

*the*KEY

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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



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Dear Reader,

Thank you for picking up this December edition of the Key!

There are lots of activities happening in our Church this Advent and Christmas, including singing events, the Christmas Tree Festival, the Nativity service... Please do attend and enjoy them! Lots of details can be found here in the magazine to fill your diary from.

We also have two sermons for reflection, and all the usual features.

I hope you enjoy the magazine and I wish each and every one of you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Key this year, particularly to those who provide their sermons, and to Lynn who collates a lot of the items for me.

With love, Lisa



For this edition we have two sermons, to begin with is the sermon from the Memorial Service, lead by Rev. James.

The second sermon is from Bishop Jonathan, from the Remembrance Sunday service at our Church.

Memorial Service 2023

It's good to be with you this evening as we come to remember those who we love but see no longer. For some of us that has been an absence felt for a very long time, for some of us much more recent. All of us come because we are affected by grief; it is something we share as a gathering this evening, though not fully for each of our griefs is as individual as those whom we mourn.

One of the great privileges as a minister is to come and meet with you and listen to those individual stories, to try and weave them into the funeral service and address. It always seems like an daunting task at the outset, and yet it nearly always isn't, because what happens time after time is that you sit and begin to talk, and what comes to the fore are stories of warmth and love and care – no matter how long or how painfully short a life it was – these stories come out, favourite memories, well-rehearsed family anecdotes, sometimes well-trodden family tales that have been honed and polished to a fine story, sometimes stories raw and unformed to the point that they have never been uttered before. All I do is take these which come out rather haphazardly and arrange them into some sort of order.

All these stories and more work because they connect with people there and spark memories and thoughts and images of their own, it's a catalyst for more memories and moments which enrich a life.

And why is this important – because how we know and remember people is through our stories – rich memories which are far more than simple bald statements of fact but something which bears something of the vital life of those whom we miss; something almost tangible as we remember them. If death is the ultimate isolation in cutting us off from those we mourn, remembering undoes that to a degree, reuniting us with what was so vibrant in their life.

Remembering is not always easy, often our memories which are fragmentary, when someone dies its like their picture is smashed and scattered to the winds, we hold onto bits but not everything, and as we continue to remember by ourselves or with others, then more and more can be rediscovered and reassembled. The picture will never be the same quite – that can leave us with a sense of guilt over the things we forget and regret over how things will never be the same again. But the more we remember the more we can hold on to.

But as we remember, that is often tempered by the sense of grief, the magnitude of our loss. People often talk about grief, thinking they are being kind as if it is something we get over, to get behind us in life as we move on in our lives ahead, as we recall and remember we perhaps see new things, new possibilities. It would be

easy to say that things get better or more hopeful, but with grief I don't think that is true, it's never got over or left behind, we carry it with us in a multitude of ways, we don't get over it, but we can look at it differently. We can look at it more hopefully. How?

I chose the reading by Malcolm Guite because it is interesting reflection on Psalm 92 – a relentlessly chipper psalm that praises the goodness of God.

*It starts - is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;*

*to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,*

*to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.*

*For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.*

I doubt you are feeling particularly that way this evening- but Guite starts in a different way

*My Lord will bring me through my darkest hour,
And I will praise him in the morning light
And contemplate his wisdom and his power*

It starts with a recognition of sadness and difficulty and grief, which are not denied but can be withstood because of a greater context, the context of Gods unending love and care. You get the image in the stanza of a rooted tree the idea of something greater to offer security and shelter as well as nourishment and goodness.

For Guite that comes from his faith expressed in that reading from Romans talks about power of love in difficult times. He asks what power there is that can separate us from love and answers it by saying that there is nothing.

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The great hope of the Christian faith is that all we experience in this world – the memories, the love we share with others, does not end at death, but continues with God. A God who in his love for us and our world, came to live our life, to share our struggles and pain, who lived and died, but could not be held by death, rising to new life and destroying the hold that death has on this world. A God in whose love we live and move in and which we cannot be separated, so that one day mourning,

and crying and pain will be no more.

