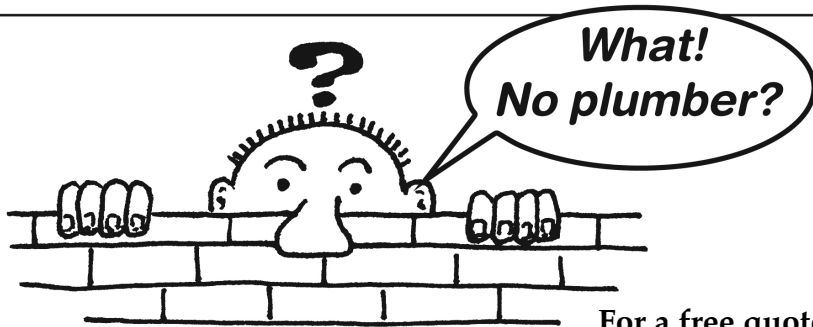


# *Church News*

for the Parishes of  
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



**November 2024**



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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>3rd November</u>	<u>All Saints Day</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<b>3.30pm</b>	Evensong (Bromham)
<u>10th November</u>	<u>Remembrance Sunday</u>
9.30am	Service of Remembrance (Oakley) <i>followed by Act at War Memorial</i>
10.30am	Service of Remembrance (Bromham)
10.45am	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial (Stagsden)
<u>17th November</u>	<u>2nd Sunday before Advent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<u>24th November</u>	<u>Christ the King</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*

If you have looked up at the skies in the last few weeks, you'll have been treated to some spectacular sights. We've had beautiful blue skies and sunshine, leading to some lovely sunsets – and we've had menacing dark clouds which have proceeded to empty their contents all over us in exceptionally large quantities!

In September we saw a beautiful Harvest full moon, and more recently the Hunter's full moon has brightened our skies; both of these were 'supermoons', looking bigger than usual because of the moon's proximity to the earth. And the Northern Lights have been visible much further south than usual, with some amazing colours to wonder at.

And that's what we do when we see these natural phenomena – we wonder at them, and at the beauty of creation. Even though we can explain scientifically what produces these wonderful displays in the skies, we still stand in amazement at the colours, the formations, and the magnitude of what we see.

At the same time, we humans continue to thirst for more knowledge and understanding of our universe – and the many universes beyond it. Rockets take off to explore the outer reaches of the space we know about, or to collect samples from the surface of planets nearer to earth looking for evidence that they might once have supported life.

Technology is being developed to support these missions, and there was applause and admiration when a rocket launcher was 'caught' on its return to earth recently, enabling it to be reused for the next flight.

The psalmist wrote that 'the heavens declare the glory of God' (Ps 19 v1), and as Christians we attribute the beauty we see to God's creativity and design, and praise him for it. That doesn't mean we can't also enjoy learning about the way the universe works and the science behind the spectacle however. Even though we understand so much about what causes the marvels in the skies, we still wonder at them.

On our first visit to Australia in 2015, we went by coach across the desert from Alice Springs to Uluru. On the way back, late at night, the coach broke down – and before the relief coach arrived we had time to gaze at the night sky surrounded by complete darkness. It was amazing. Looking up at the immensity of that sky reminded us how tiny we are in the bigger picture; the more humankind discovers, the smaller our world becomes, and its inhabitants even more so.

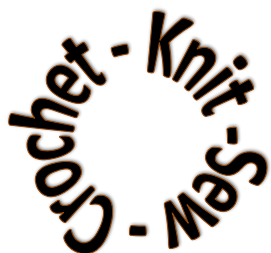
In another Psalm we read that 'when I look at your heavens... the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?' (Ps 8 v3-4). Perhaps the most amazing thing about our wonderful universe is that the God we believe designed and formed it also created and knows each person on this particular little planet – and came to live and die here to show how much he loves us all.

*Catherine Wilson*



Next meeting - **Thursday 7th November**  
at St Owen's Fellowship Room  
2.30 - 4.30pm

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 1st November  
11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

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



Donations to pancreatic cancer





The month of Remembrance may be especially poignant this year.

War in the Middle East is spreading rapidly, while Russia's invasion of Ukraine grinds on, and Sudan's civil war causes widespread famine. Throughout the world, millions of people's lives are being turned upside down, with no hope of peace and security in sight.

