

**Parish News in
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**



April 2021



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

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org



facebook Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

Please note: the Church Office is temporarily closed but you can reach the Administrator at 07957 126145 or the email below.

Clergy:

Vicar	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
		vicar@bromhambenefice.org
Assistant Priests:	Revd Paula Vennells	851594
	Revd Di Harpham	918691

Benefice Administration

Website &.....}	Administrator	
Wedding.....}	(Mon, Wed & Thurs 9.30 -12.00	
organisation..}	Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm)	
Fees Accounts...}	administrator@bromhambenefice.org	
Safeguarding Officer -	Judith Denyer	07981 928522

Parish News

Editor	Mr Edward Jones	stowensnews@btinternet.com	826551
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<i>Pew Leaflet</i>	Sarah Smale, as Administrator		

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Ms T Woodcock	340089
	Mrs F Bulmer	409916
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vivien Butler	407351
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Emma Harrison	823121

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams

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

Mrs Suzi Webb	07967 311628
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Altar Guild	Mrs M Parrott	824402
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Who's Who in Bromham cont....

Children & Young	}Carol Jones	823307
People's work	}Rene Farquhar	307996
Electoral Roll	Mr Terry Rooke	409916
Ringers	Mr Robert Jones	881741
Thursday Prayer Gp	Mrs C Wisson	306833
Friends of St Owen's	www.friendsof stowens.org	
Secretary:	Mr David Butler	407351
	 facebook Friends of St Owens	

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Mrs C Ord	823477
PCC Treasurer	Mrs S Ball	823133
Organist & 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

4th April

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

10.30am

Easter Day

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion by Zoom

11th April

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

6.00pm

2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Morning Service by Zoom

Evensong by Zoom

18th April

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

3rd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Morning Service by Zoom

28th March

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

6.00pm

4th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Morning Service by Zoom

Evensong by Zoom

Holy Week Activities on page 8

NB To avoid breaches of Covid-19 requirements on Easter Sunday please do tell a Churchwarden in advance if you wish to attend.



From the Vicarage

As our children were growing up, I anticipated the end of March with some hesitancy because I knew that on April 1st the process of getting them ready and off to school would be greatly complicated by their need to tell me (often) that there was a smudge on my nose, my shoelace was undone, or there was something unusual going past the window! And if it wasn't a school day these pranks could go on all morning, until noon was past and the time for practical jokes was over.

Not that I was averse to joining in, and I do remember a lesson I taught my class of 9-10yr olds about a famous person called 'Lirpa Loof', and seeing them gradually understand the joke! Tim went to a church Jumble Sale one April Fool's Day having shaved off his beard and wearing sunglasses and a wig – few of his parishioners recognised their Vicar.

The 'April Fool' tradition dates back centuries and across Europe. Its origins are not clear: it may be related to a time when the celebration of the New Year was changed from April 1st to January 1st, and those who continued to mark the start of April were considered fools. Or it might have come from France, where there are lots of fish in the rivers and streams at this time making them easy to catch – they are foolish fish: in France those on the receiving end of pranks and tricks are called 'poisson d'Avril' (April Fish) rather than April Fool.

One of the most famous April Fool pranks in the media was the BBC's report on 'Spaghetti trees' broadcast in 1957, which showed families harvesting spaghetti. This was before pasta was widely available and known to be made from flour and water. And maybe you have your own favourite 'April Fool' story – done by you, or to you, or enjoyed from a safe distance!

The Church calendar isn't fixed to specific dates, and so we celebrate festivals (with the exception of Christmas) on a variety of dates year by year. And, therefore, Holy Week and Easter sometimes coincide with the start of April - in 2018 Easter Day itself was 1st April.

This year Maundy Thursday falls on April 1st – no opportunity for pranks in a Zoom evening service you'll be pleased to hear. However, it does give us a chance to reflect on the apparent foolishness of Jesus' commands and actions that day. As the leader, Jesus takes on the role of a servant by washing his disciples' feet, and calls them to follow his example. Having been welcomed into Jerusalem as the conquering saviour with shouts of 'Hosanna', he predicts his own betrayal and death. As a Jew who observed their food laws, he commands them to eat bread that symbolises his own body, and drink wine symbolising his blood.

