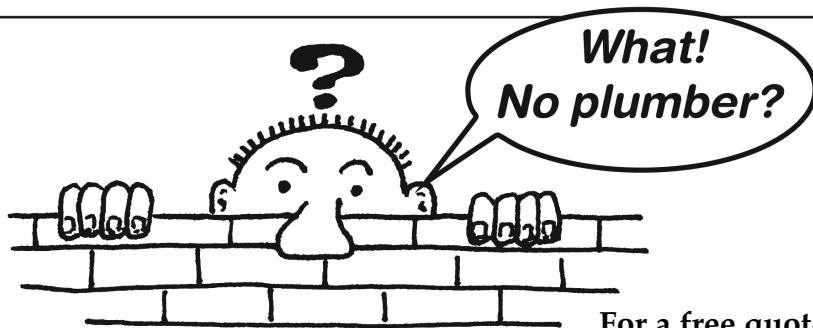


Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



July 2022

including pull-out August Supplement



*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

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



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



facebook Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

Clergy:

Vicar:	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
		vicar@bromhambenefice.org
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...}	administrator@bromhambenefice.org	
Safeguarding Officer -	Judith Denyer	07981 928522

Parish News

Editor	Mr Edward Jones	stowensnews@btinternet.com	826551
Distribution	Mrs B Cryer		825463
			07767 272584

Pew Leaflet 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
	 facebook Friends of St Owens	

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

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

Who's Who in Stagsden

Church Officers

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

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

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



Principal Services in the Benefice

3rd July

9.00am

10.30am

3rd Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Holy Communion (Oakley)

10th July

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

4th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

LEP Service (Oakley Methodist)

Evensong (Bromham)

17th July

9.00am

10.30am

4.30pm

5th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Oakley)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Wild Church (Bromham Scout site)

24th July

9.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

6th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

Holy Communion (Bromham)

Evensong (Oakley)

31st July

10.30am

7th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion (Stagsden)

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)



From the Vicarage

As July begins, we enter the second half of the year: the Summer Solstice (the longest day) has been and gone and the sun is setting very slightly earlier each day, the school year is coming to an end and the long summer holidays beckon, especially for families and children. But while we all hope for warm, or even hot, sunshine to enjoy, the great British weather is often unreliable.

In July we mark St Swithun's Day (July 15th), which is reputed to offer an indication of the long-term weather prospects. St Swithun was Bishop of Winchester in the ninth century – little is known of his life, but when he died he asked to be buried in a humble grave in the churchyard rather than in the more splendid tombs often used for Bishops. However, when a new cathedral was built soon after, there were plans to move his remains into a shrine in recognition of his holiness, in spite of warnings that this would cause great storms. On July 15th his bones were taken inside – and the rain fell: for forty days according to the legend. Miracles of healing were claimed at St Swithun's shrine – but his name became associated far more with the weather, as the rhyme goes: "St Swithun's Day, if thou dost rain, for forty days it will remain; St Swithun's day, if thou be fair, for forty days 'twill rain nae mair". Those who plan holidays and events during the summer holidays may wish for such certainty – but not even the weather forecasters can offer us that!

July was going to be the time to welcome our new Curate Petra Yates, to congratulate her on her ordination in St Albans, and

to consider how best we could support her in the next stage of her journey of discipleship. As you may know, Petra's older son Jack had an accident at the end of May, sustaining a major head injury, and Petra rightly took the decision to postpone her ordination and to focus her time and energy on being there for Jack in his recovery. So, we have to wait a bit longer before we can welcome Petra to the Benefice: we don't know at the moment when that will be (but soon, we hope!). Please do pray for them all, and for healing for Jack, who is making steady progress.

Meanwhile, those who have taken exams are waiting for the results, knowing that university and college places depend on their grades. Others live with the uncertainty of pending medical appointments or test results, of living in a war-zone or the aftermath of an earthquake, or of not knowing how far their income will stretch even next week to cover essential expenses. It's not just the British weather that can be so unpredictable.

So, what can we be sure of in life? 'The steadfast love of God' wrote the prophet Jeremiah around 2300 years ago – 'God's love never ceases, his mercies never come to an end' (Lamentations 3: 23). In all of life's uncertainties, we have a loving Father God who we can always trust – unlike the weather.

Catherine Wilson

St Owen's Social Committee

Coffee Morning Fri 1st July 11am – 12.30p min St Owen's Fellowship Room. In aid of Pancreatic Cancer. All Welcome, please do come along to support this charity. *Flora Dawson*

Ed: An extract from an article by the Ven John Barton on the pain of bereavement.

Good grief?

We are never fully prepared for the death of someone really close to us. Some try to take some of the sting out of death by making the funeral as cheerful as possible. 'A Celebration of Life' may be preferred to the word 'funeral' and usually looks back rather than forward, with the emphasis on happy memories of the dead person. The American Rabbi Earl Grollman studied the impact of bereavement, and wrote:

"Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve."



