

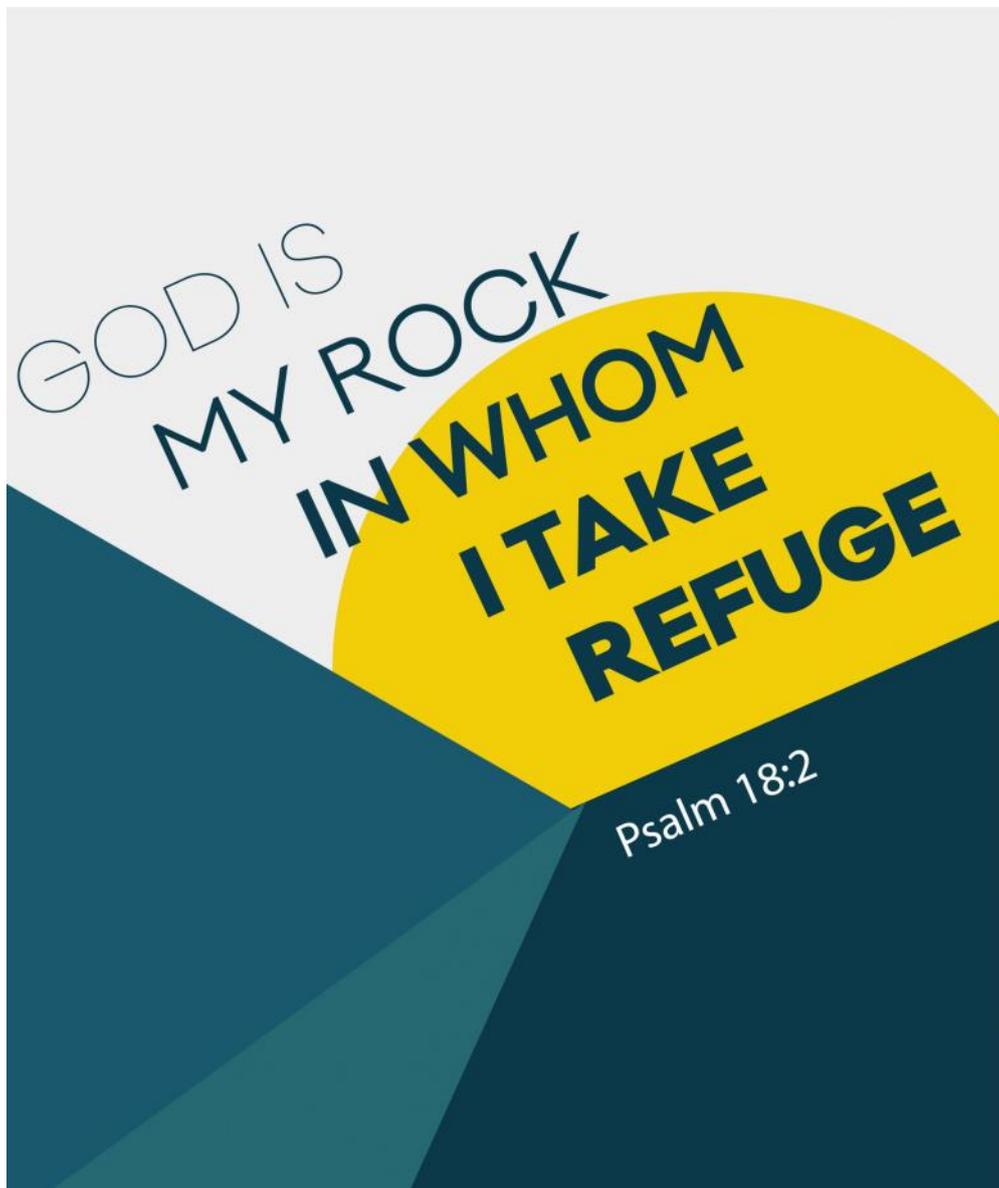
*the*KEY

Number 207

February 2021

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



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

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the February edition of the Key, hope you are keeping well and managing lockdown. We all hope the end is in sight where we can all meet in person again! Meanwhile I hope you are managing to access the online services.

