

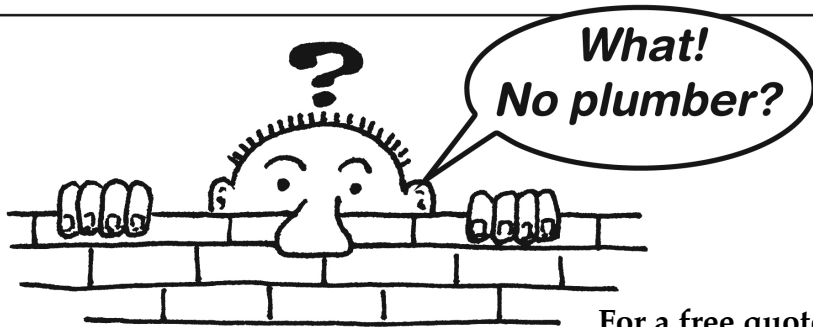
# *Church News*

for the Parishes of  
**Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**

*Ring  
out the  
old,  
ring in  
the  
new,  
Ring,  
happy  
bells,  
across  
the  
snow*



**January 2025**



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

**Find us at:** [www.bromhambenefice.org](http://www.bromhambenefice.org)

 **facebook** Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden

**Clergy:**

Vicar: Revd Catherine Wilson 825665  
vicar@bromhambenefice.org  
Assistant Priest: Revd Di Harpham 918691  
Curate: Revd Petra Yates - curate@bromhambenefice.org 07504 118405

***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 Sarah Smale 07957 126145

**Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams**

**Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers**  
Mrs F Bulmer 602718  
**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	Mrs Rene Farquhar	307996
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	ls.ball@btinternet.com
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 January</u>	<u>Epiphany</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>12th January</u>	<u>Baptism of Christ</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Joint Service (Oakley Methodist Church)
3.30pm	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>19th January</u>	<u>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>26th January</u>	<u>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)

*Our 9am services are said while our 1030 services include music and hymns.*

## Weekday Services

Mondays

11.30am Messy Church (Bromham)

Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

11.30am Holy Communion (Bromham  
Fellowship Room)

Thursdays

10.00am Messy Church (Oakley)

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



## *From the Vicarage*

Happy New Year! We've come through another 12 months and once again we wake up on January 1<sup>st</sup> to a New Year. Although in many ways nothing will have changed overnight, a New Year is an opportunity to make changes, to have a fresh start, to leave what

happened in 2024 behind us perhaps, and look ahead with hope to what lies ahead.

The end of one year and start of the next coincides with the rhythm of the natural world too as for us the darkest days of winter are past, the days gradually grow longer and we can anticipate more light and warmth. I wonder how it feels in the southern hemisphere to start the New Year knowing the darker colder winter months are not far away, and whether that makes a New Year somehow less inviting!

While we can never know what really lies ahead of us, there may be some events on the horizon that we are aware of – a family wedding or a new baby for example; a change of school, or a planned retirement; a special holiday or significant anniversary. 2025 will see the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 2, alongside the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which hastened the ending of that war.

And there will undoubtedly be many events that will surprise

us, things we hadn't dreamed could happen, unexpected blessings we rejoice in. There could be medical breakthroughs or positive technological advances, or perhaps happy family events. Sadly, others of the unforeseen events could be shocking and distressing for us, and may leave us fearful for the future – our own, our family's and our world's, and wondering 'where is God in this?'

During Advent Tim and I followed a pattern of daily Bible readings from the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, along with a brief commentary and reflection for each day. Hebrews was written to Christians who were facing troubling times; its not known who wrote the letter, but their argument is clear. 'We see Jesus' (ch2v9), and therefore when times are difficult and the world around seems uncertain, they can be 'looking to Jesus' for strength to persevere in their faith (ch12v2).

At Christmas we came to the manger to welcome Jesus once again into our world and our lives. As people of faith, we 'see Jesus' daily when we read the Bible and in the many blessings we enjoy: when we face challenges we can look to him for peace and hope. A favourite song when I was a teenage helper in Sunday School went like this: 'When the road is rough and steep, fix your eyes upon Jesus; He alone has power to keep, fix your eyes upon Him!'

Whatever 2025 brings to each of us and to our world, if we keep Jesus as our focus we will find a faithful and loving friend to guide us each step of the way.

*Catherine Wilson*

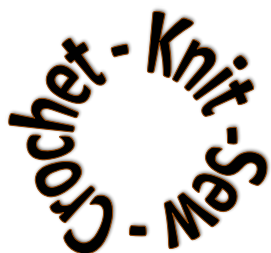


Next meeting - **Thursday 9th January**

This month we will be meeting up  
at 12.30pm  
for a meal out

.....

For further details  
contact Tessa Woodcock  
01234 340089



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### **Sewing Group**

1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons  
2pm - 4pm in the Fellowship Room  
at St Owen's Church.

Further information from Frances  
on 07470 032296

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### **First Friday Coffee Mornings**

Next coffee morning on Fri 3rd January  
11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

Please contact Frances for more information  
(602718 or francesbulmer@btinternet.com)





## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 – 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January**

It is now 1,700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. Not many people know that.

Anyway – so what?

Because the Council of Nicaea, in 325, was the very first ecumenical council that the Christian Church ever held. A serious heresy had crept into the Eastern Church: Arianism, which taught that Jesus Christ was not divine, but only human.

To resolve the crisis, the Emperor Constantine called a council and summoned both the Western Church and the Eastern Church. Constantine knew that the Church had to get together and pull in the same direction. They did, and out of that Council came the Nicene Creed.

Get together and pull in the same direction. That is a good description of what Christ's Church on earth should be doing. That is the hope of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

For 2025, the theme of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity focuses on belief, in commemoration of the Council of Nicaea, held so long ago.

The Scripture passage chosen for the worship service is Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, as narrated in John 11:17-27.

Mary believed in Him, and so did the Council of Nicaea in 325. And so do hundreds of millions of Christians today.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January – the 'octave' of St Peter and St Paul. This year's resources can be found at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>



*Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith  
Bishop of St Albans*

In 2025, the Diocese of St Albans invites you to embark on a transformative Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing.

As we emerge from the challenges of recent years, not least the legacy of Covid, this initiative aims to guide us in reconnecting with our faith and seeking the renewing life of the Holy Spirit.

This special year is inspired by the Emmaus story in Luke's Gospel, where the risen Christ walks alongside two disciples in their confusion and doubt, listens to their concerns, and renews them in hope and love. It invites us to lift our eyes and minds to God, embrace the renewing life of the Holy Spirit, and rediscover the joy of journeying with Christ. The Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing centres on three key themes:



- Lifting our eyes to God
- Enhancing spiritual and personal wellbeing
- Enabling spiritual growth to foster numerical growth

*Continued on next page*

There are opportunities for retreats and quiet days, and other activities, details of which with booking information can be found on the dedicated website:

[year.stalbansdiocese.org](http://year.stalbansdiocese.org)

Everyone is encouraged to participate in some way in order to deepen their spiritual lives and grow in holiness and wholeness.

Most of the activities are free or heavily subsidised, so do explore the website and see what appeals to you.

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### *An Observation for the New Year*

May we meet this new year bravely, sure in the faith that while men come and go, and life changes around us, God is ever the same, guiding us with His wisdom and protecting us with His love. *William Temple – Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44*

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### **We can wait quietly**

‘The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in Him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.’  
- *Lamentations 3: 22-26*

*Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible.*

## **What's the Big Idea? - an introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Acts**

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

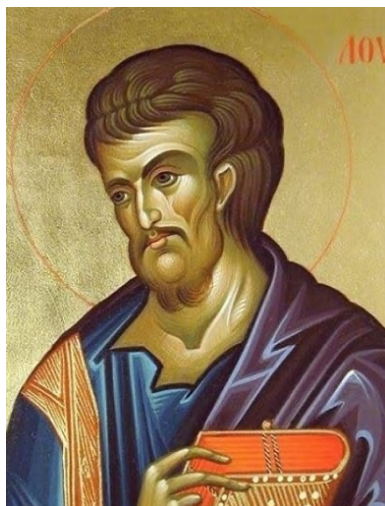
While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

Luke's aim is:

*To present a history.* Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

*To give a defence.* We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8-12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8-11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

*To provide a guide.* We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and



*Ed - St Luke is often pictured with a book; he was an educated man of Greek descent.*

persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

*To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution.* The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'* (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

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## **How the New Year and Resolutions began**

1<sup>st</sup> January was not always the start of a New Year. The Babylonians began their New Year on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. For them, it was a logical choice, as with the arrival of Spring, crops were being planted, and a new cycle of life was beginning.

For centuries the Romans agreed with them, but they chose 1<sup>st</sup> March for New Year. It was the Romans who brought in the idea of making resolutions at New Year, mostly along the lines of acting more noble, and doing good to others.

Then in 46BC Julius Caesar changed the Roman Empire's calendar. His new Julian calendar realigned the year to the sun, and also began on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Caesar wanted to honour Janus, the two-faced god who looks backwards into the old year and forward into the new. January 1<sup>st</sup> didn't have any astronomical or agricultural significance, it was just a random date selected by Caesar.

*Parish Pump website*

## **Evensong Unwrapped Part 2**

In the December edition you were introduced to a little of the history and shape of the service we have called Evensong since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and how it evolved from the monastic practices. Now we take a closer look at sung parts of the service - other than the hymns that is.

In our village churches, where there is usually an organist but no choir, a sung Introit (that is an 'introduction') is omitted. So, after some prayers, we come to:-

### **Preces and Responses**

Preces and Responses are one of the oldest forms of prayer. They take the form of a versicle sung by a cantor (usually the worship leader) and a response sung by the congregation. The Preces and Responses sung at Evensong are identical to those sung at Matins and were adapted by Thomas Cranmer from the responses of the pre-Reformation monastic hours. Preces and Responses are in two parts, the first comes after the opening prayers; the second occurs after the two Bible readings and the Creed. There are many choral settings, dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (including those by William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons) to more contemporary settings by Bernard Rose and Humphrey Clucas but to hear those you probably need to attend a cathedral.

### **Psalm**

The singing of psalms appointed for the day follows the first set of responses. The Book of Common Prayer allows for the entire Psalter to be sung across Morning and Evening Prayer over the course of a month, but not all Anglican places of worship adhere strictly to this practice today.

*Continued on next page*

In our Benefice the psalm is said rather than sung. In churches where it is sung the normal practice is to use what is known as 'Anglican Chant'. This developed after the Reformation from the older tradition of singing psalms to plainchant. Learning to sing Anglican Chant is one of the first challenges for a new chorister which may explain why we say the psalm!

Anglican Chant developed during the seventeenth century. The earliest examples are by Henry Purcell and his contemporaries. Previously, the psalms would probably have been chanted using a practice known as *faburden*, which is a way of harmonising a single-line melody using a standard formula.

## **Canticles**

Canticles are simply chants with a biblical text and follow the two readings from the Bible (known as Lessons). The Magnificat is sung after the Old Testament Lesson and the Nunc Dimittis after the New Testament Lesson.

Although these canticles always retain their Latin titles, here they are always sung in English. The Magnificat (from the Gospel of Luke) is the Song of Mary on the occasion of her visit to her cousin Elizabeth. It is a reflection on the news that she is to bear the Christ Child.

The Nunc Dimittis, also from Luke's Gospel, is the Song offered up by Simeon after taking the baby Jesus in his arms in the Temple in Jerusalem. It recognises the fulfilment of a promise that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. The text begins 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace'. The Nunc Dimittis was originally part of the final canonical hour of Compline and marks a peaceful, contemplative closing of the day.

*Continued on next page*

## **Hymns**

Congregational hymns are included at various points during the service, at the discretion of the clergy. Our usual practice is to include four hymns accompanied by the organ although, in winter, we may hold Evensong in St Owen's Fellowship Room where our singing is accompanied on the keyboard.

## **Organ Voluntary**

After prayers, a final hymn and a closing prayer - often the Grace - a voluntary is usually played. This is a piece of instrumental music, usually played on the organ. Any piece of appropriate music can be played as a voluntary and organists choose from the vast repertoire for the instrument. The music used will range from the Renaissance and early Baroque to contemporary works by living composers. It is usual for the congregation to listen in silence and reflect upon the service and the music.

## **Experience Evensong**

In our Benefice, Evensong is usually scheduled once or twice a month (see page 5). If you have never been to Evensong or, perhaps, have not done so for a while, you would be most welcome to come along and just sit and listen.

In addition, BBC Radio 3 broadcasts a service of Evensong every Wednesday afternoon at 4pm, with a repeat on Sunday at 3pm. You can listen to previous services on the BBC Radio 3 website or BBC Sounds.

Many cathedrals livestream services of Evensong on YouTube. You can find out more about these by visiting the cathedrals' websites.

*Edward Jones  
with acknowledgements to  
the Choral Evensong Trust.*





**'Messy Church for All'**  
**at Oakley Methodist Church**  
**on 3rd Tuesday in the month**  
**3.30 till 5.30pm**  
Contact 824504 or  
mcarr49@hotmail.com



As we have been asked to increase our giving to the church, I would like to help in a practical way by offering my sewing services. I would be happy to undertake alterations or mending for a small fee, which I will donate to St Mary's Oakley. For more information please call Maureen on 01234 356354.

### **From the Registers**

#### **Baptism:**

1st December Remy Alexander Smith (Stagsden)

#### **Weddings:**

21st December Emily Stubbins & Sam Brown  
(Oakley)

#### **Funerals:**

3rd December Geoffrey Ramm (Bromham)  
13th December Terence Ashpole (Bromham)  
16th December Shirley Fensom (Stagsden)

#### **Crematorium Service:**

17th December Margaret Smith (Bromham)

*Editor: This vote marks one step towards a major shift in British law.*

## **Bishop Sarah responds to Commons debate on assisted suicide**

Following the recent vote in the House of Commons to give the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill a second reading, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, the Church of England's lead bishop for health and social care, said:

"I have been deeply moved watching proceedings unfold in the House of Commons today. My prayers are with all those who have been affected, who have shared and heard their stories, and facilitated this debate.

"The Church of England believes that the compassionate response at the end of life lies in the provision of high-quality palliative care services to all who need them.

"Today's vote still leaves the question of how this could be implemented in an overstretched and under-funded NHS, social care and legal system.

"Safeguarding the most vulnerable must be at the heart of the coming Parliamentary process, today's vote is not the end of the debate."

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Why are people constantly searching for lasting peace and contentment yet never fully satisfied? Many people express this particularly when a New Year approaches. The Bible says this happens for a very good reason: We are incomplete without God. If we leave Him out of our lives, we have an empty place in our souls, a yearning deep inside us that only God can satisfy. So, start the New Year off with a sure thing - God's promise to give you a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). - *Billy Graham*

## **What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?**

The Church celebrates the story of the coming of the Magi on 6<sup>th</sup> January; the story grew in the telling. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

*Parish Pump website*

## God in the Arts

For 2025, the Revd Michael Burgess considers the sacred in Art.

### 'The Annunciation' - by Domenico Veneziano

During this year, we shall be 'visiting' different art galleries and museums in England to explore their treasures. Our first visit is to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Founded in 1816, it is a wonderful building in Trumpington Street that houses a wealth of art and antiquities.



Our painting this month is *The Annunciation* by Domenico Veneziano, who died in Florence in 1461. It is part of the Magnoli altarpiece, and other panels are on display in Washington and Berlin. The scene has been much loved of artists throughout the ages. We can read the account of Gabriel announcing the good news of motherhood to Mary in chapter two of St Luke's Gospel. In the simplicity and beauty of Veneziano's work, we see Gabriel kneeling with lilies, the traditional symbol of our Lady, who is standing on the far side of the canvas. It is early morning, but the two squares on the wall show the blackness of night. They stand either side of a garden where the door is closed.

An enclosed garden, like the lilies, is a medieval symbol of Mary. 'A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed' we read in the Song of Songs. We might think of the Garden of the Hesperides or the apple orchard of Avalon, or perhaps a monastic herbal garden. They are all images of fruitfulness and new life enclosed by walls. Mary receives the good news of Gabriel and responds with the words, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord.' Her words will open the garden door and lead her out into the new world of redemption, just as Genesis tells us how turning against God closed the garden door of Eden to Adam and Eve.

The pathway from the portico and garden in Veneziano's painting will take Mary into a world where she will give birth to a son, Emmanuel. But that joy of motherhood will be coloured by a flight to Egypt and eventually the death of her Son. Then another garden will announce new and eternal life in the joy of the Resurrection. Here Mary's words will open that door in the garden. She will walk through, trusting in God and letting love guide her steps.

We begin this New Year with an invitation to open the door of our lives to God's guidance and love. That invitation begins with the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. Trusting in that gospel, we can open our lives, like the door of the garden, and travel in trust and love through all that the year will bring.

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### **Visit**

A parishioner called the vicar during a power-cut caused by a blizzard and said she urgently needed a pastoral home visit. "I'm sorry, but I can't get out because of the heavy snow," the vicar explained.

Unsatisfied, she barked, "But I can't watch TV because the power is off! So what else am I supposed to do?"

## Like to Try a New Hobby?

### Comfortable with IT?

How about joining the editorial team for this magazine?

Wherever you live, you can start as an Assistant Editor and play an active role in our church life.

Did you spot the typing error? You're made for it! But, if not, you can learn.

Contact Edward at [stowensnews@btinternet.com](mailto:stowensnews@btinternet.com)

## Sudoku - Easy

Solution on page 33

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

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**Next meeting**  
**Saturday 11th January**  
5 - 6.30pm  
The Fellowship Centre  
Clapham  
MK41 6ER

contact us at [ourvoicetoo@gmail.com](mailto:ourvoicetoo@gmail.com)

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## Labels

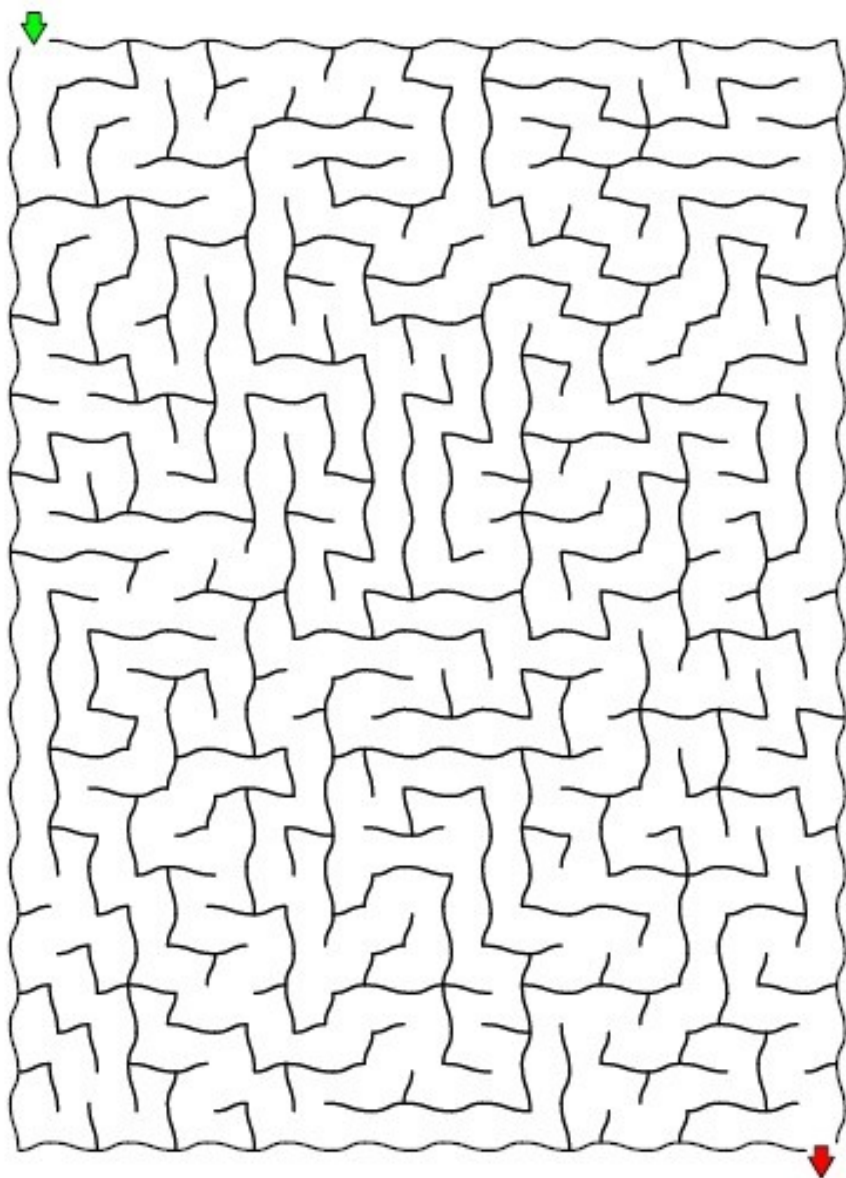
I have my own system for labelling homemade freezer meals. I no longer bother with labels like 'chicken casserole' or 'lasagne' or 'steak and ale pie'. Instead, I use 'Whatever', 'Anything', or 'I Don't Know.' That way when I ask my family what they want for dinner, I always have it to hand.

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## FRIENDS OF ST OWEN'S 100 CLUB PRIZE WINNERS DECEMBER 2024

- First Prize: Anne Cowsill
- Second Prize: Ian Frankish
- Third Prize: Hazel McLellan
- Fourth Prize: Fiona Peacock

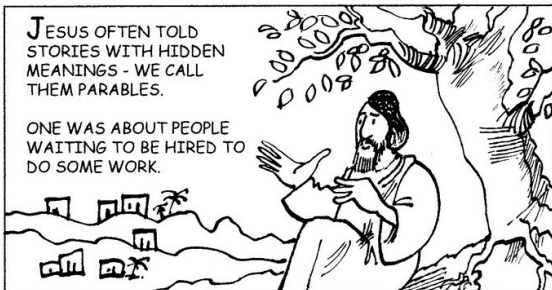
Can you find your way out from top to bottom?





# For younger readers.....

## The Hired Workers



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM PARABLES.

ONE WAS ABOUT PEOPLE WAITING TO BE HIRED TO DO SOME WORK.

A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.



A BIT LATER ON THE HOUSEHOLDER RETURNED TO THE MARKET PLACE AND HIRED SOME MORE WORKERS.



HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.



THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET MORE.

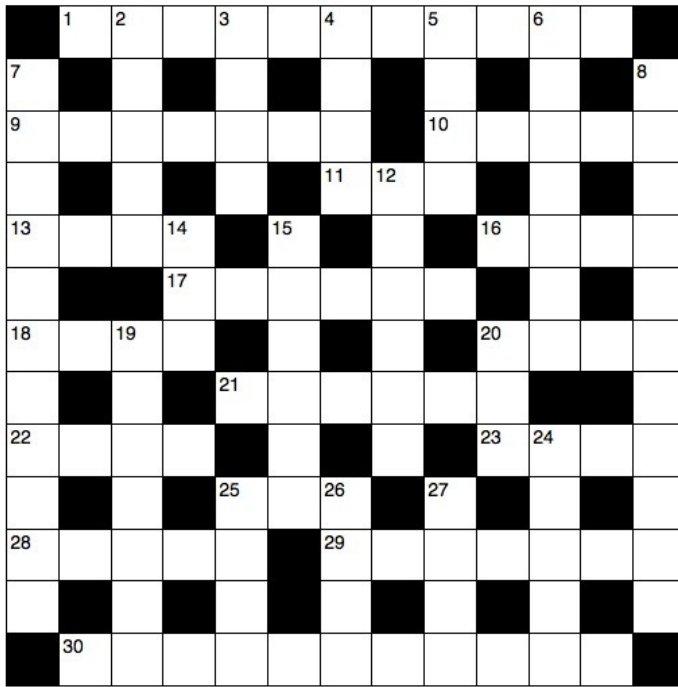


BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.

JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST" - IT'S A HARD PARABLE!



see Matthew 20:1-16



**Across**

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)  
 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee'(Matthew 26:32) (5)  
 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13  
     Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)  
 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)  
 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)  
 18 Opposite of evens (4)  
 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)  
 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)  
 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from

every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)  
23 Beat (anag.) (4)  
25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)  
28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)  
29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)  
30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

## **Down**

2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)  
3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)  
4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)  
5 Tidy (4)  
6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)  
7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)  
8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)  
12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)  
14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)  
15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)  
19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)  
20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)  
24 Rarely used musical note (5)  
25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)  
26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)  
27 See 26 Down

*Solution on page 33*

*David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the task of reading in church.*

## **Reading the Bible in church**

*'He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord.'* 2 Kings 23:2

A friend was unexpectedly asked to read at a service as someone was unwell. He was caught just as he came in the church! Most of us like to look over a reading first and find the meaning of the passage. Some Bible readings are challenging, with difficult names of places and people. If it makes you feel better, no-one else knows how to pronounce these either, because there is no one around from Bible times!

It is not nice to be given a reading at the last minute, but then not good for the minister to suddenly get let down. To tell you the truth I have never liked reading, as it makes me dreadfully nervous. I prefer to preach or lead than read.

People worry about reading in church. Some of them would happily talk to a class of children or a boardroom, but there is something about church which is different. Perhaps we expect too much of ourselves. The best reading I ever heard in church was by a non-church goer. He did not know the reading, so he put a different emphasis on the passage. If you are reluctant, why not ask someone you know, who does read in church, to listen to you practise while no-one else is around?

Reading in church is a genuine ministry and is vital. It is important to give it our best try, as a way of learning about our faith. The Bible is meant to be heard as well as read.

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The good neighbour looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and therefore brothers. - *Martin Luther King*



*"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric*

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### **Collection**

A minister in a rural church had been having trouble with the collections. One Sunday he announced, "Now, before we pass the collection plate, I would like to request that the person who stole the chickens from our local farm please refrain from giving any money to the Lord. The Lord doesn't want money from a thief!"

The collection plate was passed around and for the first time in months, everybody gave.

## **Remember the ‘Millennium Bug’?**

It was 25 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000, that the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K “Millennium Bug”.

The Y2K bug was a computer flaw involving software and hardware that might have caused problems when dealing with dates beyond 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1999. This was because, for storage reasons, there had been a practice of using two figures for dates – for instance 78 instead of 1978. It was therefore feared that 00 for 2000 might be interpreted as 1900, with chaos resulting in the power industry, transportation or anywhere that computers were critical.

When this potential problem was recognised – surprisingly late, in the mid-1990s – a great deal of money was poured into preventing it from happening, particularly by countries like the USA and Australia, as well as the UK.

Other countries, such as Russia, South Korea and Italy, spent almost nothing on the problem. Ironically, they suffered no more in the end than those who invested many millions, because it turned out that there were very few difficulties.

Because of the lack of disastrous outcomes, many people dismissed the Y2K bug as a hoax or an end-of-the-world cult. A small number of fundamentalist Christians had been interpreting the whole issue as apocalyptic, involving the breakdown of society, the Last Days and the subsequent Second Coming.

Similar computer problems had been predicted for other years, for similar but obviously not identical reasons. They include 1975, 1999, 2010, 2022 and – wait for it – 2038.

*Tim Lenton – Parish Pump website*

## **All in the month of January**

It was:

150 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1875 that Albert Schweitzer, German theologian, philosopher, physician, musicologist, writer and humanitarian, was born. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

100 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1925 that Benito Mussolini declared himself dictator of Italy.

90 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1935 that Elvis Presley ('The King') was born. An American rock and roll singer, guitarist and actor, he died in 1977.

80 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1945 that Adolf Hitler took up residence in the Fuhrerbunker, a subterranean bunker complex in the garden of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. It became the headquarters of the Nazi regime, and he remained there for the rest of his life. He committed suicide there in April 1945.

75 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1950 that Israel declared Jerusalem was its capital city. Palestine also claims it as its capital.

60 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 1965 that Winston Churchill died. He was Prime Minister 1940-45 and again in 1955, and one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was named as 'the greatest Briton of all time.' He won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature

40 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1985 that the first mobile phone call in the UK was made by comedian Ernie Wise. He rang Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katherine's Docks in London.

25 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2000 that Steve Jobs announced that he had again become the CEO of Apple Computer. (He had been ousted from the job in 1985.)

15 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 that the Burj Khalifa in Dubai opened. It is the world's tallest structure, standing 2,722 feet (829.8 metres.)



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## Morning and evening stroll could cut bowel cancer risk, study suggests

Here is a New Year's Resolution well worth making: go for a stroll in the morning and again in the evening.

For an "intriguing" finding in a recent medical study seems to point to a link between the time of day that you exercise, and the avoidance of bowel cancer.

The study, led by experts at Regensburg University in Germany, found two daily peaks in activity, at around 8am and 6pm, were "associated with reduced colorectal cancer risk, beyond the benefits of overall physical activity".

Bowel cancer - also known as colorectal cancer - can develop anywhere in the large bowel.

It is the fourth most common cancer in the UK. Roughly 44,000 people each year - or about 120 a day - are diagnosed with the disease.

*Parish Pump website*

Solution to puzzle on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle on page 26

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

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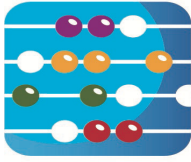
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