It is indeed a time for Christians everywhere to pray for peace, based on justice and mercy.

It also a time to remember the victims of many natural disasters this year; from hurricanes, typhoons and disastrous floods, to wildfires and extreme drought. Charities working among these suffering need our support.

But 24<sup>th</sup> November, the Sunday of Christ the King, reminds us that this world with its evil and unfairness will not be allowed to go on forever. Jesus Christ has overcome death and will return to us one day. And HIS Kingdom will be one of justice and righteousness, with no more tears, and He will reign forever. Amen!

May the Lord bless you and keep you, amid any personal uncertainties you may be facing.

*Anne Coomes and the Parish Pump Team*



*Ed:- this is an extract from Bishop Alan's recent presidential address to the Diocesan Synod. You can read the whole text at [stalbandsdiocese.org](http://stalbandsdiocese.org)>News>Diocesan Synod Address*

### **Assisted Dying Bill**

I now want to say a few words about the Assisted Dying Bill which is coming before Parliament shortly. It is a debate that arouses strong emotions and I'm sure there will be a range of views present here today.

The theological basis which has led Christians to oppose euthanasia is rooted in the sixth commandment (Exodus 20:13): *'You shall not kill'*, sometimes translated as *'You shall not murder'*. This commandment is repeated by Jesus in each of the synoptic gospels (Matthew 5:21; 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20). Traditionally Christians have believed that life is sacred; it is a gift from God and it is sinful to take life. Instead, in the face of death, Christians have consistently argued that the dying and terminally ill should be shown compassion in their vulnerability and be treated with dignity.

This conviction has shaped our culture and informed our laws. The right to life is now universally recognised as a fundamental human right in both domestic and international human rights legislation. This conviction undergirds not only our criminal law but all medical, nursing and social care. In my view, anything that might undermine it, either in principle or in practice, ought to be resisted.

*Continued on next page*

Arguments in favour of assisted suicide (because that is what it is) often focus on human autonomy, on the faculties and abilities that an individual enjoys or on an individual's sense of personal worth. These are important considerations, but they must not usurp the intrinsic, God-given, value of a person's life.

Removing or eroding this fundamental principle would not only have a detrimental effect on many aspects of the law, health and social care and on community cohesion, but would also overturn centuries of medical practice based on the Hippocratic Oath. This ancient covenant between doctors and their patients states that doctors are there to heal, not to kill.

There are also practical reasons why I believe the proposed legislation should be resisted.

Potentially, a change in the law will be threatening to disabled people, many of whom already experience terrible discrimination and misunderstanding on a daily basis.

A change in the law may also assist those who perpetrate domestic abuse, particularly of women.

A change in the law may also adversely affect some elderly people. It is not unusual for older people to suffer from depression and feel that their lives are not worth much. How easy it would be for them to think they ought to volunteer for euthanasia to reduce pressure on hospital beds.

The experience from those countries that have introduced assisted dying is certainly disturbing. Canada, for example, loosened its euthanasia laws in 2021. It no longer requires that a patient's condition should be terminally ill. Instead, it now allows people whose condition is serious and incurable to

*Continued on next page*

also request it [and] there is now a live debate in Canada about the further expansion of [the rules] to include people with chronic mental illness.

In a survey of over thirteen thousand Canadians in 2022, who ended their lives under [this way], the vast majority cited the “loss of ability to engage in meaningful life activities” as the reason for them wanting to end their life. More than one-third of respondents said their decision was, in part, informed by a feeling they were perceived to be a burden by their family, friends or caregivers.

### **So what is the alternative?**

Surely, it is to provide funding and resourcing for palliative care services in this country. We need to ensure that our hospices receive the level of state funding that they are so badly lacking at present. Research [just] released by the charity Marie Curie showed that one in three dying people were severely or overwhelmingly affected by pain in the last week of life, with bereaved people reporting how difficult it is to get joined-up support from health and care professionals at home.

Matthew Reid, the Chief Executive of Marie Curie said: *“We are shocked to see this clear evidence of dying people struggling with pain and other symptoms because they cannot access the end of life care they need from overstretched GPs, district nurses and other health workers. There are no two ways about it, care for dying people is in crisis.”*

In July 2022 the General Synod of the Church of England voted by a large majority to call on the Government to allocate more money for palliative care. It also reaffirmed its opposition to a change in the law on Assisted Dying and the DPP guidelines on this issue.

