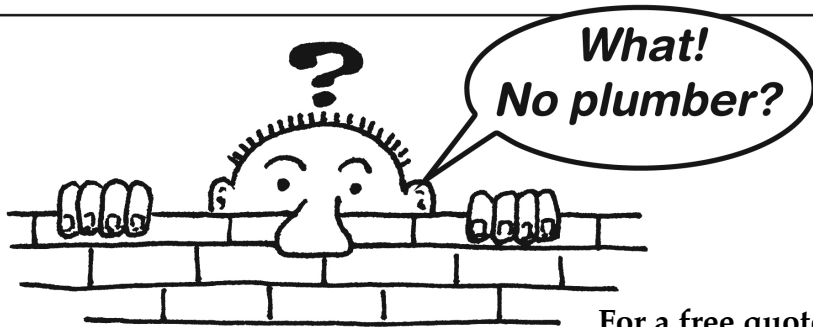


Church News
for the Parishes of
Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



October 2024



*Need a plumber at any time?
 Today that could be a crime,
 But not with my competitive rates,
 I'll soon get you out of a state.*

*Need an new bathroom, or washing machine fitted?
 Just call on me – I'm very well kitted.
 Need central heating or just a tap washer changed?
 Give me a ring and get it arranged.*

**For a free quote
 contact:
 P J Bartram
 25 Bedford Road
 Clapham
 MK41 6EJ**

**Tel:
 07785 716716**

Auction Sales & Valuations

Valuation, collection and auction service
 of individual items through to complete
 property and commercial clearances.

Call for a free no obligation quote or
 email info@peacockauction.co.uk

SALE ENTRIES NOW INVITED

Antique & Modern Furniture • Clocks • Books • Ceramics & Glassware • Pictures & Prints • Bicycles
 Jewellery & Watches • Collectables • Garage Tools & Equipment • Household Electrical Items • Office
 Furniture & Equipment • Retail Products & Stock • Vehicles • Horticultural & Commercial Equipment
 Building Materials • Garden Furniture & Effects

www.peacockauction.co.uk



W&H PEACOCK
 AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS
01234 266366



Eastcotts Park,
 Wallis Way,
 Bedford,
 MK42 0PE

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

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org

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

Clergy:

Vicar: Revd Catherine Wilson 825665
vicar@bromhambenefice.org
Assistant Priest: Revd Di Harpham 918691
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
	 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	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>6th October</u>	<u>19th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
10.30am	All Age Harvest Service (Bromham)*
10.30am	LEP Harvest Service (Oakley Methodist)*
4.00pm	Wild Church (Bromham Scout Site)

*Both services followed by communal lunch

<u>13th October</u>	<u>20th Sunday after Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
3.00pm	Remembering Service (Bromham)
6.00pm	Evensong (Oakley) <i>NB Change of venue</i>

<u>20th October</u>	<u>21st Sunday after Trinity / St Luke</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
3.00pm	Remembering Service (Oakley)

<u>27th October</u>	<u>Last Sunday of Trinity</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham) 
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)
3.00pm	Remembering Service (Stagsden)

 Both services attended by Bishop Richard

Weekday Services

Mondays

11.30am Messy Church (Bromham)

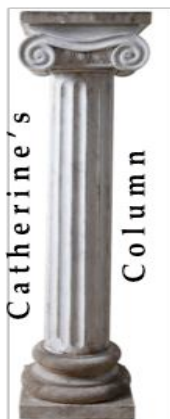
Tuesdays (1st and 3rd of the month)

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)



From the Vicarage

October is a month of transition – it often starts with a final reminder of summer as we enjoy some warm sunshine, but by the end of it the clocks have gone back and the mornings are chilly, damp and misty as winter approaches.

At the beginning of the month we are celebrating Harvest and rejoicing in God's ample provision for us, but as the weeks go past and the leaves fall from the trees the world outside looks a bit bare and lifeless.

It is a time to be thankful as we look back at the times we've enjoyed being outside in the summer, thankful for the people we've been able to spend time with, and for those who work to produce, harvest and store the food we will need during the winter, and thankful for all God's blessings to us day by day. It's great to sing the Harvest hymns and remember that 'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above'.