This hope is important, because I believe it enables us to look forward, not to keep holding the past memories together as they were, but rather keeping the love we have for those whom we miss, knowing they are safe in the greater love of God, which nothing can keep us from.

Memories are not just about the past, you see they also connect us to the future, with hope and with life, with the hope that we will see again those whom we mourn for, and that until that time we continue to live our lives supported and formed by the love we continue to have for them. The more we remember, the more we see how strong this link is.

And so today as candles are lit to help us remember to help us see that in the darkness of this world, in the uncertainty we hold about death, that there is hope that in the end light will overcome the darkness, that hope will defeat despair, that love really is stronger than death. That it is the steadfast love of God ever holds us and those we mourn for, and that cannot ever be changed.

Amen.

Remembrance Sunday Address**Matthew 5: 1-12**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It seems hard to remember a more uncertain and challenging time in the life of our nation and world than we are going through at present. Of course, generations before ours went through the horrors of two world wars, and the years in which many of us grew up witnessed the Cold War and the threat of nuclear annihilation. But the last few years seem to have multiplied the threats the world is facing, with the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and now in Gaza, alongside the climate crisis and global migration and the potential of people movements on an unprecedented scale, not forgetting the rise of Artificial Intelligence and of cyber-warfare.

The world's problems perhaps more than ever are complex and intractable. There are no simple cut-and-dried solutions, and anyone who tells you there are, is a fool or a charlatan, or perhaps both. So please rest assured that I am not going to give you a potted guide to solving the world's crises or a commentary on what our politicians should or should not be doing about all of these issues. That would not be appropriate on such an occasion as this – and neither do I think that is my job as a Bishop in the Church of England!

What I want to do instead is to ask some questions of us as people – and to try and respond to those questions from within the resources of the Christian faith, and particularly from the Bible reading we have just heard, from what is known as the “Sermon on the Mount”.

And the first question is this: what kind of people do we need to be at a time like this? What kind of people do we need to be in order to cope with and find our way through the time of radical uncertainty and indeed of chronic anxiety that we currently seem to be experiencing? And related to that, what kind of leaders do we need – not just in politics but in every area of life – to guide us through these times?

And the answer to those questions I believe is contained to a great extent in these few short sentences, often referred to as the Beatitudes. Taken together, these sayings encapsulate the kind of people we are called to be and need to be as we live through a time of uncertainty and even of crisis.

What Jesus offers here is not a set of political principles but a different way of being that can lead us to respond to the situations and events we face in a radically different manner, which is profoundly at odds with so much of what we see in contemporary life and leadership.

Rather than going through each of these sayings, I want to group them together to

draw out some of the key themes for us to think about, starting with the words “Blessed are those who mourn.” This is not just about God comforting those who are facing bereavement and loss – though that is certainly intended here as well. It is also about being people who lament and mourn what we see going on around us – who are touched by the suffering they see and who are moved to respond with compassion. This takes us to the heart of the Christian faith – that we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves. This in itself does not prescribe any particular course of action, but it is about our fundamental attitude and orientation towards what we see going on around us. This is where we must start.

The second theme I want to explore is to do with what Jesus says about being meek and poor in spirit. Those can sound a little wishy-washy and even weak – what could they really contribute when there are so many challenges and problems to be addressed? But what Jesus is advocating here is the value of humility and gentleness as opposed to the arrogance that leads to hubris and a crushing fall. Greek mythology and Shakesperean tragedy are full of characters who overreached themselves and fell with a mighty crash. We have seen plenty of those in today’s world, from politicians to crypto-currency billionaires.

And then there is the affirmation and blessing of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – or for justice as we might say – and who do so with pureness of heart, with honesty and integrity. We need that kind of zeal – we need people at every level who will work for what is right and just for the good of all – and not just for themselves or their own section of society. We need politicians who will do that – recognising of course that people will have different and even conflicting visions of what society should be like and what role governments should play – recognising too that there are times when resisting and responding to aggression is part of the pursuit of justice and the establishment of true peace. But we also need *citizens*, ordinary people like you and me, who will live like that and work for the good of all in our local communities and in the wider world – including out of concern for the natural environment in its incredible diversity and its frightening vulnerability.