*Continued on next page*

The Church of England believes that the very best care and support ought to be extended to all who are suffering. It is wonderful that so many Christians and parishes support our hospices in this diocese who offer outstanding end of life care to people.

I am keen to encourage a wide debate in our diocese about this issue and I hope that you will write to your MP to express your views. This matter is too important to be left to a small group of politicians in Westminster to decide on a change that will affect us all.

+*Alan*

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

## **What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the gospel of Luke**

Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); His ministry (mainly teaching) *on the road* to Jerusalem (9:51-24:53) and His final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53).

For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself

*Continued on next page*

(a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day. This includes women, the poor and *sinner*s (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

A key verse which reflects this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, '*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*' (19:10). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into His kingdom.

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### **Quiz on St Luke's Gospel**

1. What was the name of the angel who visited Zechariah?

*Michael, Seraphiel, or Gabriel*

2. Who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ?

*Simeon, Herod, or Peter*

3. Who did Christ raise in the town of Nain?

*Peter's mother-in-law, Jairus' daughter, or Widow's son*

4. With which parable did Jesus respond when asked by the lawyer "who is my neighbour"?

*Sower, Good Samaritan, or Workers in the Vineyard*

5. How many loaves did Christ mention when he spoke about a hungry friend arriving at midnight?

*One, two, or three*

6. 'Eat, drink and be merry' is a reference from which parable?

*Rich fool, Prodigal Son, Great Banquet*

7. Who was Jesus referring to when He said 'go and tell that fox'?

*Herod, Annas, or Pilate*

8. What does Jesus say is of no use if it has lost its taste?

*Leaven, wine, or salt*

9. In the parable of the lost sheep how does the shepherd bring the found sheep home?

*Follows it home, on his shoulders, or in a cart*

10. In the parable why was the unjust steward dismissed from his job?

*Absent from work, wasting goods, or attacked a servant*

11. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the poor man was carried to whose side?

*Isaac's, Abraham's, or Jacob's*

12. When Jesus met the ten lepers who did He tell them to go and show themselves to?

*No-one, families, or priests*

*Solution on page 33*

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Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. - *Albert Schweitzer*

*Editor: Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 10<sup>th</sup> November, and Remembrance Day on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>.*

## **Remembrance – and gratitude**

This year Remembrance includes several significant dates from past wars.

2024 marks the 110th anniversary of the start of World War I.

2024 marks 80 years since D-Day. The Normandy Landings of 6<sup>th</sup> June were the largest seaborne invasion in history, and began the Allied invasion of Normandy, which led to the liberation of France and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front.

2024 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy, the bloodiest battle of the Italian Campaign, when Allied forces finally broke through the Germans' notorious 'Gustav Line' and freed Route Six and the way to Rome.

2024 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battles for Kohima and Imphal in northeast India where the Imperial Japanese Army was held off by much smaller numbers of British and Indian troops. In Kohima alone, the defenders held off a staggering 25 Japanese attacks over 14 days in appalling conditions. When Indian troops arrived to relieve the defenders, the Japanese encirclement was broken.

The familiar words "**When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today**" are known as the Kohima Epitaph for they are engraved on the War Memorial in Kohima. The verse is attributed to John Maxwell Edmonds (1875-1958), and is thought to have been inspired by the epitaph written by Simonides of Ceos to honour the Greeks who fell at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480BC.

*Continued on next page*



2024 also marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands, when the Allies managed to free Eindhoven and Nijmegen, but famously failed to capture the bridge at Arnhem. (The story is told in the film *A Bridge too Far*)

As the British Legion says, “While D-Day was fundamental to the allied victory, the Second World War was not won on any single day – or battle – and we will recognise and pay tribute to all who served from the British Armed Forces, Commonwealth and allied nations, such as those who served in the Battles of Monte Cassino, Imphal and Kohima, Operation Market Garden and the Scheldt.

This year the British Legion is also looking beyond the Second World War, to Kosovo and Afghanistan.

It wants to pay tribute to those who served and currently serve in Kosovo 25 years after the deployment of the NATO peacekeeping force, KFOR, and to those who served in Afghanistan, as this year marks 10 years since the end of Operation Herrick.



