

# Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



**July 2021**



*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

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 Priest:	Revd Di Harpham	918691

***Benefice Administration***

Website &.....}	Administrator	
Wedding.....}	(Mon, Wed & Thurs 9.30 -12.00	
organisation..}	Tues, 9.30am -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>	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
---------------	--------------

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**

#### 4th July

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

#### 5th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Morning Service by Zoom

#### 11th July

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

#### 6th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Morning Service by Zoom

Evensong by Zoom

#### 18th July

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

#### 7th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Morning Service by Zoom

Holy Communion (Oakley)

#### 25th July

9.00am

10.30am

10.30am

6.00pm

#### 8th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Zoom Communion

Evensong by Zoom

NB To avoid breaches of Covid-19 requirements please do tell a Churchwarden in advance if you wish to attend a service in church. Also, please check the Pew Leaflet or our website as venues sometimes have to change at short notice.



During the last year many people have worked hard at the physical challenges they set themselves, from those nearing their century, eg Captain Tom, to the 'under ten' children with disabilities who took on their walking challenges using crutches, rollators and wheelchairs. These stories were heartening to watch, and they contrasted with the Covid reports and statistics which made such worrying news.

Now we are watching the re-emergence of competitive sports, cricket, football, and tennis and hopefully the Tokyo Olympics will be able to go ahead in less than a month's time, after being postponed from last year. What the competitors will miss is the huge cheering crowd of supporters voicing their encouragement and providing invaluable inspiration.

In the 1992 Barcelona Olympics the British runner, Derek Redmond, competing in the 400 metres, collapsed with a torn hamstring. He got up, refused the stretcher, and was determined to hop to the finishing line. His father leapt out of the stand and joined him. "You don't have to finish" he advised. "Yes, I do" was the reply. So, father and son struggled on to the finishing line with Derek's arm round his father's shoulders and with the spectators providing a

standing ovation. Derek didn't win a medal, but he finished the race.

The Brownlee brothers did something similar in 2016, when they were both competing in the triathlon in Mexico, and Alistair ended the race helping his stumbling brother Jonny over the finishing line where he collapsed.

The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race with all its challenges, sometimes difficulties and hardships but also encouragement and support and "a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on". In the New Testament Paul refers to early Olympic racing as a comparison to the journey of life and faith: "let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race" (Hebrews Ch 12: 1 – 2).

In these difficult times friendships, encouragement and caring are more important than ever to see us through to better times. One of the important features of faith communities, neighbourhoods and village life is the generosity, love and care of others. So too is the ever-present strength and comfort of God's love for us as we journey on. With His presence we are never entirely alone or without comfort and support.

*Dí Harpham*

---

Holy people have a sense of inner peace. In their presence, it is the God of the still, small voice that one perceives. - *T Harrison*

## Bring and (not)Share

Yes, we are planning our first **modified** all-Benefice get-together for Sunday 11th July at 12.30pm.

David and Vivien Butler have offered the use of their spacious garden for a gathering at which we can sit distanced as required by the Covid regulations in force at the time.

We will each bring our own food and drink ie NO sharing but we will be able to meet.

If you wish to come please let Vivien or David know on 01234 407351.

*Anne Tombs*

---

## A Churchwarden's Lament

Whilst we are delighted when families tend graves and plant flowers - but most churches, ours included, do not have waste disposal facilities on site. SO PLEASE take away with you any items such as those in the photo below; after all they are lighter than when you brought them to the churchyard!





*David Pickup, a solicitor, writes....*

### **Honesty is our best policy**

*Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. (Ephesians 4:25)*

The church service has just finished, and you are about to go home to read the latest edition of the parish magazine. You parked a bit carelessly because you were in a hurry and as you drive off you feel a slight bump. You stop and see a small scratch on the car parked next to you. It is the vicar's pride and joy! What do you do? Do you drive off and hope no-one saw. Then, when you get home, you have a look round your car and see a bump on the other side where someone hit *you*.

As Christians we are told to be honest and admit our mistakes. When it happens to us, we feel outraged that someone could damage our property and not own up to it. When we do it to others, the right thing would be to leave a note and take care when parking next time. Honesty is the best policy. We should do to others as we expect others to do to us. If you hit another car, you can feel it and often hear an ominous noise. Sometimes it is difficult to know if you have caused any damage.

