

Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



September 2021



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

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org



facebook Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

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

Clergy:

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

Parish News

Editor	Mr Edward Jones	stowensnews@btinternet.com	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
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Altar Guild	Mrs M Parrott	824402
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Who's Who in Bromham cont....

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

Who's Who in Oakley

Church Officers

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

Who's Who in Stagsden

Church Officers

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

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

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



Principal Services in the Benefice

<u>5th September</u>	<u>14th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion(Oakley)
10.30am	Morning Service by Zoom
<u>12th September</u>	<u>15th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Harvest Festival incl LEP (Oakley)
10.30am	Morning Service by Zoom
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>19th September</u>	<u>16th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Morning Service by Zoom
<u>26th September</u>	<u>17th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Harvest Festival* (Bromham)
10.30am	Morning Service by Zoom
6.00pm	Harvest Songs of Praise (Stagsden)

*In presence of Bishop Richard who will formally open the St Owen's extension)

NB It is hoped to live stream 10.30 church services via Zoom but as a back-up plan there would be separate Zoom services as shown.

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



From the Vicarage

The summer seems to have flown past, and as I write September is only just over a week away, Autumn is on the horizon, and I already have a Christmas event in my diary!

Although nature is starting to prepare for the hibernation of the winter months, for

many people this is a time of new beginnings, when schools and groups start up again after the long summer holidays.

For children especially there's a sense of embracing the next stage of the journey. The return to school is not only to a new term but also to a new school year; most children will be in a new class and have a different teacher, and a fresh group of the youngest children join the school community.

In our churches too there are new beginnings, as we gather together again following a time of holiday absences, catch up with friends and neighbours, and re-establish our rhythm of worship. This autumn we will be trying out a new Sunday service pattern in the Benefice – see page 13/14 in this Parish News for more details of that – and looking at how we can welcome and nurture families and young people in ways they will find accessible and attractive. St Owen's is looking forward to the formal opening of the new Church extension by Bishop Richard on September 26th, and to exploring ways of using it for outreach and Church events (the prayer and vision morning in August produced lots of ideas on post-it notes!).

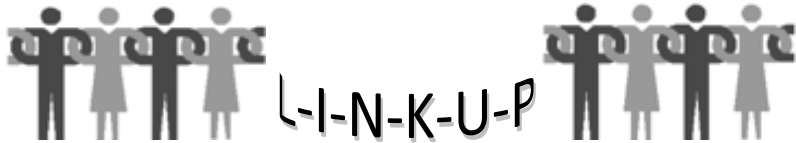
Many new opportunities – and with something new comes change. For the children, progression from class to class is the way school life works and as they move up the school their learning grows and develops, and they are stretched intellectually. As adults, we can find change difficult, preferring the known and familiar – but we too need to be stretched and challenged, to explore different ideas or ways of doing things, to move ‘out of our comfort zone’ from time to time!

We often find comfort in the fact that God doesn’t change, that he is the rock we can depend on in the storms of life. But in Isaiah 43:19 God says ‘See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?’. He himself is constant – but he is in the business of new life and growth in his world, in his church and in individual people. Our challenge is to look out for what new thing God is doing, where he is at work, and to be part of that, whether it’s in our own lives or the lives of those around us.

What new beginning could you make this September? You could do something new in church: read a lesson or the prayers (help is available!), consider joining the mid-week Bible group when it restarts later in the month, offer to help with Messy Church, or decide to attend a service in the Benefice away from your own village church. Or perhaps join a group that isn’t part of the church, and see what opportunities that brings.

Whatever our own ‘new thing’ is, our faithful God promises to be with us in it.

Rev'd Catherine



Link up is back !!

Link up is a social group for people living on their own, meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30 for tea, chat, games and talks. Sometimes out for a meal. Programme and venue to be announced.

Our first meeting will be on Thursday September 2 at Anne Tombs house 7 Leyside. We shall be having tea and cake and playing our old favourite "Tin Bingo". Bring a tin and win a different tin as a prize !! If you have not been before, would like more information or need a lift please contact me on 01234 822949 or e- mail annetombs712@btinternet.com

Baptisms:

8th Aug- Jack Christopher & Charlie George Bradsell
(Bromham)

15th Aug- Margot Winter Rose Cardwell (Stagsden)

22nd Aug- Kayleigh Jayne Ashpole (Bromham)

29th Aug- George Albert Paul Simmons (Oakley)

Funeral

4th Aug- Kevin FitzGerald (Bromham)

Burial of Ashes:

10th Aug- Judith Ayres (Oakley)

12th Aug- Audrey Carter (Bromham)

31st Aug- Jean Rowe (Bromham)

St Owen's Altar Guild

Decorating St Owens Church for Harvest will take place on Saturday 25 September from 10 am.