Fourthly, and these are perhaps the themes that resonate with us most strongly on Remembrance Sunday, Jesus praises those who are merciful in their dealings with others and those who are peacemakers. My goodness me, how much we need people like that in today’s world – most obviously in relations between people and nations, but also in our relationships with one another, whether it’s to do with savagery of social media or the normalisation of anger and hate within our political discourse – of the kind we have seen on the streets of London this weekend. We need to say enough is enough and to work instead towards better ways of disagreeing and of working together to find long-term solutions to intractable problems

like the crises in housing, social care, or the future of the health service.

And finally, we need people and leaders who are prepared to stand up and be counted, contending for what is right and in the interests of all – not just chasing votes and short-term popularity. Jesus calls us to be ready to put up with some grief and maybe even some persecution by being prepared to challenge what is happening around us – to be whistle-blowers and counter-cultural prophets for a different and more sustainable way of living – but doing so in ways that reflect the other values of humility and respect for others that we have spoken of already.

There are no easy answers to the multiple and complex challenges that we face in today's world. What is clear to me is that the solutions to these challenges will not be found in the realm of politics alone. They will be found in a revolution of hearts and minds, starting with individuals and small groups (the political philosopher Edmund Burke referred to them as our "little platoons"). They will be found as we learn to recapture some of the virtues that led those who went before us to lay down their lives in the pursuit of justice and peace, in the service of this nation and of humanity, whom we honour today.

We cannot achieve this on our own. We need one another and we need also God's guidance – the kind of guidance that is contained in Jesus' words that we read today. We need above all God's help to enable us to rise to the challenge and to start to build a world that is more in line with his plan and purpose for us. There are no easy or quick answers – but with God on our side there is always hope and in Jesus Christ we have seen already his victory over evil and death. May we have the courage to follow where he leads, to live as citizens of his kingdom of justice, mercy, and peace, and so find ourselves to be blessed indeed as children of God. Amen.

**The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Gibbs
Bishop of Rochester**

12th November 2023

6th December**What's in a (Christmas) Name?**

What do your family call him, that cheerful old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he's Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he's Saint Nicholas. That's his real name, abbreviated to 'Santa Claus' by Brits and Americans who don't like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into a more homely, cuddly kind of name for the children. Whatever he's called, his function is the same – delivering presents to children at Christmas.

The first St Nicholas was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears may be a vague representation of a bishop's garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on 6th December, and the lucky children in Belgium and the Netherlands get their presents then.



We clean your oven..... so you don't have to.

Call today to have your oven, hob, extractor or Aga professionally cleaned

Rob Hadgiyianni contact details

Tel 01689 253525 Mob. 07957 325452

E mail robhadgiyianni@ovenwizards.com

www.ovenwizards.com

Maira GA Photography

Hi, I am Maira, a local Bromley photographer. I will be offering mini Christmas themed sessions on Friday the 1st December. From each session I will be donating to CASPA and the Parish C of E Primary School SEND department. Both are close to my heart. CASPA has been providing invaluable support and enriching experiences to autistic / neurodivergent children, young people and their families since 2002. I will also be providing the SEND department at Parish C of E Primary school with resources for the neurodivergent children that attend this primary. Please pre book your session. I will offer 3 high res images with a Christmas theme delivered via a private gallery on a password protected link. You will be free to print where you wish. Limited availability. mairagaphotography@gmail.com or via FB /mairagaphotography.

mairagaphotography@gmail.com

Maira GA Photography

*Christmas themed Teepee
Mini portraits*



*£20 Per session
with £5 donated to charity**

Drop me a message to book

www.mairagaphotography.mypixieset.com

ADVENT CAROLS

A service of choral music, carols
and readings for the season of
Advent

SUNDAY

3RD DECEMBER

6.30PM

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL
CHURCH ROAD
BROMLEY



CTCB INVITE YOU TO JOIN US

CAROL SINGING

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

IN THE GLADES
10.00AM-12.30PM

EVERYONE WELCOME
ALL DONATIONS SUPPORTING
BROMLEY HOMELESS

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
AGNITA@BROMLEYCHAPLAINCY.ORG.UK