### From the Registers

#### **Weddings:**

5th October Polly Hammond & Ashton Morris  
(Stagsden)

#### **Funeral::**

2nd October Nancy Wood (Bromham)

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

17th October David Davies (Oakley)

28th October Maria Pia Di Sapia (Bromham)

31st October Eric Tiley (Oakley)



**'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

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**Alan Howard and Ray Cordell**  
**'live' at St Mary's**



An appreciative audience enjoyed an evening of easy music of vocals provided by Ray with backing by Alan. Their programme included "Georgia on my mind" and many more of similar style. Thanks to them, and the team that provided refreshments, over £500 was raised for church funds.

*Editor: The following article is based on material from: <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/royal-army-chaplains-department/>.*

## **Our Royal Army Chaplains**

For centuries, armies worldwide have taken their clergy to war with them. And while over the years the roles of chaplains may have changed, still their presence among the troops has remained as important as ever.

For the British, it was in 1796 that the Army Chaplain's Department was founded by the Revd John Gamble, who became its first Chaplain General.

In 1854, the Crimean War found it had 26,000 troops depending on only one chaplain: the Revd Henry Press Wright. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) hastily financed more chaplains, and eventually 60 were sent out.

In 1879 the Revd James William Adams became the first chaplain to be awarded the Victoria Cross – for his brave actions during the Second Afghan War.

During the First World War (1914 – 1918) chaplains became known and loved for their bringing of comfort, care and compassion to the troops.

In 1919 the King honoured the army chaplains by granting them the prefix 'Royal'.

The Second World War (1939-45) saw chaplains learning new skills like parachuting with the Airborne Forces. During those years of violence and turmoil, Royal Army Chaplains were everywhere, even sustaining captives in Far East prison camps and on the Burma-Siam railway.

*Continued on next page*

Since 1945, Royal Army Chaplains have continued to serve wherever British soldiers are sent. The wars may vary in shape and locations, but the need for care, compassion and prayer for the soldiers remains constant.

Currently the Royal Army Chaplains' Department looks like this:

- Chaplains are typically assigned to bases or units in sets of three, including Anglican, Catholic, and Non-Conformist chaplains.
- Chaplains are non-combatants and are not permitted to carry weapons.
- Four civilian chaplains minister to Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim soldiers.
- All chaplains are expected to provide pastoral care to any soldier, regardless of their faith or denomination.
- The ranks of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department are:

It has been said that: "Life as an Army Chaplain is a calling like no other...it is a vocation that is both demanding and rewarding and offers an adventurous journey of faith."

The current chaplain general, the Revd M Parker KHC CF says: "As chaplains, we have time for people and time to care for them. We celebrate with them. We listen to them when they're having problems. We are there for them in all of the challenges that they might face, whether on operations, serving at home or times of separation from their families.

"It may to us be the smallest example of our vocation - listening, comforting, advising, praying - but to those we serve, it can be a life changing encounter.

If the thought of a traditional joy-filled Christmas isn't for you this year,  
come and join us for:

## *A Quiet Christmas Space*

A short, peaceful service which shares the hope and light of Christmas in a gentle way. Christmas turned down a notch or two, for however you are feeling.

***Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 3pm at St Owen's Church Bromham***

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### **CMS training hits a new level**

The number of students entering the Church Mission Society (CMS) Pioneer Mission Training programme has this year risen to record levels, enhanced by the enrolment of a cohort of students from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

At a time when many Christian training colleges are struggling to attract new students, a total of 45 students enrolled for the CMS Pioneer Mission Training programme for the new academic year, spread over its undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral research courses.

CMS Pioneer Mission Training is now in its 14th year of helping prepare students for mission at the edges of society, with innovative and creative initiatives designed to engage people who fall outside the scope of traditional church programmes.

Bishop Martin Gordon, a CMS mission partner and the Bishop of Goma in Eastern Congo, said the group of Congolese men and women, who are aged between 27 and 45, are expected to become senior leaders in the Diocese.

Joseph Ola, African Christianity MA lecturer at CMS, said: "The Congolese cohort come with a burning desire to acquire practical knowledge that directly addresses the unique challenges they face, coming from a war-torn region. We are thrilled to welcome them, and confident that this training will equip them to develop transformative mission strategies for their communities."