Anyone who would like to help will be most welcome.

Donations for the purchase of flowers will be gratefully received.

Margaret Parrott 18 Tudor Close.

St Owen's Social Committee

There will not be a coffee morning in September so our next one is on Friday 1st October. It will be held at 2 Leyside which is the home of Anne Rushbrook. All welcome.

The Lunch at the Prince of Wales is planned for Wednesday 22nd September. To book, please ring me by Friday 17th on 822094. Flora

Bring and Share Lunches

Bring and Share lunches will be restarting on Sunday September 5 at 12.45 at 7 Leyside, Bromham.

Bring and share are informal friendly lunches for everyone from the whole benefice, usually held on the first Sunday of the month. Everybody brings a contribution and we all have lunch together. It's a good opportunity to meet up with old friends and get to know new ones.

As it will be the first for some time, it would be really helpful if you would let me know if you are coming and what you are bringing

If you would like to know more, please contact me on 01234 822949 or e mail annetombs712@btinternet.com.

When the Government moved to stage 4 of its recovery roadmap it gave Churches and many other organisations and businesses the option of relaxing restrictions. For churches, one of the greatest opportunities this offered was being able to get back to that ancient form of worship – singing. Many have found real joy in the relaxing of this and of other restrictions, being able to hug friends at church, sing and mingle like old times and this reaction is not confined to any particular demographic.

But the relaxation as well as the reaction to it where people resume long-lost and life-giving habits has also created tensions across the diverse tapestry of our congregations in St Albans Diocese.

As Churches work through new protocols and systems for gatherings there is an underlying question that presents an interesting tension – how do we manage the expectations and attitudes from those for whom the 19th July was freedom day and those who it was anything but?

Paul Robinson-Beswick, Youth and Children's Worker St James New Barnet, puts it like this: "Freedom day came with trepidation as more of us are getting pinged and affected with COVID. We are missing more school and important rites of passage. It doesn't feel like freedom day, more like a step in to the unknown. Please pray for all us and the state of our mental health going forward."

This step into the unknown is where we find ourselves today. At The Hub Church, a place where many 20s-30s explore faith, there are people who would resonate strongly with Paul on

this newfound trepidation and yet also those to whom these freedoms are exhilarating. David Pickett RNP Comms Officer for the diocese who worships there says: “As a double vaccinated person in their late 20s I am so excited about the opportunity this new freedom provides,” while he recognises that greater caution exists in some in his age group and beyond.

How do churches move forward? Listening, hearing the fears, the frustrations and the concerns of our communities – all in order to recreate a safe place for anyone who wants to return to our gatherings.

This looks like an almost impossible task, but some parishes have found ways of achieving the impossible – or at least balancing these tensions.

For many churches, this means recommending masks for sung worship. Those for whom this is still a step too far, need other considerations.

The Revd Atalie Gaines, Vicar of King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar, has been holding a weekday said service throughout lockdown. She has decided to retain full Covid precautions in this service which has provided an ideal environment for those who are cautious about restrictions easing, those still making them welcome in church. There is still a record kept of those attending too! At The Hub, everyone who comes gets a coloured sticker to denote their attitude towards others getting physically close; red, amber or green.

Recreating the worshipping family is happening in stages, but it is certainly happening across the diocese.

Resuming worship isn't just a matter of picking up where we left off. Lockdown took a toll on all of us and the pandemic is not yet over.

Many who have lost loved ones during lockdown are returning to church with someone missing. Overcoming that will take time and the care of those alongside in the church or the community. Others lost jobs, suffered financially or emotionally through loneliness and isolation.

These are all experiences that can be touched by prayer and care and churches can be part of reaching out into the wider community to aid that healing process.

St Luke's, Watford recently delivered a scented candle to every household in their parish. With it came an invitation to a service of 'Reflection, Thanksgiving and Hope,' aimed at helping people 'whether of Christian faith, another faith or no faith,' to cope with the many experiences of loss of many kinds during the pandemic. The Revd Michael Norman, Vicar of St Luke's, said: "They could use the candle at home and attend the service at St Luke's, if they wished. "The service of reflection on a Sunday Evening was attended by a few people who didn't normally come to St Luke's and had the highest evening service attendance at St Luke's since March 2020."

The exercise has been the subject of much direct positive comment from members of the community.

One said: "I was very touched to receive the gift of a scented candle from the church at the weekend. Please thank all at St Luke's for the lovely candle. You certainly brightened up our day."

It's not just about recreating the worshipping family but creating a new one.

The church is the only society in the world that never loses any of its members, even by death. *Anon*

Flying bishop

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he rang his local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, he thanked the pilot, "It's not often a new bishop gets to see his diocese from the air."

The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally, he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is, you're NOT my flying instructor?"

New pattern of Sunday Services in our Benefice

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic restrictions, the clergy and Churchwardens have been considering the pattern of services we offer in the Bromham Benefice. In the past 18 months we have lost our monthly rhythm as we have had to close churches, or limit places to ensure socially distanced seating, or change venues at short notice to allow funerals to take place. We have also enjoyed worshipping together on Zoom, and have begun to travel to the other villages for services when our 'home' church hasn't held one.

So, we have created a new pattern which we will follow during the Autumn. There will be one 9am service and one 10.30am service in the Benefice every week, and Evensong twice a month.

Cont on page 14

- There will be a service in Oakley and Bromham every Sunday, and twice a month in Stagsden.
- Every service will be a Benefice service – we will be worshipping together, and everyone is encouraged to attend whatever service they prefer.
- The 10.30am services will be on Zoom, and we are working to get to grips with the technology to enable this to happen!

The details look like this:

Sunday in month	9am said Communion service	10.30am sung Communion service	6pm Evensong
1 st	Bromham	Oakley	
2 nd	Stagsden	Oakley (LEP)	Bromham
3 rd	Oakley	Bromham	
4 th	Stagsden	Bromham	Oakley
5 th	No service	Venue will vary	

We'll review this at the end of the year – do let us know what you think!

A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. "Oh, I like it much better," she said. "There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school."

Climate Sunday is this month - by Canon Hardingham

Sunday 5th September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

We have damaged God's creation: God delights in His creation: 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

Ed: as our Benefice tries out streaming for the first time it's good to know that we are not alone!

Two thirds of churches in UK plan to keep streaming online, says survey

Almost two thirds of UK churches plan to carry on streaming online, even after restrictions lift.

According to a recent survey by the insurance group Ecclesiastical and The Bible Society, 93 per cent of churches have used new ways to keep in touch with their congregation and over two in five churches (43 per cent) saw an increase in attendance as a result.

Live streaming has undoubtedly helped churches keep their services going during the pandemic, but this research suggests most, 62 per cent, would like the new habit to stay.

In the survey, 93 per cent said that they had used the video platform Zoom since March 2020, while others used Facebook (60 per cent), YouTube (5 per cent) and Microsoft Teams (1 per cent) to stream to their congregation.

Over two in five of the churches who had used these new channels said that they had seen an increase in attendance against their usual numbers, leading most to say they will carry on streaming after lockdown ends.

As one vicar in Norfolk said, "At the height of the pandemic we were getting over a hundred visits to our Facebook page a day, ten times as many as beforehand.

"By using social media we've been able to reach many more people than ever came through the actual church door each week, so it's definitely something we're looking to continue offering. There is certainly more hope now than there was this time last year and we look forward to the Lord leading us from this difficult time into freedom and new beginnings."



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BH4 2020



St Owen's Extension

Meeting room ready to use (*above*)

Kitchen almost complete! (*below*)



**Harvest Festival at St Owen's
at 10.30am Sunday 26th September**

Morning Service
for the Benefice and Invited Guests
with Guest Preacher
Rt Revd Richard Atkinson
Bishop of Bedford
who will formally open the New Extension



**FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB
PRIZE WINNERS AUGUST 2021**

First Prize - Judith D
Second Prize - Mary L
Third Prize - Anne t
Fourth Prize - Paula V
Fifth Prize - Linda N

God in the Arts

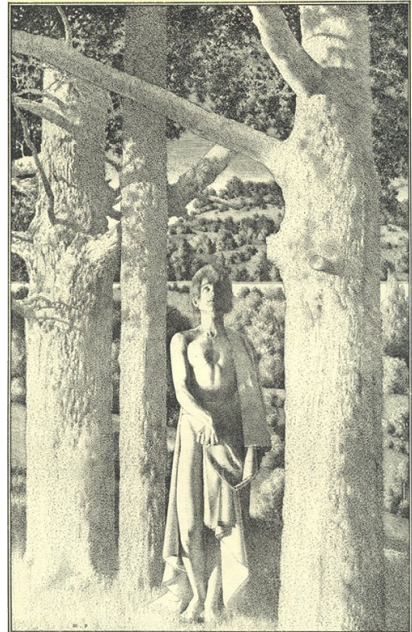
Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish. You can see a copy of the illustration at:

<http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi1900.htm>

'How wonderful creation is'

In one of his hymns, Fr Faber wrote: 'How wonderful creation is, The work which thou didst bless, And O! what then must Thou be like – Eternal loveliness.' A rose can speak of beauty and speak of God to some; to others a rose is just another flower in the garden. William Blake wrote, 'The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way.' We know that only too well when forests are cut down in the name of progress, and trees that have stood for centuries are hewn down in a moment.

This month's work of art is 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish: it shows a man standing in a forest of venerable and imposing trees, and the hills stretching out behind him. Maxfield Parrish was an American artist, who created paintings of brilliant colour and luminosity. The particular cobalt he used was known as 'Parrish blue.' Much of his work was for illustrations in books and magazines and in advertising. But here is an early drawing of 1897, based in a New England forest, that has a



haunting quality about it. He drew it to accompany a poem of Marian Warner Wildman where the writer goes into the forest to escape the doubts and worries of the world and to find release and peace. It ends with the lines:

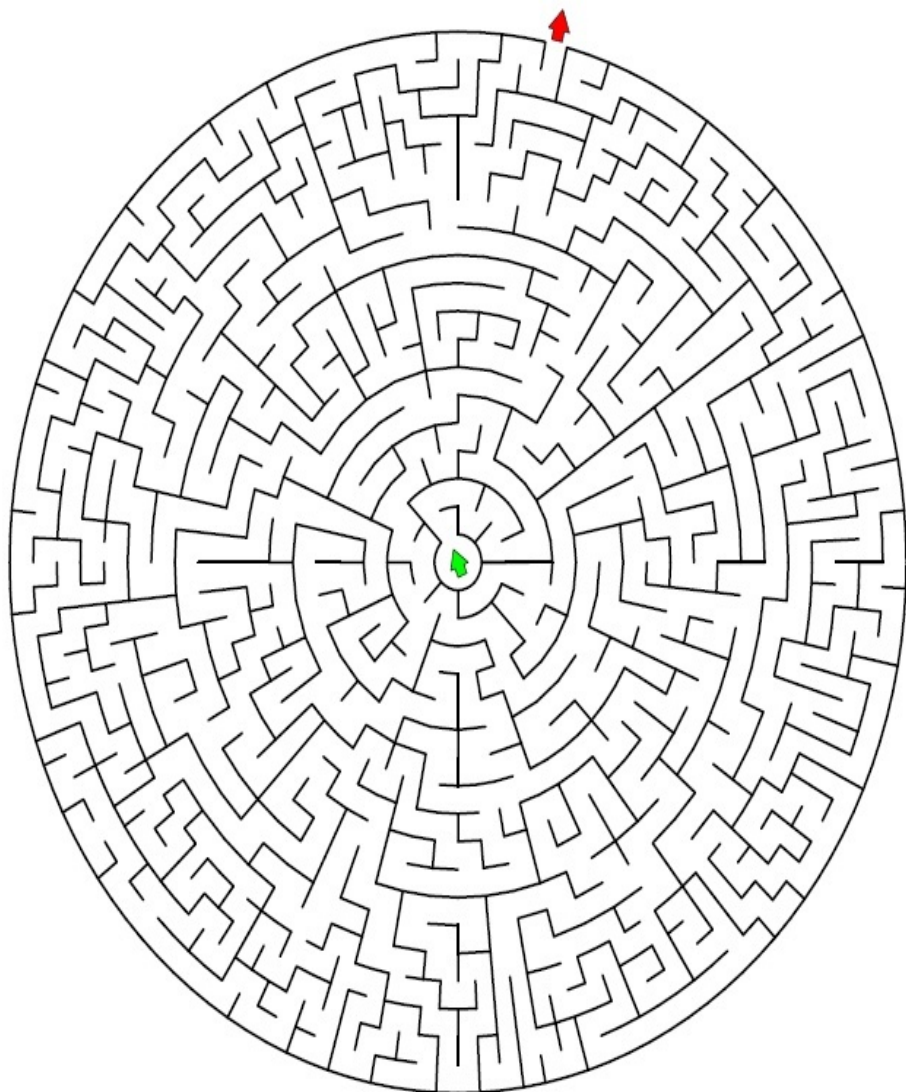
‘I love thee with a beauty-broken heart
And worship thee, be whatever thou art.’

The drawing may evoke for us memories of forests and countryside we have explored, with trees towering above us, reaching to the sky, their leaves rustling in the wind and letting shafts of sunlight through. Like the artist, we may have wondered at their age and beauty and pondered the mystery of creation around us. In their beauty we can glimpse their Creator; in the miracle of their life, we can see the bringer of life and eternal life. For scripture begins with trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with the story of how human pride exchanges paradise for hard work and toil.

But the final pages of the Bible describe that tree of life once again: this time arching over the river that runs through the heavenly city with leaves that bring healing and restoration. And bridging that tree of Genesis and the tree of Revelation is the wood of the cross: ‘None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be.’ In that tree we can truly glory.

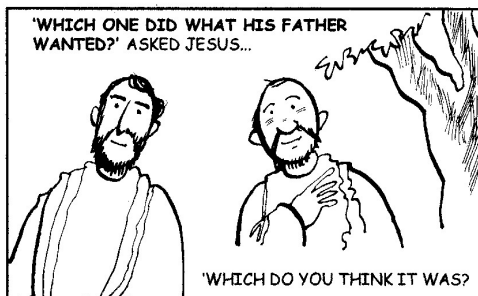
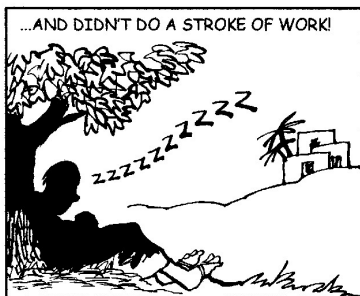
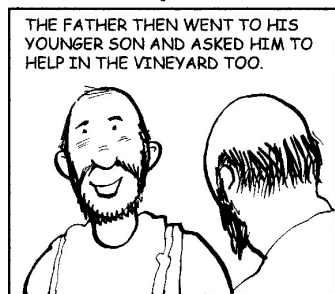
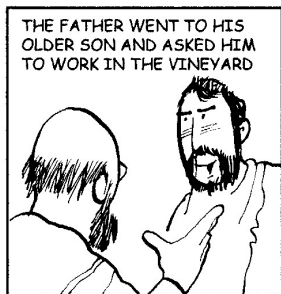
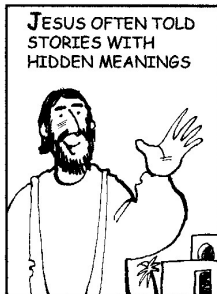
Autumn will soon be with us, and the magnificence of the trees around will fade as their leaves fall and are swept away. After the death of winter, spring will come and bring the miracle of new life to their roots and branches, and once again we can behold their glory, like the traveller in the forest of Maxfield Parrish’s drawing – trees that remind us of ‘the one and only noble tree’: the Cross that is the sign of salvation for all seasons and all lives.

Can you find a way out?



For younger readers.....

The tale of the Two Sons



Emmaus Village Carlton in search of Bistro volunteers

Bedfordshire homelessness charity Emmaus Village Carlton is appealing to local people to help out in their bistro.

em's Bistro, at the charity's site on School Lane near Carlton, serves proper coffee, breakfasts, hot and cold lunches, sandwiches, paninis as well as delicious cakes. It raises vital funds to help provide a home and meaningful work for 42 people who have experienced homelessness.

The popular bistro has continued to trade during the lockdown periods by offering takeaways. With the indoor seating area now reopened; customers can dine inside or make use of the outdoor marquee and picnic benches across their large site.

Emmaus Village Carlton is calling on local people to volunteer and help in the bistro. Working alongside staff and those supported by the charity, volunteers support the enterprise by serving customers, clearing tables, and assisting with simple kitchen tasks.

Speaking about the volunteer search, Catering Manager Chloe Goodship said: "Emmaus Village Carlton supports some of the most vulnerable people, and we're extremely proud that our popular bistro helps raise money for the charity. We do our best to provide great food and customer service; the more people we have helping, the better our bistro will be. This is why we're hoping that more local people will join our volunteer team. We provide all relevant training along with a full induction, paid travel expenses and lunch on the day you volunteer."

Anyone interested in volunteering can get in touch with the charity by calling 01234 720826 or emailing barbarafitzgerald@emmausvc.org

St Gregory the Great - the man who saved the 'angels'

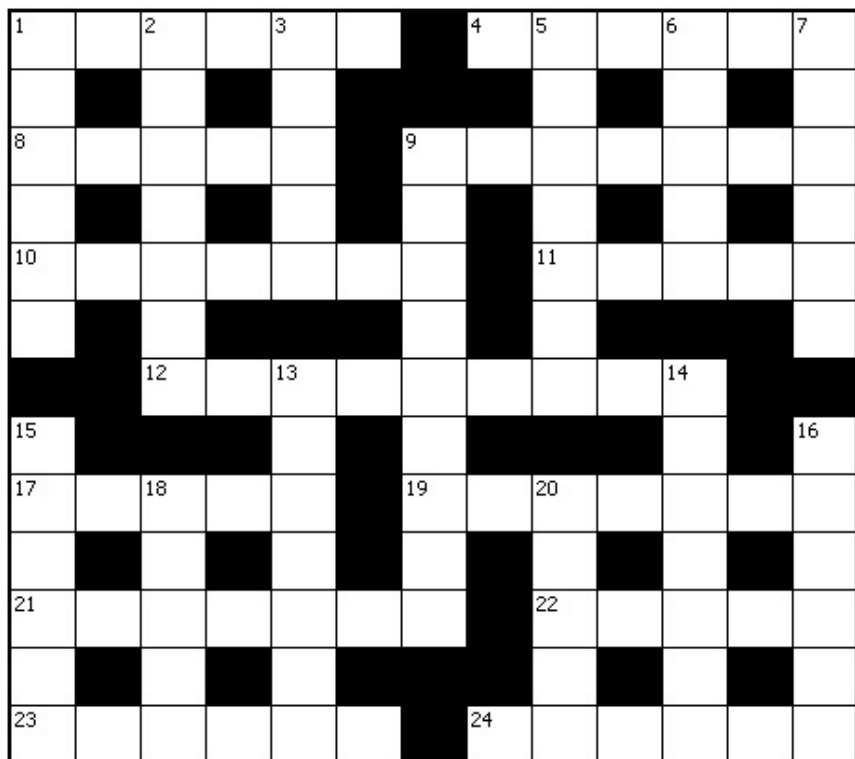
Pope Gregory never called himself 'the Great', but instead 'the Servant of the Servants of God'. Nevertheless, Gregory was one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages and he is remembered on 3rd September.

The son of a very rich Roman senator, he left the service of the State upon his conversion as a young man. Gregory then sold off his tremendous estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome, and gave generously to the poor. He became a monk and adopted an austere lifestyle. But he was destined to be a frustrated monk, because successive popes kept appointing him to jobs with major public responsibilities.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, 'They are Angles.' Moved with compassion for these humiliated and despised men, he replied, 'They are not Angles, but angels!' He wanted to lead a band of missionaries to England to evangelise the Angles, but then plague broke out in Italy, and during this time he was elected Pope.

Reluctantly he accepted, and then sent to work to deal with the crises facing Christendom: plague, floods, famine, and a Lombard invasion. But busy though Gregory was, he did not forget the Angles. He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Parish Pump website



Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)

- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

Solution on page 34

Book Reviews

God and Stephen Hawking – whose design is it anyway?
(2nd edition) by Prof John C Lennox, Lion Hudson, £8.99

“It is a grandiose claim to have banished God. With such a lot at stake we surely need to ask Hawking to produce evidence to establish his claim. Do his arguments really stand up to close scrutiny? I think we have a right to know.”

The Grand Design and Brief Answers to Big Questions by eminent scientist the late Stephen Hawking were blockbusting contributions to the science religion debate. They claimed it was the laws of physics themselves which brought the universe into being, rather than any God. In this forthright response, John Lennox, Oxford University mathematician and internationally known apologist, takes a closer look at Hawking’s logic and questions his conclusions. In lively, layman’s terms, Lennox guides us through the key points in Hawking’s arguments – with clear explanations of the latest scientific and philosophical methods and theories – and demonstrates that far from disproving a Creator God, they make his existence seem even more probable.

Talking God – Daring to Listen by Jacci Bulman, Lion Hudson, £9.99

Listening is a valuable – and often neglected – tool for spiritual learning. This book invites you to reflect on the personal beliefs many of us hold towards God through listening in on a series of 11 inspiring interviews with people of Christian or ‘Jesus-connected’ faith.

Each of these dedicated spiritual pilgrims give their response to searching questions about God, Jesus Christ, and Christianity, offering a wide range of perspectives on issues of faith and spiritual truth.

Cont on page 29

Invitation to Solitude and Silence – experiencing God’s transforming presence by Ruth Haley Barton, SPCK, £9.99 (new edition)

This is a practical introduction to the spiritual practice of silence and solitude.

Much of the Christian faith is about words – preaching, teaching, talking with others. But the hectic demands and noise of daily modern life can drown out God’s words and keep us from fully meeting Him.

The book explores the power of quietness and stillness in connecting with God. Filled with practical exercises, it will be helpful for anyone looking for spiritual disciplines to help them connect more fully with God and practices to aid their spiritual formation.

September Prayer

Dear Lord,

September – the month of new beginnings for many, as summer fades and school and college terms start.

After such a strange time of restrictions, hopes of freedom, with warnings to be cautious, it is hard to know what to expect this September.

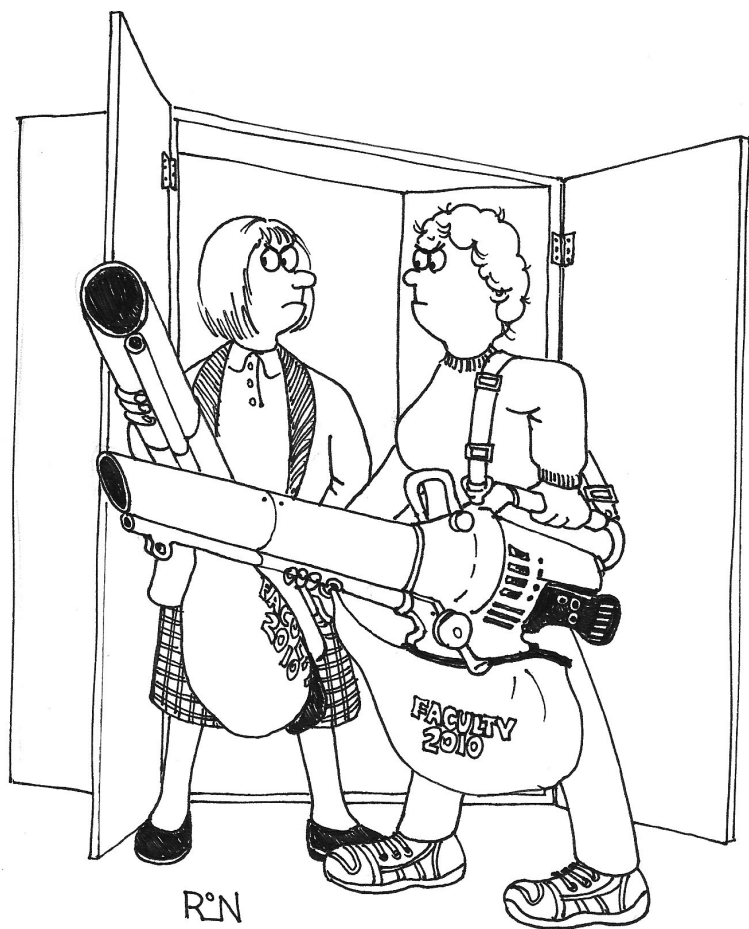
We can’t know what lies ahead, Lord, but we can trust you to see us through whatever it turns out to be.

Thank you for your promise, I will never leave you or forsake you... (Hebrews 13:5)

Help us to hold fast to that promise, to keep trusting you – and to be thankful for each September day.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



*Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle
required a faculty*

Diagnosis



A man went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirred and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."

Sudoku - easy

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

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Solution on page 34



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Solution to puzzle on page 26

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

Solution to puzzle on page 31

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



Jonathan Vowles

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