From the Registers

Wedding Blessing:

25th June Cheryl and David Longhurst (Bromham)

Funerals:

15th June Edward 'Roy' Bigg (Bromham)

17th June Geoffrey Gilboy (Bromham)

20th June Roberta Hatt (Oakley)

Funerals at Crem:

15th June John Parker (Bromham)

15th June Monica Reed (Bromham)

16th June Sandra Roberts (Bromham)

23rd June Wallace Allcock (Bromham)

Burial of Ashes:

8th June Peter Dawson (Bromham)

17th June Ron Treacher (Bromham)



The sum raised at St Owen's in support of Christian Aid was £118.00

Frances Bulmer

Bring and Share Lunch

David and Vivien Butler have kindly invited us to their home at 28 Bridge End Bromham for the next Bring and share which will be held on July 24th starting at 12.30. Just bring a plate of food to share and come along to enjoy their lovely garden.

If you need more information contact them on 407351

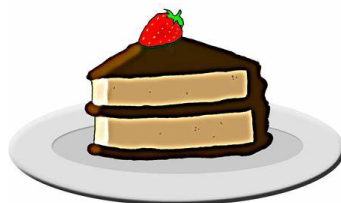
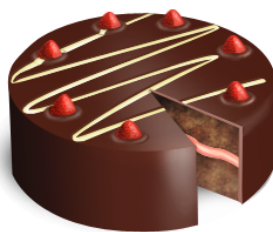
Cakes Please

Offers of cakes would be greatly appreciated for **two** forthcoming events:

Thurs 14th July - Tea afternoon at St Owen's &

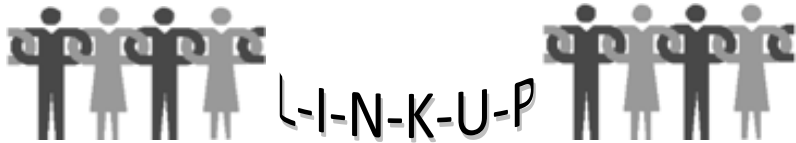
Saturday 16th July - Church Open Day

Offers please to Frances Bulmer or Flora Dawson



Thank You

Flora and family wish to thank everyone for their generous donations in memory of Peter, a total of £511.55 was collected and given to St Owen's Church PCC to go towards the upkeep of the Church.



We were not able to hold our quiz and tea afternoon in the Fellowship Room because of the road works, so we all squeezed into 7 Leyside for an enjoyable afternoon finding out what we knew or didn't know about Royalty, seaside towns, insects and vexillology.

On July 14th will be joining in with "Teas in St Owens Church" starting at 2.30pm. Donations to St Owens.

On Thursday August 11th we will have a strawberry tea in the garden at 7 Leyside starting at 2.30pm. It will be like old times in lockdown when we were only allowed to meet in the garden (But we are now allowed indoors if wet!)

On Thursday September 8th we will be back in the Fellowship Room for a friendly game of Bingo.

More information from Anne Tombs 01234 822949 or annetombs712@btinternet.com



At St Mary's, Oakley

For Afternoon Teas

Each Sunday until
18th September

3.30pm - 5.00pm

NB:- Music by Sax Quartet
on 14th August



Archbishop Justin writes for The Guardian about the possibility of peace and building a new world out of brokenness.

*Editor:- this is a slightly shortened version of Justin Welby's article; you can read the full version on line at archbishopofcanterbury.org
> Speaking & Writing > Articles*

In the midst of the second world war, Lieutenant Kurt Reuber, a pastor and physician with the German army at Stalingrad, drew a Madonna which hung pinned to a mud wall outside the dugout. In the midst of the darkness, the brutality and the cruelty of war, he portrayed a mother protecting her child from the world. Around the margin are the words: "Licht, Leben, Liebe". In the depths of conflict and suffering that have occurred so often in the history of humanity (and still occur today), people have always imagined those possibilities: light, life and love.

Peace is something that human beings long for – in our lives, our families, our communities, our country and our world. And yet we are living again in the shadow of war in Europe as Ukraine fights for its existence, hearing regular stories of the chaos, cruelty, suffering and destruction that characterises the effect of war on blameless people.

There is no shortage of political and cultural conflict and turmoil in this country and around the world. And all of us

Cont on p12

have experienced personal conflict with close friends or loved ones, relationships that are often deeply painful and can bear lasting scars. So why do we keep making the same mistakes, repeating these cycles of conflict at every level of our society?

The question of identity is core to any understanding of conflict. Identity can be inherited, it can be imposed – but most of all, when it comes to conflict, identity is about our relationships with others. When we fall into the trap of defining ourselves by who we are not, or we attempt to forcefully define the identities of others, we set ourselves up for serious ruptures in the fabric of our relationships.

