

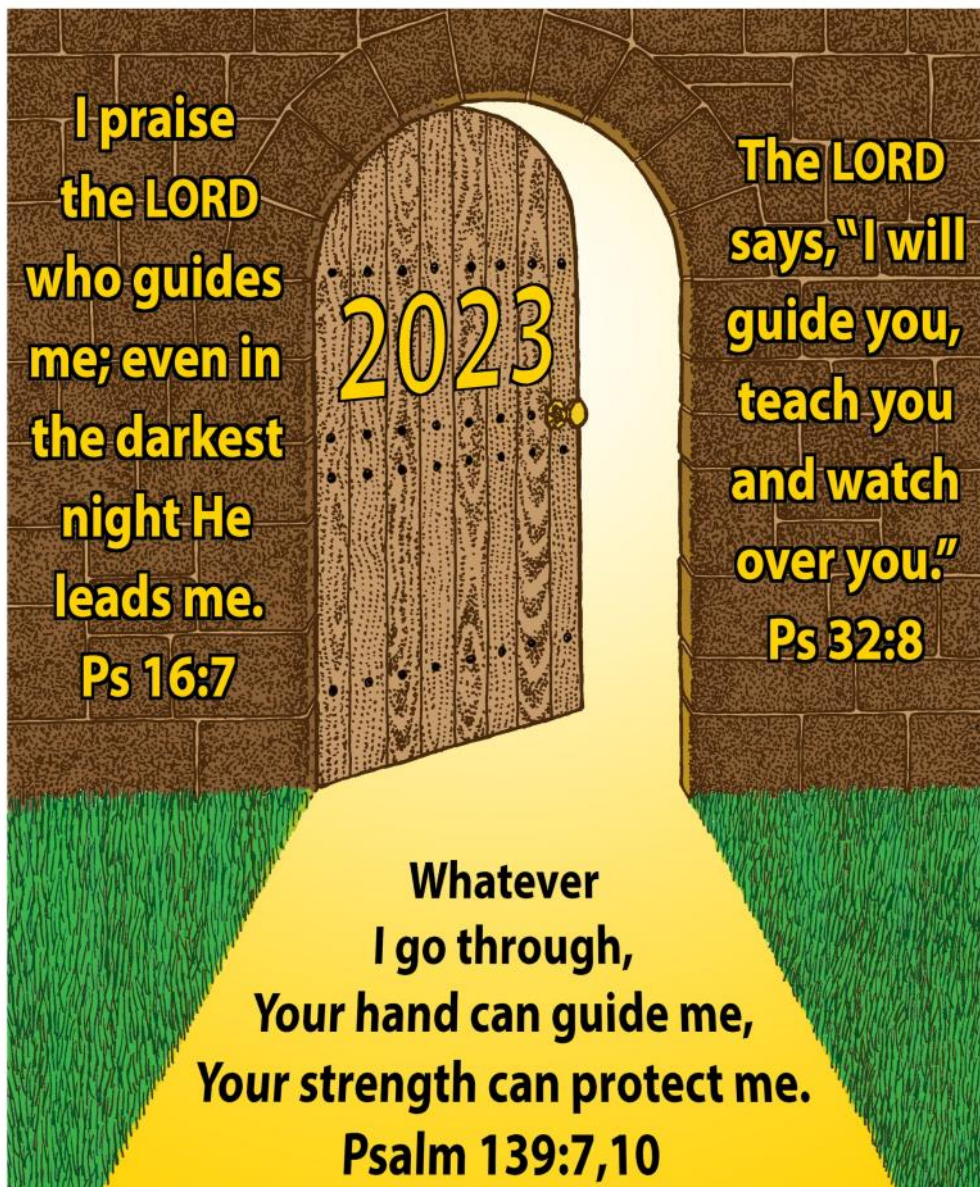
*the*KEY

Number 230

January 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

020 8464 5244 – please use this number for all enquiries

Contact: Lynn Hedges, Parish Administrator

administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org

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

Dear Reader,

Wishing you all a very happy New Year! I also hope you enjoyed the Christmas period.