People do not, of course, always act honestly. Admitting mistakes is not common in our world. A small scratch or bump can be costly to repair and who wants to lose their no claim's bonus? Sometimes it is costly to admit a mistake, but as Christians we should be as open and honest as we expect others to be. We should stand out as different to other people and have a good conscience. *Parish Pump website*

*[This tale is hypothetical but you get his point - as far as I know Revd Catherine's car is fine! - Ed]*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



Ever since it was announced that I was to be the 98th Archbishop of York, people have been asking me about my vision.

The trouble is, I'm not sure I've got one. Not of my own, anyway. The vision that all of us should be following is the vision that God gives us in Jesus Christ. We don't need anything else. That vision of a new and redeemed new humanity is what has sustained me throughout my ministry and it should be the vision that sustains the whole church in every place and in every age. I will certainly do my best to make sure that is the case.

Of course, we have to work out what this means for this particular place and time, and that is how we find out what our priorities should be, but I know I need to arrive in York and get to know the York Diocese and get to know the other dioceses in the northern province before I can begin to discern what the particular priorities might be for me over the coming years. So, for the time being, I am sticking to three things. Two of them have served me well throughout my ministry and have been the underlying themes of everything I have done as a priest and a bishop. The third is very much about my role as Archbishop of York and the special opportunities and responsibilities that brings. I feel sure that these three things will be part of the emerging priorities that we will discover together as I come to serve you.

The church needs to become a house of prayer and each individual Christian must be a person of prayer -

In Jesus Christ we enter into a relationship with God. This relationship is nurtured and sustained by prayer. The church needs to become a house of prayer and each individual Christian must be a person of prayer. Therefore, just praying and helping others to pray is going to be one of my main priorities. But by using the phrase just prayer I also want to emphasise that prayer is never simply a private thing between me and God, but, as the Lord's Prayer puts it, is about seeking God's will and God's agenda for God's world: Your will be done, Your kingdom come.

We know that the good news of Jesus Christ is hope for every person and for the whole world

We live in a world where many people are growing up knowing little or nothing about the Christian faith and having little or no contact with the Christian church. Yet we know that the good news of Jesus Christ is hope for every person and for the whole world and is the only medicine that can bring healing to the ailments of the human heart. Throughout my ministry I have tried to share this good news with others. In my new role as Archbishop of York I long to do this personally, but also help others – both individual Christians and Christian communities – to do it as well.

In this ministry, I know that I will be following in the footsteps of my predecessor and I hope very much to be involved in all sorts of evangelistic initiatives myself, and to enable the church to live and share the gospel more joyfully and more effectively. However, as with prayer, by using the phrase in just evangelism I am not only emphasising the priority and importance of this ministry, I am linking it with God's vision

for how the world should be. One of the best ways to evangelise is to share a compelling vision of what humanity is supposed to look like as we see it in Jesus Christ, and what the world is supposed to look like when we follow God's agenda.

Therefore, those issues of how we inhabit the world in a sustainable way, and how we seek justice for the exploited and the excluded, and how we work with God's bias for the poor is very much at the heart of our sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Although I was born and grew up in Essex, I lived and served in Huddersfield for nine years. I know and love the north of England. Two of our children were born here. The north of England is diverse; it is rich in heritage and culture, but it deserves better from national government. Now is a time of opportunity locally, regionally and nationally – it is a moment to make the most of. Exploring this with the Church, with people of other faiths and with others in the wider society so that we can work together for the common good will be a priority.

Across the Northern Province there are many areas of great need and many opportunities for investment, regeneration and growth. I hope to be a voice for the North, sharing the liberating good news of the gospel and helping to address the discrepancies of wealth and investment that too often favour the South.

*Stephen Cottrell*

---

The name of Jesus is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.

*Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE.*

### **Can comedy point the way to faith?**

Truth can come from a range of places. In Shakespeare, it's the fool who often has the insight that the main characters lack. In the Old Testament, it's the prophets that proclaim the truth from God's perspective.

Maybe today, we should be listening more to the comedians – to the people who stand back from our day-to-day happenings and see the world from different angles. They can make us laugh, but they can also teach us truths about ourselves that can be distinctly uncomfortable.

Take the new book by comedian, and Catholic, Frank Skinner. It's called 'A Comedian's Prayer Book' (Hodder & Stoughton) and runs to just over a hundred pages. Yet in that thin volume, Skinner – who is very open about his devout Christian faith – poses serious questions for both believers and atheists. It's far from being a comfortable read, though it never ceases to be amusing and thoughtful.

Setting the scene for the book, Skinner, an award-winning comedian, television and radio host, explains: "Imagine someone on a pilgrimage, stopping at churches, martyr-related tourist spots and sacred wells, while dressed in a medieval jester outfit.

"The intention is serious and completely devout, but the pilgrim just feels more at home in the motley than in sackcloth and ashes. He feels jest is an integral part of who he is, and it seems wrong to deny that part."

Skinner sees his role as a comic as integral to this faith, although some 'fellow pilgrims' may be uncomfortable with

someone who seems to see humour all around him – and can easily make others laugh.

Yet Frank Skinner raises deep issues in the chapters of this slim volume, including questions that will connect with people both within the Christian faith, and those standing outside.

He describes his prayer life as “a telepathic dip into a long, ongoing conversation with thousands of tabs left open and no helpful ‘new readers start here’ summaries or simplifications for the neutral observer.”

Skinner’s ‘prayer book’ is on my bookshelf alongside ‘10 Second Sermons,’ (Darton, Longman & Todd) written by fellow comedian Milton Jones in 2011. Again, the comedian’s quirky view on life brings fresh insights and challenges.

Jones, a master of one-line jokes, describes gossip as “bullying people who are not there,” lust as “rehearsing for a play in which you shouldn’t have a part” and salvation as “like being returned to the factory settings – but you have to admit there is a factory, and that there could be some settings.”

One of my favourites is Jones’s description of the Holy Spirit as “a real person you can invite in. But watch out – in time He will go over, pull the fridge from the wall and say ‘What’s all this mess under here?’ But at least He helps clear up.”

Both Milton Jones and Frank Skinner are comedians of faith – comedic commentators with a gift of making us see the world with fresh insight. And, as importantly, making us laugh.

---

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the ‘terminal’?

*Anon*

## **St Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus**

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels, who we remember on 31<sup>st</sup> July, seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark's gospel describes him as having been 'waiting for the kingdom of God' for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone - Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history - and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff. The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have

preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn't stay very long!

---

*Parish Pump website*



I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. -

*Isaac Newton*

### **From the Registers:**

#### **Baptism**

20th June Belle Sophia Goodacre (Bromham)

#### **Weddings**

26th June Nicola Cragg & Barry Swannell (Bromham)

#### **Funerals**

21st June Christopher Smith (Bromham)

25th June Edwin Morris (Stagsden)

#### **Crematorium service**

10th June Marjorie Lowery (Bromham)

#### **Burials**

15th June Leslie Billig (Oakley)

26th June June & Norman Jacobs (Stagsden)





LINK UP group are meeting for garden teas or zoom as and when weather and covid regs permit. More details from Anne Tombs 01234 822949

---



**BEDS & HERTS**  
Historic Churches Trust

B&HHCT supports repair and development work for churches throughout the two counties. The Trust has been particularly supportive of St Owen's recently with grants of over £20,000 for the building project and other work.

The next event in their Endowment Campaign is an on-line **Auction of Goods and Promises**. The full on-line Catalogue detailing the goods and promises for which you can bid will be available for browsing from 12pm on Friday 25th June at [www.sworder.co.uk](http://www.sworder.co.uk)

The Auction will run over a period of ten days, from 12 p.m. on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June to 6 p.m. on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Lots include:

Guided tours of Hatfield House, House of Lords, Wallace Collection, Hendon RAF Museum and also cases of fine wine, stays in holiday houses in Wales and Scotland plus many more.

Full details of how to support this worthy effort - and bid for great lots - can be found at [www.beds Hertshct.org.uk](http://www.beds Hertshct.org.uk)

## **The story behind the hymn.....**

Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken  
Formed thee for His own abode.  
On the rock of ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:  
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,  
Never fails from age to age?...

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly playing through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune

survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) John Newton's words celebrate the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home. *Parish Pump website*

## FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS JUNE 2021

First Prize - Gill Sheen

Second Prize - Katrina Louca

Third Prize - Jenny Hope

Fourth Prize - Margaret Parrott

Fifth Prize - Freda Izzard

*Ed - if you do not yet know EVC give it a go but check their new opening times on the next page; I don't think you will be disappointed!*

### **Emmaus Village Carlton(EVC) - a Bedfordshire homelessness charity with a difference.**

EVC is based just outside of Carlton (10 minutes from Bromham). It provides a real workable alternative to homelessness, offering a home and support as well as meaningful work experience and training. People being supported by the charity (known as 'companions') live on site for as long as they need it to and are helped to move on when they are ready.