Foolishness? St Paul wrote 'the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom' – we know that God's kingdom turns our human values and ideas upside down. We are called to love and serve others (even our enemies), to trust in Jesus' death, and to remember it with bread and wine. And on Easter morning to celebrate that what looked like the foolishness of the cross became the miracle of the resurrection and the promise of new life. *Revd Catherine*

Holy Week Events

Monday 29th March

7.30pm Holy Communion & Stations of the Cross by
Zoom

Tuesday 30th March

2.30pm Lent Group final session by Zoom

Wednesday 31st March

7.30pm Lent Group final session by Zoom

Maundy Thursday 1st April

6.30pm Holy Communion by Zoom

Good Friday 2nd April

10.30am Family Service outdoors at St Owen

2.00pm Meditation by Zoom



Christian Aid Week

10 - 16 May 2021

More information next month

Miscellaneous observations on our Christian pilgrimage...

It is the person who most knows himself liable to fall that will be most ready to overlook any offences from his fellow men. - *Alexander Auld*

Those who say they will forgive but can't forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle out for immediate use.
- *D L Moody*

Parish News

Electronic or Print?

When the first Covid lockdown struck we asked you to consider receiving Parish News by e-mail to reduce the need for physical copies.

Parish News is now also available on the Benefice website at www.bromhambenefice.org.

With the prospect of the current lockdown coming to an end, **the question now for those taking the e-mail edition is this:** would you like to return to a printed copy of News?

We will continue to ask for a donation of 50p per copy towards printing costs.

Please let me know whether or not you wish to receive a printed copy at stowensnews@btinternet.com or 01234 826551. Thanks

Edward Jones

From the Registers:

Funerals:

2nd March Elizabeth Albone (Bromham)

9th March Philip Waite (Bromham)

11th March Marian Watson (Bromham)

15th March Christine Barclay (Bromham)

22nd March Lilian Keens (Bromham)

Burials of Ashes:

3rd March Betty Sadler (Oakley)

5th March Nicky Young (Oakley)

22nd March Peter Churchman (Bromham)

28th March Margaret Saunders (Oakley)

Archbishops launch new Commission on Families and Households

On 16th March the Archbishops of Canterbury and York announced a new commission to explore what support families and households need to flourish in today's society.

This new Commission follows the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community, whose final report 'Coming Home' was published in February 2021. This new Commission will aim to build on that work, formally beginning its work in May and look to report in winter 2022.

The origin of the Commission lies in Archbishop Justin's 2018 book 'Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope'. Building on a key chapter, 'Family – Caring for the Core', the Commission aims to articulate and address the pressures and challenges facing families and households, whilst also highlighting the good and the positive in terms of what works well and how that can be built on, drawing on Christian tradition.

It will aim to offer practical and deliverable ideas on what enables families and households to thrive and prosper as the cornerstone of every community in our society.

In particular it will consider the enormous and far-reaching impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on families and households.

Working with others, the Commission will seek to gather examples of good practice and proposed innovative areas of action to support the work of the Church with families and households in new ways, and offer proposals to shape the trajectory of public policy relating to families and households in a holistic way.

The Commission will comprise between 10 and 12 members, each bringing specific expertise and experience in the area. The Commission will develop a number of work streams, each of which will draw on the ideas and expertise of a wide range of individuals and organisations, and will welcome contributions to its thinking.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "At the heart of any good society are our relationships with other people and the way we treat each other. When I wrote 'Reimagining Britain', I hoped to offer a big vision for our nation, but I knew it had to be rooted in the most important thing for any community: how we show our love for our fellow human beings.

"That is why I am delighted that the Commission for Families and Households has been set up, to help us understand how we can best live together in a way that considers everyone in the dignity and hope of God's light."

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "Like God, the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are at our best and our most creative and most fully ourselves when we discover who we are in community with others: in relationships; in family groups; and as interdependent communities. We, too, give and receive and create out of these networks of loving relationships."

President of Relate, Professor Janet Walker OBE, who will Chair the Commission, said: "With increased choice as to how we form relationships and live our lives, today's families and households come in all shapes and sizes. This diversity brings new opportunities as well as complex challenges."