This is a shorter than normal edition of the Key as like many people I'm a bit behind on tasks going into the New Year. There are many of the usual features though and also news of the return of the very popular Lychgate Lunch, which I'm sure many of you will look forward to!

I hope you are having a good January so far and 'see' you at the next edition,

With love

Lisa

14th January: St Felix of Nola, saved by a spider's web

What do you do when you find a large spider web in your house? If you ever feel some sympathy for the spider who went to all that trouble, then Felix is a good patron saint for you. He was saved by such a spider, spinning such a web.

Felix had been born to a Syrian soldier who had retired to Nola, near Naples in Italy. When his father died, Felix gave his property and money away, and was ordained by St Maximus of Nola. Felix went to work with him, ministering to the people of Nola.

Then Decius, the Roman Emperor, began another persecution of the Christians. Maximus escaped to the mountains, but Felix was arrested and badly beaten. Legend has it that he was rescued – and freed from captivity - by an angel. In any case, Felix followed Maximus and found him sick and in need. Felix hid him in an empty building, and prayed for God's protection. The soldiers were out looking for the two men, but then a spider arrived at the door of the building where they were hiding. The spider spun such a magnificent web across the door that it fooled the imperial soldiers into thinking the building was long abandoned. The spider saved Maximus and Felix that day, and the two men stayed on the run until Decius' death in 251.

After that, the people of Nola wanted Felix as their bishop. But Felix refused, and returned to farming his lands; giving the poor most of the food that he managed to grow. Though Felix went on to die naturally, he was still thought of as a martyr, or 'witness' because he had suffered torture, imprisonment and privations in the persecution. Felix did not mind: he served a King who was not of this world, and he looked forward to a better future life with that King in a new heaven and a new earth.

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...

Lychgate Lunch

Lychgate Lunch returns on Wednesday the 1 st of February 2023 at the slightly later time of 12.30pm.

Please sign up in advance on the sheet in church or call Lynn in the church office on 020

8464 5244 if you would like to come.

Price is £3.50 for a two course hot meal - pay on the door.

All are very welcome!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis 12:1-9, 17:1-22, 18:1-15, 21:1-7

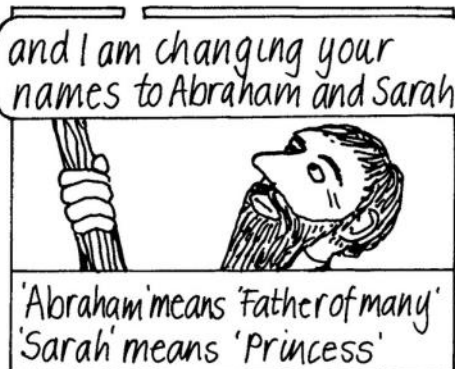
About 6000 years ago, God told Abram and his wife Sarai to leave their home and go to a new land that He would give them

This land will belong to your family, but not yet



But Sarai and I cannot have children

and I am changing your names to Abraham and Sarah



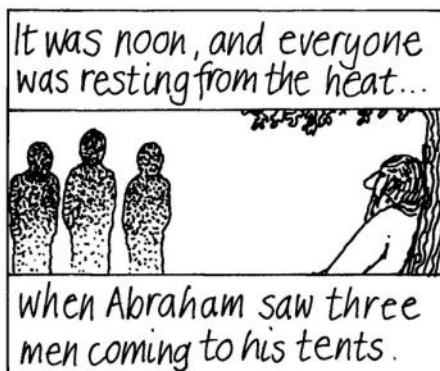
'Abraham' means 'Father of many'
'Sarah' means 'Princess'

You and Sarah will have a son, Isaac




We are too old to have children. Ha ha ha!

It was noon, and everyone was resting from the heat...



When Abraham saw three men coming to his tents.

He recognised the Lord



Please stay and have something to eat.

He ran to tell everyone



Quick, we need a feast cooked for special guests

Sarah was in the tent, listening

By this time next year, you will have a son



At our age? Ha ha ha!

Why did Sarah laugh?



I didn't laugh



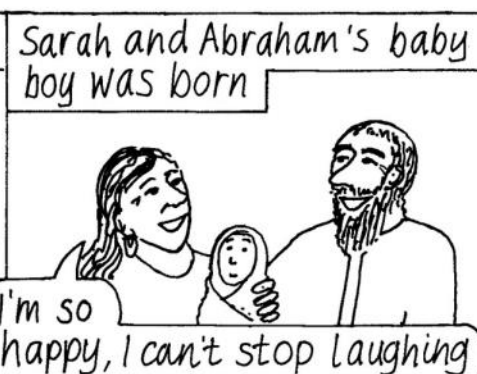
Yes, you did.

Soon afterwards...



I'm pregnant!

Sarah and Abraham's baby boy was born



I'm so happy, I can't stop laughing

They called him 'Isaac' which means 'laughter'



Ha ha ha! Ha ha ha!

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i	s	a	a	c	m	h	n	b	h	r
s	o	m	e	t	h	i	n	g	a	i
q	f	e	a	s	t	l	l	e	m	n
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family

land

name

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old

Sarah

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father

everyone

tents

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Lord

Abram

princess

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Sarai

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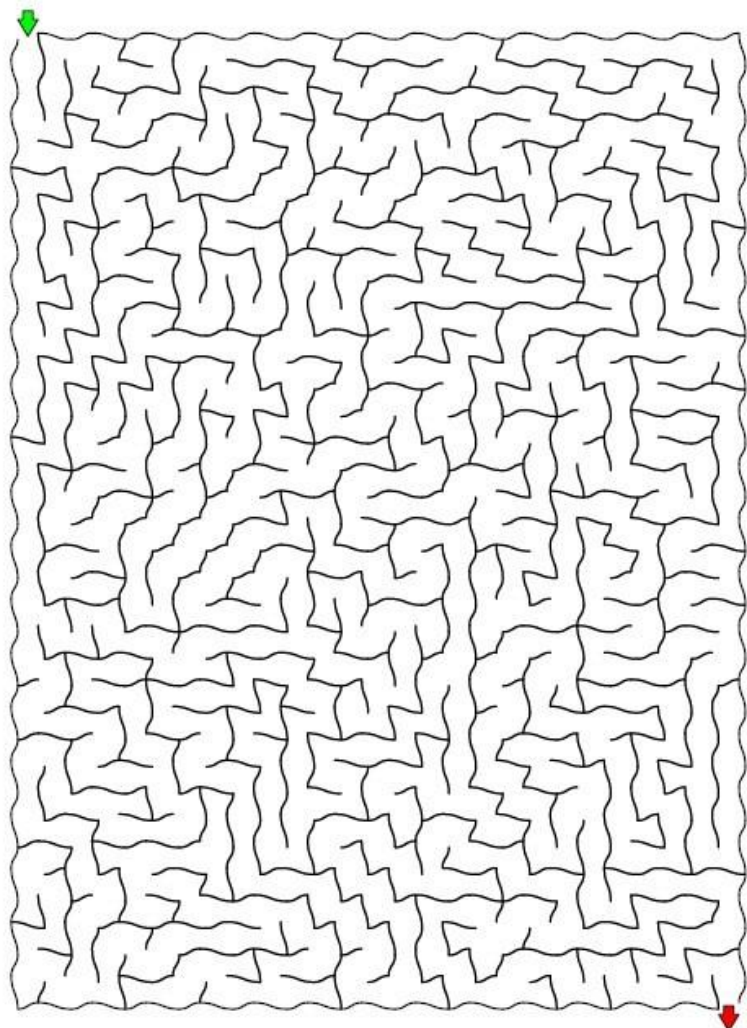
Isaac

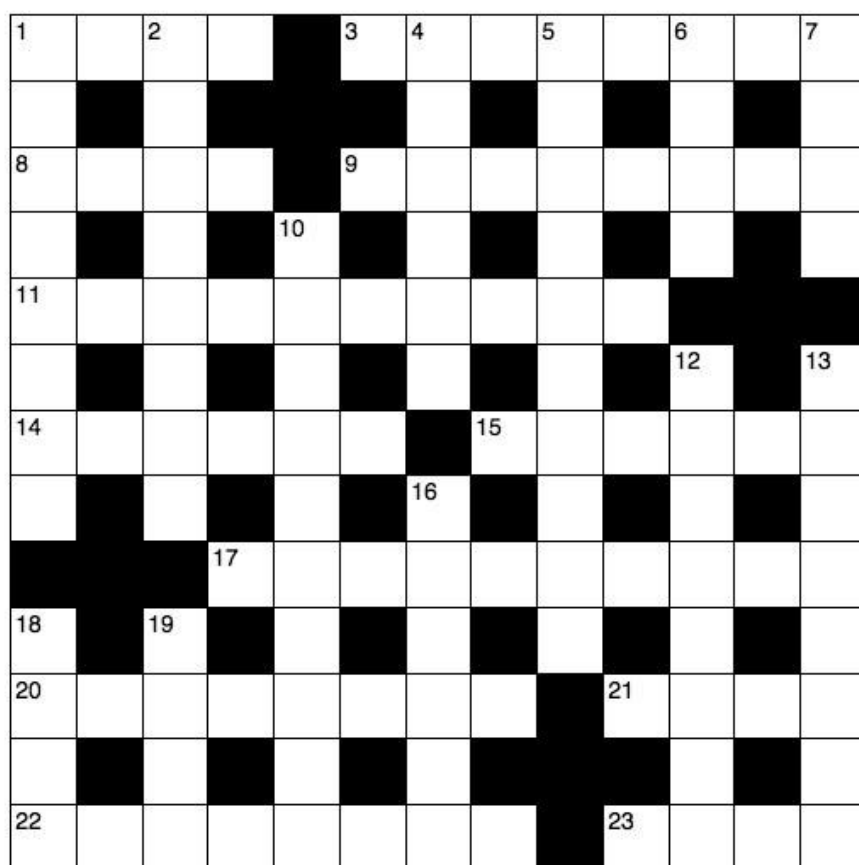
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	2					3		

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Sudoku:

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





Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

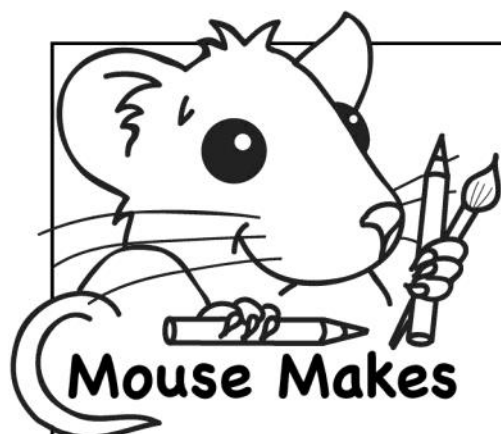
DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

When the **Magi** (wise men) came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?

The _ _ _ _ _

Why did they make the journey?

What did they follow to get there?

A _ _ _ _ _

What did they see?

Read *Matthew 2:1-12*

Why did **Joseph** and **Mary** travel to **Bethlehem**?

Read *Luke 2:1-4*

When **Samuel** came to **Bethlehem** who sent him? Who did he go to see?

_ _ _ _ _ and his sons.

Who had he come to anoint as king?

Read *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

Naomi and **Ruth** came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?

_ _ _ _ _ and why?

When did they arrive?

At the _ _ _ _ _ harvest.

Read *Ruth 1:22*

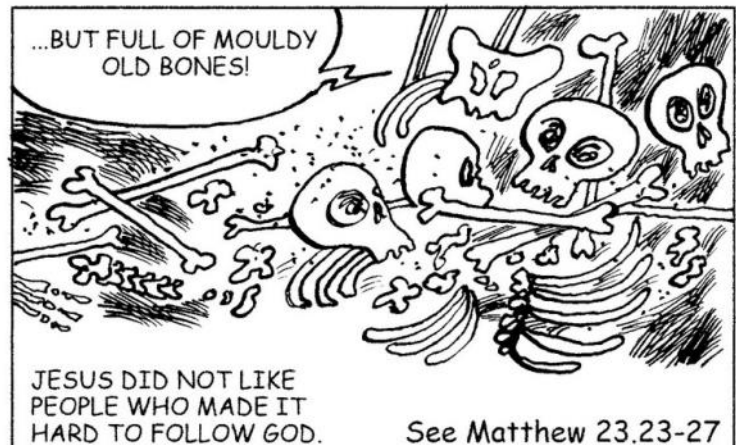
The name **BETHLEHEM** means 'House of Bread'

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words, find them and these words below in the wordsearch

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

JOURNEY
BETHLEHEM • GOD
JOSEPH • MARY
JESUS • BORN
MAGI • MESSIAH
NAOMI • RUTH
FOOD • HARVEST
SAMUEL • ANOINT
KING • BREAD

"Some tough talking"



See Matthew 23.23-27

New Year

(Gal 3:29, Mt 28:20)

Jesus,
Heir of the promise,
Hope of the years,
You are here.

Help us Lord,
To know that You are *there*, too,
Before us
As You are behind us,
Already in the new moment,
The new day,
The new year.

Help us Lord
To delight in Your company,
To walk Your safe way,
To shine Your clear light
Of hope for the year.

By Daphne Kitching

Nigel Beeton writes: Although of course we will heartily wish one another a Happy New Year, we have to be honest and realise that for very many the future in general, and the new year in particular, holds a great deal to be feared. War, energy costs, inflation, we've all just come through a nasty pandemic. The future looks very frightening indeed.

So it did for the Israelites in the time of Jeremiah. Exiled to Babylon, surrounded by their enemies and by false prophets, there was nothing whatsoever for them to look forward to.

And yet, in Jeremiah 29:11-13 we read this promise by God to His people:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find me when you seek Me with all your heart." Because of our faithful God, we can truly say: Happy New Year!

My plans for you

When your troubles are great
And you fear so much
When you've gone to a land far away;
When all those that you love
Are far out of touch
And you're scared of the night and the day.

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

When the darkness surrounds
And the night is long
When the storm's blowing hard on your door;
When your bones ache with pain
And you feel so wrong
And you really can't take any more.

Continued overleaf

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

When your world has gone wrong
Though you've tried so hard
And the ends never seem quite to meet;
The betrayal of friends
Leave you deeply scarred
And it all seems to end in defeat.

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

When you seek you shall find
If you search for Me
You be sure that I will do My part;
You know I will be found
And I'll hear your plea
When you search with the whole of your heart!

*"I know," says the Lord, "of My plans for you,
"Plans for good not for ill – you will see!
"Your future and hope in My plans for you
"When you pray, and you call out to Me!"*

By Nigel Beeton

A Dressing Prayer

Bless to me, O God, my body and my soul;
Bless to me, O God, belief, condition whole;
Bless to me, O God, my heart, my speaking too,
And bless to me, O God, the things my hands do;
And, O God of virtues, thine own way be blest,
Till at the close of day I lie down to rest.

From an ancient Celtic prayer

A Prayer for Students

Grant, O Lord, to all students, to know what is worth knowing, to love what is worth loving, to praise what delights You most, to value what is precious in Your sight and to reject what is evil in Your eyes. Grant them true discernment to distinguish between different things. Above all, may they search out and do what is most pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By Thomas a Kempis

Sunday 1

Second Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Said Communion

Wednesday 4

11.30am Funeral Italia Maria Williams

No Midweek service

12.30pm -2.00pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 5

2.15pm Fellowship

7.30pm Choir practice

Saturday 7

4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival set down

Sunday 8

Epiphany

9.00am Breakfast Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 10

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 11

12noon Midweek service

12.30pm -2pm Church open for private prayer

5.15pm Pastoral meeting

Thursday 12

2.15pm Fellowship

7.30pm Choir Practice

Saturday 14

9am -4pm First Aid Course

Sunday 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (CW)

10.30am All age Worship with Communion

Tuesday 17

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 18

12noon Midweek service

12.30pm-2.00pm Church open for private prayer

8.00pm PCC meeting

Thursday 19

7.30 Choir practice

Saturday 21

10.30am-2.30pm Full peal

Sunday 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9.00am Breakfast Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 24

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 25

12noon Midweek service

12.30pm-2.00pm private prayer

Thursday 26

2.15pm Fellowship

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 27

7.00pm-8.30pm Quarter peal

Saturday 28

4.00pm -5.30pm Quarter peal

Sunday 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

9.00am Congregational Breakfast

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 31

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

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