St Barnabas Community Choir



A festive red poster for a Christmas Sing-a-Long event. The background is red with white snowflakes and yellow stars. At the top, there are strings of warm white lights and red Christmas ornaments. In the center, there is a teal square containing the St Barnabas Community Choir logo, which features a white circle with a treble clef and musical notes, and the text 'ST BARNABAS COMMUNITY CHOIR' around it. Below the logo, the text 'Christmas Sing-a-Long' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Underneath that, 'Saturday 9th December 2023' is written in a smaller, white, cursive font. Then, '7.30pm' is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below the time, 'All the family welcome!' is written in a white, cursive font. Then, 'Free to attend' is written in a white, cursive font. Finally, 'Refreshments for sale' is written in a white, cursive font. At the bottom, there are two green Christmas trees with yellow lights and red ornaments, each with a yellow star on top. Between the trees, there is a white circular logo with a treble clef and musical notes. Below the logo, the text 'Scan here for tickets!' is written in a white, cursive font. At the very bottom, there are several wrapped Christmas gifts in various colors (red, blue, yellow, purple) and a white snowflake border.



Christmas Sing-a-Long
Saturday 9th December 2023
7.30pm
All the family welcome!
Free to attend
Refreshments for sale



Scan here for tickets!

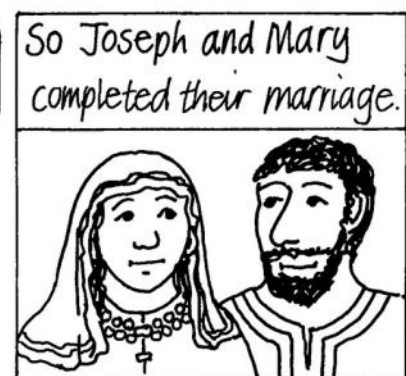
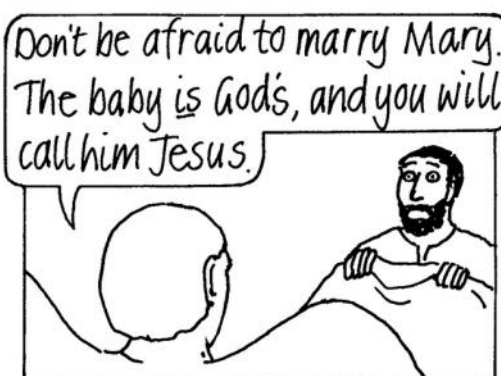
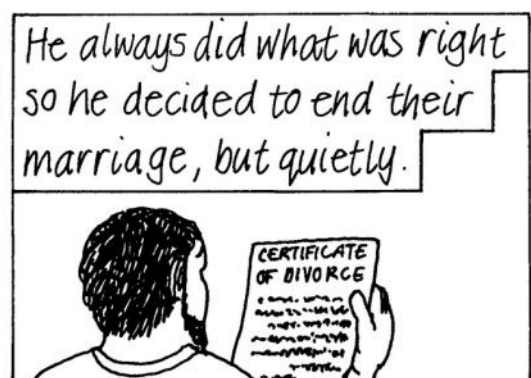
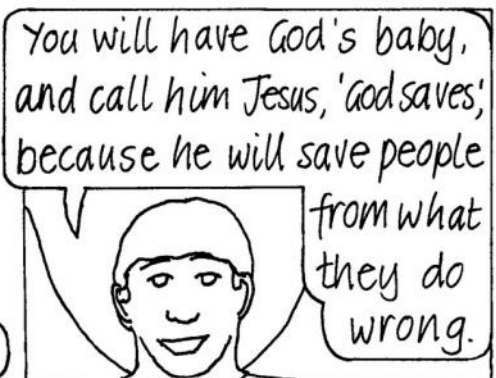


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 1:26-56 & Matthew 1:18-25

In Israel, about 2000 years ago, a young woman, Mary, was going to marry Joseph. The weddings were in two stages.



e	f	a	m	i	l	y	o	u	n	g	i	p
l	f	r	z	s	z	d	e	v	b	q	g	n
i	y	j	y	r	i	s	z	y	l	u	f	w
z	e	b	m	a	r	r	i	a	g	e	x	i
a	a	p	r	e	g	n	a	n	t	c	u	m
b	r	f	b	l	s	a	v	e	s	h	k	p
e	a	t	y	j	o	s	e	p	h	i	e	o
t	n	c	o	m	p	l	e	t	e	l	m	s
h	g	s	w	e	d	d	i	n	g	d	a	s
c	e	q	n	o	t	h	i	n	g	r	r	i
e	l	m	g	h	p	e	o	p	l	e	y	b
m	f	h	l	j	d	r	e	a	m	n	r	l
c	m	z	k	b	w	i	e	s	h	a	m	e

impossible

Elizabeth

people

baby

messenger

complete

wrong

saves

young

Israel

pregnant

wedding

angel

nothing

marriage

shame

Joseph

afraid

dream

children

Mary

family

God

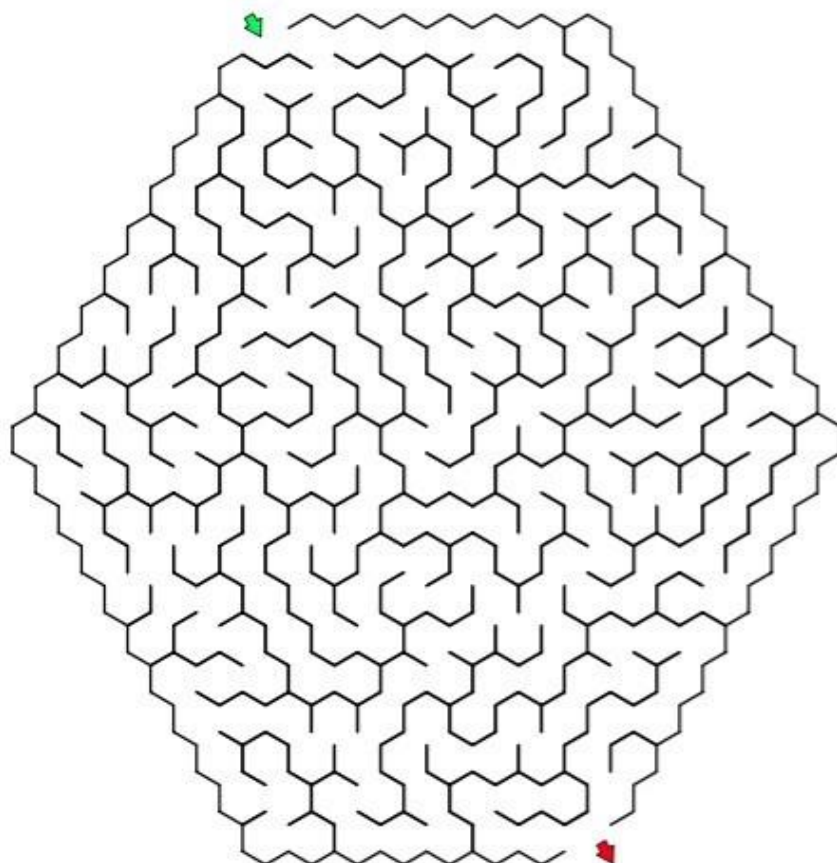
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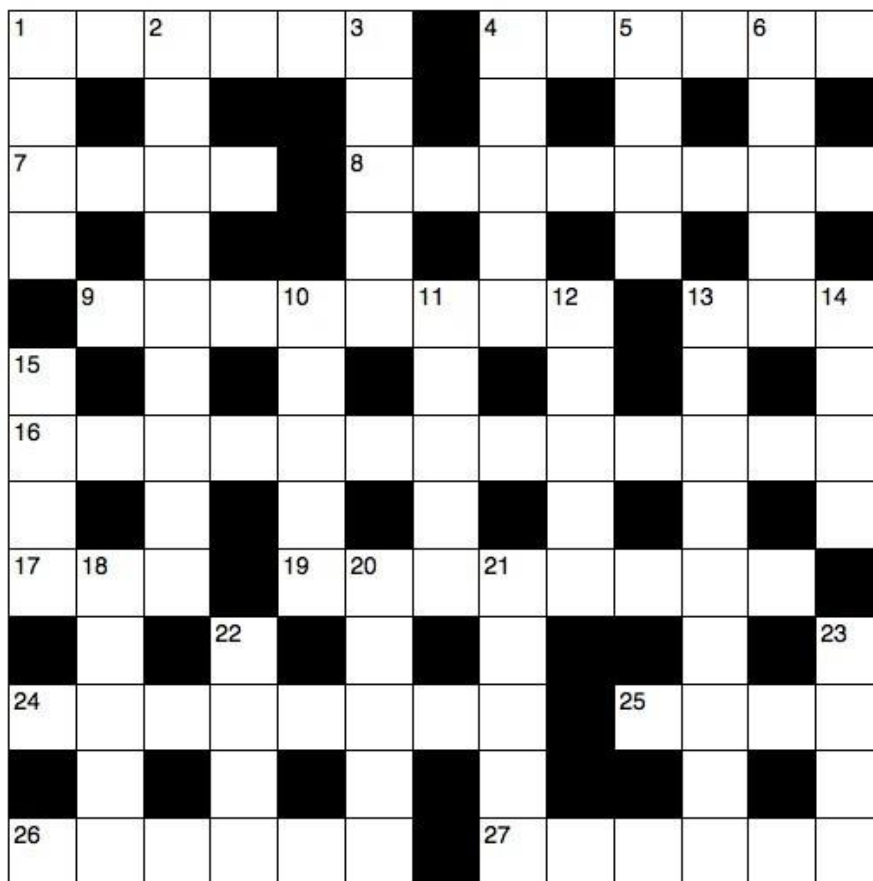
6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