In this edition of the Key, there is a sermon from Candlemas kindly provided by Anne, and some updates from local charities—namely BRiN and Transform Bromley Borough Food Partnership.

There are also the usual entries so you can read about St Kew, a new pilgrimage route running through the south of England for the walkers and hikers among us, and many other articles, prayers and poems, illustrated Bible stories and the all-important Diary Dates for our own Church.

Wishing you a good month, with warmest wishes to you all.

Lisa

This sermon has kindly been provided by Rev. Dr. Anne Townsend, delivered by video into the Candlemas service at BPC. Many thanks Anne for sharing this with the Key.

CANDLEMAS

When my friend commented that she didn't know much about Candlemas, I realised that we were in the same boat. Finding out about Candlemas for today turned into a fascinating treasure hunt.

When my great-great-grandmother gave birth to each of her many babies, she'd wait a few weeks and then go to church for the customary little service called "The churching of women". God was thanked for safe childbirth and my great-great Gran was welcomed back to church. Why did she need this - she'd only had a baby? In those days, a remnant persisted in people's thinking that the fluids involved in childbirth were contaminating, and mothers needed inner cleansing.

We've dropped this service but its distant roots - connected with childbirth - are the same as those from which Candlemas originally sprung.

In *Jewish* tradition, 40 days after the birth of a son, a sacrifice is offered to purify the mother from the ritual uncleanness of childbirth. So, we hear of the event called the "purification of Mary" (when the holy family went to the temple). This is now celebrated as a special feast day. Different strands of the church give it different emphasis. This is one of the oldest feast days in the church beginning when the church was about 310 years old - that's roughly 1,700 years ago. Those roots go a long way back!

We also know, from the New Testament, that *Jesus* was 40 days old when *he* was taken to the temple and inducted into Judaism – on the same occasion as Mary's purification. So we have another ancient feast day, "The Feast of the Presentation" occurring at the same time.

These two feasts, 40 days after Christmas, eventually formed the basis for our "Candlemas". A custom developed that at mass on that feast day, the next year's supply of church candles were blessed and consecrated. So Candlemas is both an ending and a beginning. But that's not all!

Another ingredient in Candlemas is two elderly friends – I think of them as the "golden oldies" - Anna and Simeon, who worshipped regularly in the temple. They were waiting for the birth of a promised totally amazing baby ... the Messiah.

Anna, aged 84, was just one year older than me. Last year, I waited and waited, hoping that my cancer would retreat sufficiently for me to hold out my arms and cuddle my very first great-grandchild.

Baby Ted was born just before Christmas and - defying the oncologist's predictions - here I am - still alive! But, like thousands of others, the restrictions of the Covid pandemic mean I'm still waiting to cuddle this special baby.

I'm sure my great-grandson is the most wonderful baby ever invented. Anna and Simeon saw more than a totally wonderful baby - they recognised that baby Jesus was, completely amazingly, God born in human form – the Messiah for whom they'd waited all their lives. We're not told *how* they knew - or that this baby had stars all round, or a special halo. But they recognised that the baby Jesus was totally *out of* this world – but, significantly, totally *in and of* our world. It's mind-blowing to realise that this baby would transform everything ... nothing would be the same again.

On that day, the old man, Simeon, recognised who baby Jesus was. He lifted him up high proclaiming that this child was “a light to lighten the gentiles...” And we can link this up with the lights of all the candles being blessed at Candlemas, 40 days after Christmas.

When I tried to find a date for the first Candlemas celebrations, to my amazement, my research took me right back to the very first of three recorded devastating pandemics.

It seemed so strange that as we settle into another lockdown in *our* Covid19 pandemic, that the roots of today's Candlemas (here in Bromley) can be traced right back to around the year 541 AD when the so-called “Plague of Justinian” probably started – ending around 200 years later about 750 AD.

The plague of Justinian is thought to have been bubonic plague, the “black death”, which was spread by fleas, carried by rats on the grain trading ships from the Far East to the Mediterranean basin, the Near East and Europe. About 25% of the Eastern Mediterranean population is reckoned to have been wiped out. At its height, 5,000 people probably died every day in Constantinople, Istanbul.

This Christmas, our Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said that the year “2020 was characterised by the darkness of Covid19, by economic crises, climate emergency, evils of racism, of war, genocide, and persecution. For billions around the world it has been a year walking through the valley of the shadow of death.”

He added, “There have been gifts of good news of hope in recent weeks, including the vaccines... but above and beyond all these, there is the simple history, the reality that the light shone into the world and the darkness has not overcome it. Not because we feel it, or believe it, or it works for us, but because the light of the birth of Jesus reveals *God as God is*. *Jesus Christ reveals God leaning into the darkness and defeating it through embracing every aspect of our sufferings and struggles, anxieties and fears.*”

He added, “We could say that like a flash of lightning Covid-19 illuminated

hidden neglect in all the darker crevices of our society. The key task for the year 2021 is to identify and understand how that neglect occurred, and for the whole of society to take responsibility for repairing it.”

When, as Christians, we imagine looking through God’s telescope or magnifying glass, it’s obvious that such a lot in contemporary society was created and intended to be totally different from the mess we’ve made.

Pope Francis¹ has a lot to say ... I was struck by his condemnation of attitudes that give rise to words like: “who cares” or “whatever... “

He longs for a radical change at the centre of all society. Change in our “ecological consciousness,” the development of a “community of mutual respect for the voiceless, the disregarded, the marginalised, the meek and the poor, the refugee and the homeless... “priority must be given to the inconspicuous, the unremarked and, above all, the marginalised...”.

He explains, “I don’t just mean that we have to take better care of this or that group of people. I mean that those people who are now on the edges themselves become the protagonists of social change.” Challenging words – and that’s only a few of them!

“The light of Christ could be seen today”, he adds, “in a society that because of our Christian heritage – even if not our current belief - it matters fundamentally that the poor are cared for, the hungry are fed, the sick have access to the health care they need, the children are protected, fed and educated, that the elderly are cherished and protected...” and that’s just for starters – he has much more to say, and we can add to the list ourselves.

We’re human – some of us we worry about ourselves, our families and friends. Something terrible is happening round us, we feel powerless and we’re anxious we may not get through. We’ve not gone through anything like this before.

But people have been here before – and enough people have survived to rebuild society and to make a different world.

Remember - the earliest roots of Candlemas can be traced right back over 1500 years to the very first recorded great pandemic “the plague of Justinian”.

As much as we may currently be tempted to imagine this virus is the pivot of our lives - “before Covid19 and after-Covid19”– the pivot for every life, for human history, is in fact the coming of the light of Christ, Jesus, into the world.

We have *hope*. When you go outside, look out for the snowdrops that are flowering everywhere. Remember that Snowdrops represent Hope. I’m going to leave you with a children’s ditty

*“The Snowdrop, in purest white array,
First rears her head on Candlemas day.”*

Seeing Snowdrops, today, at Candlemas, let's remember the hope we have that the light of Christ is here - shining in our world and shining through us to transform our culture and world – to the extent that we are able to open up and allow this to happen.

My children used to talk about “real real” and “pretend real”. Our hope in Jesus really is “real real”.

¹ Marina Warner December 26 Tablet

*Rev Dr Anne Townsend, for Candlemas 2021
St Peter and St Paul Bromley, 31 January*



Transform Bromley Borough (TBB) Food Partnership

Introduction

The Transform Bromley Food Partnership is part of Transform Bromley Borough (TBB), a network of churches based within the London Borough of Bromley. We come from a variety of backgrounds and traditions, but have chosen to work together in unity to demonstrate God's love in a practical way in our communities.

Background

The TBB Food Partnership was formed in April 2020, in response to those affected by food poverty in communities across the borough. The need for a partnership came about following a meeting between FareShare, Bromley Council, the Trussell Trust Bromley Borough Foodbank and TBB at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. We currently have 12 Food Partners; food banks and community fridges that are primarily based in churches across Bromley. We work in close collaboration with the Bromley Borough Foodbank.

What we do

Food manufacturers and supermarkets donate large amounts of surplus food to FareShare, and now the Felix Project, which is a national organisation that aims to fight hunger and tackle food waste. They pass on this food to charities and community groups, like the TBB Food Partnership. The food donations we receive are delivered to our central distribution hub at the Goodmead Centre (Hope Church) in Orpington. The food is stored and then sorted ready for collection by our TBB Food Partners, who then distribute food to people in their communities who need it, either through their own food banks and community fridges, or by delivering food parcels.

If any of our TBB Food Partners are given supplies locally that they can't use, they share it with other TBB Food Partners, either through our central distribution hub or directly with one another. So far, the TBB Food Partnership has been able to share 1000s of kilograms of food donations, as well as 1000s of ready or one-pot meals. The TBB Food Partnership also has some funding to purchase food to supplement what we receive from the Felix Project (formally from FareShare) and other suppliers. This funding enables us to provide more food to those who need it, and in particular the provision of nutritious fresh food, such as meat, poultry, fruit and vegetables.

Our impact in the community

The TBB Food Partnership is currently working with over 1700 individuals, almost a 1000 of whom are under 18, from 277 families all living within the Bromley borough. We are distributing four tonnes of food each week with the help of over 170 volunteers, who together are generously contributing around 500 hours of work each week.

God is using church unity and community relationships to bless and serve those facing food poverty across our borough!

If you would like to know more, please contact jaz.potter@hopechurch.org

Follow a new pilgrim path

In the south of England, a new pilgrim path is emerging. Winding through downland, weald and shoreline for 250 miles, the Old Way from Southampton to Canterbury is derived from the oldest road map of Britain: the Gough Map, c.1360.

Like the Santiago de Compostela in Spain, this ancient route has lain dormant for years. But it has been recently rediscovered by the British Pilgrimage Trust, who have used the Gough Map's key anchor waypoints (corresponding to settlements like Southampton, Chichester, Arundel, Battle, Rye etc) to create a new pilgrimage route with ancient roots.

In unison with the Old Way's development, the British Pilgrimage Trust are also re-introducing another ancient – and similarly dormant – tradition. The offering of 'sanctuary' hospitality to pilgrims along a pilgrimage route was, up until the English Reformation of 1534, common practice. Monasteries throughout the country would have had a room or building reserved specifically for travellers, who would rely on these sanctuaries in order to make pilgrimage. When pilgrimage was banned in 1538, and monasteries demolished, these two practices – making pilgrimage, and providing sanctuary – ceased, lying fallow for hundreds of years.

It is natural, then, that with the re-emergence of pilgrimage in the UK, the provision of sanctuary should likewise become common practice again. The BPT has worked with 13 churches along the Old Way, who will offer overnight sanctuary to BPT pilgrims walking the route, in exchange for a donation (between £5-£10 per pilgrim for one night) to their church. In Spring 2021, Covid-19 permitting, the Sanctuary Project will launch.

The BPT is looking for more churches, based along this route and in other locations across Britain, to take up this project. This is a fantastic opportunity: not only will the project enable pilgrims on lower incomes to make pilgrimage, but it will also bring a new type of visitor and donation to churches.

To find out more about the BPT's Sanctuary Project, visit: britishpilgrimage.org/sanctuary

Bromley Relief in Need (BRiN) is a charity that has long associations with Bromley Parish Church. It began in 1631 when the Bishop of Rochester, who would stop overnight in Bromley on his journey to London, made a donation to the poor of Bromley. Over the centuries, other charities merged to form the current charity. Initially, it only covered the area of the Ancient Parish of Bromley; however, in 1993 - in order to permit the merger of the Bromley Benevolent Association into BRiN - this was expanded to include the entire area of the London Borough of Bromley.

Recently, the Trustees have agreed to make another small change to the territory covered and an application for this alteration to our Constitution has been made to the Charity Commission. This change is made to accommodate clients of Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA). The Trustees recognise that victims of domestic violence frequently need to move to other areas to hide from their abusers, so set up a partnership with BCWA to create the "Freedom Fund". This fund will be used exclusively to enable victims to acquire items like beds and fridge/freezers as they relocate (existing BRiN funds will not be used for this purpose); they will also be helped by Bromley Parish Church's Starter Pack Project.

The changes over the years have meant a number of adjustments to the way the charity has been governed. The Constitution has needed to be modified and modernised - for example, the 1973 Constitution stated among other archaic rules that

"Provided that in applying not more than £2.56p each year out of the said income preference shall be given to poor widows qualified as aforesaid of not less than 60 years of age who are communicant members of the Church of England."

In 2019, the Constitution was changed again to bring it into line with current charity regulations and the modern age. One significant change is that the vicar of Bromley Parish Church or a designate of the PCC will be the Chair of Trustees in perpetuity. This formally links BRiN to the Church - previously, the vicar was only Chair by tradition. An advantage of the new Constitution is

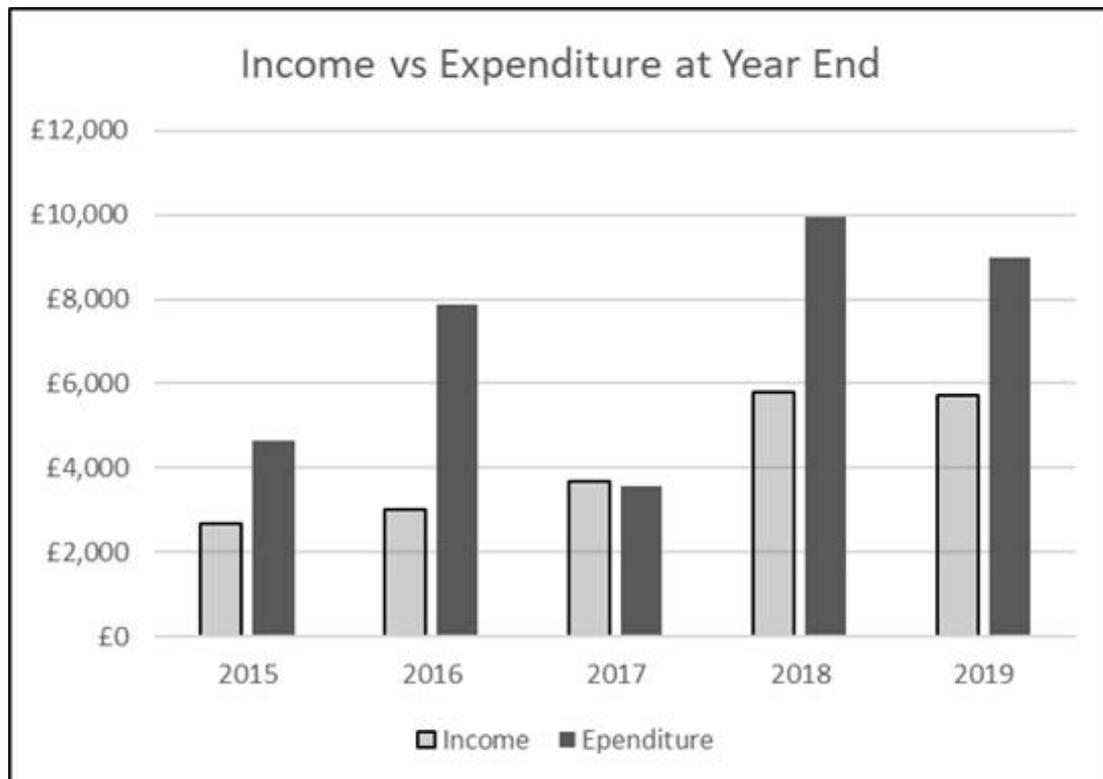
that it enables the charity to apply to HMRC for Gift Aid status. Gift Aid allows the charity to make a claim to the government for 25% of most donations. The purpose of the charity has always been to help the poverty-stricken people of Bromley. Of course, this too has had to change over the years to reflect the changes in society and the value of money! £2.56 a year to elderly widows approximately equates to an average of about £125 per client now.

Typical grants would be:

- Washing machine for an incontinent older person.
- Fridge Freezer for a disabled person who can't get to the shops and has frozen meals delivered.
- A bed for an elderly person whose flat caught fire.
- Decorating materials for a single mother rehoused by the Council.
- Orthopaedic memory foam mattress for someone with a spinal injury.
- A microwave for a mother with learning difficulties to cook hot meals for her children.
- A bed of his own for a 15 year-old boy who was sharing his father's.

Referrals come to us from professional bodies known to the applicants (usually GPs, Health Visitors, Midwives, Social Workers, Teachers etc) so that we can be sure the circumstances described in the applications are genuine. We know, from some of the messages received, how much BRiN's help is appreciated. We are usually the only source of assistance available to applicants confronted by a domestic crisis that they have no means of resolving.

By 2014, the activities of the charity had declined significantly so the Trustees proactively began an awareness campaign, contacting likely agencies of referral. Since then, the number of applications for help has risen dramatically. 2020 alone brought 113, of which 89 were met, the remaining 24 being rejected as not considered to meet the Charity's criteria. All this means that the demands on BRiN's resources have increased to the point that expenditure has exceeded income, as can be seen from the chart overleaf.



The figures for 2019 are understated as they only apply to October 2019 when the Charity Constitution was changed and do not include Gift Aid but show the same story that the charity needs more income.

If you would like to learn more about the charity or how you can help, please contact Jane Cleveland (janecc@btinternet.com) or Ed Tree (ed_tree@hotmail.com).

Donations would be so gratefully received and cheques, made out to Bromley Relief in Need, should be sent to Bromley Parish Church.

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C

anon Paul Hardingham considers the temptations of Jesus.

How to handle temptation

"I can resist everything but temptation" (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's Word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).

Describe what love is

J R Miller (1840-1912) was considered by many to be the most gifted devotional writer of his generation. His book 'In Green Pastures' was much loved. Here is J R Miller's paraphrase of the famous 'love' passage in 1 Corinthians 13:

Love thinks no evil. It does not suspect unkindness in kindly deeds. It does not imagine an enemy in every friend. It does not fear insincerity in sincere professions of esteem. It does not impugn others' motives nor discount their acts.

On the other hand, it overlooks foibles and hides the multitude of faults that belong to every human being, even to those who are the holiest and the best. Love believes in the good that is in people and tries to think of them always at their best, not at their worst.

It looks, too, at the possibilities that are in people, what they may become through divine love and grace, and not merely at what they now are. It is wonderful how seeing through love's eyes changes the whole face of earthly life, transfiguring it. If the heart be filled with suspicion, distrust, and doubt of people, the world grows very ugly. But love sees brightness, beauty and hope everywhere.

8th Feb: Kew and the wild boar

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the 'Q' of James Bond fame. This Kew was a girl who lived in Cornwall in the 5th century, and who should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.

Kew's older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. Kew spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of "rare virtue and holiness". Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and so should have the parish church named after her.

Perhaps the moral of all this is that if you want to win over a difficult older brother, you should first practise on wild boars.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



Press Release



BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean) have prepared this year's service. The black and white sandy beaches, coral reefs with coloured fishes, lovely birds, fruits and nuts in the forest, all make the islands a pristine environment but they are vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis and active volcanoes. Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Build on a strong foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity like Vanuatu and so many other places around the world.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally at a church near you on **Friday 5 March 2021** people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Vanuatu.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa, and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later.

For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area see the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk

Please use this space to pass messages on to the Church community – whether it is a prayer request, a thank you, a craft idea, a recipe...



Church of England Daily Hope free phone line – 0800 804 8044 - please spread the word.

The Church of England have set up a free phone line, available twenty four hours a day, particularly for those in mind who are unable to join online church services during this period of restriction. On offer are music, prayers, reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone.

From Ed:

The following is a conversation between my daughter and 7 year old grandson.

English lesson at home with Freddie.

Question is: "Why is punctuation important?"

"Otherwise you will die" he says.

"What do you mean Freddie?"

"Well full stops tell you when to breathe so you don't die".

Well said Freddie and well done to all the parents, students and teachers dealing with homeschooling!

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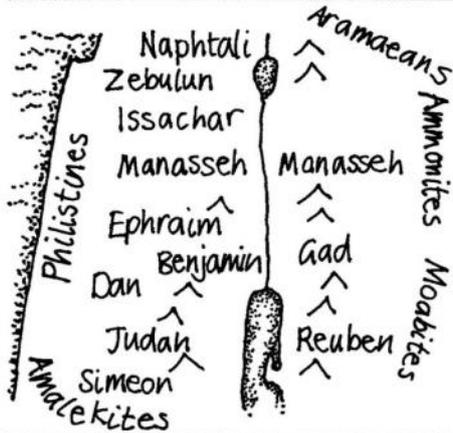
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh 13:8-20:48
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4, 5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies..



King Saul and two of his sons died fighting the Philistines.



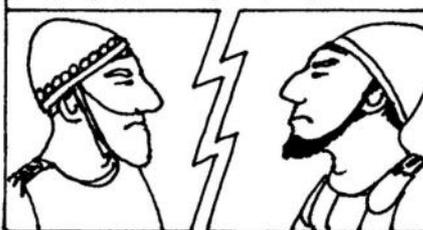
David was made king of the southern tribe of Judah.



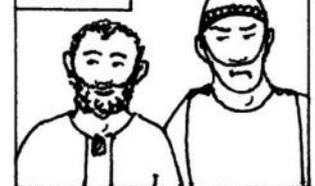
But Saul's army commander, Abner, took Saul's last son, Ishbosheth, north and made him king of the rest of Israel.



Joab was David's commander. The two armies fought and Abner killed Joab's brother.



Ishbosheth was a poor king and Abner decided to join David.



Abner persuaded all of the northern tribes to have David as king.



Abner came for a secret meeting with David.



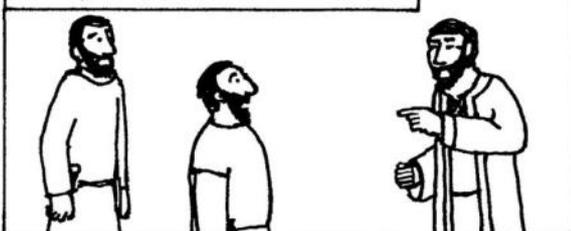
So Joab tricked Abner into another meeting and killed him.



Then two men sneaked into Ishbosheth's house and killed him as he had a nap.



They expected a reward from David but he was very angry because they had murdered Ishbosheth.



So David became king over all of Israel.



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Sudoku:

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The parable of the Shrewd Manager

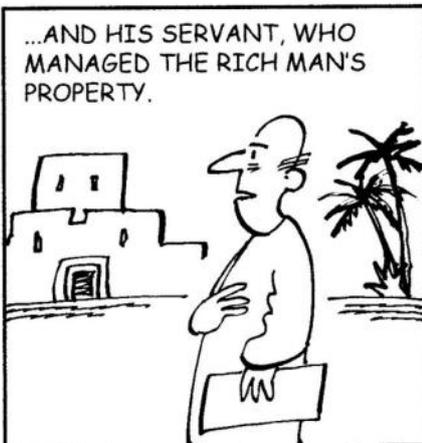


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

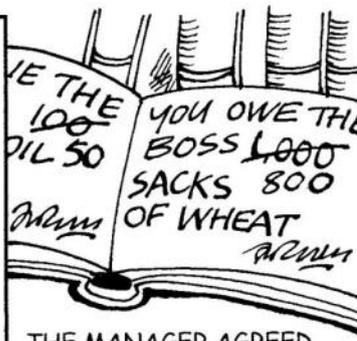


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

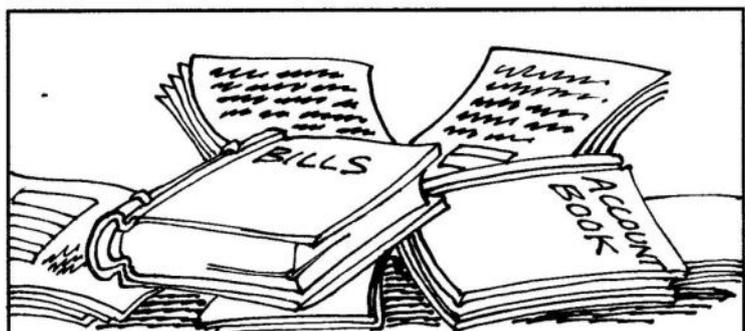
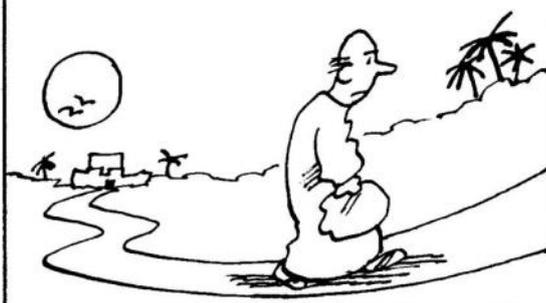


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

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 not one 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.

Psalm 34:8

'O taste and see that the LORD is good '

By Megan Carter

In this Lenten Time renew us

This may be sung to the tune 'Rhuddlan' (Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendour')

Jesus, in the wilds You tarried
Forty days and forty nights
By the Tempter often harried
You the victor in each fight!
In this Lenten time renew us
Make us perfect in Your sight!

Bread alone cannot sustain us
But each word from God above
Worldly goods can nothing gain us
If we lack our Father's love
In this Lenten time renew us
Come upon us like a dove!

God our judge should not be tempted
He alone is fully just
His laws can't be circumvented
Satan's world will turn to dust!
In this Lenten time renew us
Teach us where to place our trust!

All Earth's kingdoms are but trifles
If our Lord we can't adore
Worldly wealth our worship stifles
And, in truth, it makes us poor
In this Lenten time renew us
Guide us to Your Heav'nly shore!

God Almighty, everlasting
Perfect all that you create
Be with us in feast or fasting
Cleanse our hearts from greed and hate
In this Lenten time renew us
That our joy may ne'er abate!

By Nigel Beeton

Love

He held her close in his arms' embrace,
 Their eyes and their lips did meet,
He looked down into her lovely face,
 And her heart did faster beat...

They went to the kirk and it came the day,
 And the book the priest did take;
He in his kilt was so bright and gay
 As his promise he did make.

She stood at his side so white and fair,
 Her white fingers fair to give,
The priest handfasted them then and there,
 And he blessed them long to live.

O God give the joy and God the love
 To those who are lovers true,
Shed down benediction from above
 As in one are joined the two.

From Prayers of the Western Highlanders

Dairy Dates for February

Public worship and Private Prayer are currently suspended due to the high rate of Covid 19 infections in the Bromley area and current lockdown safety measure. Our services continue to be live streamed and can be found on our YouTube channel via our Facebook page. Updates to the current situation and changes to services will be posted on our website

www.bromleyparishchurch.org

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said daily at 8.30am and 5.15pm, please join in from your homes.

A service booklet can be found on our website at

www.bromleyparishchurch.org, if you would like a paper copy please email the church office at administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org

Wednesday 3rd February

10.30am Prayer during the Day

Thursday 4th February

10.00am – 11.00am Healing Prayer meeting ~ prayers will be said from homes for the sick and those in need.

Saturday 6th February

No Starter Pack donations collection morning, postponed until further notice

Sunday 7th February**Second Sunday before Lent**

9.00am Family Breakfast Club ~ Zoom, meeting details available from the parish office

10.30am Parish Communion

Wednesday 10th February

10.30am Prayer during the Day

Saturday 13th February

BPC Gardening Club postponed until further notice

Sunday 14th February**Sunday Next before Lent**

10.30am Parish Communion

Tuesday 16th February**Shrove Tuesday**

Pancake party on Zoom – details to be announced

Wednesday 17th February**Ash Wednesday**

10.30am Prayer during the Day

8.00pm Service for Ash Wednesday

Sunday 21st February**First Sunday of Lent**

9.00am Family Breakfast Club ~ Zoom, meeting details available from the parish office

10.30am All-age Worship with Communion

Tuesday 23rd February

8.00pm CTCB Lent Course - Zoom

Wednesday 24th February

10.30am Prayer during the Day

Sunday 28th February**Second Sunday of Lent**

10.30am Parish Communion

3.00pm Creative Funtime tbc, details to be announced on our website and Facebook page

Check our website for updates and details of events and services taking