

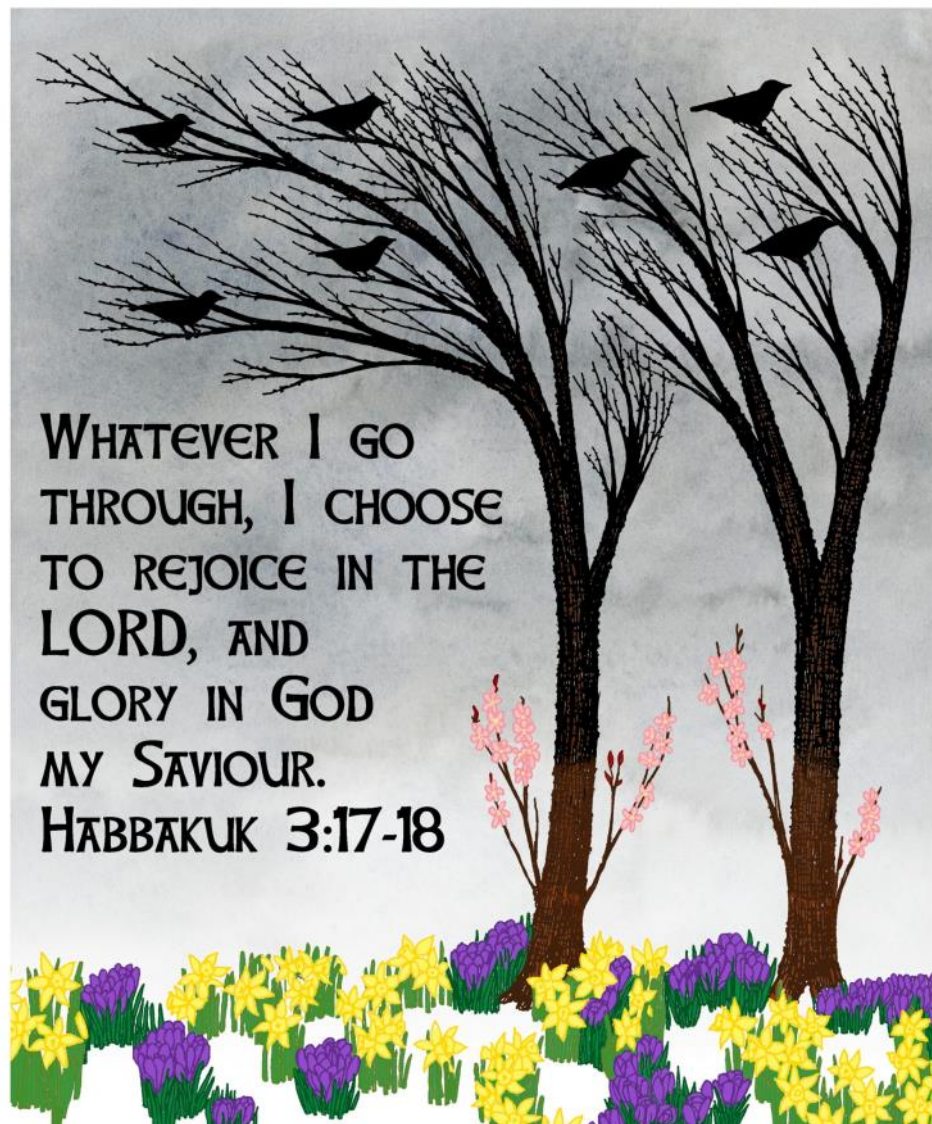
the KEY

Number 231

February 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



Vicar

Reverend James Harratt

vicar@bromleyparishchurch.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:30am to 12 noon

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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.

This is a longer edition than the last, full of dates for your diary of many upcoming events including World Day of Prayer, a Rock Choir fundraising concert, Lent courses and lectures, plus many other things. We've woken up a little now that January is past!

There is also a lovely pudding recipe from James, and some information on local charities from Ed.

Many thanks to all who have contributed.

With love,

Lisa

Reverend James has kindly shared his sermon from Midnight Mass for us to revisit.

Midnight Mass 2022

Isaiah 52.7-10

Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]

John 1.1-14

We have come here, through the darkness and the cold, into the light and warmth of this church to hear a story, an old story, one that is familiar, which is told over and over again. A story of light coming into the world, of God becoming human and coming to live among us. A story of hope.

It is a story told in many ways, from Nativity plays – think shepherds with tea towels on their heads, or from beautiful art on Christmas Cards, or from tastefully lit scenes we see on TV. It is a scene I'm sure we can imagine, indeed one which we perhaps idealise. The chubby, cherubic child in a comfy crib, surrounded by doting parents, peaceful animals, lowly shepherds and magnificent magi. Peace, love joy. Lovely stuff.

But that idealised, sanitised, vision that we carry with us really does fall short of the likely reality. Just as those adverts we have been bombarded with over the last two months of the perfect family Christmas, with snow on the ground, with everything clean and lovely, everyone getting on famously is perhaps not always how it turns out to be. They don't often seem to feature the arguments about how to carve the turkey, the frustration when you realise that you don't have the batteries for your new toy, or the inevitable post-Christmas dinner bloat, or any of the many other little realities of Christmas day. Often they don't face the particular worries many of us have this year about how we can afford those things, or to heat our homes to welcome others in.

In our reading we have heard that the word became flesh, that the unimaginable glory of God became human, became something we understand, but so often we seem to want to turn flesh back to word, to take it away from the immediacy of human life and experience and turn it back into something a bit more remote, a bit more safe.

The Christmas story does indeed continue to be relevant to us and our world – a

pregnant teenager struggling with the shame and judgement of those around her. A family who struggle to a distant town in the midst of a strange and dangerous situation, where Herod, a dangerous despot ruled, a man who was not past murdering his own family members, and who would soon force this family to flee as refugees to a distant land. A story which has strong echoes this year in those we have seen come to our shores over this last year, escaping Ukraine, escaping similar situations and stories repeated across our world. The story then was as it is now in many ways.

I visited Bethlehem some years ago now, the location of this story we celebrate tonight. It is a place still of conflict and tension, indeed those are escalating alarmingly as we meet in the peace of this place tonight. Bethlehem itself is surrounded by security walls and electrified fences; checkpoints bar your access there, there are big red notices tell you that you may risk death to proceed further. Yet I, and many others carry on going to the place where we remember a baby born in an occupied land, born in poverty, born in danger, born away from the comforts and familiarity of home. To a place which still suffers from high unemployment, where water and electricity are frequently cut off, where many cannot freely leave to go to Jerusalem, just a few miles away.

When you get to the heart of Bethlehem, you will find an ancient church; underneath it is a small grotto, as you carefully negotiate your way down steep steps, ducking your head under a short door, you enter a hot and cramped space. In a niche at one end, carved into the floor lies a star- marking the traditional site of Jesus' birth. If you bend down, crawl in and put your hand in the middle of that star you discover that it is hollow, you reach in and touch solid rock – the floor of a cave- something real, solid, tangible. You can feel the solidity of the place that saw God start to live our life, to share our experiences and know our problems. That is what we mean when we say 'The Word became flesh'.

The word become flesh -Jesus Christ came to offer hope amid the fragility of our world and our lives. Yet he is not a magical potion that fixes the ills of this world in an instant. We all know that there still injustice, there is still war, there is still poverty and disease. Christ came in the middle of all these troubles, not at the end when it

was resolved. Christ is present, he is present with us in the midst of our troubles: when we are ill, when we are down, when we grieve, when we lose work, when our relationships are strained to breaking point. Jesus Christ is not a simple solution to our woes. He himself would know hardship, to know suffering, to know an unfair trial and a vicious death, which he did not deserve. Christ knows that this life isn't fair, and he doesn't take these things away magically and painlessly. But as we endure these things, he does promise to come alongside us, to be born within us even, to bring hope, to bring a light that cannot be quenched. Because even when we fail to love each other, he will never stop loving us and being there for us.

That is the real joy of the Christmas message, that we still face the same difficulties of life, but we face them with a new and transformed perspective, one which gives us new possibilities and new hope in the chances and changes of this world. Most of all the birth of that little baby 2000 years ago means that we never face this world alone or unloved. That is a message to hold onto beyond Christmas, beyond the neat little nativity scene we will soon pack away, Healing peace, purpose and forgiveness can be ours in this life, thanks to the one we celebrate at Christmas. And so this Christmas, may that joy of knowing that God is all our own, inspire you and give you hope for the coming year. I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Ed Tree has kindly written about two charities we support at BPC, BRiN and The Starter Packs. There is some new information in here regarding the finances and examples of how donations are used and spent, so please read and any support you could offer would be much appreciated. Thank you Ed for the update.

Two more charities

In December, I wrote about two foreign charities which our church and congregation have supported in the past, St Paul's Outreach Team in Harare and Footsteps International working in Kenya. This month, I will write about another two, Bromley Relief in Need and Bromley Starter Packs, both of which support our local community.

Bromley Relief in Need

BRiN, as it is commonly known, has its origins back in 1631 when John Buckridge, Bishop of Rochester, left some money in his will for the benefit of the poor of Bromley Parish. Since then other charities have joined with BRiN; most recently, in 2002, the Bromley Benevolent Association amalgamated with BRiN, which enabled BRiN to increase the area it covers from Bromley Parish to the whole of Bromley Borough. However, it remains a very small charity. Since at least 1973, the chairperson for the charity has been the vicar of [Bromley Parish Church](#), who is currently our own Reverend James Harratt.

The following table gives an indication of the size of the charity and its financial problems.

Year	Number of Applications	Number requests granted	Total Paid out	Total Donations
2019	169	59	£9500	£2256
2020	117	63	£8288	£12495
2021	126	58	£10260	£2278
2022	108	47	£7954	£2605

In addition to our donations, BRiN has limited income from its assets, but despite this our income is less than expenditure. As you can see, expenditure has exceeded donations except in 2020, when amongst other donations, a very generous gift was made by our church and a member of the congregation. As a result of our declining resources, BRiN has needed to sell assets recently. If this continues, it will

lead to the demise of the charity, so the Trustees have needed to reject more applications for help than they would like. Firstly, BRiN screens approaches for help by insisting that the individual is referred by a professional such as a social worker or GP. Secondly, BRiN needs to be sure that the individual is poor. Finally, the items needed must be essential. For example, if someone requests a washing machine, it will only be granted under exceptional circumstances such as a very large family, disability or incontinence.

Recent examples of help BRiN has given are:-

- A family on benefits with outgoing exceeding income by £300 per month was given a replacement refrigerator.
- A Ukraine student immigrant whose London sponsor deserted her, leaving her homeless, was assisted to buy a sofa bed following being rehoused.
- A family with three children sought a vacuum cleaner to enable mother to keep a clean and safe environment for the eldest, showing challenging behaviour, and a younger one unable to walk through disability.
- A single mother, rehoused by the council after having to leave home suddenly due to domestic violence, was helped with the cost of materials to enable her to repair and redecorate the bedroom shared by her two daughters.
- An elderly man suffering weakness following recurrent TIAs/Stroke was purchased an orthopaedic bed to replace existing well-worn standard one.
- A recovering addict, making every effort to provide a good home for her two children, received a grant to enable the purchase of second-hand wardrobes following the discovery of a longstanding bathroom leak which had caused mould that spread into the children's adjacent room.
- An autistic young woman with learning difficulties and mental, health issues, sleeping on the floor with her young baby, was given a grant to purchase a bed.

The charity does all it can to ensure funds are spent wisely. Sometimes BRiN is able to guide applicants to other charities such as Beckenham Parochial Charity, Bromley Starter Packs or Bromley Brighter Beginnings. Sometimes applications are silly, like the request to replace a washing machine that was leaking oil on the clothes; it was actually mould on the door seal!

Occasionally, the Trustees will visit the home themselves to verify the need. We can be shocked by what we see; for example, a man sleeping on the concrete floor of his flat with no carpet or mattress. I have one memorable visit to a brave blind lady with a 4 year old child; they had no furniture except beds and were obliged to sit on a rug on the floor to eat their dinner. It was a wonderful feeling to be able to help them and see their courage under such difficult circumstances.

If you would like to volunteer for this charity, please contact Rev. James.

The starter packs scheme provides people with bedding, crockery, pots and pans, and basic items such as toiletries and washing up liquid when they move into accommodation. The recipients are typically victims of domestic violence or the homeless. The contents of the pack are chosen so that, when the person moves in, they can keep warm at night when they sleep, are able to cook and eat, and can keep themselves and their home clean. A full list of the contents can be found on the website:- <https://bromleystarterpacks.weebly.com/>



Used goods in good condition are donated to the charity by members of the public, especially congregations of other Bromley churches. This keeps costs down and reduces the amount of waste going into landfills. Donations are also received from local businesses, the latest being Foresters Financial, and also from churches and individuals. These are much needed as the charity gave out 155 packs in 2022.

If all the items in a pack are purchased new the cost of a pack would be about £140. However, when second-hand items can be used, the cost can drop by a half. That's an annual cost, if all packs were for single persons, of £21,700 against £10,850 if there are plenty of donated second-hand items in good condition. The project always looks for good prices, for example, it can sometimes get kettles for as little as £11 and, sometimes, the project is able to make substantial savings by buying unwanted stock after a re-branding, for example, Andrex toilet rolls for 12p each.

Please think of the starter packs when you are having a spring clean or friends and neighbours are having a house clearance. You can decide on whether the items are good enough to donate following these two criteria:- are they clean?; are they in a condition that you would like to use them?

If you would like to volunteer to help this project, please contact Anne Horner-Tree on 07860 100201

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!



I have heard
about your faith



10.30 a.m.

Bromley Parish Church
St Peter and St Paul

Church Road, Bromley
BR2 0EG
All welcome

INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 • 365 DAYS A YEAR • PRAYER MOVEMENT • ECUMENICAL
INTERNATIONAL • WOMEN-LED

www.wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1030551

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



Press Release



“I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH”

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

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 March 3 2023 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 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 38 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...

Churches Together in Central Bromley Lent Course 2023



*Learn how to pray more faithfully
and more effectively by exploring
some of the Bible's best-loved prayers*

**Tuesdays 7.45 to 9.30pm
28th February to 4th April**

St Peter & St Paul's Church Bromley BR2 0EG

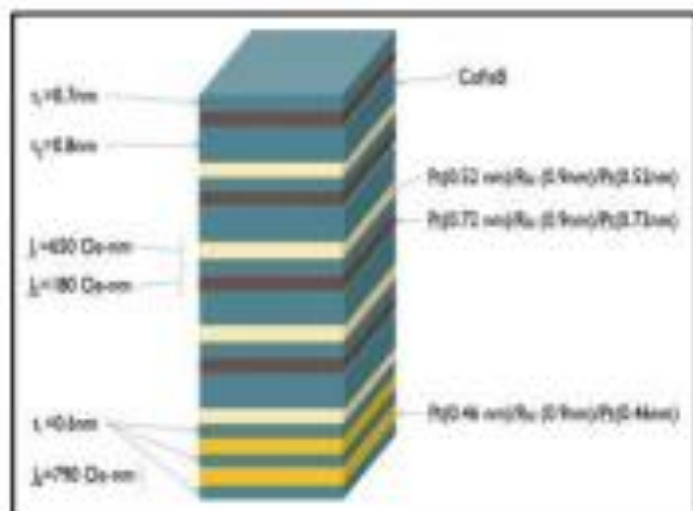
Admission free All welcome

Further details from vicar@saintjohnsbromley.com

The St John's Lent Lecture 2023

God and Science

One big question and six wrong answers



Professor Russell Cowburn FRS

Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Cambridge

Professor Cowburn is a physicist with research interests in nanotechnology and its application to magnetism, electronics, optics and healthcare. He has published 160 scientific papers, had 65 patents granted, has founded three start-up companies and is the inventor of the anti-counterfeiting technology 'Laser Surface Authentication'. He is a frequent invited speaker at international scientific conferences, and in 2010, at the age of 38, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He went on to win the Royal Society Paterson Medal in 2016. His current research tries to find ways of using nanotechnology to detect early stage kidney cancer. He is a fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge, and Professor of Experimental Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory of the University of Cambridge.

Russell is married to Rebecca and lives in Cambridgeshire. He is a committed Christian and serves on the leadership team of an Anglican church in the Diocese of Ely.



Sunday 26th March 7.30pm Admission free
St John's Church, Park Road, Bromley BR1 3HJ



St John the Evangelist Bromley
www.saintjohnsbromley.com





Saturday 11th March 2023

7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

United Reformed Church

Tudor Way, Petts Wood , BR5 1LH

Tickets:

On the Door: £10 / In advance: £8 / Family ticket (up to 4 people): £20
tea, coffee, cakes available for donation

For tickets and other info please contact Anne 07562 240 625



www.rockchoir.com

A recipe from James, Sussex Pond Pudding!

I find February one of the more dismal months—all rain and slate grey days where the sun never really gets going, cooking at this time needs to be warming and filling. I was lucky enough to grow up in Sussex—undoubtedly the finest of the Southern Counties in my slightly misty-eyed opinion, and have accordingly picked an old traditional recipe hailing from my beloved home—a pond pudding. This follows the tradition of English cooking using beef suet—unusual these days with the many health concerns, but I do find it gives an unsurpassable texture and flavour. Vegetarian suet or even cubed butter are very suitable alternatives should you prefer. The pastry can be sticky and difficult to work with if you have not tried using it before, but it is worth persevering with. Lemons are considered to be traditional for this pudding, and there is much to be said for a hint of citrusy zing in the colder months. However there are many variations which are worth trying—some recipes use an apple at the core of the pudding instead, some recipes use cherries, which would be very appropriate for our location. Adding some stem ginger to the mix may also be a fun twist, but I give you here a standard recipe taken from Paul Hollywood's British Baking. I am reliably informed that that also happens to be Rowan Williams' favourite pudding, as if there could be any higher endorsement.



Sussex Pond Pudding

200g Self Raising Flour
20g Caster Sugar
125g Suet
2 Large Lemons
150-175ml Milk
150g Light Brown Soft Sugar
150g unsalted butter, cut into cubes.

1. Butter a 1.2 litre pudding dish. Put the flour, sugar and suet in a bowl and grate in the zest from 1 lemon. Gradually stir in enough milk for form a pliable and slightly sticky dough.
2. Take a third of the pastry and roll it out to form a lid for the basin. You may well need a fair amount of flour on the worktop to prevent it sticking. Roll out the rest of the pastry and line the pudding bowl.
3. Pour the brown sugar into the pastry lined bowl. Skewer the non-zested lemon all over and pop into the bowl on top of the sugar. Surround with the cubed butter. Brush some milk around the top of the pastry and pop the lid on and seal well.
4. Take a piece of greaseproof paper and lay on top of a square of tin foil. Put a pleat through the middle to allow expansion and then place on top of the bowl, greaseproof facing down. Use some string to wrap around the bowl and secure the top. Making a handle out of string is a good idea to help get the bowl from the steam later.
5. Place into a steamer, pressure cooker or large saucepan. Fill with water up to halfway and steam for 3 hours or so. Check the water level from time to time.
6. Remove the pudding from the steamer. Loosen around the edges with a knife and invert onto a deep plate, the juices may well run everywhere. Divide up between serving plates, ensuring that everyone gets plenty of the sauce. Give everyone a tiny bit of the lemon (it is very bitter). Serve with thick cream, ice-cream or custard for that true school dinner feeling.
7. Sing a rousing chorus of 'Sussex by the Sea' to celebrate this fine pudding and county.

17th Feb: Janani Luwum, Archbishop & martyr of Uganda

The Most Reverend Janani Luwum (d 1977) was the Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and Boga Zaire when 35 years ago this month he was murdered by the dictator Idi Amin. At the time the Church in Uganda was on the verge of centennial celebrations of its birth through the seed of the early Ugandan martyrs, and so Luwum became the first martyr of the second century of Christianity in Uganda. A statue of him stands in Westminster Abbey London.

Janani Luwum was greatly loved in Uganda. He was by all accounts an exceptional leader with a great personal godliness, a holistic vision, pastoral compassion and evangelistic fervour. Janani was born in 1922 at Mucwini in the Kitgum District of Uganda. He spent his childhood and early youth herding goats. Given an opportunity to attend a local school, he learned quickly, and was soon a teacher himself.

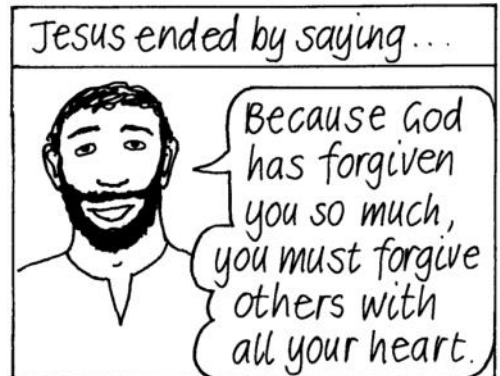
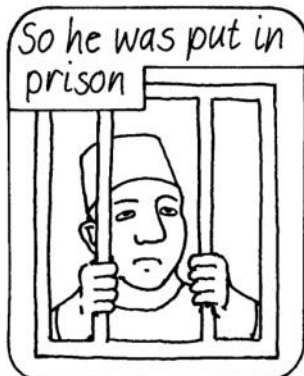
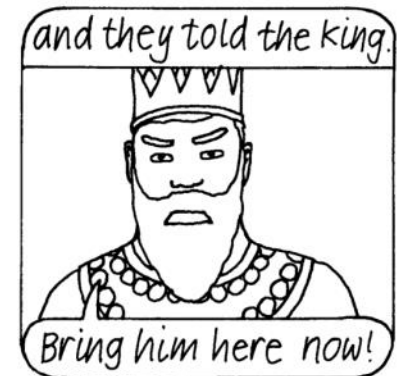
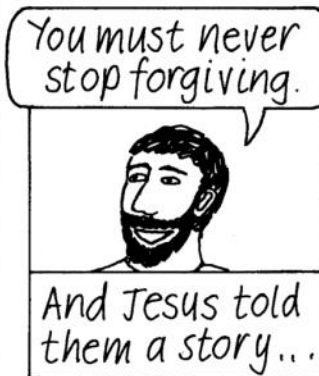
Janani Luwum was converted to Christianity on 1st January 1948, started at theological college in Buwalasi the following year, became a deacon in 1955 and was ordained a priest in 1956. He served in the upper Nile Diocese of Uganda and the diocese of Mbale, and was consecrated Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974, three years after Idi Amin came to power in a military coup. His death was mourned by millions in East Africa.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus..



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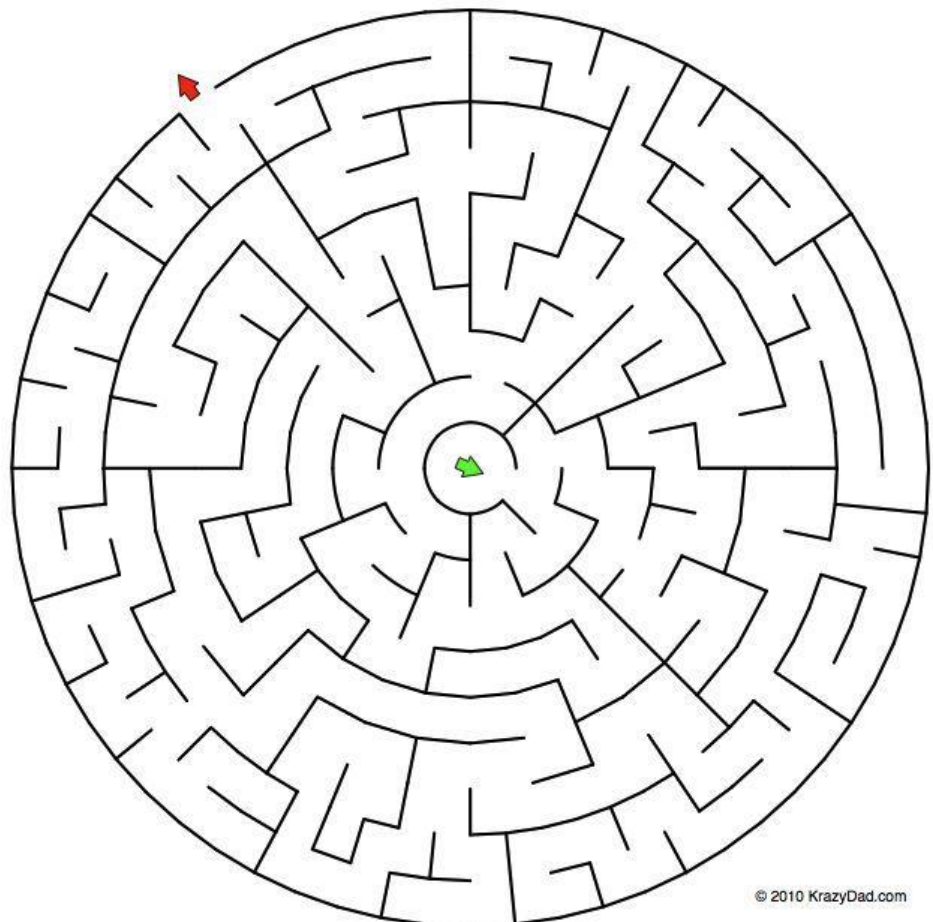
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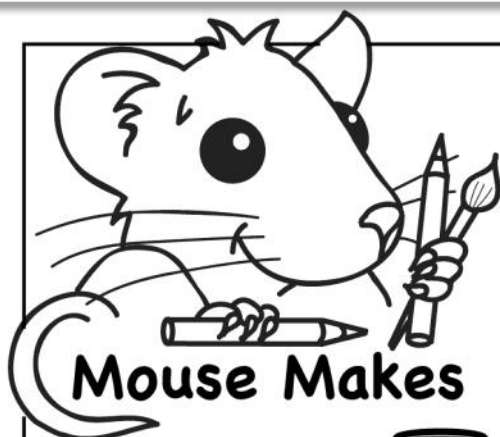
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Sudoku:

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



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What was the special meal
Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take,
bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus give
thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say
this represented?

His
Matthew 26:27-28



What did Jesus say
this represented?

His
Matthew 26:26

Jesus instructed his disciples to continue
to break bread and share the cup "in

of me."

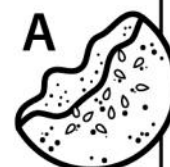
1 Corinthians 11:24-25

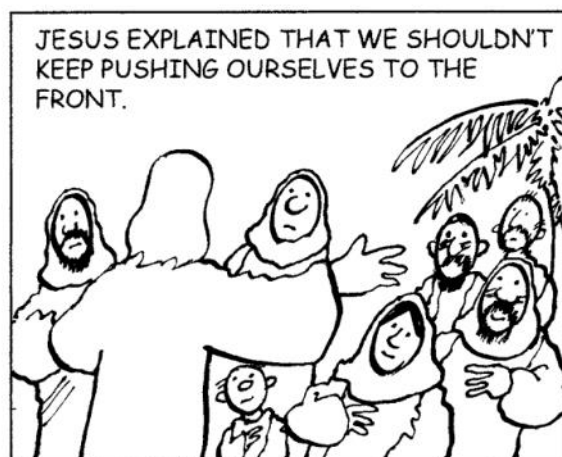
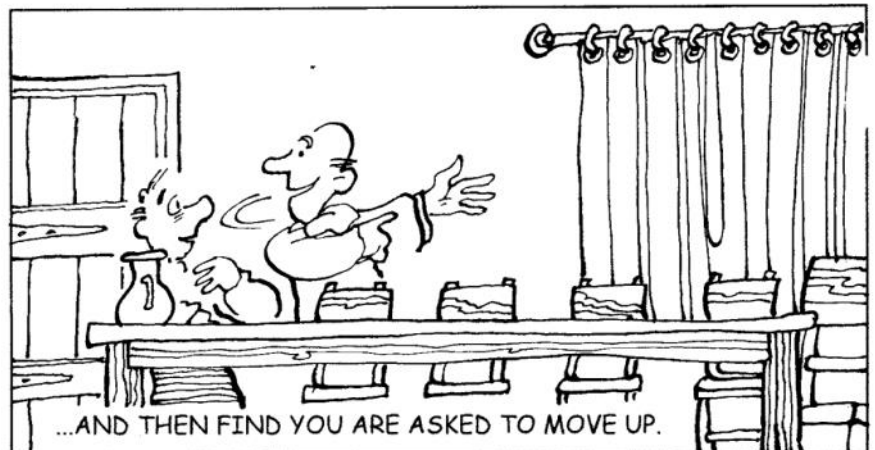
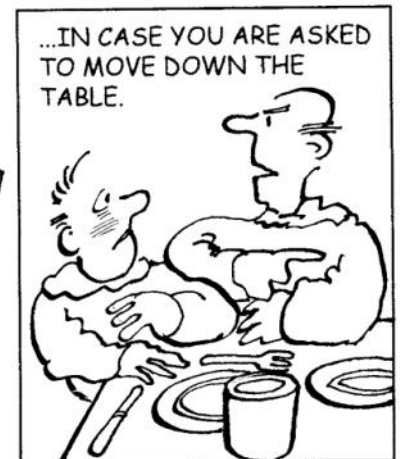


SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCCHARIST

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M	U	I	N	A	N	E	S	L	V	I	S	O	S
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T	H	A	N	K	S	K	L	A	M	B	G		

Find the words from the questions too!





Pray

(Matthew 6:5,9)

When you pray...

Words and wisdom of Jesus –
He doesn't say, *if* or *in case*,
He says, *when...* you pray.

And we will.

From deep within,
Our spirit calls out to God,
Created to communicate with the
Creator.

Cinemas can ban,
Statistics can suggest we won't,
But Jesus says, *when* you pray...
Say, *Our Father*,
And when we do, he hears and answers
And pours out his love,
Always.

By Daphne Kitching

Nigel Beeton writes: "The season of Lent begins this month. In times gone by it was observed very strictly, on pain of excommunication. Maybe these days we don't pay it such attention, but taking a bit of extra time with God during Lent is time that He will richly repay."

Lent

The monk, within his monastery,
The ploughman and the lord;
Would keep the Lent time patiently
And keep a simple board.

Rich food nor meat could touch their lip
Just plain and simple fare;
Dried bread in sauce they could not dip –
Or face the Parson's glare!

Today, such things don't tend to be
We've left them in the past!
Just those within that monastery
Who keep the Lenten fast.

But all should come to love anew
The treasured time of Lent
And spend more time with Father, who
Rewards such time well spent!

By Nigel Beeton

Disturb us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century

Come reign in me

Oh God, who made the world so fair,
And formed the earth, the sky, the sea;
Who gave us ears, and eyes, and minds,
To hear, to see, to know all love is thee.

Oh God, who in the Lord Jesus,
Gave us a light to light our way;
Let our life's lamp be lit by Him
Whose strength will see us safely through
each day.

Oh God, whose Spirit gave us birth,
And holds all life secure, e'en mine;
Take all I am, and all I have,
Bless and redeem them for they both are Thine.

Oh God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, three in one;
Blessed be thy name, come reign in me,
And in me let thy will be done.

By Sam Doubtfire

Wednesday 1

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

Thursday 2

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 3

1.00pm Thanksgiving service for Sam Wilkinson

Sunday 5**Third Sunday before Lent**

8.30am Holy Communion (CW)
10.30am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 7

11.00am Toddler Praise
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 8

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

Thursday 9

2.15pm Fellowship
7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 12**Second Sunday before Lent**

9.00am Breakfast Church
10.30am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 14

No Toddler Praise
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 15

12noon Midweek service
12.30pm -2pm Church open for private prayer
8.00pm Standing & Finance Committee meeting

Thursday 16

7.30pm Choir Practice

Saturday 18

2.00pm Baptism Alexander Reece

Sunday 19**Sunday before Lent**

8.30am Holy Communion (CW)
10.30am All age Worship with Communion followed by pancakes and coffee

Monday 20

12.30pm Bereavement Group
7.30pm Children & Youth Committee meeting

Tuesday 21

11.00am Toddler Praise
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 22**Ash Wednesday**

12noon Midweek service with ashing
12.30pm-2.00pm Church open for private prayer
8.00pm Ash Wednesday service with ashing

Thursday 23

2.15pm Fellowship
7.30 Choir practice

Sunday 26**First Sunday of Lent**

9.00am Breakfast Church
10.30am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 28

11.00am Toddler Praise
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Future date:**Friday 3 March**

10:30am World Day of Prayer service

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 12noon 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