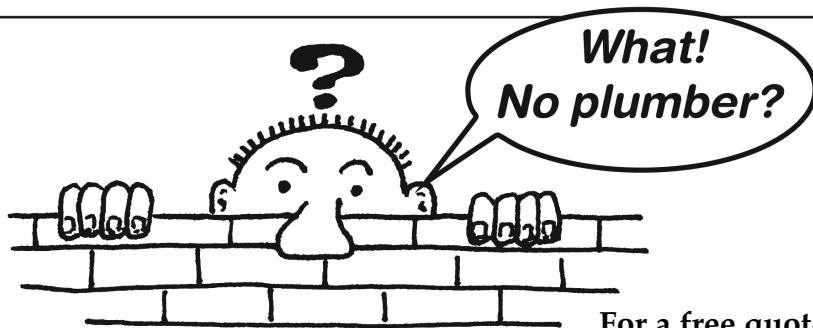


# **Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**



## **February 2022**



*Need a plumber at any time?  
Today that could be a crime,  
But not with my competitive rates,  
I'll soon get you out of a state.*

*Need an new bathroom, or washing machine fitted?  
Just call on me – I'm very well kitted.  
Need central heating or just a tap washer changed?  
Give me a ring and get it arranged.*

**For a free quote  
contact:  
P J Bartram  
25 Bedford Road  
Clapham  
MK41 6EJ**

**Tel:  
07785 716716**

## Auction Sales & Valuations

Valuation, collection and auction service  
of individual items through to complete  
property and commercial clearances.

Call for a free no obligation quote or  
email [info@peacockauction.co.uk](mailto:info@peacockauction.co.uk)

### SALE ENTRIES NOW INVITED

Antique & Modern Furniture • Clocks • Books • Ceramics & Glassware • Pictures & Prints • Bicycles  
Jewellery & Watches • Collectables • Garage Tools & Equipment • Household Electrical Items • Office  
Furniture & Equipment • Retail Products & Stock • Vehicles • Horticultural & Commercial Equipment  
Building Materials • Garden Furniture & Effects

[www.peacockauction.co.uk](http://www.peacockauction.co.uk)



**W&H PEACOCK**  
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS  
**01234 266366**



Eastcotts Park,  
Wallis Way,  
Bedford,  
MK42 0PE

**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

**Clergy:**

Vicar:	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
		<a href="mailto:vicar@bromhambenefice.org">vicar@bromhambenefice.org</a>
Assistant Priest:	Revd Di Harpham	918691

***Benefice Administration***

Website &.....}	Administrator	07494 069540
Wedding.....}	(Mon & Thurs 9.30 -12.00: Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm organisation..}	
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>	Sarah Smale, as Administrator		

**Who's Who in Bromham**

***Church Officers***

Churchwardens	Ms T Woodcock	340089
	Mrs F Bulmer	602718
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vivien Butler	407351
PCC Treasurer	Mrs 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**

<u>6th February</u>	<u>4th Sunday before Lent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
<u>13th February</u>	<u>3rd Sunday before Lent</u>
9.00am	BCP Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley Methodist Church)
6.00pm	Evensong by Zoom
<u>20th February</u>	<u>2nd Sunday before Lent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
4.30pm	Wild Church (Bromham Scout Hut)
<u>27th February</u>	<u>Sunday before Lent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
6.00pm	Evensong by Zoom

## **Weekday Services**

Mondays	
11.30am	Messy Church (Bromham)
Thursdays	
10.00am	Messy Church (Oakley)

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

Please continue to check the Pew Leaflet or our website as venues sometimes have to change at short notice.



## *From the Vicarage*

February feels to me this year like an 'in-between' month, a time of waiting. This is partly because Easter falls relatively late in 2022 – Easter Day is on April 17<sup>th</sup> – so Lent doesn't begin until early in March. After the Christmas season finally ends when Candlemas is celebrated on Sunday

31<sup>st</sup> Jan, there are no festivals of note in the Church's calendar until Ash Wednesday on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) the day before is a tradition, but surprisingly not an official part of the church's year. The Sundays all look ahead to what is coming – they are 'Sundays before Lent', and we find ourselves in this gap having put away the Nativity scenes but not yet starting Lent Groups.

If we are in an 'in-between' time, that suggests that something has ended – and that something new is on the horizon. I will be heading out into the garden to cut down the autumn raspberry canes in February in preparation for the new canes to grow, and there are already bulbs peeking through the earth. More diligent gardeners than me will be planning to dig and plant and prune as they prepare for the arrival of Spring. Even though it happens every year, it is always cheering to see the days getting longer and (hopefully) warmer.

It seems as well that the pandemic situation is in a waiting time – while the graphs of infection and death rates are

heading downwards, and the numbers boosted are going up, we are not free of the virus. The Prime Minister has announced that masks will not be mandatory any more – but I'm sure many people will continue to wear them, and to take care with their social interactions, to minimise the risk to themselves and to others while they wait for better news on case numbers.

In our Benefice we are preparing for our Giving Campaign in March (see elsewhere in the magazine for more information) and soon there will be printing of letters, filling of envelopes, and delivering of the same to be done, in readiness for our time of reflection on what we give to God through the church. This is also part of our focus in Lent, a time when Christians pause to take a careful look at all aspects of their relationship with God, and ask what they should do to grow closer to Him as they prepare to remember all the events of Holy Week and Easter.

Times of waiting, like this month, can also be useful opportunities to pause and think, allowing us space to reflect on what has been and consider what is coming next. We often hurry from one thing to another with barely time to breathe, and miss that chance to stop and ponder. Many of us find ourselves in 'in between' times at various points in our lives, between jobs or homes or phases: one thing has ended, and the next is yet to begin. God is with us in the gaps as well as during the busy periods, and in these times we can pray with the Psalmist 'I trust in you O Lord... my times are in your hand' (Ps 31:14-15).

*Catherine Wilson*



The next planned LINKUP for people living on their own is a meal out on Thursday 3rd February Please let Anne Tombs know if you wish to come. Tel 01234 822949

---

### **Bring and Share - Postponed Epiphany party**

The Epiphany party was postponed and will now be held on Feb 20. This will be Sexagesima not Epiphany but we can still have fun ! It will be a bring and share meal so please bring a small amount of food , (savoury or sweet ) and your favourite drink that you can bring before the 10.30 service and put in the kitchen. The party will begin as soon after 12 as we are organised. This is a **Benefice event**, so we hope friends from Stagsden and Oakley will join us.

There will be quizzes and games so please join us for our first fellowship lunch in the new room.

*Anne Tombs*

---

### **Friends of St Owen's**

FoSO AGM on Thursday 17 Feb 2022

at 7.30pm in St Owen's Church

New members welcome to join at the meeting! If you need transport contact Edward on 826551.

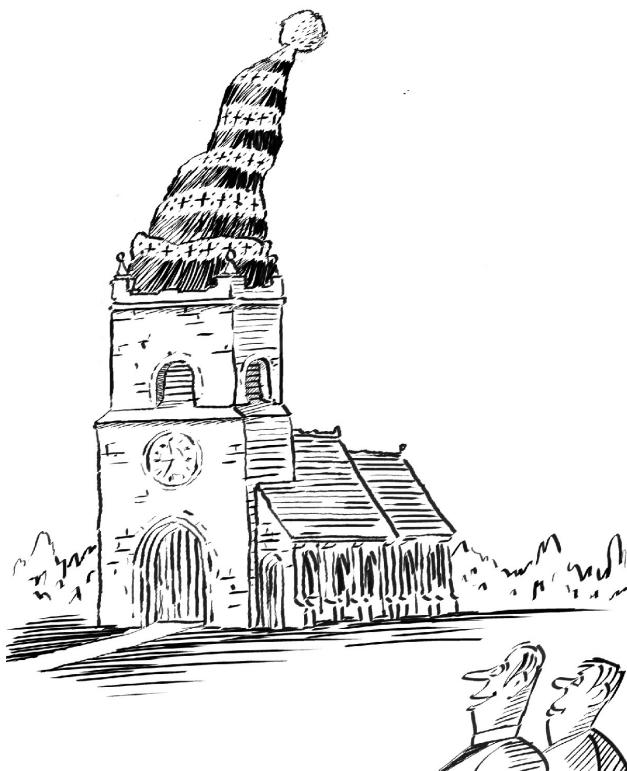
---

### ***Some miscellaneous observations on life***

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. - *Duane Hulse*

We make our friends, we make our enemies, but God sends our next-door neighbour. - *GK Chesterton*

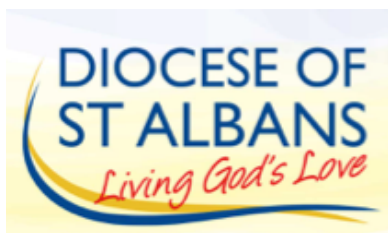




"The knitting circle are playing their part  
in our heating efficiency programme."

---

How is it that nobody has dreamed up any moral advances since Christ's teaching? What was there in His heredity and His environment to account for this unique teacher, and the remarkable fact that no greater has ever looked like emerging? - *Michael Green 1930-2019 - British theologian and Anglican priest.*



The last two years have placed the most extraordinary demands on all of us. My colleagues and I want to thank you for your commitment, tenacity and sheer hard work in maintaining a Christian presence and witness in your communities and in supporting and caring for those who have been ill or isolating. I have personally been grateful for a tangible sense of being upheld in prayer and I am grateful for your support.

As we finalise the financial accounts for 2021, I would also like to thank you for your efforts in paying the parish share. I know that many people have shown extraordinary generosity. Unsurprisingly we have not collected as much as we would have hoped and we will have some difficult choices ahead.

As a church and as a diocese I want us to look forward in faith and hope and to this end we are continuing to plan events and gatherings.

Once again, I want to assure you of my continued prayers and thank you for your example and constancy in some of the most difficult and unusual conditions that we have faced in recent decades.

This comes with my warmest best wishes.

On behalf of the Bishop's staff,

+ Alan

*Extract from a Pastoral letter  
to clergy - Ed*

## Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu



*The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.*

*“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”*

*“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”*

*“Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”*

*“Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.”*

*“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.”*

## Living in Love and Faith

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is a set of Church of England resources to explore Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. In particular, within the LLF resources there is a five-session course which helps participants to think through these very important current issues. The sessions include Bible studies, reflections and short films to aid and stimulate our thoughts.



If you would like to take part in this course, it is being run online via Zoom, led by Bishop Michael, on Weds evenings from 7.30 – 9pm on 26 Jan, 2 Feb, 9 Feb, 23 Feb and 9 Mar. To book a place\*, and for more information about LLF, go to the LLF page on the Diocesan website - <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/living-love-and-faith/> and scroll down to the booking link.

Everyone who takes part in a course in our Diocese is encouraged to share in the national feedback which needs to be submitted by 30 April 2022. It is really important that we hear your voice and views, whatever they are, as part of our ongoing listening and discerning as a Church on these matters.

*\* Ed - by the time you read this, the course will have just started but if you are interested in joining there may still be vacancies; please check with Carol Chisnall at [bmm@stalbands.anglican.org](mailto:bmm@stalbands.anglican.org) or 01727 818148*

## Spotlight on Giving

When was the last time you thought about your contribution to the life and work of your church? The beginning of a new year is a good time to do just that, and an opportunity for us all to be encouraged in the process starts on the final Sunday in February.

An **information leaflet and letter** will be sent towards the end of February to everyone who is on the Electoral Roll of St Owen's, St Mary's or St Leonard's, asking them to prayerfully reassess what they give to their church in terms of skills, time and money. There will also be a confidential response form, to enable each person to indicate what they are able to offer. Do look out for your letter, and get in touch if you don't receive one.

To help us think about our giving, the **sermons** on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb and 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March will also focus on this topic – and on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March we will be presenting all the envelopes containing response forms at the altar along with the offering as we give thanks to God for all that He has provided for us and offer back to him our own gift of time, money and talents.

Finally, everyone is invited to a **special afternoon event** on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, to enjoy tea and cake and to hear the outcome of our focus on Giving. The Archdeacon of Bedford, the Venerable Dave Middlebrook, will be our special guest and is willing to answer questions about Giving – so if something you read or hear sparks a question in your mind, come along and **Ask the Archdeacon!**

Please do take this opportunity to look again at your own giving to your church, come and hear a sermon or two (or more!), and ask God to show you what He is asking you to give. *Rev'd Catherine*

*Editor: Paul Hardingham continues a year-long series on the very foundations of our Christian faith.*

## **Christian Basics No 2: What's wrong with the world?**

*'How can a God of love allow suffering?'* Many people struggle with such questions, however the Bible helps us to understand how sin affects both our own lives and the world.

Genesis provides us with a picture of how sin entered the world. In Genesis 2:16-17, God gave Adam and Eve both permission (*'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden'*) and a prohibition (*'But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'*), alongside warning them of the consequences of disobedience (*'For when you eat of it you will surely die'*).

In Genesis 3, they broke God's law by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. As a result, their eyes were opened to the nature of sin (they knew *shame*) and their relationship with God was broken (they *hid* from Him). As a consequence, death entered their lives. This story reminds us that God gives us free will (an essential aspect of being human) to choose whether God will be at the centre of our lives or not.

The Bible offers different ways of describing how we sin:

*a spirit of independence:* we don't want God to interfere with our lives, preferring our own ideas, plans and ways of behaviour.

*ignoring the Maker's instructions:* if you ignore user instructions, you only have yourself to blame when things go wrong! God created us to function with Him at the centre of our lives.

*missing the mark:* we fail an exam even when we miss the pass mark by one mark: *'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'* (Romans 3:23).

In a famous correspondence in *The Times* under the title 'What's wrong with the world?' GK Chesterton's letter simply said: 'Dear Sir, I am.'

---

### **A M I G O Update**

Tuesday 22nd February 2022 - A light hearted quiz at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 7.30 p.m. hosted by Sue Brecknock.

A report on the film "The Personal History of David Copperfield" held on the 25th January 2022 will appear in the March edition.  
*John Dixon*

Further details from John Dixon 01234 824959 or  
e-mail [jwdixon30@gmail.com](mailto:jwdixon30@gmail.com)

---

### **Church Magazine Howlers**

The youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is invited to join in this lay ministry programme. It requires only a minimal amount of training and time: six weekly classes of about 200 hours, each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.

## **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.

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 only 39.

Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such



composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten.

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*

*Ed* - Four of his most well-known hymns are included in our current hymn book: *The God of love my shepherd is, Teach me my God and King, Let all the world in every corner sing* and *King of glory, King of peace*.

---

*As we prepare for Lent, we consider the disciplines of contemplation, prayer, and self-assessment - Ed*

We talk about heaven being so far away. Yet it is within speaking distance to those who belong there. - *D L Moody*

Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God. - *M D Babcock*



### **From the Registers**

#### **Crematorium Service:**

5th January - Richard Yoell (Bromham)

6th January - Hazel Nicholls (Bromham)

11th January - Audrey Prothero (Sragdsen)

#### **Burials of Ashes:**

31st January - Angela Embley (Bromham)

## God in the Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece by Rembrandt.*

### NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who only stand and wait' as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in this month's painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.



*Reprinted by kind permission  
of the National Museum,  
Stockholm.*

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the new-born babe that impress us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open.

As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years.

In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey?

---

### **Say it with flowers**

A man went into his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."



## **Bromham WI**

The December meeting of Bromham WI was very successful as we were joined by several members from surrounding villages and WI's to be entertained by Fiona Harrison, a well-known singer and entertainer. She sang songs from shows, carols and other Festive offerings.

We were all encouraged to join in even though we had masks on. We tried to give the hall a festive feeling with decorated tables, food and clothes, so everyone was able to enjoy the occasion. Our visitors were welcomed by our members and one or two have joined us to see what we have to offer at Bromham.

Our January meeting saw us in a more serious mood as this is when our national resolutions are discussed and voted on. 25 ladies turned out on a rather dismal night prepared to listen to the resolutions and divide into 5 groups to talk about these important matters. After about half an hour and each member had had her chance to contribute to the arguments for and against the topics, we finally voted to promote digital education for older people to enable them to be fully included in modern life and to be more confident with modern technology. From this vote we are going to try to run a class or two for our members to learn more about this in a friendly atmosphere and with a personal twist.

We are also delighted to have attracted several new members recently and we are trying to make further links with other local WIs to all our advantages. Sometimes a visit cannot be run due to lack of numbers so, to have more people to link with, seems a good thing to us. Our visit at the end of January to Milton Keynes Gallery will include some of these ladies, so we are looking forward to a better year in 2022. *Diane Bell*

## **Book Reviews**

### **I'm Praying for You – 40 days of praying the Bible for someone who is suffering**

By Nancy Guthrie, 10Publishing, £6.99

When we hear that a friend is struggling, it can be easy to say, 'I'm praying for you', but harder to know what you can actually pray!

Through forty carefully chosen Scripture passages, Nancy Guthrie opens up the wealth of scripture to teach us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides us with a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering. Nancy teaches us to see how God's purposes are revealed even in our darkest days, and encourages us to pray for His will to be done in difficult situations.

Each chapter includes a passage, a short explanation, and a prayer for your friend. Using the QR code at the end of each prayer, you'll be able to load and send a personal text message to the person you're praying for so that he or she will know not only that you are praying, but exactly what you are praying.

### **The White Stone – the art of letting go**

By Esther De Waal, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Esther de Waal is one of today's most beloved spiritual writers. In *The White Stone*, she reflects on the changes and losses that come with growing older.

Esther reflects on solitude and, following a period of illness, saying goodbye to a family home and the Welsh border landscape she had known for decades which inspired some of

her greatest writing, and adjusting to a new city environment. In her characteristic style, she sees everything as a portal into a deeper spiritual understanding.

She draws on the wealth of the Christian tradition, especially scripture and the monastic and Celtic spiritualities she knows so well, to help her navigate her way through not only the inevitable sense of loss that accompanies such change, but also to embrace the new possibilities it brings.

The white stone of the title refers to a small pebble from the river that ran through her garden that she keeps in her pocket, but also strikes a note of hope referring to the new identity promised by God (Revelation 2.17). This is a book of simple, profound wisdom that will speak to many coping with change in their own lives.

---



*The Ven John Barton considers what each of us can do to help.*

## **Saving the Planet via Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022**

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

*Start in the KITCHEN*

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

*Don't forget the BATHROOM*

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower

head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

---

*Ed - With Valentine's Day in mind...*

*Here are some thoughts on marriage from a group of children:*

*What is the right age to get married?*

23 is the best age because you'll have known the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

*How can a stranger tell if two people are married?*

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

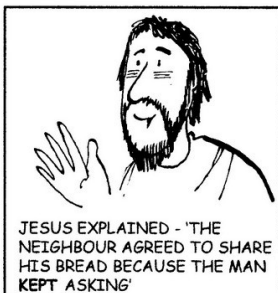
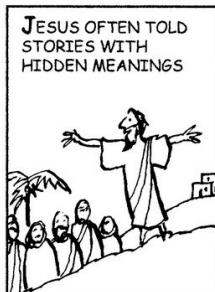
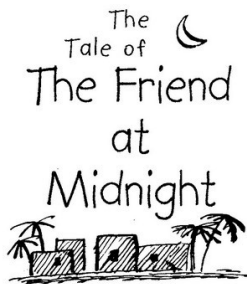
- Derrick, age 8

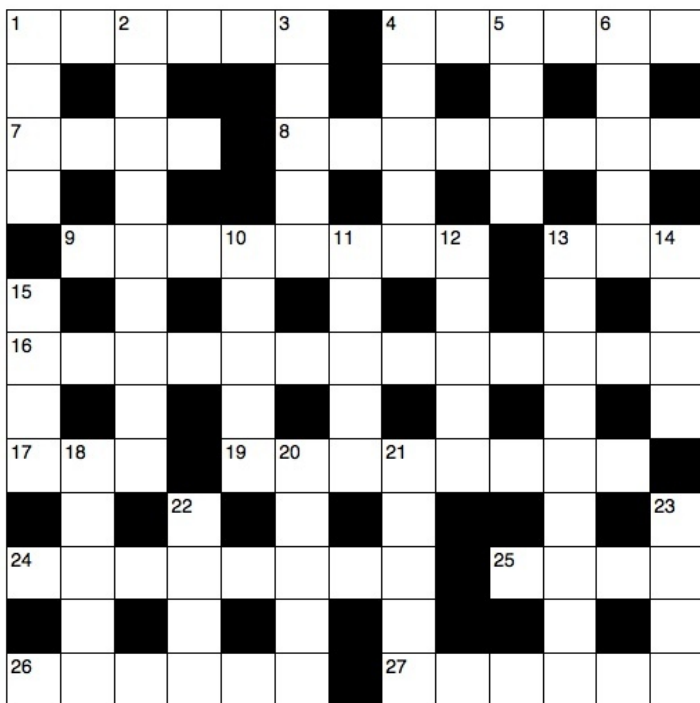
*How would you make a marriage work?*

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. - Ricky, age 10



## For younger readers.....





### Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)  
 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)  
 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)  
 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)  
 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)  
 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)  
 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)  
 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)  
 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)  
 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)  
 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)

- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

## **Down**

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

*Solution on page 34*

## Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

*Parish Pump website*



Sudoku fans - your puzzle is back! With apologies for missing two months but there was a great deal happening over the Christmas period - Ed

*Solution on page 31*

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

## Why you should do housework

Now here is a great reason to do some housework: older people who regularly do household chores have better memory and attention spans than those who avoid domestic duties.

Not only that, but housework is linked to superior leg strength in people over 65. That means their risk of a fall is reduced.

The study, published in *BMJ Open*, found that a combination of light housework, such as washing up, dusting, making the bed, hanging out laundry, ironing and cooking – and heavy housework, such as window cleaning, changing bedding, vacuuming, washing the floor, and chores involving sawing, repairing or painting, “was associated with higher cognitive function” among older people, who showed up to 14 per cent higher attention span scores than older people who did not do housework.



*Parish Pump website*

---

**Another Scam.** Just had a text from an unknown number saying "hi mum this is my new number". It isn't. It's a scam. Be careful, do not respond but make a note of the number.

You should forward all Scam text messages to Ofcom on 7726, they will then respond asking you for the originating phone number. *Thanks to Anne Tombs for this one - Ed*

## 60 years since John Glenn orbited Earth

It was 60 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1962, that John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He made three orbits in the space capsule Friendship 7, which he named himself.

The three circles of the globe – which lasted just under five hours – made the Presbyterian Christian a hero and a household name – but he was not the first man in space. He was preceded by two Russians, Yuri Gagarin and Gherman Titov, in April and August 1961.

The American launch was postponed four times because of mechanical issues and uncertain weather, and the flight was not without its frightening moments. An apparent problem with the heat shield necessitated a change in plans during the flight, but this turned out to be a relatively insignificant sensor problem.

Glenn was one of the first US astronauts – the Mercury Seven – who were immortalised in Thomas Wolfe's 1979 book, *The*



*Right Stuff*, which became a film and more recently a TV series.

Glenn said that seeing the Earth from orbit stirred in him a tremendous sense of wonder that strengthened his faith, adding: "To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible."

Glenn, who represented Ohio as a Democratic senator for 25 years from 1974, returned to space in 1998 aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*, making him the oldest person to fly in space. That mission's main aim was to study the effects of space flight on older people. He died in 2016, aged 95.

*Tim Lenton - Parish Pump website*

---

Solution to puzzle on page 28

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

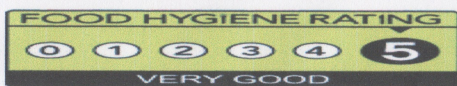


**ESTABLISHED 1990**

**HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE.** Within radius of 8 miles with delivery charge. Minimum order £12.

84 High Street  
Clapham  
Bedford  
MK41 6BW

Tel: 01234 364447/364466  
Website: [www.zeeraclapham.co.uk](http://www.zeeraclapham.co.uk)



## **FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS JANUARY 2022**

**First Prize - Rosemary Franklin**

**Second Prize - Lorna Holland**

**Third Prize - David Butler**

**Fourth Prize - Matthew Ward**

**Fifth Prize - Lorna Holland**





General Household  
Maintenance • General Garden  
Maintenance • Grass Cutting •  
Hedge Cutting • Turfing •  
Fencing • Shed & Playhouse  
Repairs • Gutting Cleaned &  
Repaired • Decorating  
Preparation Internal & External  
Painting Internal & External •  
Labouring Services

For a free quote or advice, any job considered, please call **Paul Sheen:**

**T.01234 349938 M.07925 382297**

---

## **STUART PAUL SAVAGE**

ALL

PAINTING AND DECORATING &  
BATHROOMS & PLUMBING

01234 855780

MOBILE 07766145612

---

## **M.J.NICHOLSON**

Grass Cutting &

Gardening Contractor

(Established 1968)

Wootton based: available in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden

Telephone: (01234) 766306 or 07759 630291

Solution  
to  
puzzle  
on page  
26

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



Eastcotts Park,  
Wallis Way,  
Bedford, MK42 0PE  
01234 266 366

Visit  
[www.peacockscafe.co.uk](http://www.peacockscafe.co.uk)  
for more details on our opening  
hours and to view our full menu.

**W&H PEACOCK**  
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

# The Cafe at W&H Peacock is OPEN

View the salerooms for our upcoming auctions and  
then relax with a coffee and a slice of cake.

Our unique cafe in Bedford Auction Centre with free wi-fi  
comfortably seats over 100 customers. We serve cooked  
breakfasts, paninis and sandwiches, light lunches and  
snacks plus a range of hot and cold drinks.





# Jonathan Vowles

## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

- Tax Saving Specialists
- Financial Accounts
- Management Accounts
- Business Start-Up Advice
- Payroll Services
- Bookkeeping & VAT
- Personal Tax Returns
- Business Consultancy

**"Just what every business needs"**

Please contact us for a free one hour consultation to find out how we can help you and your business

114 High Street, Cranfield, Beds, MK43 0DG

Tel: 01234 752566 Fax: 01234 752577 Email: [info@vowles.co.uk](mailto:info@vowles.co.uk)

Website: [www.vowles.co.uk](http://www.vowles.co.uk)

# R P TESTA

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED

Est. 1992

A LOCAL RELIABLE SERVICE WITH OVER **25** YEARS EXPERIENCE

All General Plumbing requirements and full design & installation for:

- Central Heating inc. LPG
- Under floor Heating
- Unvented hot water
- Bathrooms inc. tiling
- Solar Hot water
- Gas fires/hobs etc.



**102217**



For help and advice call **01234 781827**

[www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk)



# Clarabut & Plumbe Funeral Service



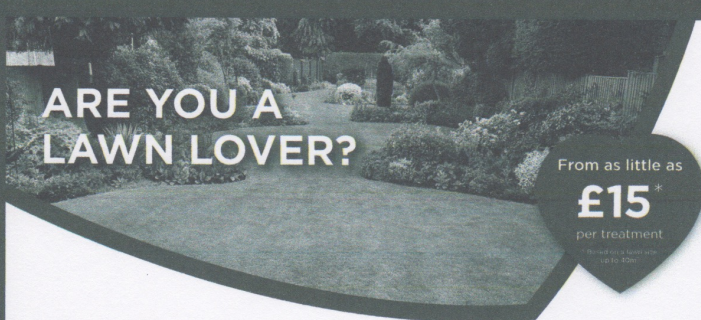
- Private chapels of rest
- 24-hour personal service

Providing quality funeral service with care,  
compassion and dignity for over 125 years

11 Kingsway, Bedford, MK42 9BJ | 01234 354547

6 Bedford Road, Kempston, MK42 8AD | 01234 860038

35 Chiltern Avenue, Putnoe, MK41 9EQ | 01234 865872



ARE YOU A  
LAWN LOVER?

From as little as

**£15\***  
per treatment

## HELP YOUR LAWN TO THRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE

Over the last 30 years our love for lawns has grown and grown (just like our grass!). We combine our passion and enthusiasm with innovative technology as we continue to revolutionise UK Lawn Care. Our groundbreaking 12-month **Lawn Treatment Programmes**, keep your grass looking its best all year round, ensuring your lawn receives the love and attention it deserves.

*Let's create the lawn we both love*

Start your Lawn Care journey today:

Call us on 01234 709345/01480 597432

email: [bedford@greenthumb.co.uk](mailto:bedford@greenthumb.co.uk) visit: [greenthumb.co.uk/bedford](http://greenthumb.co.uk/bedford)

