

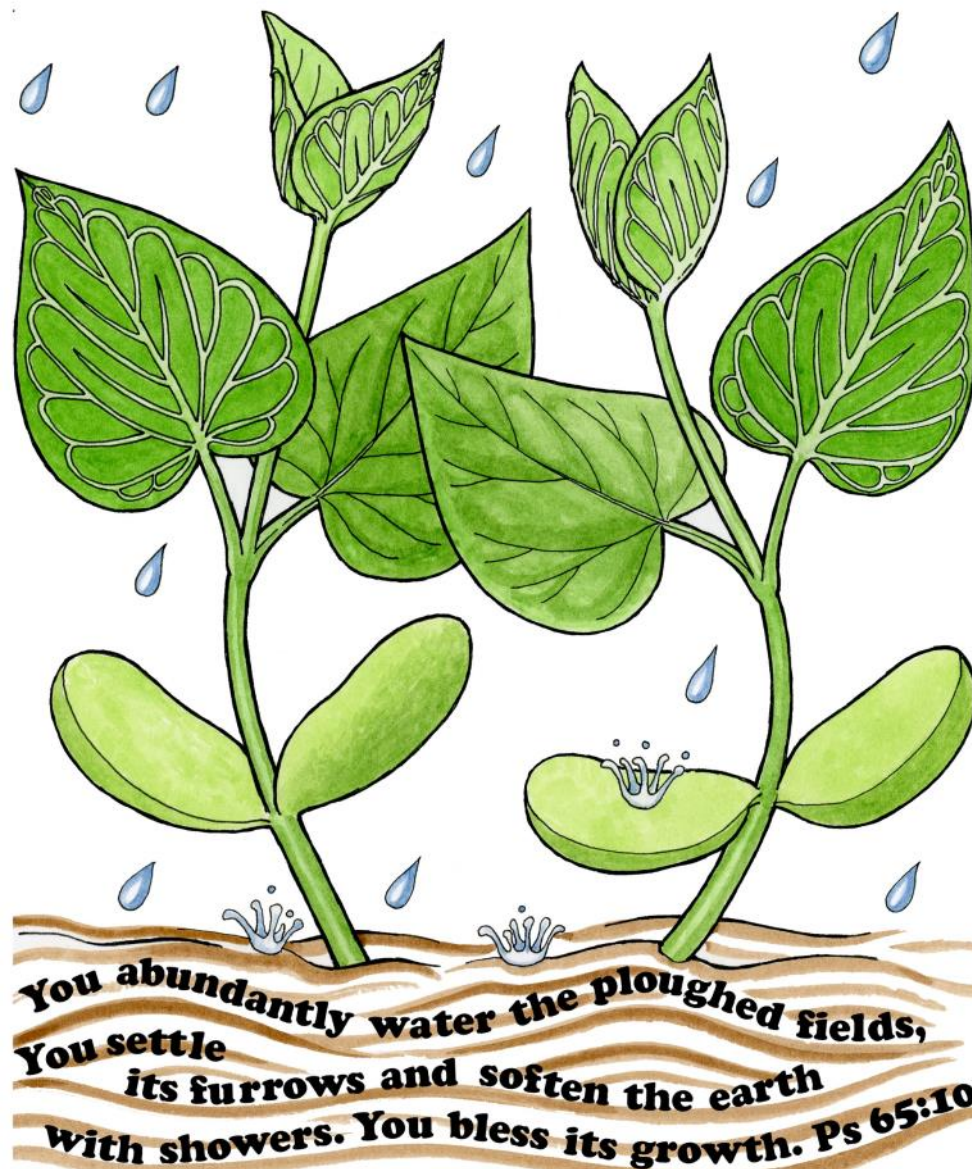
the KEY

Number 244

April 2024

50p

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News of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

Church Road Bromley BR2 OEG

"Proclaiming the Word and Work of God"

Member of Churches Together in Central Bromley



Dedicated to the memory of Martin Cleveland who wrote several articles for the Key amongst the many other things he contributed to our community.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Vicar

Reverend James Harratt

vicar@bromleyparishchurch.org

Anna Chaplain

Reverend Sophie Sutherland

07962 156673

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Contact: Lynn Hedges, Parish Administrator

administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org

Contributions/suggestions for the Key

thekeyeditor@gmail.com

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the April edition of the Key!