Sudoku:

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

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Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

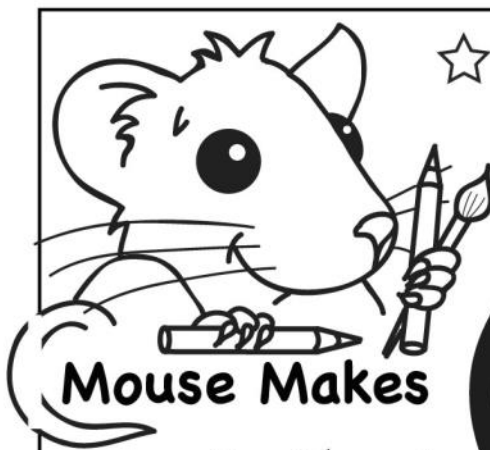
Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)

- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

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

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

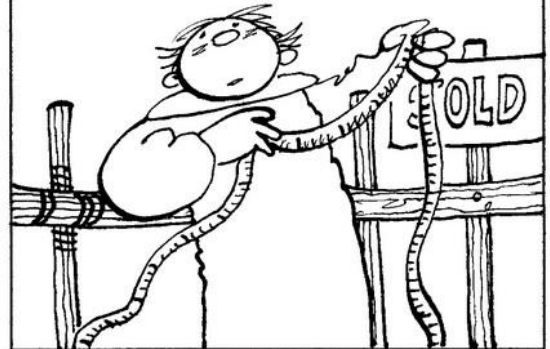


OH!
NO!!

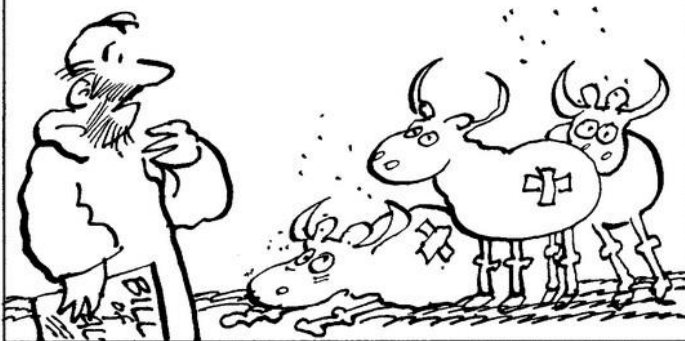


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN
COME TO YOUR
PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

Christmas Prayer 2023

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world.
Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred - and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will *always* shine in the darkness and the darkness will *never* be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always.
In Jesus' saving and powerful name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Christmas 2023

The night before Christmas when all are abed,
As reindeer and sleigh bells are heard overhead,
Children still sleeping will early arise,
With shouts of delights as they open each prize.

A doll for Amanda, a toy soldier for Jo?
Ah, these are toys of long ago!
Now it's computers, a party dress,
Gifts so expensive they're meant to impress.

But the real joy of Christmas forever will stay,
As church bells and carols proclaim that glad day,
As wise man and shepherds recount what they saw,
Of Mary, her Baby - and a bed full of straw.

By Megan Carter

Nigel Beeton writes: It's surprising just how many Christmas Cards have pictures of robins on them. When you consider that robins are resident all year long, you have to wonder why they have such an association with Christmas!

The Robin on my Christmas Card

The Robin on my Christmas Card

Upon a postbox, red –

He fixed me with a gaze quite hard

And this is what he said:

“O, viewer of this Christmas card

“I bet that you don't know

“Why I upon this card am here

“To bring a yuletide glow?”

I said to him, “O birdie, do

“Reveal your secret deep

“I see you all the yearlong through

“And hear your joyful cheep!”

“So why, O Robin, tell me why

“When you're around all year

“On lawn, or branch, or in the sky

“Why now this Christmas cheer?”

He said to me that long ago

The postmen you would see

Their jackets vivid red would glow –

“In fact, they looked like me!”

“From then till now my bright red breast

“And cheery trilling tweet

“Has come upon the Christmas fest

“To bring a Christmas treat!”

By Nigel Beeton

Many thanks to John for again preparing the minutes from the most recent PCC meeting to share with us via the Key.

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

PCC NOTES for the meeting on Wednesday 15th November 2023

Matters arising from previous minutes

The new refrigerator had been purchased and installed in the kitchen.

The additional tree work in the churchyard had been completed. However, one tree had come down in a recent storm. Nobody had been hurt, but minor damage had been caused to a car parked nearby.

Financial statements and reports

Performance to end-September. Becky presented housekeeping figures, which showed income to date of £145,576 and expenditure at £137,842 – an overall surplus so far of £7,734 against a budgeted deficit of £1,209. Fair Shares continued to perform well following the recent campaign, with receipts some 25% over budget. The Rooms and Youth Centre showed a surplus after quota payments of £7,230 and the legacies account showed a payment of £1,000 from the estate of Ira Webber for which gratitude was expressed.

Salaries for employees. It was agreed that payments to employees should be increased in line with changes in the London Living Wage.

2024 Budget. Becky's proposals for the coming year showed a projected income of £208,100 and expenditure of £191,472, leading to a budgeted housekeeping surplus of £16,628. In discussion the proposed increase in Fair Shares income was reduced by £2,000, reflecting the recent loss of two major contributors. Budgeted income for Homesdale Road reflected the rental agreement with Hope Into Action. A modest increase was anticipated for interest and dividends following a recent investment and changes in interest rates. In terms of expenditure the meeting agreed a Parish Offer of £78,631 as proposed by the Diocese. Small changes might be required to reflect BPC's policy of paying the London Living Wage to cleaners and also to include some Curate expenses late in the year. These were expected to lead to a revised housekeeping surplus of about £14,000. Subject to these changes the proposed budget was agreed unanimously.

CCTV policy

The CCTV system had recently been installed, and had already been used twice in conjunction with thefts of lead. It was now necessary to agree a

formal policy to govern the use of the system. James had adapted a model policy developed by the Church of England. This was unanimously approved. Members agreed that the churchwarden(s) should be nominally responsible for the system, and that this would be registered with the Security Industry Authority, who act as regulators.

Committee Reports

The meeting received and adopted a report from the Standing & Finance Committee.

Any other business

It was reported that the taps in the Rooms end toilets were causing problems, often failing to turn off. It was agreed that they would be replaced, using taps of a quality suitable for use in public washrooms.

Bell-tower. Work on the new sound control system had now started. The stonework around the louvre windows would now need to be checked, in line with the Diocesan Architect's advice.

Choir robes. Following the arrival of several new members it was agreed that new robes should be purchased, ideally paid for from Choir funds.

Book of Gospels. It was agreed that the current book, which was in a state of disrepair, should be replaced. Funding would come from legacies.

Christmas tree festival. This would be held again this year. It was agreed that a number of new trees could be purchased. Members of the congregation would be asked to help in preparations for the event.

World Toilet Day. In line with the Eco-Committee's suggestion, BPC members would be encouraged to support the twinning scheme with donations to help improve sanitation around the world.

James informed members that a new Curate would be joining BPC in September 2024. She currently worships at Holy Trinity Penge.

Diocesan Synod. James summarised the recent session at Dartford, which included an address from Bishop Jonathan and discussions on the Diocesan budget, which was continuing to show significant losses.



CHRISTMAS AT BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

ADVENT CAROLS

3RD DECEMBER 6:30PM

Music and readings reflecting on the themes of Advent

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

9TH & 16TH DECEMBER 11AM-4PM

10TH & 17TH DECEMBER 12PM-4PM

Come and see the church decorated and ready for Christmas

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

10TH DECEMBER 6:30PM

A reflective service for anyone who finds this time of year difficult

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

16TH DECEMBER 6PM

Get ready for Christmas with a joyful service of music & readings

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG

17TH DECEMBER 4PM

A fun, relaxed event - come & pick your favourite carols to sing!

CHRISTINGLE

21ST DECEMBER 4PM

It's the one with the orange! Fun for all ages

NATIVITY SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE 4PM

Come dressed as your favourite nativity character!

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE 11:30PM

Escape the chaos and come find peace at the start of the big day

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30AM

A short, family friendly Christmas celebration

Sunday 3	10.30am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Advent Carols
Monday 4	10.00am Christmas Tree Festival set up 10.30am Bumps & Babies last session this term
Tuesday 5	10.00am Christmas Tree Festival set up 11.00am Toddler Praise term ends 7.30pm Bell ringing practice
Wednesday 6	10.00am Christmas Tree Festival set up 12noon Midweek service 12.30pm -2.00pm Church <u>open</u> for private prayer 12.30pm Lychgate Lunch
Thursday 7	11.30am Parish Primary School Carol Service 2.00pm Parish Primary School Carol Service 7.30pm Choir practice
Saturday 9	10.00am -12.30pm Churches Together carol singing in the Glades 11.00am - <u>4.00pm</u> Christmas Tree Festival 6.00pm Salvation Army Christmas Concert
Sunday 10	9.00am Breakfast Church 10.30am Parish Eucharist 12noon – 4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival 6.30pm Light in the Darkness – a reflective service for anyone who finds this time of year difficult
Monday 11	9.00am Valley Primary School rehearsal

Tuesday 12	9.00am Valley Primary School Carol rehearsal 2.00pm Valley Primary School Carol Service 7.30pm Bell ringing practice
Wednesday 13	12noon Midweek service 12.30pm -2.00pm Church open for private prayer
Thursday 14	10.00am Nursery School nativity 2.15pm Fellowship Christmas party 7.30pm Choir practice
Saturday 16	11.00am - 4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 17	10.30am All age Worship with Communion 12noon -4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival 4.00pm Christmas Carol Sing Along
Monday 18	9.00am Bickley Primary School rehearsal 12.30pm Bereavement Group meeting
Tuesday 19	6.00pm Bickley Primary School Carol service 7.30pm Bell ringing practice
Wednesday 20	12noon Midweek service 12.30-2.00pm Church open for private prayer
Thursday 21	4.00pm Christingle 7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 24 Christmas Eve	10.30am Service of the Word 4.00pm Nativity 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Monday 25	9.30am Christmas Day Communion
Christmas Day	
Wednesday 27	No Midweek <u>service</u> No Private Prayer
Sunday 31	10.30am Parish Eucharist

Morning Prayer is said daily at 9.15am 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
www.bromleyparishchurch.org