The Commission is expected to report in November 2022.

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler considers the power of shame.

Fighting the pandemic of shame

When it comes to preaching the gospel to 21st century people should we be talking more about shame? And will the Covid pandemic change our thinking?

For many years, the Church has focused our gospel appeal around guilt, pointing out that men and women need to repent of their sins and turn to Christ. Which, of course, is perfectly true. But would our gospel message resonate better with today's generations if we first helped to address a widespread feeling of shame, before looking to guilt? Guilt says 'I did something wrong.' Shame declares 'I am profoundly wrong.' That feeling of shame is one experienced by many today.

Rebecca Winfrey, a theological and pastoral researcher for a homelessness charity, explains: "God is intimately concerned about relieving the shame of His people. Never has this been more relevant than in today's culture, in which shame is rife and yet largely unrecognised."

In 'The Cross and Shame' (Grove Books), she says: "Shame is much bigger than guilt in most people's concept of what is wrong with themselves."

I believe the Covid pandemic could also make the situation much worse, with people experiencing the 'shame' of debt, redundancy or bankruptcy, or maybe the perceived shame of not being actively involved on the 'front line' of fighting the virus, or facing mental illness.

Jesus showed people on the margins that they were worthy of love and being connected with wider society. In His interactions with the Samaritan woman at the well, with the tax collector Zacchaeus or the woman accused of adultery,

He shows compassion and affirms the dignity and worth of the individual – addressing their shame – before implying any guilt.

Jesus's death by public crucifixion was designed by the Romans to be painful, humiliating and shameful. Having been subjected to profound human shame, the resurrected Christ brings humankind salvation and redemption from shame's dehumanising impact.

In the Hebrew scriptures, Adam and Eve experience shame after they have eaten from the Tree of Life in Eden and have to clothe themselves with fig leaves. The Exodus is an account of the Jewish people being released from the shame of slavery into the freedom of their worth in God's eyes.

Paul writes to the Thessalonians of believers "sharing in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." To the church in Ephesus, Paul writes that "we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Rebecca Winfrey encourages church leaders to teach and model true humility, acknowledging their own struggles with shame, and ensure that churches are communities that care for people affected by shame.

New Christians should be taught that they could face shame in a secular culture and to know their intrinsic value in God's sight. Winfrey recommends healing prayer and Ignatian-style meditation, where people encounter Jesus as they immerse themselves in gospel stories.

Confession of sin and repentance of our wrongdoings are vital parts of our Christian message, but maybe preachers and pastors could also be addressing the pandemic of shame in our society.

Peter Crumpler

St Owen's Extension Project - Update



While there is still a deal of finishing work to be done plus the kitchen to be fitted and the meeting room to be carpeted, a provisional date has been chosen for Bishop Richard to bless and officially open the extension at the 1030 service on this date.

It is very much hoped that, by then, we will be able to celebrate together free from any "social distancing" measures.

We could not have got this far without the tremendous support and hard work of so many people which the Friends of St Owen's and the PCC recognise as a celebration of commitment to this project and our community.

As our project Patron, the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis has put it:

"I have been watching progress on the building with delight. It looks wonderful.

Many congratulations to you all for your tenacity.

You have produced something that will be appreciated by generations.

Kindest regards

Helen Nellis
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire"

SPONSOR THE FINISHING TOUCHES!

With construction work almost finished it's time to turn our attention to fitting out the kitchen and carpeting the hall. We have already been promised a set of crockery and we are now asking if you could sponsor any of the items on the shopping list below.

There's lots to choose from starting at £10 for a sq mtr of carpet tile to £1434 for a dishwasher. We are looking at commercial standard stainless steel units which are a bit more expensive than domestic units, but desirable for longevity and robustness. This is important if we are to let out the facilities to outside parties.

But if your budget won't stretch to the whole of a large item then you could part sponsor an item like the cooker.

Any offers would be welcomed by Bill Wilgress FoSO Treasurer at 17 Molivers Lane, Bromham MK43 8JT [Chqs payable to Friends of St Owens & endorsed "Kitchen" on the back or transfers to Natwest Sort Code 60-02-13 Acct No 63010321 using reference "Kitchen/Your name".]