More info at: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/pioneer>

*Parish Pump website*

Good sermons need not be long, and bad ones ought not to be. - *CH Spurgeon 1834- 1892\**

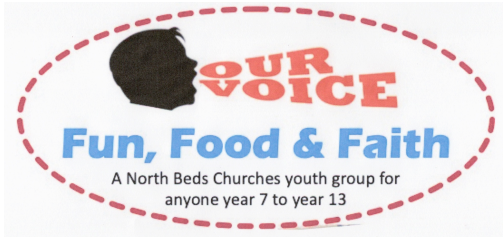
*\*English Baptist minister famed for his preaching*

Sudoku -  
Medium

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					6	7		4
6				9				

Solution on  
page 33

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**Next meeting**  
**Saturday 9 November**  
 5 - 6.30pm  
 The Fellowship Centre  
 Clapham  
 MK41 6ER

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

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## What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, "Does anyone know what the bishop does?" There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "He's the one you can move diagonally."

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

**OCTOBER 2024**

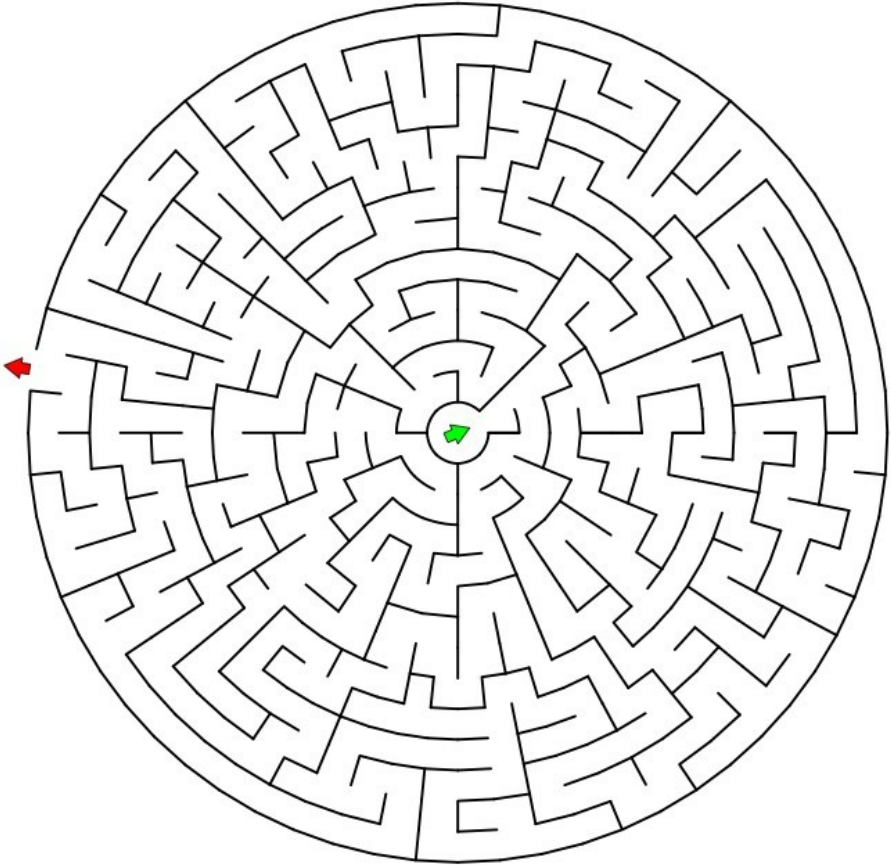
First Prize: Edward Jones

Second Prize: Katrina Louca

Third Prize: Doris Crocker

Fourth Prize: Flora Dawson

Can you find your way out from the middle?



