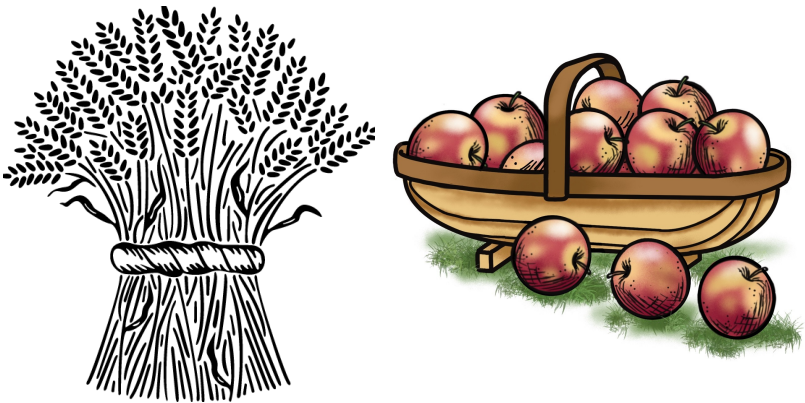


We will not change the World by going to church

But we can change the World by BEING church

You could think of going to church on a Sunday as a chance to 'fill up' your faith - a bit like taking your car to a filling station.

Being church is what you do to share God's love during the other 6 days of the week! Or does your car stay in the garage?



Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers unto his harvest field"

Matthew 9:37-38



An Evening Of Live Music With

Ray Cordell & Rick Westoby

Saturday 10th October

St Mary's Church, Oakley, 7pm

**Tickets £12 (in advance from Graham or Dorothy Palmer)
or on the door**

interval refreshments

further info email, gpalmer@talk21.com or call 07710 462535

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

JULY

1st prize	Edward Jones
2nd prize	Fiona Peacock
3rd prize	Edward Jones
4th prize	Sally Reed
5th prize	Jack Stanley

AUGUST

Tessa Woocock
Peggy Ward
Kevin Rutter
Pearl Nicholson
Kevin Rutter

Sudoku - Medium

Solution on
page 33

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

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Back to School - facing that first Day

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!



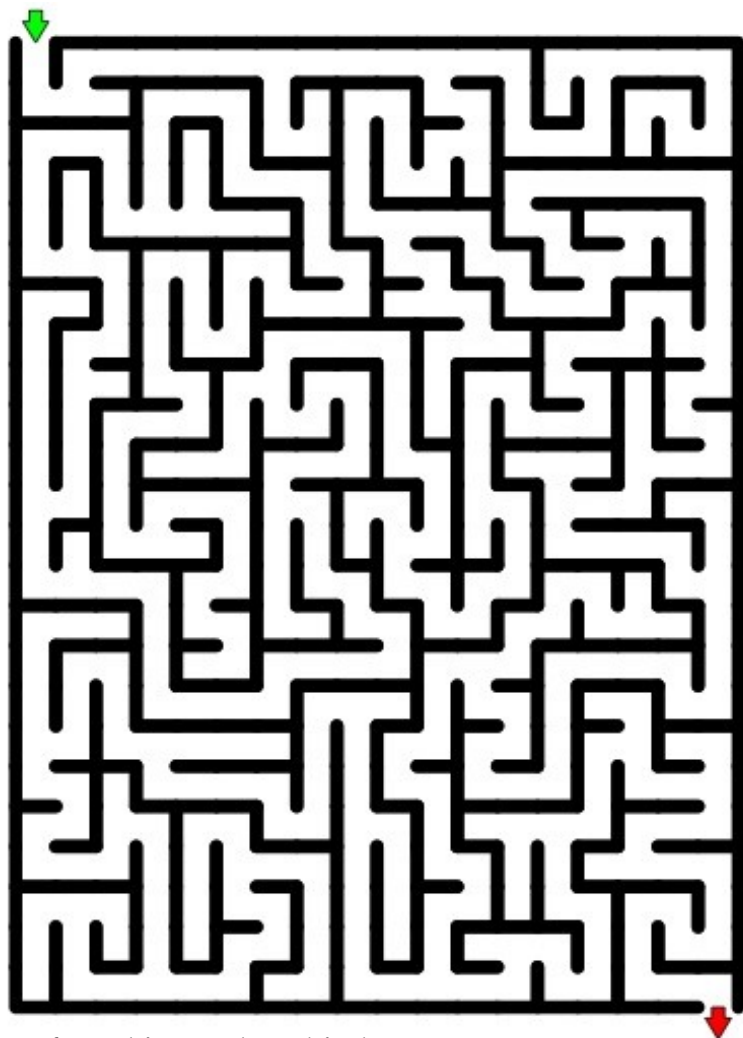
And that's what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Parents may have prepared them for it, and they may in a slightly apprehensive way be looking forward to it, but it must feel to the five-year-old like a massive step into the unknown.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room. Will he or she suddenly panic, and cry for that familiar parental cuddle? Will they feel abandoned in an alien setting? Will they like the teacher?

Of course we'll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them they may eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives. But end of class can't come soon enough for mum on that first day! How wonderful when they come running out, laughing and excited, clutching a piece of paper with some obscure crayon marks on it – written evidence of their first day's education.

Parish Pump website

Can you find your way out from top to bottom?

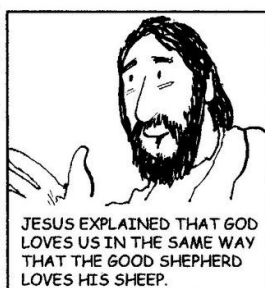
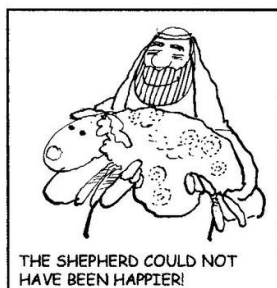
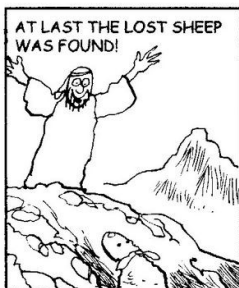
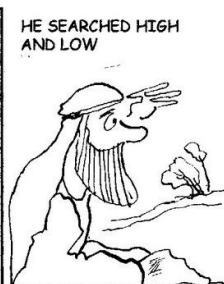
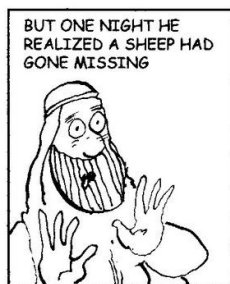
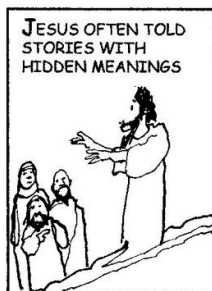
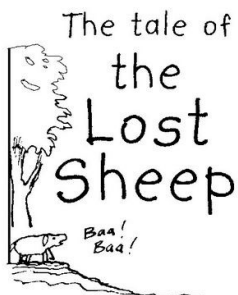


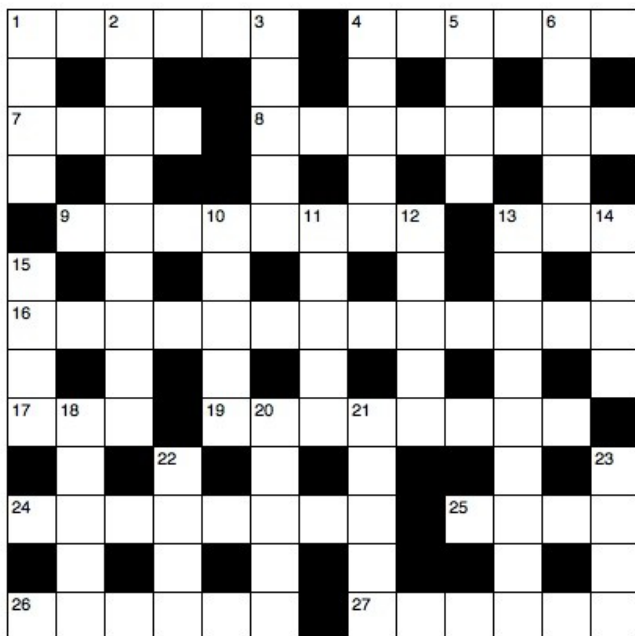
Signs found in modern kitchens....

If a messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, this kitchen is delirious.

A husband is someone who takes out the rubbish and gives the impression he just cleaned the whole house.

For younger readers.....





Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)

- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
 18 'But I am afraid that just ——— was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)
 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Solution on page 33

Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates 70 years: 1956 - 2026

It was back in February of 1956 that Buckingham Palace released a press announcement outlining plans for a trial period of 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'.

It was the post-war era, and His Royal Highness wanted to help boys bridge the gap between leaving formal education at 15 and starting National Service at 18. He also wanted them to build self-confidence and a sense of purpose to support them into their future. A youth programme, he believed, would improve their skills and equip them to make valuable contributions to their communities and society.

In 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot was launched to national voluntary youth organisations. It soon expanded to include Local Education Authorities, the Armed Forces and some schools across the UK.

After the first year, 7,000 boys had started a programme and 1,000 Awards had been achieved. Girls were allowed to join the programme in 1958. Since that first year, millions have joined the DofE Award programme.

The DofE continued to evolve, and programmes took on their current format of Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential at Gold level in 1980.

In 2020, DofE participants stepped up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteering efforts of 330,000 young people equated to an investment of almost £8.5 million in a time of need.

The DofE says: "It hasn't been the easiest few years for young people. From the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic to the anxieties of the cost-of-living crisis, the future doesn't always feel certain.

Continued on next page

“But, in seven decades of The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (DofE), we’ve learnt one thing: never doubt what young people can do. Time and time again, we’ve seen that when young people are given the chance to prove to themselves what they’re capable of, there’s no limit to what they can achieve.

“We’re here to celebrate and champion every young person. To provide a safe environment of support and challenge that grows as they do.

“Whatever their ability, interest or background, DofE offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge. Because when you prove to yourself that you’re ready for anything, nothing can hold you back. Our Founder HRH Prince Philip once said: ‘There is more in you than you might think.’ And, here at the DofE, we help you realise that.”

Prince Philip passed away in April 2021, but his legacy thrives thanks to the tireless support of the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

More info at: <https://www.dofe.org>

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, asks

How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr

Continued on next page

Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don’t affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be ‘very good’ (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don’t want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a

Continued on next page

variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.

See also www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches and <http://www.cis.org.uk>

No date

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her funeral service, she explained: "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."



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Solution to puzzle
on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle
on page 26

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



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Anything one neighbour might do for another.

All volunteers are insured and have a DBS check.



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."



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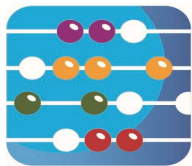
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