Carpet tiles at £10 / Sq Metre.
(approx. 50 Sq Mtrs required)

Corner units: 2 at £490

Sink base: £428

4 Drawer unit: £721

Full height base unit. 2 off at
£267

Full height corner unit:
£492

End panels: 5 off at £104

Deep base end panel: £130

Base filler: £54

Base solo support panel: £332

Wall cupboard: £471

Handwash basin: £123

Taps : £35 (Already
sponsored)

Mixer taps: 2 off at £247

Fridge: £335 (Already
sponsored)

Commercial standard cooker:
£1240 (Half sponsored)

Cooker hood fume filtration
unit: £1064

Commercial standard
dishwasher: £1434



Thank you to all those who have signed up as members recently - your Membership Cards will reach you shortly.

It is never too late to join if you have not yet done so! Just contact me at 74 Woodland Drive, Bromham MK43 8JU or send an email with your details to francesbulmer@btinternet.com

Many thanks for your support
Frances Bulmer

Caring is Slow

One definition of trauma is that bad stuff happens, good stuff is taken away, and everyone carries on as if it's all normal. The pandemic has turned our lives upside down and there is worry about the impact on people's mental health. How can we continue to be human and humane in these trying times? By using this definition of trauma, we can see the part we can address: the carrying on as if this is all normal.

As a Theraplay practitioner I naturally ask - can attachment theory offer us a path to follow in this time of not knowing? Attachment theory suggests you don't have to be safe to feel secure; Bowlby's image is of a child in the arms of a parent in the middle of a storm. A felt sense of security comes from the caring relationship between child and grown-up. A human being, whether in a big body or a little body, needs to have that felt sense of security either in the moment, or have had it enough in the past to hold that feeling inside themselves.

That felt sense of security comes from knowing you are cared about.

Stopping and thinking about what caring is reminds me that it is usually someone with more power offering themselves in the service of the other. The carer becomes engrossed in offering themselves, not because of what they get out of it, but because that is what they are committed to. For caring to be fulfilling, the person who is cared for has to embrace vulnerability and be able to trust the carer's non-exploitative interest. Such interdependent caring relationships are marked by repetitions of actions, mismatches, wonky moments followed by repairs when things go awry, and becoming lost in the to-and-fro of caring, not the production of something. Caring is about letting a relationship grow without being fixated on a 'right' outcome. It is a relational voyage of discovery, often with diversions on the route either because something of interest comes up or the expected route is blocked. It is specific to the individuals involved. It takes time and it costs emotionally for both the carer and the cared for.

By caring for each other as a way to protect our own and others' mental health in this ongoing pandemic, we could start to reconsider what we value. Ultimately, to truly value caring, we may need to let go of outcomes and invest in the process of being. Maybe the persistent stress of this pandemic can be tempered, and any potential trauma impact reduced, by supporting each other to commit to the slowness of care.

Fiona Peacock

Co-Director Theraplay UK

BACP Senior Accredited Counsellor

Certified Theraplay® Therapist, Trainer and Supervisor

GOD and the Arts

Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God and the Arts with a look at 'The Supper at Emmaus' by Caravaggio. It now hangs in the National Gallery.

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

I like the story of the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire: after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion', the choirmaster wrote: "'The Crucifixion' – well done, everyone!' Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'

For the two disciples treading the road to Emmaus, there was no such sense of victory and celebration. Their minds and hearts were numb with the sense of loss and failure. They had seen their Lord tried and crucified. As Luke recounts that walk in his Gospel, he shows how it began with absence and loss, but journeyed to presence. It was a road that took the disciples from blindness and despair to sight and insight. They talked over past events with the stranger who joined them, and Luke uses ten different Greek words to describe that conversation – all stages in their understanding. And when they share a meal with the stranger, who becomes the host, taking the bread and giving thanks, then the understanding becomes vision and insight.



That meal is the theme of Caravaggio's painting of 1601, 'The Supper at Emmaus.' Caravaggio had a reputation for being a violent, irrational artist, given to bouts of anger and forced to

spend part of his life in exile in Naples and Sicily. His paintings as well as his lifestyle shocked and provoked comment. This portrayal of Jesus with a plump, youthful face and his depiction of the apostles as ordinary labourers upset the church authorities. But by giving Jesus a beardless face, Caravaggio was trying to show Him in the new likeness of Resurrection – an Easter image of our Lord. The light from that Easter Jesus fills the scene as the two disciples look on, astonished and finally understanding.

When we read the Gospel, we are drawn into the scene. For Caravaggio the movement is the other way: the scene reaches out to us from the canvas. Look at the outstretched hand of Jesus, the elbow of one disciple and the left hand of the other: they are being projected into our world. And that basket of fruit, full of apples and figs and grapes, symbols of the fall and the eucharist: it is about to topple off the table and into our laps. It is an Easter encounter two thousand years ago, reaching out to us through light and shade and the skill of the artist.

In many ways the Gospel story in Luke is of an ordinary encounter between travellers and a stranger. But it is made extraordinary by the transforming power of the risen Lord, talking with the disciples in the open air and then going inside for a meal. However, the doors are not shut to us. For Caravaggio shows how that special moment of encounter for the two disciples can reach out to enter our world. And he shows the hand of the risen Lord beckoning us to step into that Easter world of sacrament and new life.

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. - *Anon*

Lessons of Lockdown?

This past year may have altered your perspective on life. Some of the following statements may be worth thinking about....

- Life is precarious
- A nurse is worth more than a professional footballer
- Spare time isn't a waste of time
- A smile is precious
- Being alone isn't the same as loneliness
- Hard work doesn't guarantee employment
- I'm spending more on food & drink and less on church & charity
- Silence opens us to creative ideas
- Social media are a mixed blessing
- Shopping needn't be addictive
- Driving less and walking more is good for humanity
- Isolation teaches us we need each other to generate energy
- Getting back to 'normal' isn't God's plan for the human race
- When everything else is shut, God is open

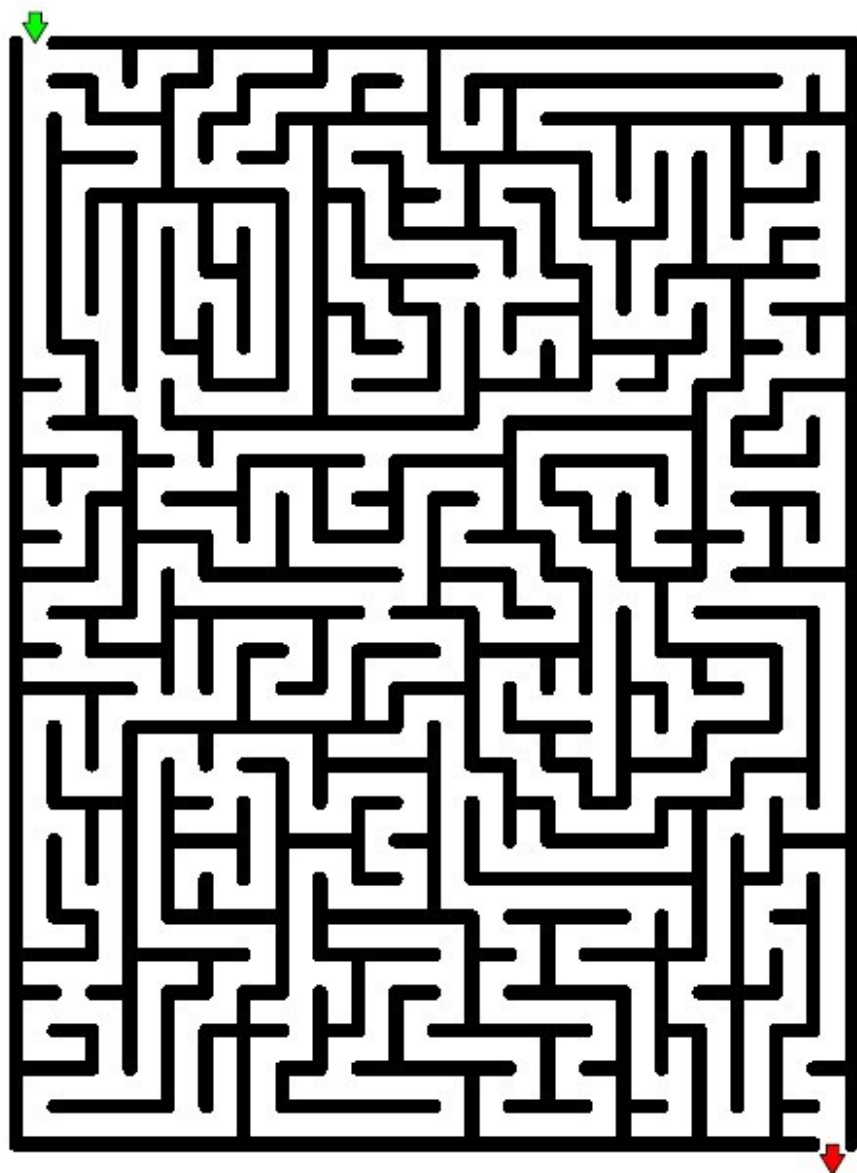
Parish Pump website

We are reading more books

More than 200 million print books were sold in the UK last year, according to an estimate from the official book sales monitor Nielsen BookScan.

It was the first time since 2012 that the volume of physical books sold has exceeded 200million, and it was the biggest volume rise in the books market since 2007, says The Bookseller magazine.

Can you find a way through from top to bottom?



For younger readers.....

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

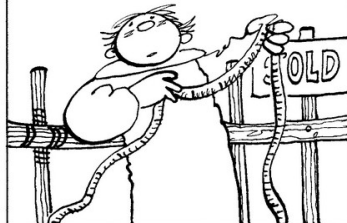


OH!! NO!!



BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!



SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

Editor: the Ven John Barton considers a beloved, national institution....

100 years of the PCC

It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex officio member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent “on matters of general concern and importance to the parish”, and that includes the “whole mission of the Church”. Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

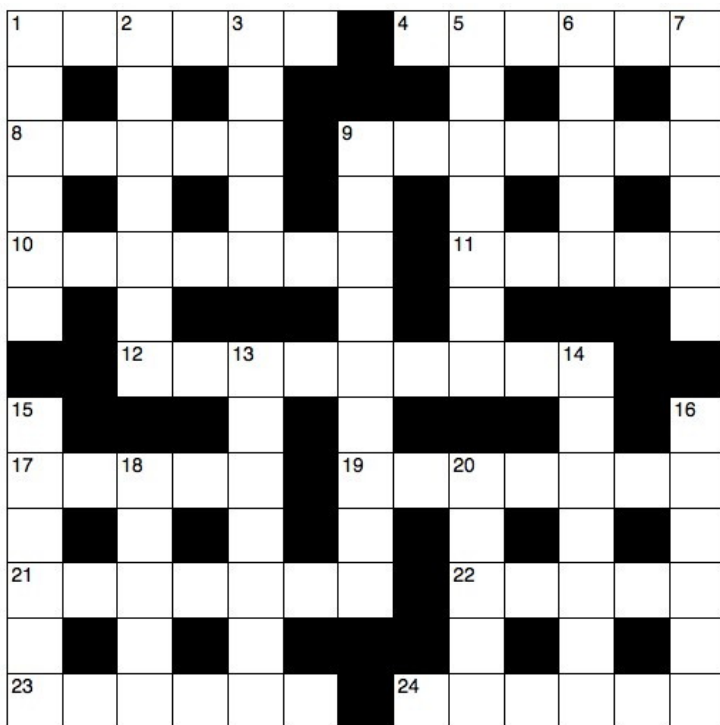
Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It’s a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you’ve got this far and are a member of your PCC - congratulations - you are a hundred years old this year!

Saying good-bye

An inexperienced curate was sent to do a graveside burial for a homeless man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the digger was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

When the curate looked into the open grave and even found the vault lid was already in place, he felt very guilty. The homeless man deserved something, even though it was late. And so, the curate delivered an impassioned burial service, sending the deceased into the great beyond in some style. The workmen looked on in silence, but as the curate returned to his car, he overheard one of the workmen remark: ‘I’ve been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain’t never seen anything like that!’



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Gen 14:16) (9)

- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome
(Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’ (Ex 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles’ (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 ‘I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not —’ (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Solution on page 34

Book Reviews

Though I Run Through the Valley

by Pamela Johnson, Authentic, £9.99

Amid decades of war and political strife in Myanmar one family has fought back with their weapon of choice - the Bible. Three generations of Emmerline's family have been living out their love for God by rescuing children who have been orphaned, abandoned or made destitute by their country's upheaval.

Daring to trust God, the family has made many sacrifices to provide a home for orphans so that the children of Myanmar can hope for a better future. Read this, and you will better understand what it was like being a Christian in a predominantly Buddhist Myanmar at a time of ethnic cleansing and military dictatorship.

Royalties from the sale of this book will go to Vision Beyond Borders and the Daw Gyi Daw Nge Orphanage.

Slow Down, Show Up and Pray

by Ruth Rice, Authentic, £9.99

Looking after our mental health has never been so important. Many of us want to find simple ways to help our wellbeing that we can fit into our everyday life.

After suffering her own mental health crisis, Ruth Rice set up the Renew Wellbeing charity, which helps churches to open safe spaces to help communities attend to their mental and emotional health.

Packed full of personal stories, resources and practical guidance, this book will enable you to maintain your own wellbeing. Be present. Be prayerful. Be in partnership.

The first British Prime Minister

Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister 300 years ago, on 3rd April 1721. It was a title he rejected, but historians agree that he effectively created that office for himself.

He was one of the greatest politicians in British history, but he had intended to be a clergyman, until his older brother Edward died in 1698, leaving him responsible for the considerable Walpole estate.



His country seat was Houghton Hall in Norfolk, which he used as a base for generous, sometimes extravagant hospitality and built up an impressive art collection, most of which was later sold and now resides in the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

Another part of his legacy is 10 Downing Street, which was offered to him personally by George II, but which he accepted as the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury. He was knighted in 1726 and made Earl of Orford on his resignation in 1742.

His skills as an orator and negotiator played a significant role in sustaining the Whig party over a long period, and in ensuring the Hanoverian succession. He rebuilt the tower of the medieval church on his Houghton estate as a memorial to his grandfather.

Tim Lenton

All in the month of APRIL

It was:

500 years ago, on 27th April 1521 that Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the earth, died at the hands of natives in the Philippines. He was aged 41.

300 years ago, on 3rd April 1721 that Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister.

250 years ago, on 13th April 1771 that Richard Trevithick, British mining engineer and inventor of the first steam locomotive, was born.

125 years ago, from 6th to 15th April 1896 that the first modern Summer Olympic Games were held in Athens. The original Olympics were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius (I or II) in either 393 or 426 AD.

95 years ago, on 21st April 1926 that Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. Her father became King on the abdication of his brother King Edward VIII in 1936.

90 years ago, on 14th April 1931 that the first edition of the Highway Code was published in the UK.

80 years ago, on 12th April 1941 that Bobby Moore, British footballer, was born. He was Captain of the English team that won the 1966 World Cup and died in 1993.

75 years ago, on 21st April 1946 that John Maynard Keynes, British economist, died. He was the most influential economist of the 20th century, whose ideas formed the basis of Keynesian economics.

70 years ago, on 17th April 1951 that the Peak District National

Park was established. It was Britain's first national park.

60 years ago, on 11th April 1961 that Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Jerusalem. He was convicted on 12th September and executed in June 1962.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1971 that Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, died. He was one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century.

40 years ago, on 11th April 1981 that the Brixton riot took place in London. 5,000 youths rampaged through the streets, attacking police officers and damaging buildings, looting shops and setting cars alight.

30 years ago, on 3rd April 1991 that Graham Greene, novelist, short story writer, playwright and journalist died. Author of *Brighton Rock*, *Our Man in Havana* and many more.

20 years ago, on 7th April 2001 that NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of life and volcanic activity on Mars. It went into orbit around Mars and remains operational (though it will run out of propellant in 2025). It is the longest surviving continually active spacecraft orbiting another planet. (It has successfully mapped the distribution of water below the surface and discovered a vast amount of ice below the equatorial regions.)

10 years ago, on 29th April 2011 that the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship him and a cat to ignore him.

Sudoku -
Medium

Solution on
page 34

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

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Solution to puzzle on page 26

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

Solution to puzzle on page 32

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



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