In our Benefice we have the opportunity too to give thanks for those we loved who have died, whether recently or many years ago. Our annual services of Remembering and Thanksgiving (one in each church during October) are open to everyone who would like to come; they offer space and time in our often-busy lives to be still and reflect, pray and be thankful.

Yet even as the days get shorter and we prepare for the cold, dark winter months, it's good to recall that there's plenty to look forward to, and be grateful for all that is to come. In the short term, Christmas is coming and the shops have had festive food and cards on sale for some weeks already. We look forward to the lights, the festivities, the food and the carols (and if that's something you dread rather than look forward to then look out for our 'Blue Christmas' service in December).

We also know that the seeds that will bring new life next Spring have already been produced by the plants and trees, and are lying dormant in the ground ready for the warm weather to reappear. The countryside and our gardens may seem lifeless, but the seeds are there, and we will soon see the signs of new growth once again.

And in Church this past year seeds of faith have been sown as babies have been baptised in our churches, and we have welcomed families to Messy Church and Messy Church PLUS; and we start a new Alpha course on Sunday Sept 29th at 6pm in St Owen's Fellowship Room. We pray that we'll see signs of new life growing from the seeds sown at all of these events and others.

So as October turns us away from summer and towards winter once again, we are grateful for all that has been, and thank God that he holds the future too.

'I trust in you O Lord... my times are in your hand' Psalm 32
v15

Catherine Wilson



Next meeting - **Thursday 10th October**

at St Owen's Fellowship Room

2.30 - 4.30pm

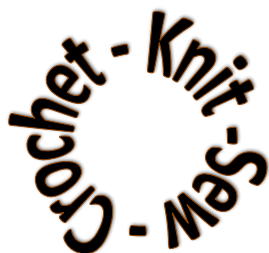
'Neighbourhood Watch' by Bromham Rep

Karen Sharp

For further details

contact Tessa Woodcock

01234 340089



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

First Friday Coffee Mornings

Next coffee morning on Fri 4 October

11am- 1pm

in St Owen's Fellowship Room, Bromham.

Donations to Bishop's Harvest Appeal

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

Next month: donations to pancreatic cancer



St Owen's Church Cleaning

Saturday 26th October

Be part of the Gang!

Any time you can spare between 9.30 - 12.30

St Owen's Church Bazaar

Sunday 27th October

12 noon to 16.00 hrs

Light lunches

Raffle

Chocolate tombola

Many other stalls

Further details next month

Harvest Lunch

Sunday 6th October

at St Owen's Fellowship Room

after morning service

Instead of a 'Bring & Share' this lunch

is provided for you at £5 per head

More information:

Vivien Butler - 407351



*The Right Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring
Bishop of Hertford*



During this Season of Creation, around 45 people joined the Bishop of Hertford, the new MP for North East Hertfordshire, Chris Hinchcliff, and the Vicar of Stotfold and Radwell on a Chalk River Pilgrimage Protest from Ivel Springs in Baldock to Radwell on 8 September.

At five prayer points along the River Ivel, the walkers lamented the over-abstraction of water from the Ivel Springs, prayed for our failings in the use of water, and asked for God's blessing on the river and the wider environment.

The event, a joint effort by All Saints Radwell and RevIvel—a local group dedicated to protecting the Ivel and advocating for change from the water company—attracted members from



Continued on next page

St Mary's Stotfold and St Mary's Baldock.

After the pilgrimage, participants enjoyed refreshments and a service where Bishop Jane preached.

The River Ivel is one of only 250 rare chalk streams in the world. These pure waters are home to rare plants, fish, and animals, and are considered the equivalent of England's Amazon rainforests or coral reefs. The Upper Ivel River, which once supported four mills, a trout fishery, and a watercress industry, has been reduced to a trickle in places.

Commenting after the event, the Bishop of Hertford, the Rt Revd Jane Mainwaring, commented:

"Walking together along the River Ivel, we experienced both its beauty and its fragility. This pilgrimage was a good way to reflect together on the importance of our local environment, particularly our waterways, and to encourage each of us to play a part in safeguarding these rare and precious chalk streams."

Speaking about the purpose of the pilgrimage, the Revd Bill Britt said:

"In the prayers we stop and say in our pilgrimage along the River Ivel, we lament when we waste water and cry out for water justice. We want the water company to stop extracting water by boreholes and the stream to return to being a river, a wonder of God's creation it once was, full of brown trout."

The Christian Journey

The new birth is a change of direction and change of affection. It's a union of the soul with Christ. Christ comes to you through the Holy Spirit, and you become a partaker of God's life. - *Billy Graham*

Harvest at St Owen's

Decorating St Owens Church for Harvest will take place on **Saturday 5th October 2024** 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

We continue our occasional series looking at the stories BEHIND some of our favourite hymns.

HYMN: The story behind ... Come Ye Thankful People Come

*Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!*

*We ourselves are God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be....*

By H Alford (1810 – 71)

Continued on next page

Very probably, you will sing this well-loved Harvest hymn this month. It was written by the Revd Henry Aldford, DD, a Victorian clergyman who had been a fellow student at Trinity College, Cambridge with Alfred Tennyson, and whose transparent goodness and friendliness seem to have made him liked and appreciated wherever he went.

His ministry began as vicar of Wymeswold, a tiny village in Leicestershire with a badly neglected church. Over 18 years, Henry rebuilt the faltering Christian community, faithfully visiting every person in his parish, and preaching his way through the Bible in sermons that were so clear that everyone could understand him. He then moved on to the incumbency of Quebec Chapel in London for four years, before moving to the Deanery of Canterbury, in 1857, where he lived until his death in early 1871.

Henry was one of life's good people; gentle, kindly, grateful for everything he had (he used to say 'grace' before AND after each meal), and eager to encourage all those whom he served. He was prodigiously productive: writing something like 50 books. The best known of these was a four-volume exposition of the New Testament, which took him nearly 20 years.

His famous hymn draws upon two of Jesus' parables: the story of the wheat and tares (Mt 13:24-30) and also the story of the seed that grows unbeknown to the sower (Mark 4:26-29). Both are parables drawn from agriculture; both are about the ultimate harvest of our souls before God. During this lifetime we properly give thanks to God for our harvest of His gifts of creation, but we should also reflect on what seed we are sowing in our lives, and what harvest we may expect; as one day God will gather together *only His own* for the eternal heavenly harvest.

Parish Pump website

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: Mark

Mark is the second of the synoptic gospels, along with Matthew and Luke. Traditionally this gospel is ascribed to John Mark, a close associate of Peter. It was written for Gentile readers, probably in Rome during Nero's persecution of the church (c AD 64-7).

Mark unveils Jesus' public ministry with the words: *'the beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God'* (1:1). The gospel provides a succinct and vivid account of Jesus' ministry, concentrating on what Jesus did rather than what He said. Mark moves quickly from one episode to another, often using the word *'immediately'* which is characteristic of his gospel.

For Mark, understanding the true identity of Jesus is fundamental to his gospel. Jesus asks the disciples, *'Who do people say I am?'* (8:27), to which Peter replies, *'You are the Christ'*. This is evident in Jesus' role as teacher, the call for discipleship and the account of Jesus' death and resurrection, which occupies the last third of the gospel.

A key verse which helps us to understand the nature of Jesus' mission and how we might live in the light of it is: *'Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'* (10:44,45). As the Suffering Servant, Jesus gave His life on the cross, that we might know and share his love.

Mark is understandably in a hurry to tell us about Jesus: the

one who reveals the truth of God to us, that we might live in reality not ignorance!

Now try this Quiz on Mark's Gospel

1. *Who is the first prophet quoted in the Gospel of Mark?*

Jeremiah, Isaiah, or Hosea

2. *In whose house did Jesus dine with publicans and sinners?*

Peter, John, or Levi

3. *On what day did the disciples pluck ears of corn, much to the anger of the Pharisees?*

Sabbath, Day of Atonement, or first day of the week

4. *What sin does Jesus say is unforgivable?*

Greed, murder, or blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

5. *Where was Jesus when He taught the parable of the sower?*

In a boat, on a mountain, or in the temple

6. *Which relation of Jairus did Jesus heal?*

Nephew, daughter, or mother

7. *What did Jesus tell the Twelve to shake off their feet if people refused to hear the gospel message?*

Spiders, dust, or hay

8. *At the feeding of the 5,000, how many fish did they have?*

6,4, or 2

9. *Complete the quote: "This people honours me with their ____ but their heart is far from me."*

Ears, lips, or hands

10. *What are believers told to "take up" if they are to follow Jesus?*

Their cross, their money, or their faith

Answers on page 33



'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

Miscellaneous one-liners

To get out of a difficulty, one usually must go through it.

We take for granted the things that we should be giving thanks for.

For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back.

Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have, and where you are.

From the Registers

Baptisms:

15th Sept Tommy Patrick Nicholson (Bromham)

Weddings:

28th Sept Jemma Webb & John Cooper (Bromham)

28th Sept Kate Hollands & James Day (Stagsden)

Crematorium Service:

20th Sept June Cicco (Bromham)

Curious about Faith?

Come and find out more at Alpha!



- St Owen's Fellowship Room
- Sunday evenings in October & November
[check www.bromhambenefice.org for changes]
- 6pm – 8pm
- Enjoy a meal followed by a video
- Opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, listen to others
- All welcome

Why not invite a friend to come too?

Remembering Desmond Tutu



Forty years ago, on 16th October 1984, the South African Anglican, Bishop Desmond Tutu won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the opposition to apartheid.

Born into a Methodist family in Transvaal in 1931, Tutu first went into teaching, but after three years retired in protest at the deteriorating standard of black education, in particular the discriminatory Bantu Education Act of 1953. Instead, he went into the church, enrolling at St Peter's Theological College in Johannesburg and becoming an Anglican priest, then studying theology at King's College, London.

In 1975 he became the first black person to hold the position of Dean of St Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg, following this by becoming Bishop of Lesotho and then in 1978 the first black General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

Regarded by many as a prophet in the liberation theology sense of the word – someone challenging power – Tutu became Archbishop of Cape Town in 1986, therefore the leader of South Africa's 1.6 million Anglicans. Always a pacifist, he was already one of the most prominent voices calling for sanctions on the apartheid regime from the international community.

On the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990 after 27 years, when South Africa moved towards democracy, he saw his country as "the Rainbow Nation". Mandela responded by making him Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995.

Continued on next page

Exhilarated by a new vision for the future of South Africa, he described himself as “on cloud nine” when the election results came in 1994. He planned the religious component of Mandela’s inauguration ceremony, including Jewish, Muslim and Hindu leaders.

Tutu’s Nobel Prize medal was stolen in June 2007 from his home in Johannesburg, but was recovered a week later.

Tim Lenton - Parish Pump website



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or we can't afford to service the boiler for the Winter season"

Edward the Confessor – and Westminster Abbey

If you approve of giving money to help cathedrals survive, then Edward the Confessor (1003 – 66) is the saint for you. This early King of England (remembered by the Church on 13th October) was the virtual founder of Westminster Abbey. And never mind entrance charges - at one point in his life, Edward was giving a full tenth of his income to Westminster Abbey.

Edward was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his second, Norman wife, Emma. After various ups and downs which included a brief exile in Normandy, Edward was made King of England in 1042.

As King, Edward had a tricky time of it – trying to keep the peace for over 20 years while various Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power (which eventually led to the Norman Conquest). Scholars have argued over how much of a success he was as a king.

As a Christian, there is no doubt: Edward's holiness was evident to all. He made himself accessible to his people, he was generous to the poor, and chaste. He was also reputed to have seen visions and even achieved miraculous cures for people through prayer.

Edward did much to help the Church in many ways. His lasting contribution was the original Westminster Abbey - a huge Romanesque church, 300 feet long, with a nave of 12 bays. Westminster Abbey became the place of coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. It was finished and consecrated just before his death. Edward was buried there, and his relics are undisturbed to this day.

During the Middle Ages, Edward was a very popular saint: along with Edmund of East Anglia he was widely considered to be England's patron saint for a time.

Editor: by the Dr Peter Brierley, a church statistician

Women in church leadership

Women are increasingly represented in church leadership across many denominations.

Some have had women in leadership right from the start, like the Salvation Army, while the Roman Catholics and the Orthodox still have none. The Church of England ordained women in 1994, and since then their numbers have increased every year since 2000.

The average percentage of women clergy across denominational groups and the year range of 2000 to 2020 shows that in 2000 it was 14% and by 2020 it was 22%. In numbers, this has been an increase of about 630 more women priests year on year, spread across all these denominations.

Very broadly, research shows women are often preferred for pastoral and community care by 'those in the pew', while men tend to be seen as better administrators. But for competence in leadership, communication and foresight, gender is not usually a significant variable – age is seen as more important.

Pew-sheet notices that didn't come out quite right...

Worshippers are asked to wail, until the choir has been served Holy Communion.

Our visiting monster today is the Revd Jack Bains.

After Sunday morning coffee, please empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Church toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

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

If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Sudoku -

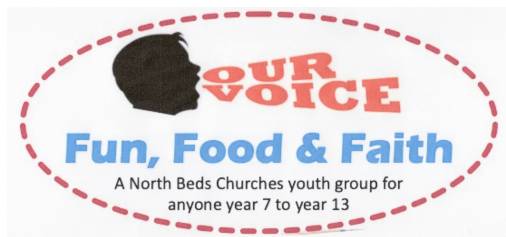
Medium

Solution on

page 33

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com



Next meeting
Saturday 12th October
 5 - 6.30pm
 The Fellowship Centre
 Clapham
 MK41 6ER

contact us at ourvoicetoo@gmail.com

Looking for a new home:-

Greenhouse 6'x 8' aluminium and glass construction

View by appointment 823387

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

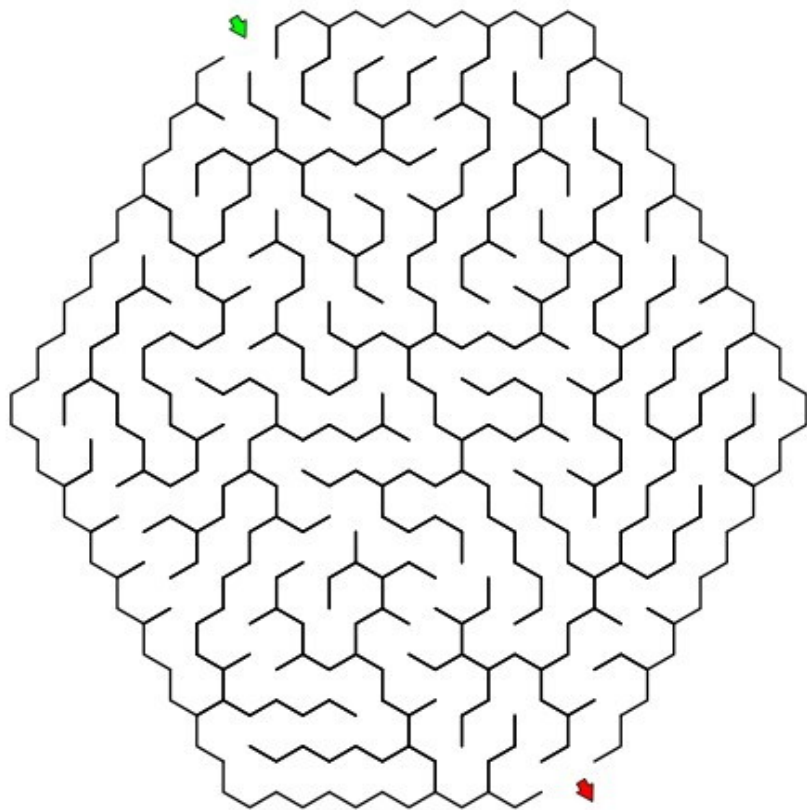
AUGUST

David Butler 1st
 Edward Jones 2nd
 Pauline Vincent 3rd
 Margaret Inegbedion 4th

SEPTEMBER

Julie Stanley
 Kathy Churchman
 Lorna Holland
 Gill Sheen

Can you find your way from top to bottom?

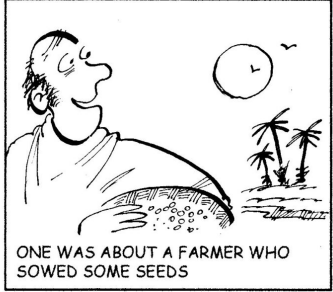


Growing up

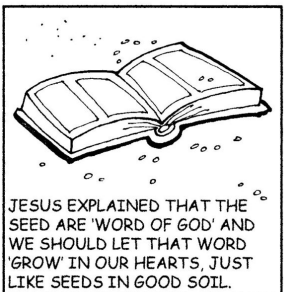
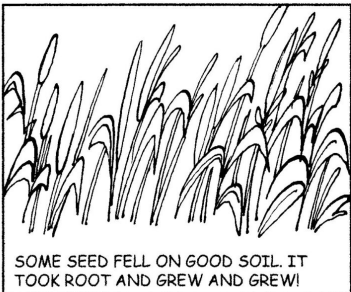
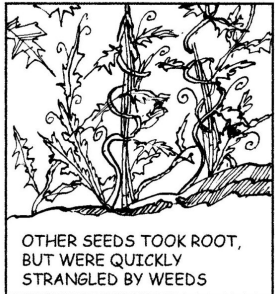
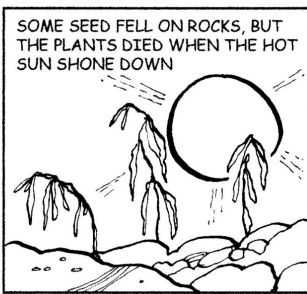
Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

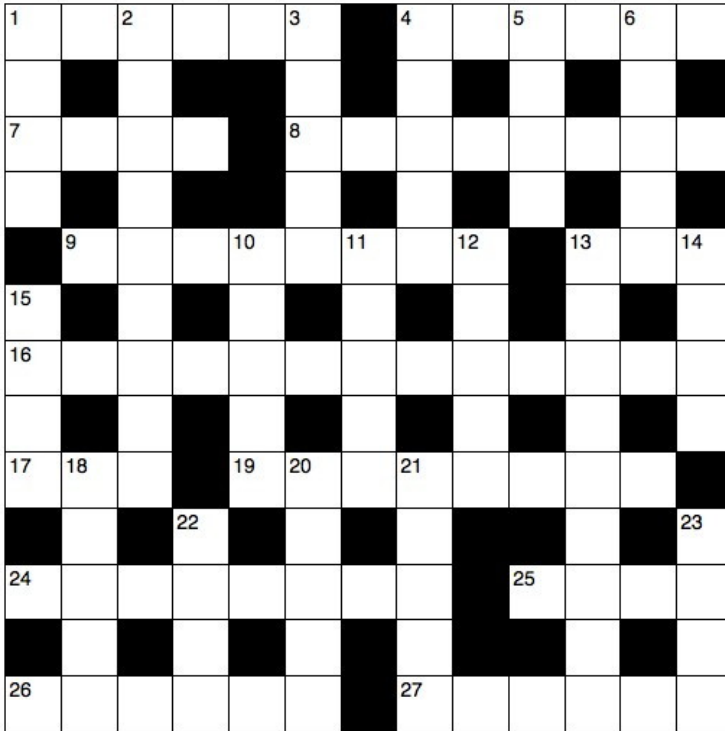
For younger readers.....

the
PARABLE
of the
SOWER



THE FARMER HOPED THEY WOULD TAKE ROOT JUST
WHERE THEY LANDED





Across

1 He must be ‘the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well’ (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)

4 ‘For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)

7 ‘They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end’ (Psalm 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

16 ‘He has sent me to bind up the — ’ (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Solution on page 33



Rood screen Painting at St. Mary's Church, Oakley

We had a request from Dr. David Griffith to come and see this painting. He is a senior lecturer in Medieval art at Birmingham University. Apparently, this is the only painting like this in England. The painting is very dark so not many people look at it. It depicts Christ sitting on a rainbow above the world. David says he will send us more information after doing more research. He is a very busy dedicated man. Recently he came to us as he was visiting 5 churches in the area.

Definitions

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a church service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.



General Household Maintenance
• General Garden Maintenance •
Grass Cutting • Hedge Cutting •
Turfing • Fencing • Shed &
Playhouse Repairs • Guttering
Cleaned & Repaired •
Decorating Preparation Internal
& External Painting Internal &
External • Labouring Services

For a free quote or advice, any job considered, please call
Paul Sheen: T.01234 349938 M.07925 382297

STUART PAUL SAVAGE

ALL

PAINTING AND DECORATING &
BATHROOMS & PLUMBING

01234 855780

MOBILE 07766145612

M.J.NICHOLSON

Grass Cutting &

Gardening Contractor

(Established 1968)

Wootton based: available in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden

Telephone: (01234) 766306 or 07759 630291

Editor: *The Revd Peter Crumpler is a former communications director with the Church of England, and author of [‘Responding to Post-truth’](#) (Grove Books).*

How can Christians fight back against disinformation?

Disinformation and fake news have helped fuel the recent riots and disorder taking place across parts of the UK. It’s just the latest example of how social media can impact all of our lives.

Media campaigning charity [Full Fact](#) declared “The disorder we’ve seen, triggered at least in part by false claims circulating on social media, is an awful reminder of what can happen when online misinformation spills into the real world.”

But how can Christians fight back against the tide of disinformation and fake news sweeping across the internet, and arriving at the smartphone in your hand? It’s easy to feel powerless against the pervasive impact of social media, the algorithms of big tech serving up information that confirms inbuilt biases, or the ‘influencers’ seeking to use social media to wind up their followers. Elon Musk, the owner of X/Twitter is among those accused of stoking the fires of division in the UK.

But each of us has a voice within our own circle of friends, family, colleagues, and worshippers at our church, so here are some simple steps:

First, *don’t share without thinking.* It’s easy simply to share on social media or tell a friend something that you have just read online or in print. But take a few minutes to think over what you have just read or heard. Slow down your response...

Ask yourself: is this from a reliable news source? Can I check this information on another media platform? Slowing down our responses makes it much less likely that we will share fake

news or spread disinformation. If in doubt, then don't spread the story — even if you would like it to be true, because of your worldview.

Second, burst your bubble. Journalist James Ball writes: “Knowing what people we disagree with actually say and think — rather than the straw men and caricatures we create in our heads — helps us bridge gaps and makes it harder to demonize people whose politics are different from our own.”

In social media, this means being willing to follow people or organisations with which you disagree, and being ready to engage with what they are saying. It may be uncomfortable, and it may not change your point of view, but you will understand better the views that they are expressing – and maybe sharpen your own.

Otherwise, you just see opinions that echo your own, and are never challenged about your viewpoint. The algorithms will keep serving you up posts that you like...

Third, don't succumb to conspiratorial thinking. Full Fact reports that an incorrect name for the suspect in the Southport killings spread rapidly online, alongside false claims he had recently come to the UK on a small boat, or was Syrian. These claims were quickly rebutted by Merseyside Police. But nevertheless, unrest broke out in Southport, with the police reportedly saying people behind the violence had been fired up by social media posts.

As seekers after truth, Christians should be looking for evidence and robust investigations rather than fabricated ideas that intrigue us.

Fourth, support independent journalism. News organisations are under pressure from free material offered on the internet from unreliable sources. If independent

journalism is to survive, readers are likely to have to pay an increasing price to support media outlets. The cover price of a newspaper, or an online subscription, can help ensure professional journalism survives. Journalists launching community publications to serve their local areas should be supported by churches.

Fifth, take a stand against disinformation. US academic Dr Lee McIntyre writes: “The issue for me is not to learn how to adjust to living in a world in which facts do not matter, but instead to stand up for the notion of truth and learn how to fight back.”

In an era of post-truth, Christians are called to challenge every attempt to obfuscate a fact and challenge falsehoods before they are accepted as true. How you take action will depend on your circumstances, and where you see the truth being undermined.

It could be in your place of work or education, in the media that you consume, or in the social media posts that your friends are circulating. Small actions taken in churches, workplaces or friendship groups can have a ripple effect in drawing people back to the truth.

Post-truth, fake news, and disinformation together pose a serious threat to societies around the world. Citizens can feel powerless in the face of their demoralising and demotivating effects. But Christians can play their part in seeking to bring truth and integrity back into the centre of public life.

A final thought. Don't be afraid to take a step back from social media, if you find the relentless torrent of news and opinion impacting your wellbeing. For the sake of your mental health, take regular breaks away from your screen...and invest that time in prayer.

Revd Peter Crumpler

Fish

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.



Answers to the Quiz on page 15

1. Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3)
2. Levi (Mark 2:14-15)
3. Sabbath (Mark 2:23)
4. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:28)
5. In a boat (Mark 4:1)
6. Daughter (Mark 5:22-23)
7. Dust (Mark 6:11)
8. 2 (Mark 6:38)
9. Lips (Mark 7:6)
10. Their cross (Mark 8:34)

Solution to puzzle on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle on page 26

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

Fellowship Room at St Owen's Church

Your Parish Church
in Bromham Park
Offers for Hire
our smart meeting room
from £12 per hour
with optional use of kitchen
Contact Edward on
01234 826551 or at
stowenshire@gmail.com



OAKLEY RURAL DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY

*The Old School, Lovell Road, Oakley,
MK43 7RX*

Charity Number: 1060283

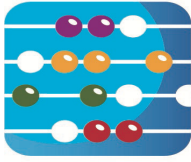
We provide a fun filled day of activities, games and good old conversation.

Day includes refreshments and a two course lunch. Whether you live in Oakley, Bromham or Stagsden you can be sure of a warm welcome at any of our sessions.

For details contact Lynne Tuesday to Thursday on
01234 824935 or **Mobile: 07733 227374**

Website: www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com

Email: oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com



JVCA

The friendly accountants

- Tax Saving Specialists
- Financial Accounts
- Management Accounts
- Business Start-Up Advice
- Inheritance Tax
- Payroll Services
- Bookkeeping and VAT
- Personal Tax Returns
- Business Consultancy
- Estate Planning

"Just what every business needs"

Please contact us for a free one hour consultation to find out how we can help you and your business.

114 High Street, Cranfield, Beds, MK43 0DG.

Tel: 01234 752 566 / 01908 616 104 Email: info@jvca.co.uk

Website: www.jvca.co.uk

the
café

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

Visit

www.peacockscafe.co.uk
for more details on our opening
hours and to view our full menu.

W&H PEACOCK
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

The Cafe at W&H Peacock is **OPEN**

View the salerooms for our upcoming auctions and then relax with a coffee and a slice of cake.

Our unique cafe in Bedford Auction Centre with free wi-fi comfortably seats over 100 customers. We serve cooked breakfasts, paninis and sandwiches, light lunches and snacks plus a range of hot and cold drinks.



HAPPY PLACE, RESTORED

If you love your lawn,
you'll love GreenThumb.
Our year-round treatments
will give your grass
the TLC it deserves,
so you get a lawn you
can feel good about.



GreenThumb
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

Discover more at greenthumb.co.uk



Bedford & Huntingdon

01234 709345 or 01480 597432 bedford@greenthumb.co.uk

R P TESTA

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED

Est. 1992

A LOCAL RELIABLE SERVICE WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

All General Plumbing requirements and full design & installation for:

- Central Heating inc. LPG
- Bathrooms inc. tiling
- Under floor Heating
- Gas fires/hobs etc.
- Unvented hot water



For help and advice call :

01234 781827

07793527386

www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk