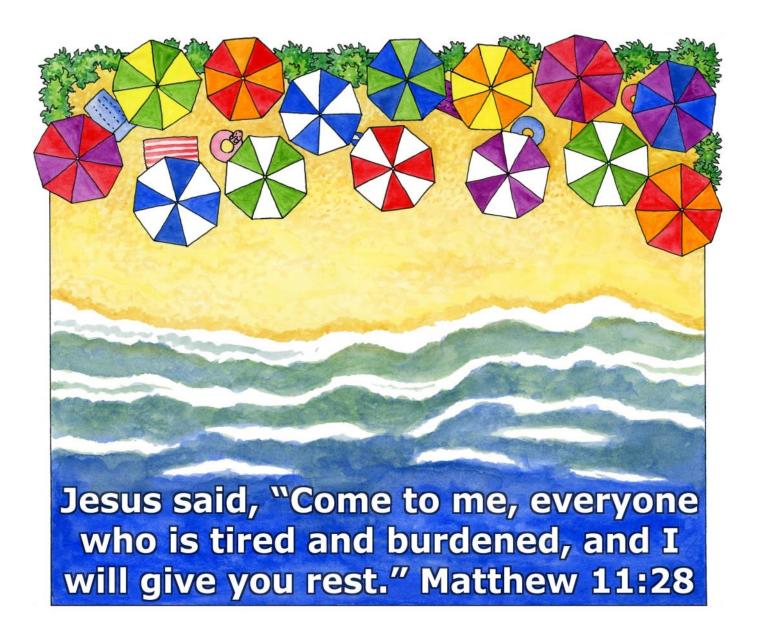
theKEY

Number 237

August 2023

50p

Website: www.bromleyparishchurch.org



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



Contacts & Editorial

August 2023

Vicar

Reverend James Harratt vicar@bromleyparishchurch.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:30am to 12 noon

020 8464 5244 – please use this number for all enquiries

Contact: Lynn Hedges, Parish Administrator

administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org

For contributions to the Key, or if you would like to receive the Key by email, please contact thekeyeditor@gmail.com

Hello Reader,

Welcome to the August edition of the Key!

We have all the usual features as well as information on CAP, a concert at BPC and there is also a new feature. In an effort to improve communication between the PCC and the wider congregation, John has kindly started writing summaries of the latest PCC meeting for the Key. Your comments and suggestions are welcome as always.

Other articles include some more information from Transform Trade, and a lovely article from Garvin about his cat Milo!

With love,

Lisa

Thank you to Rev James who has provided this sermon from the Patronal Festival.

Last week some of us were at Saint Albans for the annual Alban pilgrimage which was a really good day out, despite the heat a fun time was had by all I hope and I think we'll do it again next year.

One of the things which was said by the canons throughout the day was that Alban's story is our story. With a particular emphasis on his welcoming the stranger and refugee, which is perhaps not the traditional emphasis of the story but does connect with current concerns. Either way this seemed to chime with the town in the crowds that came to watch the event, that this story connected still with them and the town and shaped it. Probably because it gets told every year with giant puppets.

This put me in mind of the last conference I went to at Mirfield, where the opening question posed as a sort of ice breaker was this – what is the dedication of your church and how does that shape your congregations life and faith. The answers came were florid and interesting, some fascinatingly odd saints which churches have a dedication too. When it came to me, well, I talked about how no one calls this church Ss. Peter & Paul, our brand is very much Bromley parish church and that is the story – the church for Bromley and that associated history and place. I often reflect as I look down the back when I celebrate how there are the statues of Peter and Paul up on the wall, but that they are not the focus, instead the coats of arms above draw your attention, the great civic, ecclesiastical and education powers associated with this place.

And as Bromley parish church we do have a great history to cherish, people, activities, work done. This week people were remembering to me the times when they sat up in the organ loft for school services, and the bishop who confirmed them, who was once rector here. A couple of weeks ago I was helping someone find family graves of which only a few survived the war, but this place mattered to them and their history. There are so many connections into the life of this town and into families who lived here, a lot to celebrate and be thankful for in this place as the parish church for Bromley.

Our past is celebrated, but the future is more uncertain.

We know that the stories of mainstream churches declining is true to a degree, it's being going on for a century or more, but we have only really taken notice of it in the last decade or so. Pre covid it was running at around 1.3%.

Post covid saw some major shocks to some churches, and that rate is around 3 percent now. It's bad but not diabolical. It means in a church of a congregation of about 100, then the congregation loses one or two people a year, which is easy not to notice, on top of that in an area where people have had good jobs and give generously, you'll be surprised how long you can go on for more or less affording to keep things going as they were. This means it is very easy to keep the church feeling as it was and not see the need for change. We have been particularly lucky in this church, because we have resources and people and a run of good clergy, able directors of music, energetic lay people, things can feel largely as they have been.

But it is likely that change in the near future. The way churches work and the church train and deploys clergy are changing rapidly. I am probably the last generation of clergy in the church to be trained in the traditional mould that all my predecessors were of having an extensive and expensive training for 3 years in classical theology and liturgy. The expectations of what ministry will be and how to train for it are changing rapidly. You will have no doubt noticed that I do far less pastoral visiting and things like that than my predecessors, that is in part a reflection of the workload and demands ministry now places. In the future that is likely to be exacerbated, whereby clergy become sort of coordinating mangers for wider teams of lay people who do much of the work with people. We see this in some places already, at this same conference in Mirfield I met the area dean in Lincolnshire. 4 vacancies meant he had 36 churches and churchyards to look after - an extreme example admittedly, but the shape of things to come. Rural parishes have long had this, but it's becoming more common across the board, Leicester diocese has been in the news for its plan to reduce clergy and create minster areas somewhere between 13 and 23 churches shared by 3 clergy, and there are similar moves in other diocese. Though we have been long sheltered in Rochester diocese and especially here in Bromley, the diocesan finances are such that it won't last forever, I wouldn't be surprised if I am one of the last vicars of this parish as a single church.

That can sound awfully depressing and not quite the things you want at a celebratory patronal Eucharist, but it is important as we celebrate all the good things that go on, and there is a lot in our past and very much in our present, to look ahead and see that the future of the church is going to rely on you, the people of this church much more than on clergy. That the life and rhythms and potential of a church is found in its congregation rather than in those who

nominally lead. Actually I think that is right in many ways but it does begin to change how the church works and what we can expect it to look like.

That might cause anxiety and worry. But it is perhaps at this point that we can turn back to our sainted figures of Peter and Paul. Peter and Paul were distinctly human, distinctly flawed – Paul sharp, nervy, difficult but brilliant in his distinct mind, in his understanding of faith and in his vision as Christ being there for all people; Peter the slightly shambling, lumbering fisherman who doesn't get Jesus, who denies him at the crunch moment, but who becomes the rock on which the church is built and the steadying force for the early church in all its challenges.

Peter and Paul faced their own challenges, but their journey has some similarities to ours.

First, the sense in which they lived lives which moved away from their pasts – Peter put down his nets and went to fish for people, Paul turned from rabid persecutor of the faith to its radical preacher, both received new names and identities in it. Such a thing bore a cost but in letting go of their culture and ties they found their true self in God. That letting go of the old and welcoming the new life is something we all share in our baptism; leave behind brokenness and embrace new possibilities in God.

They were sent with the purpose of witnessing to the importance of the good news of Jesus. At the heart of our faith is that there is something uniquely good about it and we want to share that with others – a key question for us and others is when Jesus asks Peter 'who do you say that I am?'. Amid all changes of the church and town – that is still the key thing to ask.

They lived with uncertainty – not knowing what was going to happen, or where they were going. They trusted in God to lead. We are to do the same – 'if God is at work in things then we discover that joyfully and join in' was the message of a few weeks ago and continues to be relevant. We don't know what happens, what things will look like here in 5 or 10 years time but wherever we go, whatever may occur, we have hope and the promise that God is with us.

Peter and Paul give us a very human view of what it means to be faithful despite our human weaknesses, our fears at change, our uncertainties at the future. They had faith, trusted in God and became despite it all the foundations of the church. We start from a stronger and better position, if we can have that same trust and faith then despite the future challenges, we can face them with faith. The church in Bromley relies on us, on all of us, to find those ways

the **KEY**

Sermon

August 2023

in which we can be faithful in our different lives, so that we continue to be relevant and a source of hope to the town around. Can we like Paul say we have fought the good fight, we have finished the race, we have kept the faith. Let us celebrate our rich history and present blessings, while looking ahead with hope and determination to shape the future of our church in accordance with God's calling and in the footsteps of Peter and Paul.



Bank Holiday Organ Recital Monday 28th August 2023 at 11.30am

The last of our bank holiday organ recitals takes place on Monday 28th August at 11.30am and is being given by David Hirst.

David Hirst is one of the few British organists to have integrated into the French organ world. Based near Paris, he is *Organiste Titulaire* of the 12th-century Collegiate Church of Mantes-la-Jolie. He presides over the three organs of this magnificent edifice and is Artistic Director of the International Organ Festival.

As a recitalist, David performs regularly in international festivals. Recent appearances include Chartres, Bourges and Antwerp Cathedrals, St Augustin's in Paris, the Laurenskerk in Rotterdam, and venues in Germany and Switzerland.

David holds a master's degree in music from Cambridge University and a postgraduate diploma with distinction from the Royal Academy of Music in London where he studied organ performance under Lionel Rogg. He has also studied under Nicolas Kynaston and Thomas Trotter.

Previous organist appointments include Emmanuel College Cambridge, St Germain du Chesnay in Versailles, and St Martin-in-the-Fields, London's royal parish church. At St Martin's, he played for celebrity and royal occasions, concerts and recordings, as well as 30 BBC broadcasts in five years.

David's discography includes the first CDs ever recorded on the 1897 grand organ by Joseph Merklin in Mantes-la-Jolie. His latest disc was issued to critical acclaim by the Priory label in 2022 ('These stylish performances are quite sublime'...Organists' Review).

www.davidhirst.org

Programme

Toccata and Fugue in F Major BuxWV 156 Dietrich Buxtehude (c 1637 – 1707)

Sonata No 5 in C major BWV 529 J S Bach (1685 – 1750)

i Allegro ii Largo iii Allegro

Claire de Lune (from the *Suite Bermasque* Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)

for piano) transcription by Jean-Baptiste Robin

Variations on a theme of Paganini Opus 68 Bryan Hesford (1930 – 1996)

Nimrod (from the *Enigma Variations*) Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) Transcription by Robert Gower

Variations & Fugue on *God save the King* Max Reger (1873 – 1916)

Admission to the recital is free with a retiring collection. Refreshments will be served from 10.30am. Hope to see you there.

the **KEY**

Bromley CAP

Bromley Christians Against Poverty

Being in debt and facing poverty is ruthless. It robs people of a life of joy, hope, and opportunities. Families suffer, they feel isolated. Debt compounds, growing bigger and bigger causing many to believe that there is no way out. But thankfully, there is hope.

Christians Against Poverty in Bromley is part of an award-winning National charity - Cap UK. Our aim is to end poverty. We believe that everyone should experience equal dignity, freedom, and opportunity. Across Britain, we have more than 300 Debt centres, plus more than 200 Cap Job Clubs and Life skills courses.

In Bromley we have now helped 40 households to be debt free of over £849,549 and are in the process of helping a further 20 clients. Since we started here 6 years ago, we have the support of two debt advisors, local church befrienders, and run several Job Clubs and Life Skills courses each year.

Local doctors' surgeries signpost clients for debt help and onto our courses. We also work closely with the Bromley DWP Job Centre, where fortnightly we run a stall to offer debt help and advertise our Job Clubs.

How do we help?

The first step for people is often the hardest as asking for help can be daunting, particularly for many people who have reached a crisis point. But it is worth it. Our friendly team on 0800 328 0006 is the first port of call.

"In the past when I was all on my own, I thought that there was never any hope and it was always dark. Now I'm living a brighter, bigger, more colourful life." Sharon, now debt free.

We then visit clients in their homes with the support of befrienders. The 1st visit brings clients hope and we explain the process to get them debt-free. Through our caring and compassionate approach, clients feel listened to. Rest assured, we have heard many people's journey of getting into debt, so nothing phases us.

During the 2nd visit, we collate a full picture: debt details, incomings, and outgoings. By the third meeting we have identified a route out of debt for the clients, which may include a payment plan, applying for bankruptcy or via a debt relief order.

Through this powerful combination of practical support, caring church communities and prayer, CAP and local churches have enabled tens of thousands of people to be positively impacted and become debt free.

Bromley CAP

August 2023

"Becoming debt free was like a huge weight was lifted off our shoulders. And we could just breathe easy, we could sleep at night."

We are looking to expand our work in the Bromley area; we would love to be able to help more local people become debt-free each month.

What can you do?

If you or anyone you know need our free services, please ring head office on 0800 328 0006.

If you would like to know more about becoming a befriender, want to receive regular newsletters or make a vital financial contribution to help eradicate poverty in Bromley, Please email Martin Pointing on martinpoint- ing@capuk.org.

Many thanks to Garvin for sending in this article about his adopted cat, Milo.

Milo, my friendly ginger tom cat has been my friend for around 2 years, when I originally rescued him from a nasty neighbour who kicked him from my doorstep in front of my flat on the same day that a footballer kicked a cat, who was prosecuted (18th May).

God spoke and asked me to look after Milo!

Immediately I chose to rescue and care for Milo subsequently. For 1 year, in a washing area in front of my 3rd floor flat, I regularly fed him at 7:20am for breakfast each day. As the original owner didn't want him, I was pleased to oblige.

During last winter we both met in the open air and I gave him his evening meal, after which neighbours indicated that he regularly cried because of the cold. I immediately took him into my small flat and he has resided there since! I ensured that he was attended to correctly, by the PDSA and RSPCA, which was a revolution to me, for I had never owned a cat previously, let alone had any guidance.

I have followed their advice for medical and general treatment, and finally I have recently asked for Milo to be checked for general health ailments.

Recently I have made a purpose built cat box so that I can safely take Milo to the vets when needed for appropriate treatment. He seems to enjoy my efforts as he regularly grooms himself, while resting in the 'Cat Bag Box'. I am pleased that we are the greatest of friends, and he appreciates my handiwork!

I believe that he has grown bigger since our acquaintance, and I am ever thankful for his company.

It is only in the last two years that I have learned to help animals and pets.

Dogs come to me without my calling—strange! I can relate several inexplicable incidents.

I am particularly interested to know the weight of Milo and how it has increased since my originally knowing him.

Also, I am keen to gain guidance on the food that he requires.

I am most thankful for the PDSA (Croydon) and the professional guidance at 'The Neighbourhood Vet' in Penge, thank you! You have been most helpful.

I have to check the occasional conjunctivitis in his left eye, and occasional scratching of his left ear which I have noticed, also his bodily functions and toenails and teeth.



Garvin's Animal Tales

August 2023

Milo has been chipped, neutered, de-flea'd and wormed and shortly he will be checked for his general health. Finally, he seems a happy cat with me as he purrs regularly throughout the day, which I believe is a good sign of a contented Milo. I am indeed blessed by knowing Milo.

Milo certainly looks healthy and I believe he has put on weight.

I plan to eventually lead him into the fresh air, perhaps on a lead and harness!

Best wishes to all who have helped me with this challenge! Thank you.

9th August Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876. Since then, it has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle.

By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

Saint's Day plus Picture Parable, Puzzle, Mouse Makes, Bible Bite, Poems and Prayers and other articles are courtesy of Parish Pump unless stated otherwise.

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Joke sent in by a reader:

A few minutes before the church services started, the congregation was sitting in the pews and talking. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church.

Everyone started screaming and running for the back entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate.

Soon the church was empty except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence.

So Satan walked up to the man and said, 'Do you know who I am?'.

The man replied, 'Yep, sure do'.

'Aren't you afraid of me?', Satan asked.

'Nope, sure ain't', said the man.

Don't you realise I can kill you with one word?', asked Satan.

'Don't doubt it for a minute', returned the old man, in an even tone.

'Did you know that I can cause you profound, horrifying agony for all eternity?', persisted Satan.

'Yep', was the calm reply.

'And you're still not afraid?', asked Satan.

'Nope', said the old man.

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, 'Why aren't you afraid of me?'.

The man calmly replied, 'Been married to your sister for 56 years'.

the **KEY**



Dear Friends

Firstly, thank you, Looking back on this year, it's been a time of huge change for Transform Trade - from the excitement of launching our new name and brand, to the sad closure of the fair trade business, Traidcraft Plc.

A lot has happened, but I am proud to share that throughout this journey, our life changing work has continued to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable communities fighting for trade justice across the world.

The world around us, too, continues to face rapid change with conflict in Ukraine continuing to upset global food supply chains, and famine in East Africa and flooding in Bangladesh exacerbated by the climate crisis. Along-side this, we see unscrupulous businesses continuing to abuse human rights and pollute our planet without consequences.

It's the most vulnerable who suffer the worst impacts - but the workers, artisans, and farmers we work alongside are fighting back. From the small businesses like Meru Herbs investing in their workers, to the farmers in Tanzania on the frontline of the climate crisis, those producers are building a more just and fair trade system, which puts people and planet, not profit, at its heart.

We're incredibly grateful for your support and involvement in this journey without you, none of our work would be possible.

On the 10th of September following the 10.30am service we will be holding the Big Brew in the church rooms. All monies raised from donations for cake and refreshments will go to the work of Transform Trade and The Producer Fund.

We hope you can join us.

Transform

JOIN US for

Big Brew 2023

- ✓ Enjoy a lovely cuppa (or two!)
- ✓ Eat some delicious cake
- Make a difference in the fight for justice in trade

Sunday 10th September 2023

Bromley Parish Church

following the 10.30am service

So everybody benefits.

www.transform-trade.org/big-brew

Registered charity No. 1048752

Meet the Producers...

The Producer Fund

In March 2023, we launched the Transform Trade Producer Fund, in response to Traidcraft Plc, the fair trade company, going into administration. The fund supports marginalised producers facing an uncertain future with ethical trade under threat. This fund is designed to meet the needs of the fantastic small businesses transforming their communities so they can grow, prosper and continue to change lives.

Your amazing generosity has helped us achieve our £200,000 target for the first phase of the Producer Fund – thank you so much.



Meru Herbs is a social enterprise based in Kenya which produces teas, jams and sauces. Meru Herbs were one of the first producers to receive money from the Producer Fund back in May. The full grant will help them to:





Buy vital equipment like weighing scales



Provide health and safety training and equipment



Arrange Fairtrade training which will support their application for WFTO accreditation which will open up new markets



Renew their commitment to operating their factory sustainably - they have already used the grant to refurbish their solar energy system.



Transform Trade

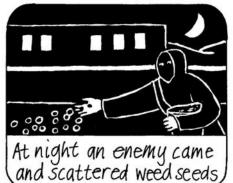


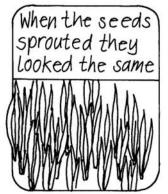
BIDD BITE

A short story from the Bible

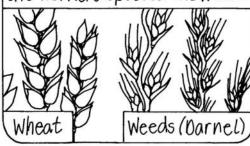
It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 13:24-30,36-43 Jesus told this story to help explain what his Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven, is like . . .







When the plants grew bigger the workers spotted the weeds







No, you might pull up Some wheat with them. I wait until harvest time



You will be able to sort them out, and put the wheat in the barn ... and burn the weeds





The field is the world and the good seeds are the good people



The weed seeds ________are the evil people. At the end of time they will be separated.

The angels will bring the good people to me in heaven.

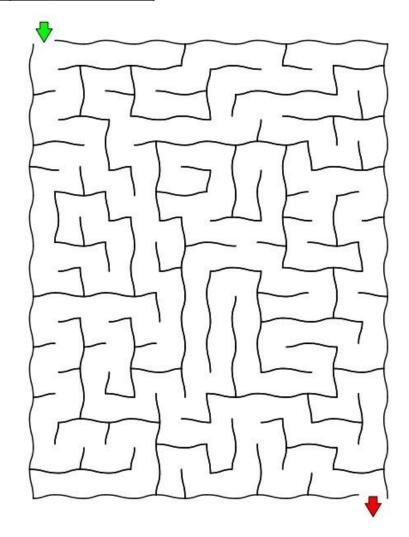
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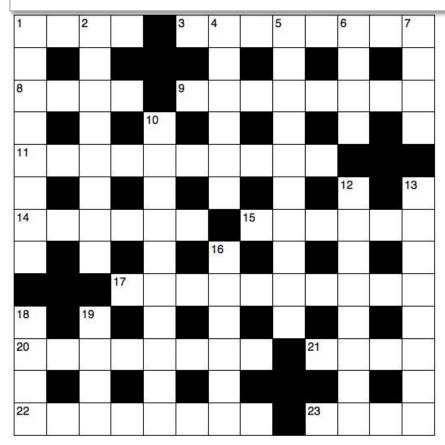
worker heaven evil pull spotted weeds world angels good happen sort wheat same field seeds harvest scattered farmer enemy plants people darnel night sprouted

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Sudoku:

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





ACROSS: 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15 By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.

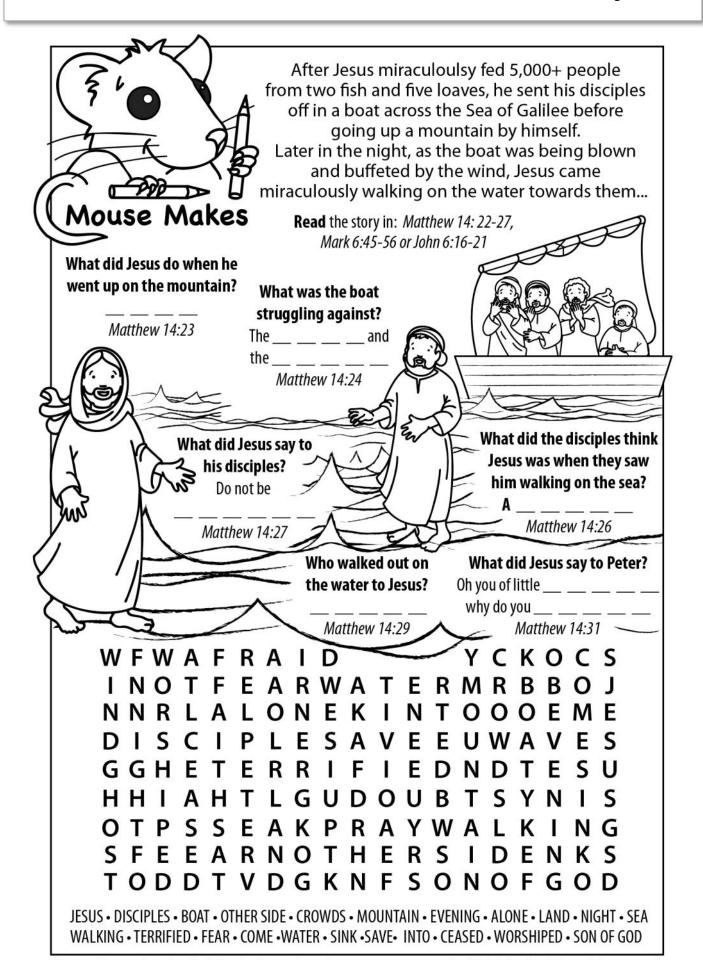
Across

1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

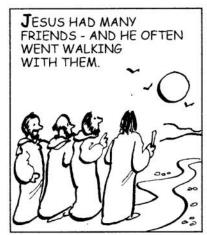
- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 Ó Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)



Words and Actions

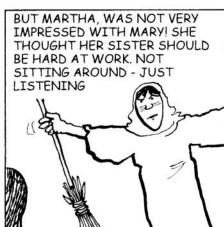






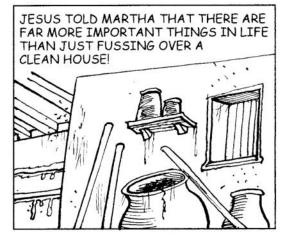


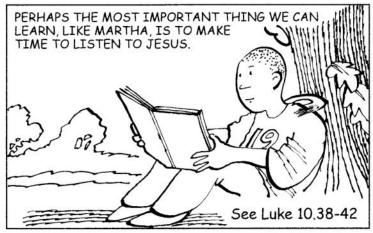
MARY WAS VERY EXCITED













Transfiguration

(Luke 9:28-36)

Praying on the mountain top
We saw amazing things,
Moses and Elijah
And Jesus, in dazzling white, his face shining.
The Lawgiver, the Prophet
And the Lord.
Written Word, Spoken Word,
Living Word
In glorious splendour.
It was so good to be there,
On the mountain top.

Father, help us
When we are back down in the valley,
In the everyday muddle and mess,
To remember your voice,
To see through the clouds
To Jesus, the one you sent
To complete the Law and the Prophets.
Help us to rejoice in knowing your Son.
Tuned in by your Holy Spirit,
Help us to go on listening.

By Daphne Kitching



Teach us to pray

Lord, teach us to pray. Some of us are not skilled in the art of prayer. As we draw near to thee in thought, our spirits long for thy Spirit, and reach out for thee, longing to feel thee near. We know not how to express the deepest emotions that lie hidden in our hearts. ...We know that we are closest to thee when we have left behind the things that have held us captive so long.we pray that thou wilt give unto us only what we really need.give us the vision, the courage, that shall enlarge our horizons and stretch our faith to the adventure of seeking thy loving will for our lives.

By Peter Marshall (a former chaplain to the US Senate, lived 1902 – 1949)

The Water of Life

She came to the well around midday,
To avoid all the gossip she came alone,
She met a Man there who told her all things
Five husbands she had and one not her own.

He asked for a drink and they started to talk, A Samaritan woman there with a Jew Breaking all barriers to meet her need He told her how she could be made new.

The water of life that He would give
Would mean that she never would thirst again
This transforming draught He offers to all
Once tasted you never will be the same.

At Cana He turned the water to wine
A miracle no-one but He could do
Just as the water was wondrously changed
If you drink from this Fount it can happen to you.

By Megan Carter

the **KEY**

Prayers and poems

Nigel Beeton writes: Often when we are out walking in the summer we find ourselves in a grassy or a stony lane which is lovely and easy to follow – no need for a compass or to keep referring to our maps as we go along! They often seem to go nowhere in particular, but it is obvious that they were constructed with some care – having been cut into the landscape, perhaps there is some stone or something among the grass on the surface, and there may be ancient walls or hedges alongside. Who made them? What was their purpose? How did they get their wonderful names? (We were on Looseall Lane in Somerset). It's nice to feel a connection with our ancient forebears.

The Ancient Lanes of England

The ancient lanes of England
May wend their winding way
From who knows where to Goodness knows
To 'where are we today?'
Twixt walls of ancient stonework
O'er hills and valleys steep
The ancient lanes of England
Their grassy way they keep.

The ramblers now of England
May walk each stony street,
And think, as they are rambling
Of all those ancient feet
That trod those lanes of England
On each succeeding day
From where they lived to where they worked
They trod their working way.

Those ancient lanes of England
As vital, in their day
As rail tracks or aircraft routes
Or any motorway!
From farms they brought their produce
Their cereals and grains
Their cattle, milk, and butter too
Along those grassy lanes.

By Nigel Beeton

This is a returning feature to the Key, in order to aid communication between the PCC and Church members.

For those who don't know, the PCC is a group of trustees who meet every two months to discuss progress, issues and finances to do with the running of the Church. Full minutes are available from these meetings, but John has also kindly agreed to provide summaries of the meetings for the Key. There are other committees as well who have more specific focuses such as youth work or building maintenance, but the PCC oversee this and hold the responsibility for the bigger decisions to do with the running of the Church. The aim of these summaries is to help keep us informed of what is under discussion and decisions that are being made. Many thanks to John for the work that goes into providing this.

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH PCC NOTES for the meeting on Wednesday 19th July 2023

Issues from previous meeting

Members were delighted to hear that JusB had reached their target of raising £75,000 to enable them to continue: BPC's pledge of £5,000 had played a significant part in this, and would now be fulfilled.

Financial statements and issues

• The meeting reviewed provisional accounts for January to May. These showed a 'housekeeping' deficit of £3,622, with income some £5,400 above budget but expenditure about £8,400 up. Much of the difference was due to timing issues, including costs of recent social events, work on trees in the churchyard and insurance payments. The eventual position was likely to be close to budget levels, which projected a smaller deficit.

Tim Pike took members through the results of the responses to last Autumn's campaign for planned giving. Results had been very encouraging, with 40 regular donors and 12 new ones now using the new Metrobank account. 'Fair Shares' income was running at 23% above the previous year, greatly helping BPC finances. Tim would be writing to thank members who had responded and offering further information to anyone else interested.

Working party for jobs in the church

Members discussed the best way of dealing with a range of decluttering and minor DIY work in the church. It was agreed that much of this could be done by arranging a Saturday working party of church members in the early autumn, finishing with a communal meal. This was subsequently arranged for 16th September. A separate midweek date in August will be arranged for external work in the churchyard.



Committee Reports

The meeting received and adopted reports from the Eco Committee and the Standing & Finance Committee. Under the former it was agreed that BPC would join the Toilet Twinning scheme in November, with members encouraged to make individual donations towards the £480 target.

Any other business

- Organ camera. The meeting endorsed a pre-pandemic agreement to instal cameras around the organ console to provide audiences at organ concerts with a view of the keyboard and pedal board. Estimated costs had increased considerably, so Tim Yeo would be asked for a detailed breakdown of the costings and details of alternative systems.
- It was noted that the tenants of BPC's property in Hammelton Road had now agreed to purchase the freehold, freeing BPC of further responsibility for the premises.
- CCTV system. The Diocese had approved BPC's application for a faculty, subject to an Architect's visit to approve the detail.
- Bromley Civic Society had asked whether a home in BPC could be found for a 1732 lead cistern previously in the Palace grounds, but now on loan in the Bishop's garden until 2030. Members felt that there was a range of difficulties in such an idea, and that a local museum or possibly Bromley & Sheppard's Colleges would be more suitable.
- Toddler Praise. James reported that a separate group for younger children would be set up in the autumn. The meeting agreed a provisional system to authorise expenditure on equipment and other requirements.
- Tower clock. A quote for repairs is awaited from the contractors who service the clock.

Car park problems. Three contractors have been approached about security systems for the gates, to reduce abuse of the parking system, with only one response so far. In discussion the PCC recognised that there are radically different schools of thought on potential solutions, and that further discussion was necessary among both car park users and church members generally.

Tuesday 1

12.30pm Church administrator's meeting

Sunday 6

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion (CW) 10.30am Parish Eucharist

Monday 7

7.30pm Children & Youth

Committee meeting

Tuesday 8

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 9

12noon Midweek service 12.30pm -2.00pm Church open

for private prayer

Thursday 10

2.15pm Fellowship summer party

7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 13

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Breakfast Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 15

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 16

12noon Midweek Service 12.30 -2.00pm Church open for private prayer

Sunday 20

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion (CW) 10.30am All age Worship with Communion

Tuesday 22

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 23

12noon Midweek service 12.30-2.00pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 24

2.15pm Fellowship

Saturday 26

10.00am Quarter peal

Sunday 27

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Breakfast Church 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Baptism

Monday 28

11.30am Bank Holiday organ recital – David Hirst, organist Titulaire at the church in Notre-Dame in Montes -le-joie

Refreshments from 10.30am

Tuesday 29

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 30

12noon Midweek service 12.30pm – 2.00pm Church open for private prayer **Morning Prayer** is said daily at 8.00am in the Children's Chapel, everyone is welcome.

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 <u>www.bromleyparishchurch.org</u>