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

With love,

Lisa



Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury

In his Presidential Address at the February sessions of the General Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke of the suffering across the world. The following are some short extracts from his address:

“In September 2023, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General the United Nations declared the world is coming off its hinges. How should we the followers of Jesus Christ respond?

“Church of England Bishops at consecration commit to all sorts of things, some probable, some improbable, but they don't commit to suffer. By contrast, the Chaldean Church tells its Bishops that they will be the first to suffer...

“And to add to what the Secretary General of the United Nations said, as Lord Cameron said recently, when he looks around at the world today as Foreign Secretary, all the lights are flashing red. We live in a world of suffering. And unlike in the past, it is a world where we are aware of the suffering.

“In Europe, the Ukrainian Russian war is frozen. And the suffering of the people in Ukraine has increased, not least because it has been replaced as the principal concern by the havoc and horror of the Levant and all that is going on in that area.

“But there is much more. Sudan... Myanmar... northeast India... the South Pacific... the Philippines... Korea... Pakistan... Nigeria... Mozambique ...

“Pope Francis a few months ago described what is already happening as a third world war. Right or wrong, he is describing a state of global uncertainty and great change.

“Like all such periods, minorities are blamed for uncertainties, conspiracies are assumed where there is uncontrollability and leaders are criticised where the future is hard to see.

“In 1939, George Bell wrote an article on the behaviour of the Church in a time of war. 'What should the Church do in a time of war?' it was entitled.

“His simple conclusion was that the right strategy... is to be even more the Church. We must be even more the Church with all our challenges and difficulties and as we work through them ...

“Suffering and enemies are faced best in communities that trust across divides, rather than in self protecting, and reinforcing huddles, because the very act of trusting across the divides builds our resilience and our ability to see the best in others...

“At the end of April, we will have a meeting of primates of the Anglican Communion in Rome. There we will look at what the Communion could do to remain in a variable geometry of unity, but also an unvarying commitment of love in Christ. Those two expressions vary in geometry of unity and unvarying commitment of love in Christ offer us all a way forward in holy obedience to God.

“God is our refuge. God is our refuge, not our politics and our organisations. They are realities of any structured life, of any institution, they're not evils, but God is our refuge, they never will be.

“God is greater than our fears, than our enemies and in our failures. God is unbreakably faithful to covenant and promise. When that is our comfort and peace, then in this world, at this time, off its hinges, we can in all our troubles, be truly the Church we should be, truly God's Church in God's world.

3rd April - Richard of Chichester, wanting to see more clearly, dearly and nearly

Ever wonder where the prayer ... *'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day'* comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3rd April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: *"Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day."*

Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

Three hundred years ago, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...

The Nile turned blood red (Hapi)

Frogs (Heket)

Gnats (Geb)

Swarms (Khepri)

Death of livestock (Hathor)

Boils and sores (Sekhmet)

Hail (Seth and Nut)

Locusts (Nepri)

Darkness (Ra)

.. but Pharaoh still said 'No!'

God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them..

Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.

That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.

The Hebrews left Egypt...

but Pharaoh followed with his army.

Egyptian army

Hebrew People

Reed Sea

Gulf of Suez

The Hebrews were trapped by the Reed Sea..

God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians..

and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across..

.. but as the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back.

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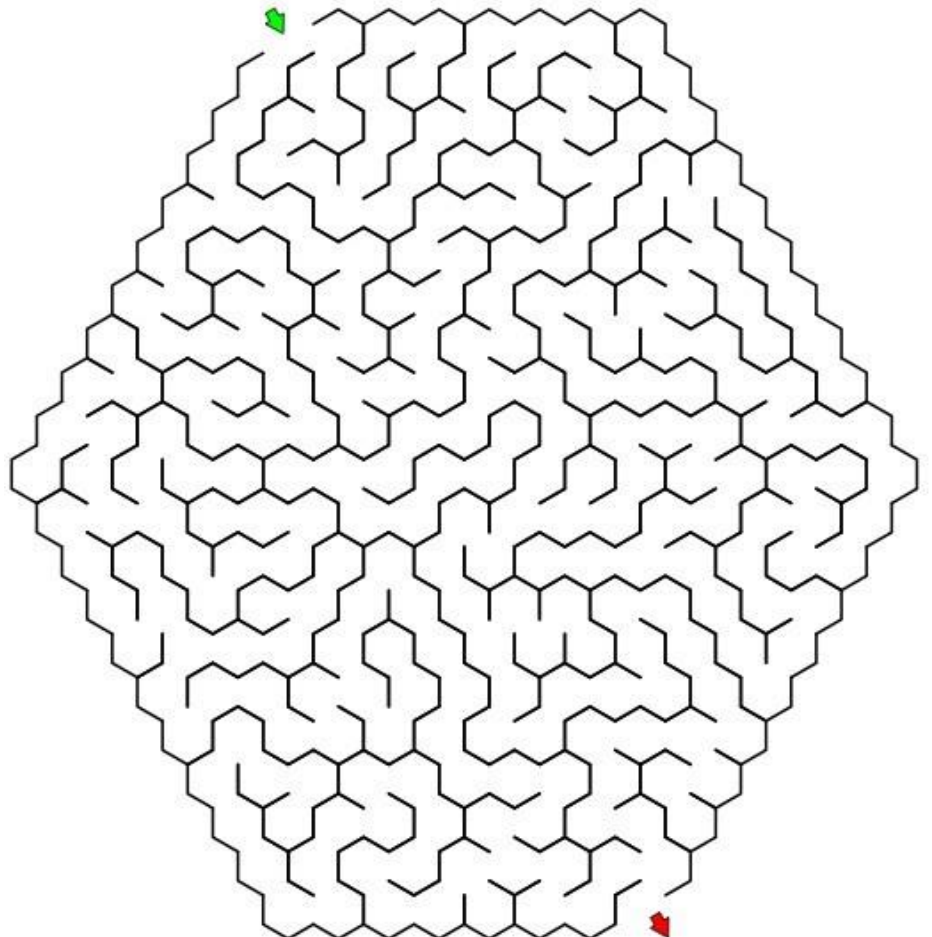
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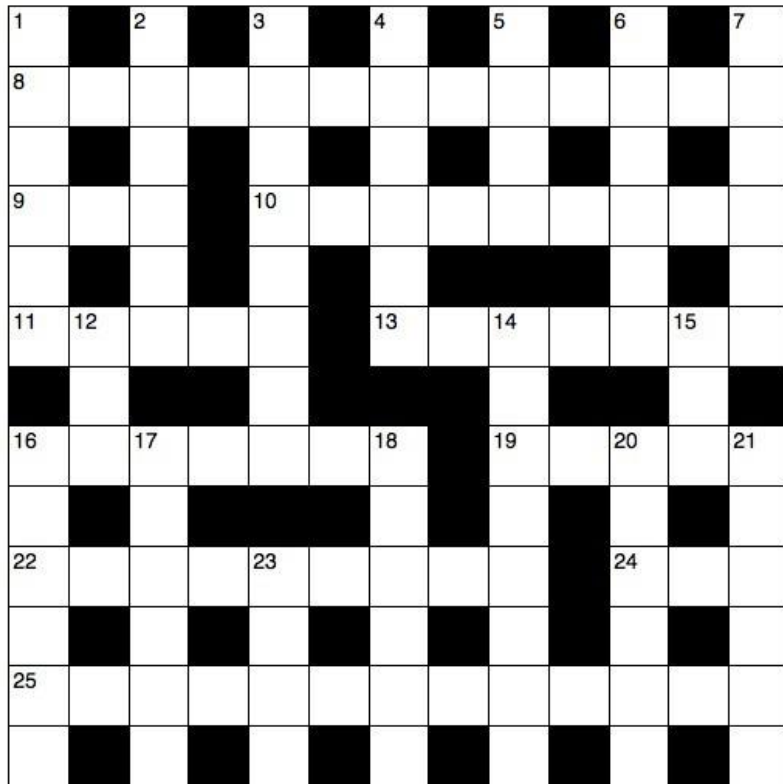
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Sudoku:

Insert numbers 1-9 in every row, column and 3x3 box.

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Answers:
 ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.
 DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

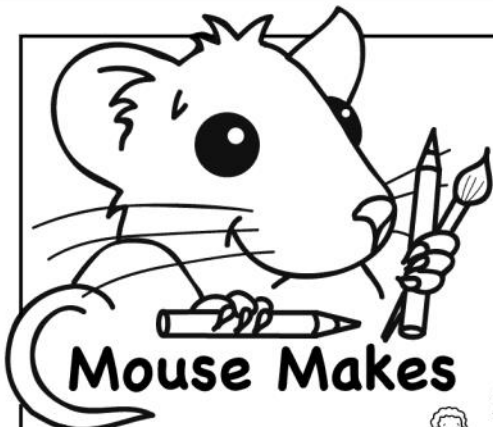
ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)

- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)



Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.



He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ

the story in **John 21**

How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?



Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11

DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

The Tale of the **TWO BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME....

...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL....

...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.

Him and me

(Jn21: Jn16:23)

In the end it's all about Him and me,
And my relationship with Him.

He fed me with fish,
Caught at His command,
He forgave me
For my denials and my doubt,

And He called me
To emulate His feeding and forgiving.
He called me to love Him
And His sheep,
To feed them,
To make known His love.

But in the end it's really all about Him
and me,
And my relationship with Him.

Never mind the others, He said,
In this world you will have trouble,
You will be persecuted
And criticised
And accused
And undermined,
But *never mind*,
Never mind,
Look up,
Be steadfast,
Never mind the others,

You ... follow me.

By Daphne Kitching

The God who answers prayer

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne,
The Son of God who ever cares,
Do not believe you walk alone.

When life seems hard, no answers
come
He knows the path that you now tread
Believe on Him though all seems lost
He knows about the tears you shed.

Hold on to Him who is your strength,
Although it seems there's no way
through,
Though pain and heartache both are
near,
Who holds the world holds also you.

There is a day when all is clear
A day when we all understand
That all our lives but marked a way
That led us to the Promised Land.

By Megan Carter

Prayer for April 2024

based on John 20: 19-end

Almighty Father,

In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.

Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.

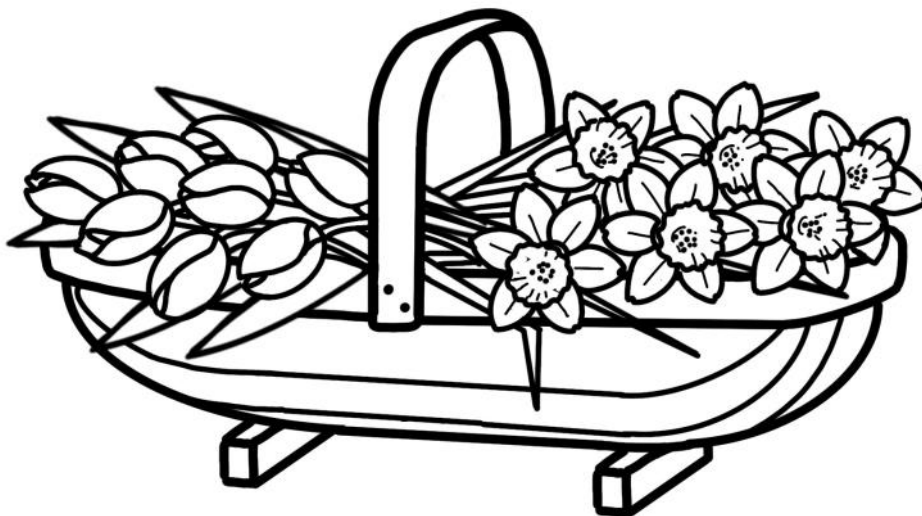
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.

Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.

We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



The Rainbow

The world was so wicked that God made it rain
For forty long days and long nights
The floodwaters covered both mountain and plain
They covered the highest of heights!

But Noah survived, because he – free from guilt
Kept the Word of his God in his mind
So he and his kin, in the ark he had built
Lived with two beasts of every kind.

They floated by night and they floated by day
No sign of the land could they spy;
Till at last came the day when the flood drained away
And a rainbow was seen in the sky.

And God said to Noah, “You see that bright bow?
“That rainbow up there in the sky?
“Now I’ve put it there as a sure sign to show
“Of a promise twixt mankind and I.

“In future you’ll know that I won’t make it rain
“So the whole earth is flooded that deep.
“Now the rainbow is there and will be again –
“And you’ll know that this promise I’ll keep.”

On days when it seems that the rain just won’t go
And the floodwaters fill us with fear;
At last comes the sun and the bright coloured bow –
Our God made that rainbow appear.

By Nigel Beeton

The Children's Chapel is open daily for prayer and **Church is open for private prayer on Wednesdays** between 12.30pm and 2pm, consecrated bread is available for those who wish to receive.

To join Sunday worship online please visit our website www.bromleyparishchurch.org and follow the link on our homepage.

Updates to services and events are posted on our website www.bromleyparishchurch.org

Please note:

On Wednesday 3 & 10 April, there will be private prayer but no midweek Communion.

On Sunday 7 April there will be a 10:30am service but no 8:30am Communion.

For all other events and news, please refer to the pew sheet, available in Church or on the website.