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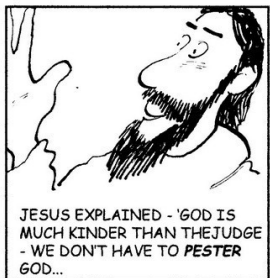
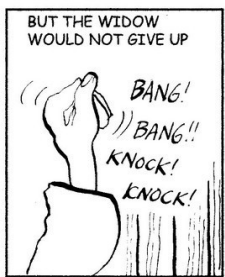
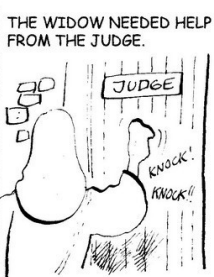
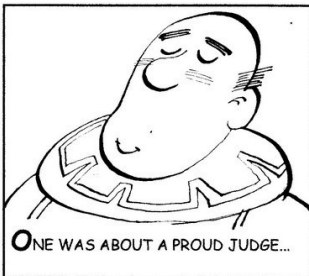
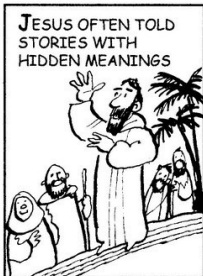

**Bible sense**

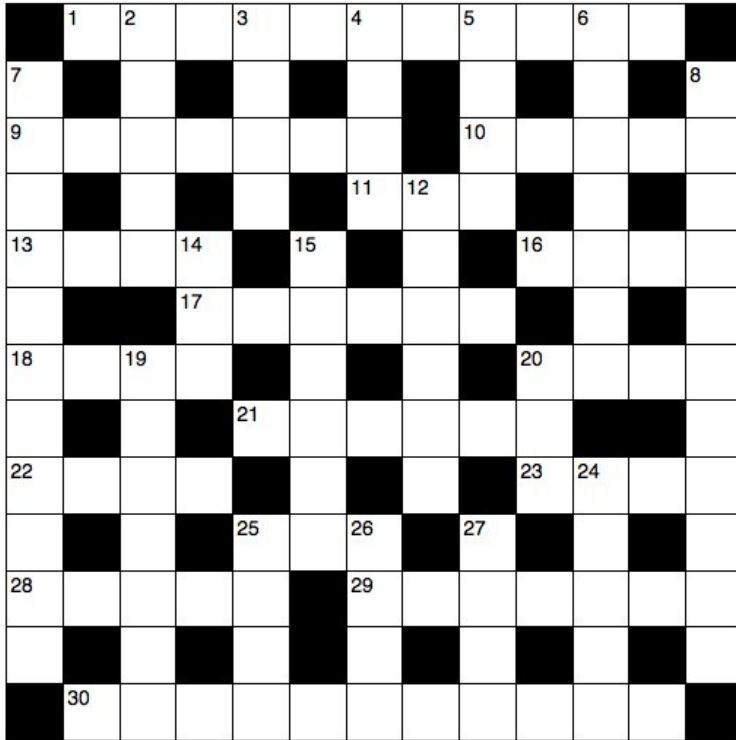
Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man's job, his wife replied simply: "2 Kings 21:13", and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: 'And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.'



For younger readers.....

The  
Tale of the  
The Widow  
and the  
Judge





Across

1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)

9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)

10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)

11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)

13 Taverns (4)

16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)

17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)

18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)

20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)

- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to —' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

*Solution on page 33*

## God in Music

*Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.*

### **‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: ‘Valiant-for-Truth’**

“What a composer has to do is to find out the real message he has to convey to the community and say it directly and without equivocation...if the roots of your art are firmly planted in your own soil, and that soil has anything individual to give you, you may still gain the whole world and not lose your own souls.” Those are words of the composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, from a lecture of 1932.

Over 90 years later, we rejoice that the message of his music still speaks to us from those deep roots, which included folksong, poetry and the heritage of Tudor composers, that nourished his own compositions. It is difficult to imagine church life and worship without his glowing hymn tunes of *Down Ampney* (‘Come down, O Love divine) and *Sine Nomine* (‘For all the saints’), without his rapturous settings of George Herbert and the mass, and without the Oxford Book of Carols, Songs of Praise and the English Hymnal of which he was the musical editor.

Vaughan Williams was born in 1872, the son of Margaret and Arthur, the vicar of Down Ampney in Gloucestershire. He began collecting folk songs and composing after studying in London. Although he made such an important contribution to Christian music, he remained an agnostic throughout his life, albeit an agnostic of great visionary fervour. Poetry and prose were powerful sources of inspiration, and he set Shakespeare, J M Synge, Edmund Spenser, Walt Whitman, and, for this month’s article, John Bunyan who was imprisoned in Bedford gaol in 1660 for his preaching.

*Continued on next page*

Confined to a cell for 12 years, Bunyan wrote a powerful allegory on the Christian journey, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It prompted several works by Vaughan Williams: a cantata, a large opera, and a short, but intense choral work, *Valiant-for-Truth*. The opera took more than 40 years to complete, and Vaughan Williams used the name Pilgrim for the hero, rather than Bunyan's Christian, for he wanted the work to speak to people of all beliefs. Within that long period of germination, he focussed on one particular pilgrim, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, in a motet composed in 1940 on the death of a friend, Dorothy Longman.

The motet is certainly not as well-known and well-loved as one of his more popular works, *The Lark Ascending* of 1914. There the music traces the journey of the bird as its flight weaves ever higher and higher, dissolving into the shimmering skies above. The motet is a much surer pilgrimage that arrives at the Eternal City. It is a glorious piece of word painting. We hear the hero telling his friends that the final stage of the journey has arrived. He gives away his sword, his courage and his skill, but he keeps the scars of life to witness to his discipleship. As he crosses the river of death, the music moves magically from major to minor. The trumpets begin to sound, quietly and distantly to begin with, but growing louder and louder, as they welcome him to the other side, when the fanfares in Bb major move triumphantly to the final G major.

In this month of All Souls, we remember with thanksgiving all those who like Mr Valiant-for-Truth, have crossed that river to reach the heavenly Jerusalem. We pray for that quality of valour for truth in our own pilgrimage, and we give thanks for the remarkable vision of truth, and its companions, beauty and goodness, that we find in the music of Vaughan Williams.

## All in the month of November

It was:

250 years ago, on 22 Nov 1774 that Robert Clive, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Clive (Clive of India), died. He was the British general who helped found the British Empire in India.

150 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1874 that Thomas Hardy's novel *Far from the Madding Crowd* was published. It was his first major success.

100 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1924 that the first crossword puzzle to appear in a British newspaper was published in the Sunday Express.

Also 100 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1924 that Giacomo Puccini, Italian composer, died. Known for his operas, including *La Boheme*, *Tosca* and *Madame Butterfly*.

90 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1934 that the British steam locomotive, *Flying Scotsman*, became the first train officially to reach 100 mph.

80 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1944 that the British RAF bombed and sank the German battleship *Tirpitz*, sister ship of the *Bismark*, off Norway.

70 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1954 that the first Rugby League World Cup Final was held, in Paris, France. Great Britain beat France 16 – 12.

65 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1959 that the first stretch of the M1 motorway opened in Britain. Britain's first motorway service station also opened at Watford Gap.

60 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1964 that the Second Vatican Council

allowed the use of vernacular languages (such as English) in Roman Catholic sacraments and rituals, including the Mass. It had insisted on using only Latin for several hundred years. Most people welcomed the change, and the use of Latin quickly dwindled.

50 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1974 that South African heart surgeon Dr Christian Barnard performed the world's first double heart transplant. The original heart was left in place and a donor heart was connected to it to support its workload.

40 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1984 that 36 musicians gathered in London to record the Band Aid single *Do They Know It's Christmas* to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia.

30 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1994 that the first fare-paying passengers travelled through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.

Also 30 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 1994 that Britain's first National Lottery draw was held.

25 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1999 that the Northern Ireland Assembly appointed its first power sharing executive committee.

10 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2014 that the One World Trade Center officially opened in New York City. It replaced the World Trade Center that was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

Also 10 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014 that P D James, British novelist, died. Best known for her crime novels featuring the detective, Adam Dalgliesh. *Parish Pump website*



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## Answers to Quiz on St Luke's Gospel (page 14)

1. Gabriel (Luke 1:18-19)
2. Simeon (Luke 2:25-26)
3. Widow's son (Luke 7:11-17)
4. Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
5. Three (Luke 11:5-6)
6. Rich fool (Luke 12:13-21)
7. Herod (Luke 13:31-32)
8. Salt (Luke 14:34-35)
9. On his shoulders (Luke 15:5)  
Ten (Luke 15:8)  
His inheritance (Luke 15:11-13)
10. Wasting goods (Luke 16:1)
11. Abraham's (Luke 16:19-22)
12. Priests (Luke 17:11-14)

Solution to puzzle on  
page 22

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

Solution to puzzle  
on page 26

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

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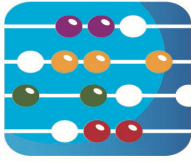
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