Like any flourishing community, Emmaus works because everyone makes a contribution. Companions, staff and volunteers work together to help generate the funds needed to support the charity. All companions gain work experience and develop their skills by helping to run social enterprises: three charity shops and a bistro.

### **Impact of Covid-19**

The charity estimates it will have lost around £200,000 of trading income due to the pandemic - valuable income that is needed to ensure they can continue their work. Emmaus Village Carlton is now reaching out to local people, asking for their support – needed now more than ever.

### **Help Emmaus: shop, eat, drink, donate**

Set in the heart of the beautiful Bedfordshire countryside, Emmaus Village Carlton is a shopping village full of preloved items, with three large charity shops to explore plus a popular Bistro and attractive outdoor areas. It's a special place to visit and a great day out for the whole family.

The shops and bistro (on School Lane, Carlton, MK43 7LQ) are open Wednesday to Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm and Sunday 10am - 4pm.

### **Eat & drink**

Serving proper coffee, tasty breakfasts, delicious hot and cold lunches, as well as their famous cakes, Emma's Bistro at Emmaus Village Carlton is extremely popular.

### **Donate**

Emmaus Village Carlton runs a free collection service for unwanted quality furniture (within 20 miles).

Alternatively, you can drop-off items for any of the shops, by making a donation appointment. To book either of these services, please call 01234 720826.

Find out more: [www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton](http://www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton)

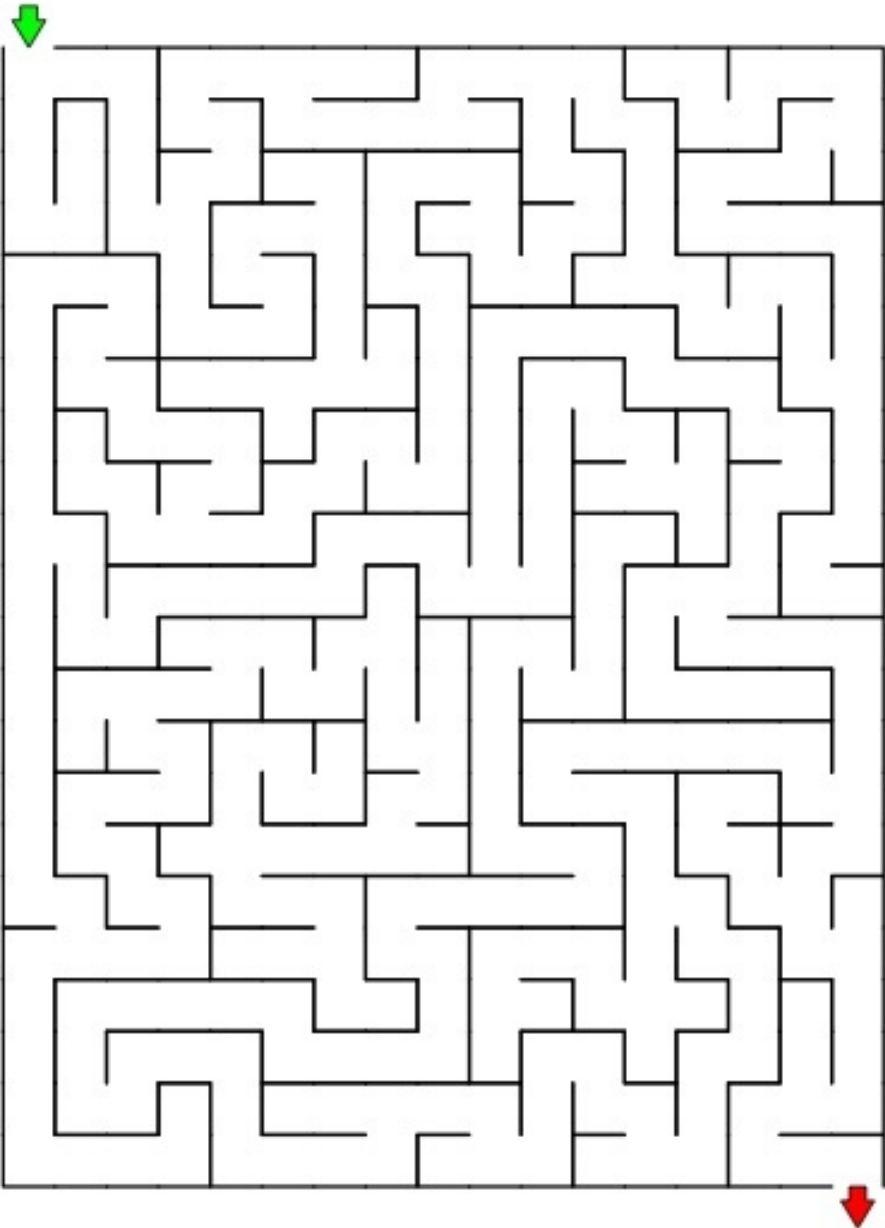
---



Delays in the delivery of certain components have set back progress on St Owen's kitchen by about a fortnight - but we are getting there!

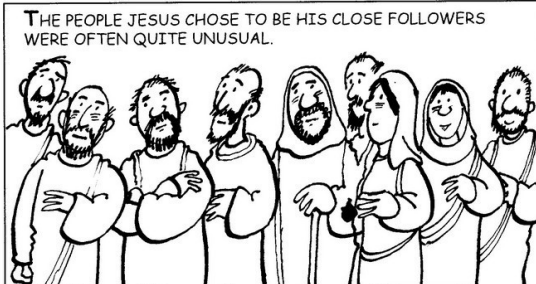
*Edward Jones*

Can you find a way through from top to bottom?



For younger readers.....

# The Doctor and the Sick

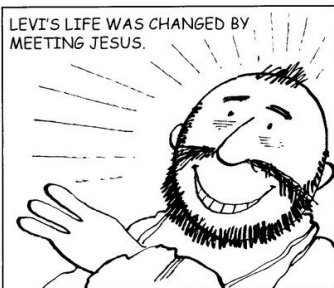


THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.

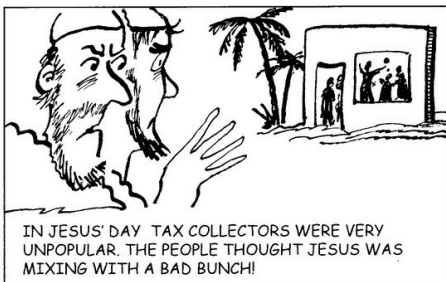
ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32

*The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. It now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC.*

## **Promise and Fulfilment**

When St Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost, he showed how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had to be understood in the light of the Old Testament. The promise of the Old was granted fulfilment in the New. This is how we understand the unity of the two Testaments: the messianic hope in one finds full expression in the other. We read of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah and look to the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus. Earlier in that prophet we read of a wondrous Child who is granted the spirit of the Lord to bring Paradise once more to the world:

*'The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.'* (Isaiah 11:6,9)



That vision of peace and harmony inspired this month's painting, 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1780 and worked as a carriage and sign maker. After a rebellious adolescence, he became a Quaker, living as a preacher and minister before taking up his brushes. His fellow Quakers were uneasy with this pursuit of such a worldly profession, and so Edward Hicks tried his hand at farming. His efforts proved unsuccessful, and he

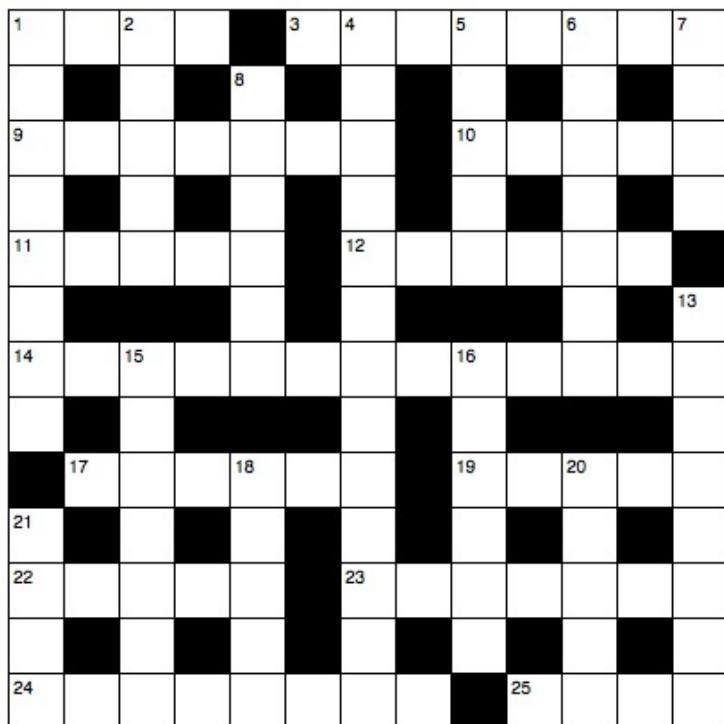


returned to painting, creating a whole series of canvases on this single theme. He painted almost a hundred versions of the Peaceable Kingdom of which over 60 still exist. This one is from 1834.

The foreground is occupied by not just one child, but several. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of ‘nature red in tooth and claw’ here for all is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear and no assertion of strength. That vision of peace is being realised in the distant scene, where we see William Penn and his fellow Quakers working on a treaty of co-existence with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and strength, sensitivity and gentleness.

As he worked on later versions of this painting, Edward Hicks knew that such peace was not an easy and simple achievement. Arguments and misunderstandings divided his own flock, and as a result the animals he painted look tired and anxious with sad eyes and white whiskers.

But here in 1834 there is a freshness and a promise of paradise restored. The cow and the calf, the bear and the bear cub, and the other animals are at one with the children playing. That harmony can be realised in human affairs also, the artist is saying. ‘Follow the Inner Light’ and Isaiah’s prophecy can be fulfilled in our world. It needs both the innocence and strength we see here; it needs action and waiting, it needs wisdom and gentleness as we take counsel one with another. Follow those qualities to be channels of God’s peace to make this world the Peaceable Kingdom.



## ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)  
 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)  
 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)  
 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)  
 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)  
 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)  
 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)

- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

*Solution on page 34*

## What will you miss about lockdown?

More than half of us admit that we will miss some aspects of the Covid-19 restrictions, especially spending more time at home with our family, and appreciating the quieter roads.

A recent study by King's College London and Ipsos Mori found that around one third of us feel the past year has been similar or better than normal, while 54 per cent of us say that we will miss some of the changes.

Three in ten of us feel closer to our immediate family than we did before the pandemic, while just one in six of us say that we have grown further apart. One in five of us say that our finances are better because of the pandemic.

Overall, it seems that while the public would rather the pandemic hadn't happened, that doesn't mean it's been all bad for everyone, or that people see it as deeply affecting their future lives.

*Parish Pump website*

---

No great  
achievement  
is possible  
without  
persistent work. -  
*Bertrand Russell*



That is the date of the Official  
Opening of St Owen's  
extension by Bishop Richard



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

Ah yes, singing - we used to do that in church didn't we *Ed*

-----

Holiday: something you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer.

And yes - that's something else we used to do! Hopefully the enthusiasm for jobs amongst 18 - 30 year olds will soon permit some very welcome release *Ed*

The churchwarden was in a hurry to inform the congregation that their minister had recovered from an illness, so he put up this notice outside the church....



---

### **How climate change could affect your cup of tea**

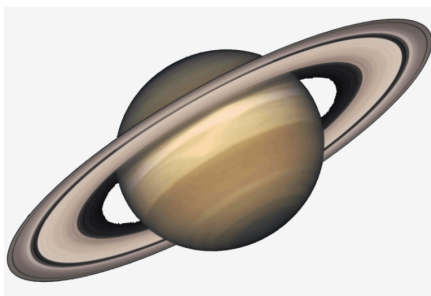
Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future. It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.

Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well. Climate change has been predicted by some as likely to cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions could see production fall by 39 per cent.

As one tea farmer in Kenya's Western Highlands, explained: "We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder." *Parish Pump website*

## Sky at night

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.



---

## Sudoku - easy

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Solution on page 34

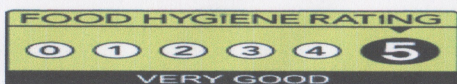


**ESTABLISHED 1990**

**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)



## **BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL**

Traditional Photograph Restoration & Conservation

Est. 1992

### **Specialising in:**

- Darkroom printing: Silver halide prints
- Printing from old glass & film negatives
- Cleaning & Repair of old photographs
- Copies & enlargements
- Restoration of faded & tattered photographs
- Sepia toning & Hand Colouring
- Archival storage: Advice and supply
- Framing: Antique and reproduction



**Telephone:** 01234 782265

**email:** [helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](mailto:helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk)

**Visit:** .... just a quick call first: Magpie Cottage, Moor End Road, Radwell, Bedford MK43 7HX

**Helen Dawkins LRPS**





General Household  
Maintenance • General Garden  
Maintenance • Grass Cutting •  
Hedge Cutting • Turfing •  
Fencing • Shed & Playhouse  
Repairs • Guttering 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

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

# Solution to puzzle on page 31

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



# 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)

**GreenThumb**  
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE 