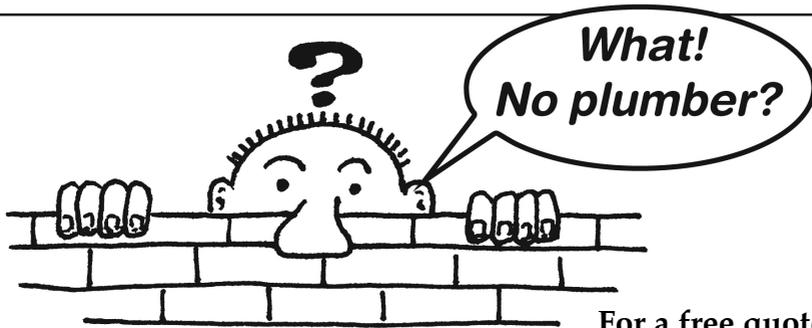


# Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



## February 2021



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# Welcome to Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden

**Find us at:** [www.bromhambenefice.org](http://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
		<a href="mailto:vicar@bromhambenefice.org">vicar@bromhambenefice.org</a>
Assistant Priests:	Revd Paula Vennells	851594
	Revd Di Harpham	918691

## *Benefice Administration*

Website &.....}	Administrator	
Wedding.....}	(Mon 9 -11.30a.m.	
organisation..}	Tues, Wed & Thurs 9am -1.00pm)	
Fees Accounts...}	<a href="mailto:administrator@bromhambenefice.org">administrator@bromhambenefice.org</a>	
Safeguarding Officer -	Judith Denyer	07981 928522

## *Parish News*

Editor	Mr Edward Jones	<a href="mailto:stowensnews@btinternet.com">stowensnews@btinternet.com</a>	826551
Distribution	Mrs B Cryer		825463
<i>Pew Leaflet</i>	<i>Sarah Smale, as Administrator</i>		

## **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

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	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
	 <b>facebook</b> Friends of St Owens	

## Who's Who in Oakley

### *Church Officers*

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

## Who's Who in Stagsden

### *Church Officers*

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

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

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



## Principal Services in the Benefice

Due to extremely high infection rates locally, the Church Wardens took the decision to suspend services in our churches for the time being.

Everyone is welcome to join us at our services week by week as we meet online to worship; visit [www.bromhambenefice.org](http://www.bromhambenefice.org) for instructions on how to join. **Please follow Pew Leaflet, website or Facebook for changes.**

We look forward to the time when we can meet together again in person to worship together.

### 7th February

10.30am Morning Service by Zoom

### 14th February      Last Sunday before Lent

10.30am Morning Service by Zoom

6.00pm Evensong by Zoom

### 17th February      Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion by Zoom

### 21st February      1st Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Service by Zoom

### 28th February      1st Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Service by Zoom

6.00pm Evensong by Zoom

## *From the Vicarage*



Living where we do in Bromham, we are living closer to a river than we ever have before. Although I grew up not far from the River Thames in south-west London, and then during Tim's curacy we lived in a village on the banks of the River Severn, in each case the river seemed remote – I was separated from the Thames by a swathe of suburbia, and from the Severn by the

vertical distance from the village to the valley below where the river ran alongside the steam railway.

It has been fascinating to get to know and observe the Great Ouse at such close proximity, and a great pleasure to be able to walk along to the bridge, almost daily during lockdown. We stand and watch with a sense of wonder as the river just keeps flowing through the beneficent, marking the boundary between Oakley and Bromham for quite a distance, and fed by streams that come down from the hill in Stagsden.



We have watched the river change with the seasons. In the Spring we saw the swans nesting and the cygnets hatch, while the heron kept a careful lookout for a potential meal. In the summer heat, children and young people played in the shallow water and the water bubbled along over the stones, and the river was a happy place of recreation and refreshment. Then as the autumn weather brought more rain, the

river rose higher – reaching its peak in the floods at Christmas as it rushed urgently through the arches with a surprising amount of noise and energy.

As we marvel at and appreciate the beauty of the river on our doorsteps, it seems very appropriate that St Owen's Lent appeal this year is again for Water Aid, a charity working in some of the poorest countries in the world. They aim to bring clean and fresh water to communities where the river water is also their drinking water and contains harmful bacteria, or where the river has completely dried up and they have no source of water at all. When we turn on our taps with the expectation of a ready supply of safe clean water, we are reminded to be grateful, and to give what we can to help those who don't enjoy the same simple blessings.

Like the river, our lives go through different seasons – the nurturing, growing times; times of happiness and ease; the turbulence of overwhelming circumstances that threaten to sweep us away from the familiar known places. Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> this year, is a good time to take a step back and stand on the bridge for a while, to reflect on our lives. Our Lent groups will be held mostly on Zoom (what else?!) and details will be published soon, including how those not on the internet can participate. If you haven't been part of a Lent group before, perhaps this could be the year when you give it a try?

Whatever the river of our life looks at the moment – gently moving along or in the full flood of events far beyond our control – we can know God's encouragement and comfort: 'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you' (Isaiah 43: 2).

*Catherine*

# #LIVELENT



God's Story  
Our Story

Join in our daily reflections for Lent  
beginning on **Ash Wednesday - 17th February**

Go to [www.churchofengland.org/sign-up](http://www.churchofengland.org/sign-up)  
for daily email reflections

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## **Sir Keir Starmer praises churches**

Christianity has provided a blueprint for social improvement, according to the Labour Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer.

Writing in a recent issue of Church Times, he said, "For all the loss and difficulty, we should not let this year be defined by pain. Throughout the pandemic, we have also seen the best of humanity."

Sir Keir said that during this past year "religious institutions and local communities have banded together for the common good, showing us the very best of Britain." And he went on to say that "the best of British values" that have surfaced during the pandemic "are also the best of Christian values."

## Lent in Bromham



Water Aid this Lent are promoting fund raising for people in poverty who are most affected by climate change and are most vulnerable to dangerous diseases and viruses especially at this time of COVID 19. This Lent we would like to ask you to, once again, collect in a jar your loose change or whatever you can afford and every penny will go to WaterAid towards providing clean, safe water which will help not only now but for generations to come.

Please use a jar you that have; we hope by Easter to collect the jars either at church or I can collect them. This of course will depend on lockdown but we hope that by then it will have eased. If you wish to donate direct you can contact me for details - Gift Aid forms will be available later.

As a country we don't have to think where clean and safe water is available, we hope to raise money to allow Water Aid to provide this to people who have no reliable water supply and are open to get diseases especially at this time of pandemic.

Thank you in advance for your help, any questions please call me.

Frances Bulmer Telephone No 01234 409916

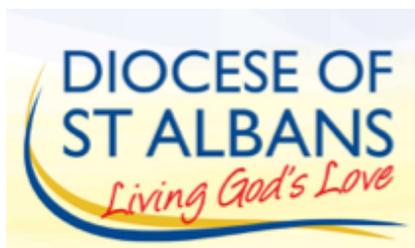
From the Registers:

**Burial:**

8th January Marion Ridgeway (Oakley)

**Funerals at Crematorium:**

19th January Paul Stapleton (Bromham)



**BBC Young Chorister of the Year 2020  
hails from All Saints, Leighton Buzzard**

All Saints Church Leighton Buzzard is “thrilled to bits” that Alexander Olleson has won the BBC Young Chorister of the Year 2020 competition.

Director of Music Paul Dickens said:

“Alexander gave a perfect performance of a very difficult song. Although we are of course biased, we thought he thoroughly deserved to win. Alexander started his singing career at All Saints and is now back with us after some years singing in the choir at Christ Church Oxford.”

Alexander said: “It was quite nerve-wracking at the final but I wasn’t as nervous as I might have been. Having been a chorister I am used to performing live in front of lots of people.

It is hard to describe how it felt when I was announced as the winner. You get this feeling of being completely relaxed, even if you felt relaxed beforehand you still feel it. It’s a really good feeling.”

He also spoke about the camaraderie of singing: “Singing as a soloist is something I have done for years as a chorister but when you are in a choir you feel as if you are singing as one body,” he said.

The Bishop of St Albans also offered congratulations to Alexander on his achievement.

*The Archbishop of Canterbury received his Covid-19 vaccine at St Thomas' Hospital, where he has been working as a volunteer chaplain.*

Justin Welby, has received the first shot of the Covid-19 vaccine because he is a volunteer member of the chaplaincy team at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. He received the injection on Saturday at St Thomas' Hospital in London.

The Archbishop has been a volunteer chaplain at St Thomas' during the pandemic, offering spiritual care and support to patients, staff and visitors as part of the chaplaincy team.



Archbishop Justin Welby said: "I want to encourage everyone to get the Covid-19 vaccine when they are invited. Staff across the NHS, and health workers across the world, are under immense pressure on the front lines of this pandemic. They deserve not just our admiration but our support - and getting the vaccine when we have the opportunity is something we can all do to help relieve the burden on them.

"It has been a privilege to volunteer at St Thomas' over the past year. Chaplains here and across the country are doing a vital job of providing spiritual and pastoral care to patients, staff and relatives at this acutely painful and difficult time.

"Jesus Christ calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Getting the vaccine is part of that commandment: we can show our love for each other by keeping each other safe from this terrible disease. To everyone in this country and across the world, I want to say please, please accept the invitation to get the jab when it comes - and encourage everyone around you to do the same."

*The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the growing problem of fake news.*

### **Truth at risk of being auctioned to the highest bidder – Archbishop**

Truth is becoming a commodity, up for auction to the highest bidder, says Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell in a recent article published in Radio Times.

Lamenting the decline of truth in public life, the Archbishop explains “The echo chambers of social media and the fake news that often goes with it have led us to mistrust and cynicism.

“In other parts of the world, even news channels seem to be mouthpieces of certain political parties or vested interests.”

Commenting on the US Presidential election, Archbishop Cottrell says “Look at how divided and mistrustful of each other the people of that nation have become. Most alarming of all, there seems to be no common understanding of what is true or who can be trusted. Truth itself seems to have become a commodity, bought by the highest bidder.”

The Archbishop’s words echo those of former President Barack Obama, who told the BBC that the US was more sharply divided now than when Donald Trump won election four years ago.

Using the term ‘truth decay’ to describe a rise in conspiracy theories and disinformation in the US, Barack Obama said, “I think at some point it's going to require a combination of regulation and standards within industries to get us back to the point where we at least recognise a common set of facts before we start arguing about what we should do about those facts.”

The Archbishop of York, who took up the post last July, is warning that the divisions in the US could come to the UK. He believes that the BBC and other UK ‘public service broadcasting’ channels like Channel 4

have a vital role in holding the country together.

He says “I know that there are many across the country who feel that during this terrible pandemic year, others have been favoured at their expense. The vision of the united but diverse nation that we see on TV programmes such as ‘Gogglebox’ is not always what we see around us.”

The Archbishop is worried that the rise and spending power of US broadcasting giants Netflix and Amazon places “our British way of doing broadcasting under threat. A voracious, unchecked market may just sweep it away. Even some of our own politicians don’t always see this.”

He adds: “Along with the NHS, and even the Church of England, the BBC and other public service broadcasters are a precious part of our cultural ecology. They help us to see ourselves clearly. They can be trusted.”

Meanwhile, a project running in the CofE’s St Albans diocese has brought together journalists, scientists, representatives of Big Tech and authors with people from a range of faiths to consider how the rising tide of disinformation and fake news can be stemmed.

Grove Books has published ‘Responding to Post Truth’, showing how churches and Christians could fight back against fake news and disinformation. You can order a copy at: <https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/e-197-responding-to-post-truth>

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It is but right that our hearts should be on God, when the heart of God is so much on us. - *Richard Baxter (1615 - 1691) English poet, theologian, and hymnodist.*

## **A tribute to the late Celia King by Margaret Inegbedion**

Celia King died in December 2020; she was the widow of Revd Dennis King who was Vicar here from 1977 - 1984. At that time the Vicarage was in Neville Crescent, Bromham, a home they shared with their two children, Timothy and Stephanie and with Celia's mother Lilian Brookes and Donna Brookes.

We arrived in early 1978 and were made very welcome by Dennis and Celia. They became godparents to our daughter, Theresa, and came to our family baptisms and weddings and to my licensing as a Reader. We remained in touch after they moved away and were pleased to be part of Dennis King's 60th Anniversary as a priest. When here, Dennis was very keen to introduce more involvement of lay people in the Liturgy. Lay people became readers, intercessors and chalice assistants - things we take for granted now but which were very new then.

When Celia's mother, Lilian, died she was buried in St Owen's churchyard and was the first person of Caribbean heritage to be buried there. We are privileged to take flowers to her place of rest in November each year.

After Dennis died, Celia moved to a retirement apartment near Exeter. She was very happy there and, eventually, her sister-in-law also retired there.

We give thanks for Celia, for her friendship, her great kindness, her faith, her gentle humour, her love of her family and the great support she gave to Dennis in his Ministry.

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Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace. – *Jerry Bridges*

## **Do your days rush by at a hectic pace?**

Have you ever stopped to think that your mobile phone and emails have not given you *more* time? Just *more things to do* in the same amount of time. We leave our messages in one place while we take our bodies elsewhere. Instead of doing one thing after another, we shoot out a variety of tasks, and then swoop down on them later, needing to deal with them all at once.

In a street scene from an old Orson Welles film and a similar clip from a more recent film, you will see an amazing difference. In the early film, the camera records 'real time' – people get out of their cars, walk across streets, wait for lights, speak to other people, enter a bank. In the more recent film, a similar sequence was reduced to a half a dozen quick-cuts. Transition time was eliminated.

Modern life teaches us that 'down time' is wasted. So mobile phones, emails, etc, enable us to 'waste' less time. The tempo of picks up, the heartbeat of life races, and our own body rhythms respond with adrenaline, cramped muscles and heart attacks.

To take time out for daily prayer, for a quiet walk that is not to the next meeting, for daydreaming or for Bible study becomes a cross-cultural act. Following Christ, waiting on Him, is a countercultural act.

One lovely biblical phrase is 'in the fullness of time, it came to pass'. This suggests four things: that time crests like a wave; that there is a right moment for things to happen; that it's not ours to plan that moment, but to recognise it; and that we are not the primary agents of what happens in the world.

So, feel free to accept God's offer of rest when you are weary; receive each moment of your life as a gift from God's hand; pray to discern what each new encounter you make requires of you, and freely entrust everything else to God's care.

*Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle – Parish Pump website*

## **Janani Luwum, Archbishop & martyr of Uganda**

The Most Reverend Janani Luwum (d 1977) was the Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and Boga Zaire when 35 years ago this month he was murdered by the dictator Idi Amin. At the time the Church in Uganda was on the verge of centennial celebrations of its birth through the seed of the early Ugandan martyrs, and so Luwum became the first martyr of the second century of Christianity in Uganda. A statue of him stands in Westminster Abbey London.

Janani Luwum was greatly loved in Uganda. He was by all accounts an exceptional leader with a great personal godliness, a holistic vision, pastoral compassion and evangelistic fervour. Janani was born in 1922 at Mucwini in the Kitgum District of Uganda. He spent his childhood and early youth herding goats. Given an opportunity to attend a local school, he learned quickly, and was soon a teacher himself.

Janani Luwum was converted to Christianity on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1948, started at theological college in Buwalasi the following year, became a deacon in 1955 and was ordained a priest in 1956. He served in the upper Nile Diocese of Uganda and the diocese of Mbale, and was consecrated Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974, three years after Idi Amin came to power in a military coup. His death was mourned by millions in East Africa.

He is commemorated on 17 February as a Lesser Festival. His statue is among the Twentieth Century Martyrs on the front



of Westminster Abbey in London (*Figure on right above*)

## **Book Reviews**

### **Stories from the Streets – an insight into the work of Street**

**Pastors - by Luke Randall and Sue Shaw, Instant Apostle, £9.99**

This book celebrates the excellent work done by the formidable army of ‘Street Pastors’, Christian volunteers who have become a welcome presence in their various towns and cities across the nation.

Founded on the streets of Brixton by the Revd Les Isaac, OBE, in 2003 as a response to critical social issues, there are now 270 Street Pastor groups across the UK and seven internationally. More than 12,000 volunteers have been trained to serve as Street Pastors, not only on the streets but in many other public spheres as well, such as schools and after terrorist attacks.

Whether offering a listening ear to a vulnerable clubber, mentoring a troubled teen, giving food to a homeless person or responding to a national emergency, Street Pastors have been credited with saving police and NHS time and money, reducing crime and improving neighbourhoods. The work is supported by churches of every denomination.

### **Come and See – learning from the life of Peter**

**By Stephen Cottrell, BRF, £7.99**

When we look at the life of Peter – fisherman, disciple, leader of the early Church – we find somebody who responded wholeheartedly to the call to ‘come and see’. Come and meet Jesus, come and follow him, come and find your life being transformed. This book focuses on Peter, not because he is the best-known of Jesus’ friends, nor the most loyal, but because he shows us what being a disciple of Jesus is actually like. Like us, he takes a step of faith and then flounders, and needs the saving touch of God to continue becoming the person he was created to be.

## In Praise of Good Things that email can bring.....

*Every single evening  
As I'm lying here in bed,  
This tiny little Prayer  
Keeps running through my head:*

*God bless all my family  
Wherever they may be,  
Keep them warm  
And safe from harm  
For they're so close to me.*

*And God, there is one more thing  
I wish that you could do;  
Hope you don't mind me asking,  
Please bless my computer too.*

*Now I know that it's unusual  
To Bless a motherboard,  
But listen just a second  
While I explain it to you, Lord.*

*You see, that little metal box  
Holds more than odds and ends;  
Inside those small compartments  
Rest so many of my friends.*

*I know so much about them  
By the kindness that they give,  
And this little scrap of metal  
Takes me in to where they live.*

*By faith is how I know them  
Much the same as you.  
We share in what life brings us  
And from that our friendships grew.*

*Please take an extra minute  
From your duties up above,  
To bless those in my address book  
That's filled with so much love.*

*Wherever else this prayer may reach  
To each and every friend,  
Bless each e-mail inbox  
And each person who hits 'send'*



**Remembering John Keats** *Tim Lenton looks back on a well-loved poet.*

It was 200 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1821, that John Keats, the Romantic poet, died in Rome of tuberculosis, aged 25.

Keats was a generous, likeable and hard-working man who had much experience of suffering in his short life. He also had a love of civil and religious liberty. Most of his best work was done during the year 1819, when he was already sickening after an exhausting walking tour of the Lakes and Scotland the previous summer.

In that same year he had also been nursing his brother Tom through tuberculosis – the disease that killed their mother. But in 1819, after Tom’s death, he moved to Hampstead and fell in love with a neighbour, Fanny Brawne, who was 18.



By this time Keats was devoting himself to poetry, having originally trained as a surgeon following his mother’s early death. He is most famous for his Odes, all of which (except the one to Autumn) were composed between March and June 1819. All of them ponder the clash between eternal ideals and the transience of the physical world.

His most famous lines: “Beauty is truth, truth beauty, – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.”

On the next page you can read “Bright star”, written in 1819, possibly for Fanny Brawne.

Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art—  
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night  
And watching, with eternal lids apart,  
Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremite,  
The moving waters at their priestlike task  
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,  
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask  
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors—  
No—yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,  
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,  
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,  
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,  
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,  
And so live ever—or else swoon to death.

*John Keats*

---

### **Miscellaneous observations on modern life**

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink lager all day.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

## All in the month of February

It was:

200 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1821 that John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25.

125 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1896 that the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La Boheme*, took place in Turin, Italy.

75 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

65 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

50 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1971 that the UK's currency was decimalised.

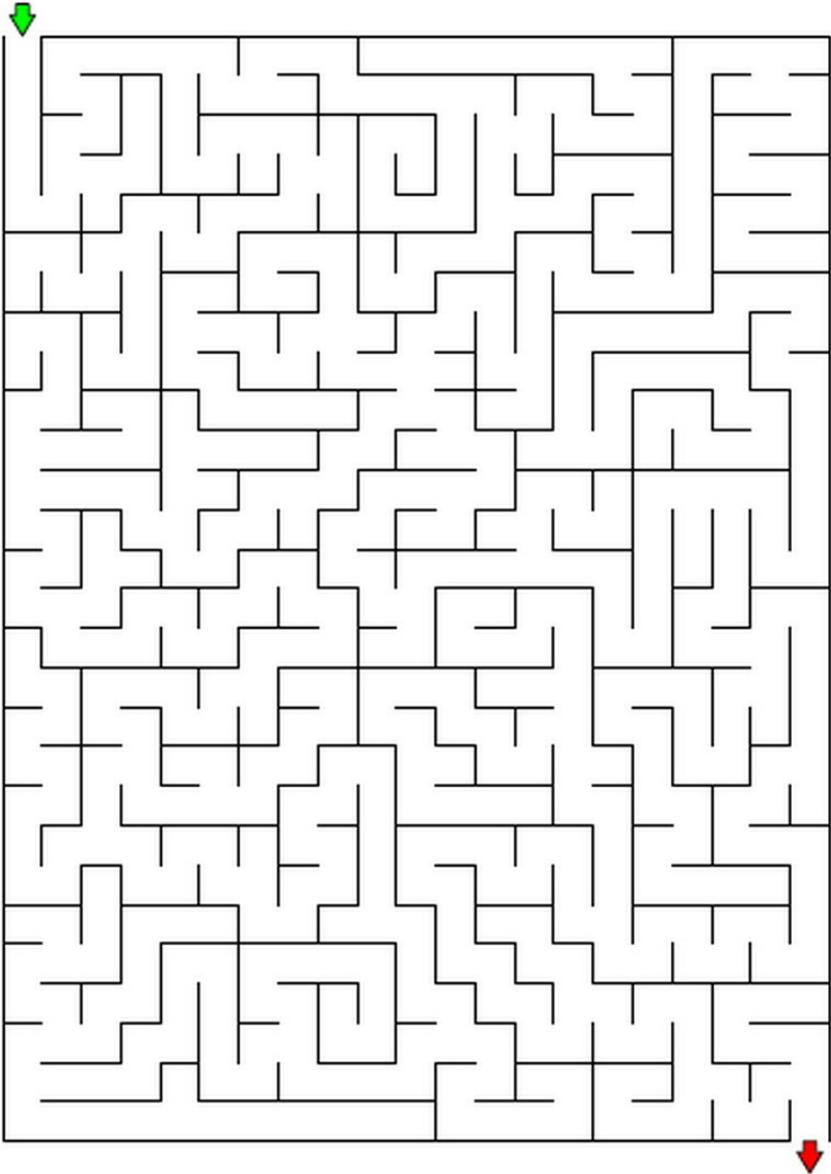
30 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1991 that the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

25 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

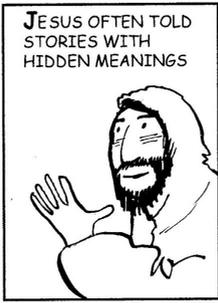
10 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2011 that the Canterbury earthquake in New Zealand took place. 185 people were killed and up to 2,000 injured., and there was widespread damage across the city.

From top to bottom - can you find a way?



For younger readers.....

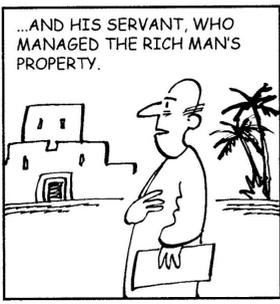
The parable  
of the  
Shrewd  
Manager



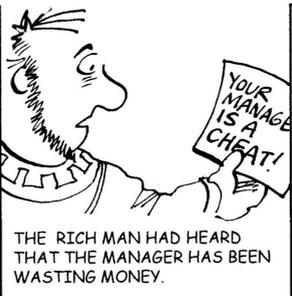
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



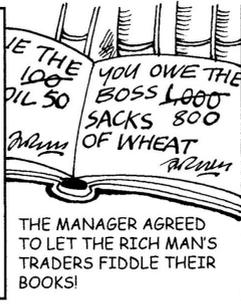
ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...



...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.



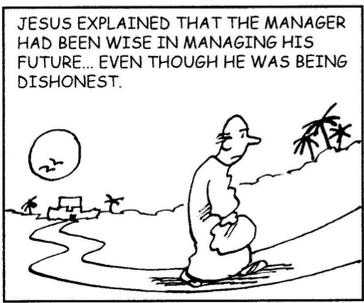
THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.



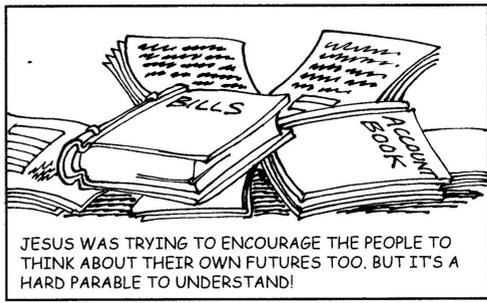
THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

## George Herbert, priest and poet

If we were to name someone prominent from the 17th century, we might mention Rembrandt or Shakespeare. It is unlikely we would remember George Herbert. However, he was a prolific writer, a gifted speaker and musician. His hymns are still sung today.

Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales on 3rd April 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old. His mother moved her large family to London where, aged 12, Herbert entered Westminster School. In 1609, his mother remarried, and Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.



By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University's Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales.

Although Herbert was securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire. [*Now a western suburb of Salisbury.*]

Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1633. He was 39.

Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most well-known hymns are *Teach me my God and King*, *Let all the world in every corner sing* and *King of glory, king of peace*.

A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

*Parish Pump website*

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### **Fairtrade Fortnight: 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March**

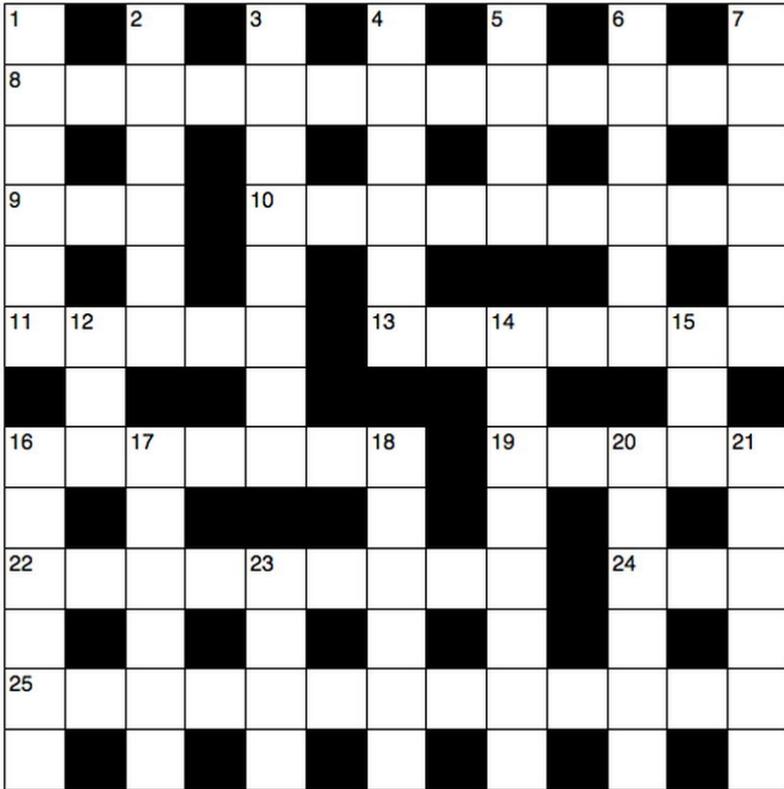
It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.

In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So, this month, why not visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) and see how you can send some support.





**Across**

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

### Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

---

**Warning:** Dates in your calendar are closer than they appear.

*David Pickup, a solicitor, considers scam emails.*

### **Do me a favour?**

I just had an email from a clergyman, saying, “Hi” and asking me to do him “a favor”. I replied to say yes, of course. I then began to wonder why he had not said what sort of favour it was, and why he was asking me.

I decided to telephone him and find why he had not explained. His wife answered and said: “Is it about the fake email?” I could tell from her tone of voice that I was not the first caller. This was a scam of some sort and probably the favour was to send money.

The same day someone else in the same parish had their accounts hacked. The email addresses used were correct, but if had looked carefully I would have noticed he would not spell “favour” like that and not say “hi”.

This all makes me quite cross, because these scammers are playing on church members’ kindness. A friend of mine also got the email and was upset that someone else was in trouble. We need to be aware of the risks and look out for messages of any kind which seem strange.

Criminals target churches and pretend to send emails from people in authority such as clergy, churchwardens or treasurers. They prey on our credulity and charity.

What should we do?

If you get a telephone call or email you and you are not sure if it is genuine, use another form of communication to check.

It is a crime, so report it to the authorities. If it is connected to a church, tell your diocese or governing body.

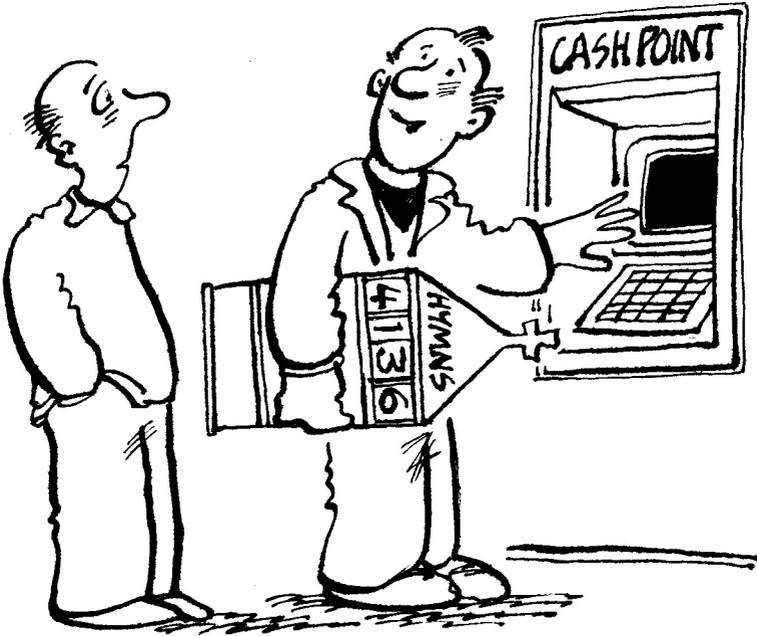
The scammers must have got these addresses from somewhere. How easy would it be to get a list of the names and addresses of your

minister, leaders and treasurer?

Lastly, carry on being generous and kind. These scammers should not stop us.

*Editor: Yes, this has happened in our Benefice! No harm done though because those involved had already taken the advice given above. Enjoy the benefits of on-line correspondence but be careful.*

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*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*



## St Owen's Building Project

A busy few days for the  
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## National Nestbox Week – time to help your garden birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14<sup>th</sup> February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes.

Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>



### Collection

The church newsletter announced details of the church creche: 'Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.'

Sudoku - Easy

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

Solution on page 34



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Solution to puzzle on page 26

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

Solution to puzzle on page 32

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



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