That doesn't mean that peace is unanimity, a shared conformist identity. No, peace is the ability to deal with discord by non-violent means. It is the transformation of violent conflict into non-violent disagreement.

In Christian thought, we have the concept of just war theory, which attempts to understand how conflict might sometimes be morally justifiable. But we have no equivalent “just peace” theory. We accept that peace doesn't need justification; we all know inherently that peace is good. The result is we think hard about how to fight, but not about often how to build alternatives to fighting – how to resolve the conflict and competition that are an inevitable part of being human.

The effort we are rightly making to support Ukraine in defending itself against aggression needs to be matched by efforts towards negotiation, dialogue, reconciliation and peace. You cannot have one without the other. Our challenge is to put in place the infrastructures of reconciliation and the architecture of peacebuilding that enable disagreement to happen robustly, but not violently.

In a culture that often expects instant results and gratification, this work does not happen overnight. There is no “kiss and

make up” moment. More often, there is the gradual transformation – sometimes over generations – of enmity and hostility to respect and trust. Deep wounds take a long time to become scars. Each of us carries our own pain, which makes it difficult to apologise and to forgive where we have wronged and been wronged. When we look towards reconciliation, we must also recognise – and have compassion for – our own conflicted and hurting hearts. Reconciliation is often risky and always costly – but it is less costly than the alternative.

Dealing with conflict means dealing with complex people and complex situations. It will involve flawed people – sometimes acting in ways that are well meaning, sometimes acting in ways that are profoundly evil. Sometimes those involved will be extremely powerful, while others will be terribly vulnerable – as we see with the war in Ukraine. Reconciliation will always be complicated and flawed because we ourselves are complicated and flawed. It will often feel overwhelming, when we look at our entrenched histories of conflict and the sheer scale of violence around the world. We might wonder how we can begin to unpick the threads of the tangled mess we have made, and knit them together into new relationships.

But in all this, there is great hope. A friend of mine was a bishop who worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Much of his work was with survivors of the worst parts of humanity – refugees, child soldiers, victims of rape and severe violence. When I visited him I was overwhelmed by the suffering. “How do you deal with all this?” I asked him. He said: “We do what God gives us the resources to do, and the rest we leave.”

In trying to build peace, we can only do what is possible. Often, it’s far more difficult to take these small, concrete actions – to pick up the phone to an estranged child, or forgive a cruel word said to us by someone else. But that is what each

of us can do to build a more peaceful world.

There are three transformational habits we can all cultivate to restore broken relationships, build connections across difference and bridge divides. First, be curious. When we encounter difference, or people we don't understand, do we truly hear their story and see the value they might bring? Do we come to discussions with humility to learn from those who aren't like us? Are we open to learning from people with whom we disagree? Second, be present. Can we fully encounter other people with authenticity? Can we bring our beliefs as well as our vulnerabilities to conversations?

Finally, reimagine. Peace requires a shift in our moral imagination, a transformation of our understanding of what could be possible. That's how we break out of repeating cycles of violence, the same mistakes – we have to be able to imagine a different world before it can become reality. Much of this reimagining happens collectively; it's with others that we can often envision and create something new.

This is a world that cries out: "Have mercy. We want peace." As a Christian, I believe the presence of God in Jesus Christ cries out to each of us: "Have hope, here is peace."

We are bound to make mistakes, to do bad things, to hurt others. That is the nature of being human. But there is always hope in the possibility of making whole what we have broken. It is not easy or straightforward – the repentance and forgiveness required for reconciliation means pain and sacrifice. But out of our brokenness can emerge a new world, one held together by the strength of new relationships with those we have chosen to know and love, regardless of our differences.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Christian Basics: No 7: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Pt 2)

Somebody once defined a football match as '*22 people on the field desperately in need of rest, watched by 50 thousand people in the stands, desperately in need of exercise!*' It reminds us that church is not a spectator sport! The Holy Spirit equips us to serve God in the Church and daily life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are variously described as *spiritual gifts* (1 Cor. 12:1) or *grace gifts* (1 Cor. 1:7), the latter word being used in modern Greek for a birthday present! They are love gifts from God that we cannot earn or deserve, that are open to everybody. Note what Paul says, "*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good*" (1 Cor. 12:7):

'to each one': the gifts are available to every Christian. Everyone will have a different 'gift-mix', with their own particular contribution to offer.

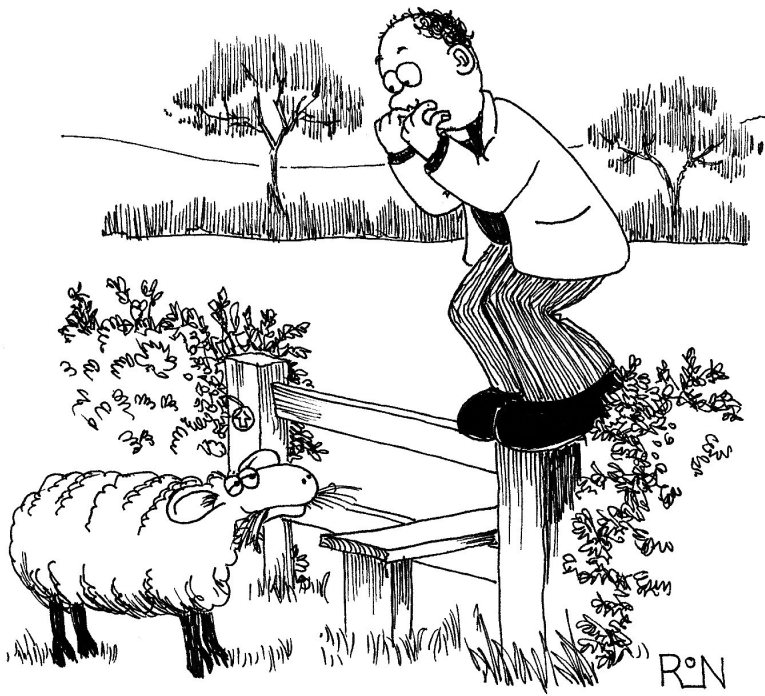
'the manifestation of the Spirit': the gifts of the Spirit enable an invisible God to be real and visible.

As we exercise the gifts that God has given to us, in our speech or service, people will be able to say, '*God is at work here!*'

'for the common good': the aim of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ and extend the kingdom of God. They are not intended to meet our own needs or reputation, but simply to serve and encourage others.

With the gifts given by God, we are able to fulfil His purposes in His world. Paul urges us to '*eagerly desire*' the gifts that God has for us (1 Cor. 12:31). How true is this for me? Any present that we are given needs unwrapping before we can enjoy it. Are we doing this with our spiritual gifts?

Canon Paul Hardingham



*Not everyone has a natural gift for
rural ministry*

The special person called to do missionary work is every person who is a member of the church of Christ. The call does not come to a chosen few, it is to every one of us. –
Oswald Chambers - 1874-1917, Scottish Baptist minister and teacher

God in the Sciences

Ed: Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Wonder and Worship: Reflections in a Scottish Rainforest



It can be easier to notice things away from home, when we are relaxed and surrounded by unfamiliar sights in an exotic location. But sometimes the same wonders are there in our own back yard. GK Chesterton was a great advocate of intensive observation, and he invited his readers to take a fresh look at things that might be taken for granted. The rewards for this mental adjustment are great, and can feed into our worship in new ways.

I first learned to appreciate old growth forests on the West coast of Canada: the centuries-old tangle of logs and underbrush, and thick layers of moss and lichen, that provide rich resources for countless organisms. Several years later, in Scotland, I stumbled over a few acres of birch and hazel, lush with moss and ferns, and humming with insect and bird life. Fallen logs lay everywhere, vegetation grew up the trees, creepers hung down, and sunlight slanted through clearings.

I later discovered that this patch of woodland is one of the few remaining areas of old growth Atlantic rainforest, so I visited one sunny morning when I had more time to linger. The wood is home to 140 species of lichen and 100 of moss, so I found myself looking very closely at tree trunks and boulders. Each lichen is a unique relationship between a fungus and a particular collection of single-celled algae – an example of the collaboration that is so essential to every ecosystem.

Places like this are worth preserving, respecting, and appreciating as much as a work of art or a historic city. I'm so grateful to the community that chose to preserve it, and the Creator who used such intricate and patient processes to create it. As the animals and plants around me did what comes to them naturally, I did what I was made for - thanking God for everything I saw. I found myself praising God alongside all those species of lichen, moss and trees. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

There is a growing call to take both our personal devotions and our church services outside from time to time, and there are a growing number of resources to help us do this. As you go through your week, can you find one new way to appreciate your surroundings, and praise God alongside the rest of creation?

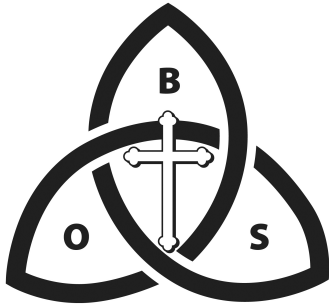
Parish Pump website

More sayings by 'Anon':

A real friend will not visit you in prosperity unless he is invited, but when you are in adversity he will call without invitation.

Nothing gives you quite the thrill of treading in the darkness on a step which isn't there.

Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



AUGUST SUPPLEMENT

The Summer Garden

Summer comes and waves her hand,
The garden blooms at her command,
Plants abounding everywhere
As fragrant perfumes fill the air.
Roses, geraniums, lilies too
Agapanthus with globes of blue,
Sumptuous colours in such array,
Their beauty takes our breath away.
To sit beneath the shady trees,
To listen to the humming bees,
As Summer wears her rainbow
dress
We thank God for such loveliness.

By Megan Carter

Editor: The Revd Richard Higginbottom looks at the seashore.

A sermon in sand

If you are fortunate enough to get to the seaside this summer, then you might like to wriggle your toes in the warm sand, and consider the following:

It has been said that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches in the world. More recently, as the estimated number of stars has increased, then even the grains of sand in all the world's deserts have been added to the comparison!

The Sun, vast though it is, is a fairly ordinary star, 93 million miles away. It is not easy to grasp that sort of a distance, but here's a measuring stick: if you were to fly in a fast passenger jet at 600 miles per hour, then it would take you about 17 hours to fly from London to Sydney; about 17 days to reach the Moon, and about 17 years to reach the Sun!

As for how long it would take to fly on to the next nearest star to us - Proxima Centauri - it would take about 4.2 light years, as the distance is more than 24 trillion miles! And that is just to the next nearest star after the Sun.

How many stars are there in the Universe? Astronomers recently estimated that there are about 70,000 million, million, million stars.

As you sit there you might care to pick up a couple of grains of sand. Let the first grain represent our Sun, the second grain the next nearest star to us. Then look at the whole beach and after that consider all the beaches on Earth, with every grain of sand representing a star then it gives some meaning to the phrase "God the Father *Almighty*, Maker of heaven and earth."

Parish Pump website

Principal Services in the Benefice

<u>7th August</u>	<u>8th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
<u>14th August</u>	<u>9th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>21st August</u>	<u>10th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
4.30pm	Wild Church (Bromham Scout site)
<u>28th August</u>	<u>11th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
6.00pm	Evensong (Oakley)

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)

Additional Services

6th August	Wedding at St Owen's - 12 noon
13th August	Wedding at St Mary's - 1.00pm
28th August	Baptism at St Owen's - 12.30pm

**Benefice of Bromham, Oakley &
Stagsden**



**Annual
Summer
BBQ**

Monday 29th August

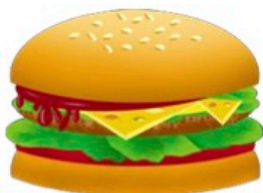
from 12.30pm

In the garden at the Vicarage

Sign-up on sheet in church please

**Cash donations towards catering
& offers of salads & puds
gratefully received**

Bring your own drinks and garden chair



Plus raffle - Proceeds shared by 3 PCCs

Book Reviews

A Good Friend - By Gemma Hunt, SPCK, £8.99

Written by TV presenter and children's entertainer, Gemma Hunt, the *See! Let's Be* series encourages young children to understand how to act and behave in everyday situations through observing good examples by adults and inspired by Jesus' parables and teachings. Perfect for end-of-the-day reading time with children, providing support, encouragement, and reassuring words.

Gemma Hunt is best known as the presenter of the hit and BAFTA winning CBeebies pirate gameshow series SWASHBUCKLE. Gemma also presents 'Together' – a BBC Learning School Radio show downloadable for school assemblies.

The Life We're Looking For – reclaiming relationship in a technological world - By Andy Crouch, 10ofThose, £12.44

Our greatest need is to be embedded in rich relationships with the people around us. But for the last century, we've displaced that need with the ease of technology. We've dreamed of power that doesn't require relationship (what the premodern world called *magic*) and abundance that doesn't require dependence (what Jesus called *Mammon*). Yet even before a pandemic disrupted that quest, we felt strangely out of place: lonely, anxious, bored amid endless options, oddly disconnected amid infinite connections.

In *The Life We're Looking For*, bestselling author and cultural critic Andy Crouch reveals how each of us can fight back. From the generosity of early Christians to the efforts of entrepreneurs working to create more humane technology, Crouch shows how we can restore true community and put people first in a world dominated by money, power and devices.

St Helier – losing a loved one to violence

Take the book of Samuel in the Bible, add a bit of Luke Skywalker father/ son conflict from Star Wars, stir in a dash of Pirates of the Caribbean, and you sort of have the story of St Helier – the first saint and martyr of Jersey who the Church commemorates on 16th July.

According to the legend, it all began in 6th century Tongeren (now in Belgium). A pagan couple badly wanted a child, but the wife was barren. In desperation they sought the help of a local Christian, Cunibert. He advised them to pray to the Christian God, and to promise that any child born would be ‘given back’ to God. So they did, and then the wife fell pregnant and gave birth to a son, Helier.

The parents were delighted – at first. But as the baby grew into a boy, it became clear that Helier was different from other children – he was precociously intelligent and could perform miracles. Helier’s father found this unsettling and grew jealous of Cunibert’s influence over his son. Finally he plotted to have Cunibert murdered.

In horror at such treachery, Helier fled. He wandered far, eventually reaching a monastic community in Normandy, run by Saint Marculf. Here he settled, seeking a life of contemplation, but it was not to be. Marculf had received pleas for help from the very few residents of an island called Gersut, or Agna (now called Jersey). They, too, had had bitter experience of violent men who killed their loved ones without warning: the Vikings and Saxons and Vandals had each visited the island in turn. Now they sought some comfort from the Christians: would someone bring them the Gospel? They had no one to shepherd them.

Marculf could not ignore such a plea, and so he sent Helier and a companion, Romard, to Jersey. The two monks found

a small community of fishermen on the sand dunes where the modern town of St Helier would later grow. Helier chose to settle on a tidal islet, nowadays known as the Hermitage Rock. Romard, it was agreed, would act as the 'go between' between Helier in his hermitage and the fishing village.

Helier had chosen a remote spot for the peace and quiet it would give him as he approached God. But one day he discovered that his tidal islet had another great advantage as well. While looking out to sea and praying, he suddenly saw the sails of attacking pirates, stealthily approaching the island in boats.

Frantically, Helier signalled the shore of danger coming, and the fishermen and their families scattered into the surrounding marshes, beyond the reach of the bloodthirsty, lustful pirates. This happened time and again, and became so well known in island history that even today, small dark clouds on the horizon are still known as *les voiles de St. Hélyi* (the sails of St Helier). As if that were not enough, Helier's prayers and the sign of the cross on another occasion stirred up such a storm that a raiding party was driven clear off the island.

One day the pirates finally caught up with Helier on his tidal islet. They beheaded him. Helier was deeply mourned, and has always been revered in Jersey for having brought Christianity to the island.

When his head and body were sent back to France, a healing spring is reputed to have sprung up on the place where the boat came ashore, and so Helier is better known there as a healing saint. The traditional year of his martyrdom is 555AD. His feast day is still marked in Jersey by an annual municipal and ecumenical pilgrimage to the Hermitage, on 16th July.

Parish Pump website

All in the month of JULY

It was:

1400 years ago, on 16th July 622 that the Islamic calendar began. Muhammad and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina to escape religious persecution (an event known as the Hegira) and established the first Muslim community.

200 years ago, on 20th July 1822 that Gregor Mendel was born. This Austrian/Czech friar, and botanist discovered the laws of heredity and created the science of genetics.

150 years ago, on 1st July 1872 that Louis Bleriot, French inventor, and aviation pioneer was born. He developed the first practical headlamp for cars and became the first person to fly across the English Channel.

125 years ago, on 21st July 1897 that the Tate Britain art museum opened in London.

100 years ago, on 28th July 1922 that Jacques Piccard, Belgian born Swiss oceanographer and engineer was born. Best known for developing deep-sea submarines, and for becoming one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth. (Died 2008)

90 years ago, on 8th July 1932 that the USA's stock market (Dow Jones Industrial Average) fell to its lowest point (41.22) during the Great Depression.

Also 90 years ago, on 19th July 1932 that Lambeth Bridge in London was officially opened.

80 years ago, on 4th July 1942 that the Siege of Sevastopol ended. Axis forces captured the Crimean port city which they had first attacked in October 1941.

Also 80 years ago on 31st July 1942 that the British charity Oxfam was founded. (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)

75 years ago, on 9th July 1947 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

65 years ago, on 6th July 1957 that John Lennon and Paul McCartney met for the first time at a church hall in Liverpool, where 16-year-old Lennon was performing with his skiffle group the Quarrymen. 15-year-old McCartney joined as a rhythm guitarist shortly afterwards, and the pair went on to form the Beatles.

50 years ago, on 21st July 1972 that Bloody Friday took place when the IRA exploded 22 bombs in Belfast, killing nine people and injuring 130.

40 years ago, on 9th July 1982 that Michael Fagan broke into Buckingham Palace and spent 10 minutes talking to the Queen in her bedroom.

30 years ago, on 31st July 1992 that Leonard Cheshire, British RAF pilot, humanitarian and philanthropist, died. Founder of Leonard Cheshire Disability.

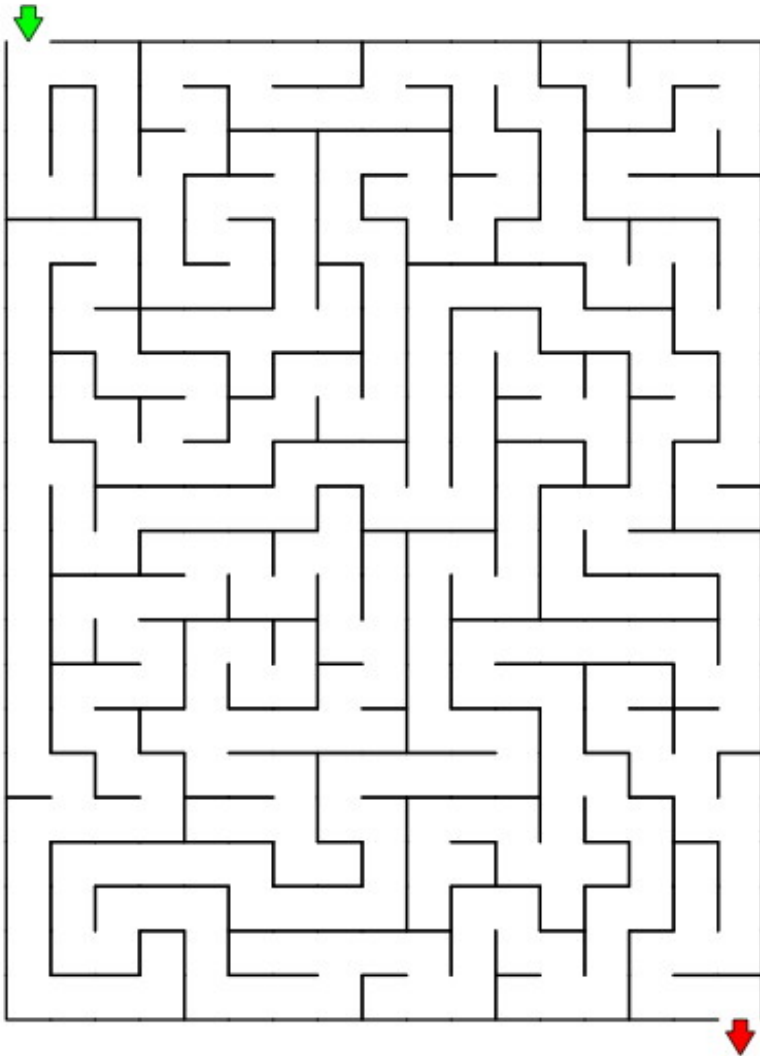
25 years ago, on 1st July 1997 that the UK returned Hong Kong to China after more than 150 years.

15 years ago, on 1st July 2007 that smoking was banned in all enclosed workspaces in England. Similar bans had already been introduced in Scotland (May 2006) and Wales (April 2007) and Northern Ireland (April 2007).

10 years ago, on 4th July 2012 that researchers at CERN in Switzerland announced the discovery of particles consistent with the Higgs boson. The discovery was confirmed in March 2013 and the researchers were awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize for Physics.

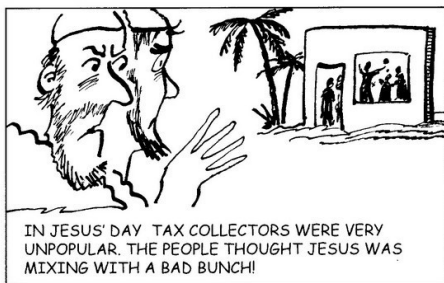
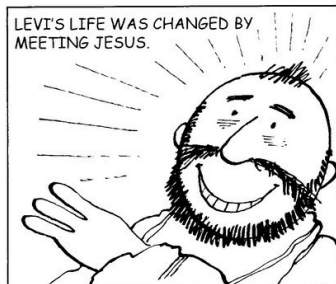
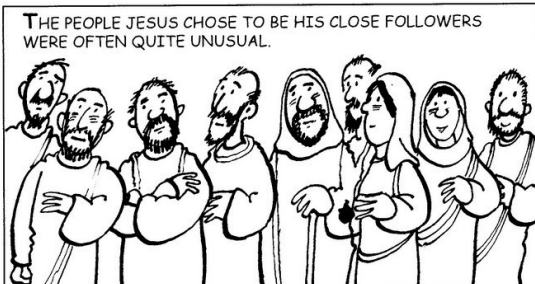
Parish Pump website

Can you find your way from top to bottom?

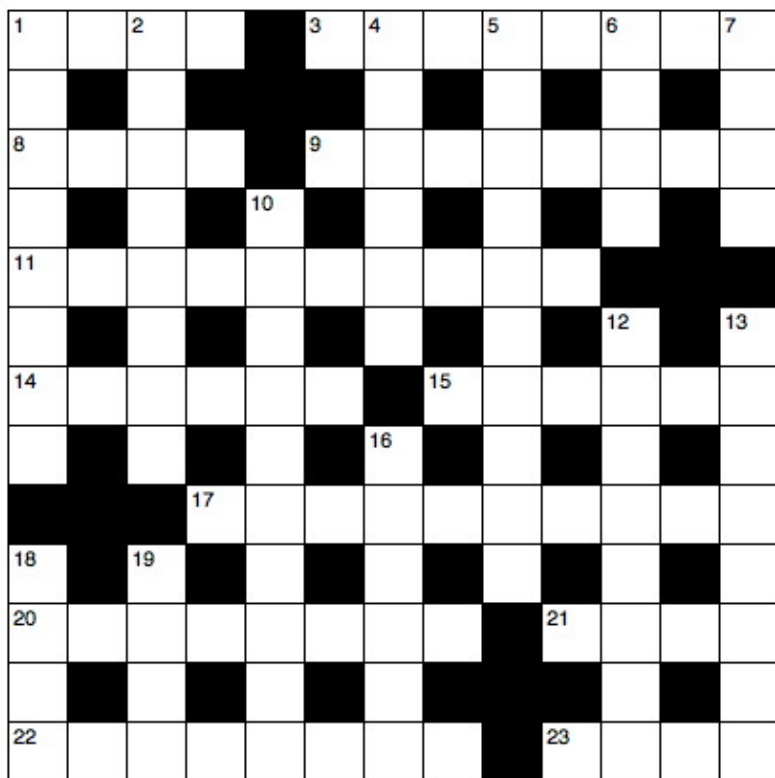


For younger readers.....

The Doctor and the Sick



see Luke 5:27-32



Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)

- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Solution on page 34

Are you camping this summer? Here are some helpful hints...

- ~ When using a public campsite, a tuba placed outside your tent will keep the spaces on either side vacant.
- ~ A potato baked in the coals for one hour makes an excellent side dish. A potato baked in the coals for three hours makes an excellent ice-hockey puck.

St James the Least of All

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On why our church is safe from vandals

The Rectory, St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

I was sorry to hear that your church was broken into last week. Since your sound system rivals that of any concert hall and your projection equipment would put most cinemas to shame, it is not surprising that is what they had their sights on. Your bemusement that they never touched your library of recordings is less understandable. I would have thought that few thieves would have been much interested in renditions of 'Shine Jesus, Shine' and other such artistic gems.

It may have been an act of Christian charity to put a sign outside saying 'Thieves will be forgiven', although since they took this as an invitation to burgle your house the following evening, I hope your forgiveness still operates. Especially as they also stole your favourite guitar.

Last year, we had unwelcome visitors. The thieves must have spent several hours breaking down the church's 400-year-old oak door to get in. Shame about that. Had they bothered to try the handle, they would have discovered that we never lock the church anyway.

Since we have yet to leap forward into the 19th century, there was little to attract them. Had they removed the marble sarcophagi of the Earls of Lincombe, the money they may have made wouldn't even have paid for the subsequent hernia operations. Inevitably, there was general outrage that the poor box had been broken into – although as far as I can

remember, for many years it had contained nothing more than an old three-penny piece and a button.

For many of our congregation, this represented the End of Civilisation as We Know It. Calls were made to have a permanent armed guard on the premises, and a few even speculated about the possibility of having strategically placed land mines about the place. Mrs Beaufort offered to lend us her fierce Pekingese, and Colonel Beauchamp generously offered us his collection of man traps.

Perhaps our thieves may be forgiven their crime, but until that three-penny piece and button are returned, it will not be forgotten.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Sudoku - medium; solution on page 31

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Clewer Initiative Safe Car Wash App

The Clewer Initiative is urging the nation's 33 million car drivers to download the Safe Car Wash App and play their part in eradicating modern slavery and exploitation from hand car washes around the country.

The Clewer Initiative's Safe Car Wash App helps statutory organisations and law enforcement agencies identify hand car washes around the country which might not be treating their staff fairly. The App enables anyone who uses hand car washes to collect information on the location of individual hand car washes and the working conditions at each so that regulatory authorities can investigate and eliminate businesses that are exploiting workers.

You can read more about this initiative and download the App on the Clewer Initiative website.



A couple with three young children went on holiday to America, and eventually ended up queuing at San Francisco's Pier 41 to buy tickets for a boat trip to Alcatraz. But the children fidgeted, whined, and punched one another. The frazzled parents reprimanded them, to no avail. Finally they reached the ticket window. "Five tickets, please," the father said. "Two round trip, three one way."

Fellowship Room
 at
St Owen's Church
 in Bromham Park
Available for Hire
 from £12 per hour
 Contact Edward on
 01234 826551 or at
 e.jones4491@gmail.com



Solar power

Somebody finally invented a solar-powered laundry dryer.
 It's called a 'clothes-line'.

Solution to
 puzzle on
 page 29

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

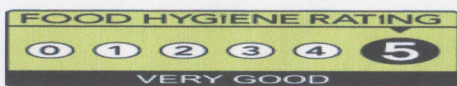


ESTABLISHED 1990

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



FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS JUNE 2022

First Prize - Fiona Peacock

Second Prize - Linda Neal

Third Prize - Anne Cowsill

Fourth Prize - Keith McLellan

Fifth Prize - Lorna Stewart



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

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



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

Visit
www.peacockscfe.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

Website: 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



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 visit: greenthumb.co.uk/bedford

GreenThumb
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE 