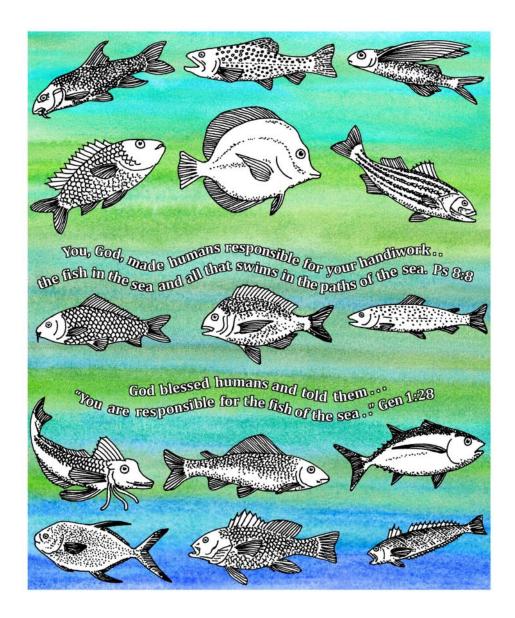
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News of Saint Peter and Saint Paul BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH



Church Road Bromley BR2 OEG

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"Proclaiming the Word and Work of God" Member of Churches Together in Central Bromley

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the **KEY**

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Hello and welcome to the July edition of the Key.

We have a lot of content from parishioners this month — reflections from Jane and Garvin, an account of a festival celebrated in Zimbabwe from Ed, Starter Packs needs from Anne, a lovely cake recipe from James, and an excellent, thoughtful sermon from Sophie. Many thanks to all for your contributions and please continue to send things to me, I really appreciate the variety of things I receive!

It was lovely to see many of you at the Patronal festival barbeque and have a chance to catch up after two years of disruption. I hope you're enjoying the summer so far!

With love

Lisa

Many thanks to Reverend Sophie who has kindly provided her sermon from Trinity Sunday for us to reflect on in the Key.

Today, Trinity Sunday, is the day in the Calendar when we focus on the nature of God as one being but also three persons Father Son and Holy Spirit. It's often said to be the subject ministers most avoid. Some have said it's like the appendix - we know it's there but we get by without it.

For my part I think our relationship with this doctrine is more like the way we might think about a dear relative - so familiar and loved we don't think about why they're so precious. I was baptised and married in a church called Holy Trinity and grew up with the Trinitarian shape of our collects, blessings, creeds and of course the Grace. As a teenager I even stumbled on the rarely used Athanasian creed which proclaims that we 'worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity neither confounding the persons not dividing the unity'. And yet the first time I seriously thought about the Trinity was about thirteen years ago, initially because I had to write an essay on the subject; but then also in a more personal way during a placement at the PRUH with an anxious elderly patient who would routinely beginning her prayers like this: 'I am sitting here with you Father and Jesus and the Holy Spirit and Sophie is here too'.

There are of course reasons why we might avoid discussing this doctrine. Getting to grips with what the Athanasian creed calls the 'Three Incomprehensibles' that are also 'One Incomprehensible' is challenging - not least mathematically. Lots of people have tried to come up with images to evoke the Trinity, even one, following the Queen's Jubilee video, based on a marmalade Sandwich. But even more sophisticated analogies have limitations. As St Augustine said, if we understand something, that probably isn't God. Thinking about the mysterious nature of God can be mind-blowing; in the case of my essay, partly written at night when my children were sleeping, I'm afraid it sent me to sleep over my kitchen table.

But as I emerged from that sleep three things struck me: Firstly I realised we shouldn't avoid wrestling with the mystery of God's nature if we're to serve

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and worship Him faithfully. Secondly, I'd begun to see that God's nature as Father, Son and Spirit isn't just theoretical, but something we discover through experience. Finally I noticed that even though a doctrine of the Trinity only emerged in the 2nd and 3rd Centuries it has deep roots in the New Testament, where we find early followers of Jesus encountering and writing about a God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is certainly true of today's New Testament Readings.

Our reading from Romans was written within living memory of Jesus' death and of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. So Paul is really drawing on lived experience when he speaks of a God who gives us immense hope, firstly by reconciling us to himself in His Son Jesus Christ and then by pouring His love into us through the Holy Spirit. Our Gospel reading, written somewhat later, comes from John's long farewell discourse, in which we hear Jesus preparing his disciples for all that is to come, explaining that he won't be physically with them forever, promising that he'll send his Holy Spirit, or Helper just as the Father sent him. Through these words the writer is perhaps also reassuring his own community that they're not alone, that helping Spirit is there for them too.

Jesus seems to acknowledge that the disciples won't be able to take on board everything he has to tell them in one go. But when the Spirit or Helper comes he'll guide them in truth, continuing God's work of revealing himself which Jesus has begun. All that Jesus has taken from the Father he will pass to the Spirit who will pass it to the disciples. John stresses here the absolute consistency and continuity between Father, Son and Holy Spirit through this process of revelation.

So even in these short passages we find some glimpses of the nature and character of the God who is both three and one.

Most noticeably both passages convey something of the dynamic collaborative relationship within the Godhead with Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each playing distinctive parts yet united and consistent in purpose. This is an

extraordinary thought that at the heart of one God, who is the source of all things, is a perfect loving relationship.

Secondly, the God we encounter in these readings does not stand aloof but is involved with creation, a God with a mission who sends himself. Of course we must be very careful not to project Trinitarian doctrine onto Biblical texts, especially Old Testament texts, but even in our reading from Proverbs, God's Wisdom personified is out and about in creation, crying out to God's People and rejoicing in his inhabited world. The special part John and Paul describe the Son and Spirit playing in God's work of salvation and revelation must have seemed to Jewish listeners an extraordinary and radical fulfilment indeed of God's ancient promises and longing to come among his people. One of the most beautiful images conjuring up the Trinity as the God who gets involved comes from a 2nd Century writer, Irenaus of Lyons, who described The Son and the Spirit as the two hands of the father reaching out into our world across space and time. Another much later and perhaps more lyrical rather than theological image comes from Ignatius Loyola who, in the introduction to his 'Exercises', imagines Father Son and Spirit conversing, looking in love on the world's troubles and deciding as one to send Son, the eternal Word to save the world.

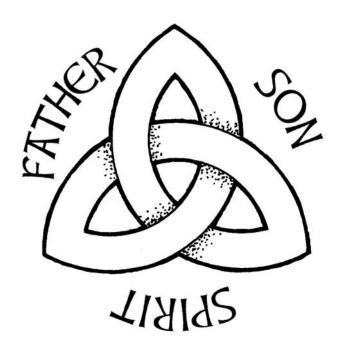
Thirdly, and this is perhaps the most astonishing aspect of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that we might glimpse in our New Testament readings, there is more than a hint that God not only enters our world but draws us into his own life and work through the gifts of reconciliation and love, and by entrusting us with knowledge and truth that comes from the Father through the Son and Spirit. As people of such a missionary sending God we too are sent out into the world to proclaim the truth we have heard even amidst the mess and muddle of this world.

Such an invitation to join in the collaborative work of this three-in-one God is wonderful and also somewhat terrifying when you think about it. But we do not need to be afraid. Because the good news is we don't need to fully understand the mystery of the Trinity to do this. And the even better news is that

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like those first disciples we don't need to fulfil this calling in our own strength: we too will be strengthened for this work by the grace of Jesus Christ and with the Father's love that's poured out in the Holy Spirit. And if we ever need a bit of a boost in that strength, well St Paul's second letter to the Church at Corinth provides us with a very simple Trinitarian prayer to pray. It's the one we know as the Grace.



Many thanks to Jane for writing this very personal piece for the Key, I am always grateful to receive articles that come from the hearts of people in our parish.

Assumptions – good and bad

I think we all recognise that whilst we 'hear' what is said to us we may not always 'listen' to it.

How often are we guilty of applying our own interpretation to what someone is telling us and not really giving our full attention to what is actually being said?

I remember an occasion when I was about nine years old and going through the stage that a lot of shy children suffer, of feeling almost physically sick before a new social experience.

A Brownie, I was due to attend a large gathering of the Kentish packs for a jamboree to include a picnic tea to which we were each required to make a contribution. The usual attack of butterflies accompanied my reluctance to go and brought repetition of my mother's generally correct observation that I would be all right once I got there. As further encouragement she suggested that upon arrival I should explain to the person in charge that I hadn't been feeling very well and therefore would rather keep and eat the tea I had taken - I remember it was two small, brown Marmite sandwiches - than partake of the richer fare no doubt provided by my peers. When I duly gave this explanation to a somewhat bulky and forbidding Commissioner I was taken aback by her fierce reaction, which was to defend the offerings brought by others and leave me in no doubt that my selfishness in withholding my own tea was not worthy of the Brownie tradition. How I wished I hadn't whispered a word, especially when later trays of exquisite fairy cakes were passed around which - conscious of the leader's hostile surveillance - I felt obliged to decline; for, of course, by then my earlier forebodings had indeed receded and I could have tucked in as heartily as the rest!

When I recollect this experience now, I can understand the response I received – my innocent explanation had been entirely misinterpreted because of a hasty and suspicious assumption. And I wonder how often we are all guilty of forming conclusions and making quick judgments about people and situations; of giving advice when it is not actually sought; of rushing in to 'take over' and solve another's problems in a manner perhaps suitable for ourselves but not for them; of not attempting to see things from their point of view.

It is not easy to alter our instinctive first responses but I know that my own

Reflections

initial assumptions can sometimes be unfairly negative – for instance, about a tattooed workman with long hair and an earring, that he will be sloppy and unreliable - and, because of my own prejudice, are often unfair.

Must we assume, then, that it is wise to doubt all our assumptions? Certainly I believe that in the work setting it is wise to check that a message has been received; or, on the road, that a car driver who fails to indicate at a roundabout is not necessarily intending to go straight on!

Perhaps the only area of our lives where we can hold confident assumptions is in our relationship with God. Indeed, He wants us to have assumptions where He is concerned, and positively encourages us to 'claim His promises'. Mind you, life teaches us all that whilst we can assume God's loving will and overall purpose, none of us dares predict the way these will be achieved!

This was brought home to me most vividly with the birth of my nephew, back in 1982. My brother and his wife had waited ten years for their first child, a daughter, and another seemed highly improbable. My sister-in-law was 44 when, to general delight, her second pregnancy was confirmed; and when a son was delivered he truly seemed to be a gift from God. I even remember thinking "Well, he is meant to be, he'll be kept safe." Then, at four-and-a-half months, a week before Christmas and with no warning at all, David became another victim of Cot Death Syndrome. Of course, this was a devastating blow and like most people in a similar situation we asked "Why?" Their strong faith brought my brother and his wife through the pain, and during subsequent years they have been able to draw upon their own experience when offering support to other grieving parents – so it might be said that there was some purpose behind the tragedy.

It is not for us to assume or interpret God's plans; but we can assume His love for each one of us, and that He both hears and listens to our prayers, however halting. He is a compassionate Father; he does not cause our pain but is alongside us, sharing it with us and inviting us to lean on Him as we endure. And in the assurance of His love, and the certain knowledge of His compassion and care, we can say with absolute confidence "Thy will be done".

Jane Cleveland

Starter Pack donations collection mornings return in September

Starter Packs donations collection days at the Church begin again on Saturday September 3rd from 10am, please phone 07860100 201 to book a delivery slot and to confirm what you are giving or email Annehornertree@hotmail.co.uk

Current needs:

Bath towels

Hand towels

Tea towels

Small saucepans

Small oven dishes

Crockery

Please do not try to donate other items as I will need to turn them down, I only have storage space for the items I really need.



Garvin loves to observe and interact with animals and wildlife, and has many stories to share. He has kindly started to write some of them down for the Key, so following the stories in the June edition, there is a further account below. Thanks again to Garvin for your contribution.

BIRDS

Because of recent problems with Covid & local regulations, most people have experienced many hours alone & if like me, are grumpy!

However recently I have visited our Church garden during the sunny days which I have found beneficial. Also, I have experienced remarkable insights into simple wild life around our Church gardens.

Refer to a previous article which I wrote about the two Robin Redbreasts Peter & Paula.

Last Christmas I gave 2 young families (George & Billy W / Jamie & Poppy K) bird nesting boxes which I purchased at our Church Bazaar. Evidently the 4 children have already contacted the BBC (Chris Packham / Bird watch) and are counting the different birds that they see in their gardens. I am pleased that they have taken up the challenge.

Further you may have noticed the variety of wild birds in our Church Garden: magpies, robin redbreasts, pigeons & albino pigeons, with beautiful pure White Feathers. Have you noticed large pheasants and the squawking green parakeets which I find are funny to watch?

When you hear the parakeets squawk you know it is a signal to all other birds in the area, that we are filling up the bird feeders with food. Also you may notice the parakeets shovelling seed, head to head, from the feeders and with their long green tails horizontal, stretching about a total of one metre, so that all of the other birds can easily feed from the seeds on the 'ground table'. Its called team work, and it is also funny to watch.

Saint's Day

Sea Sunday

Over many years the 2nd Sunday of July has been kept as Sea Sunday, with a special focus on prayer for all seafarers. The Mission to Seafarers supports the work of sailors facing difficult waters, piracy, and separation from loved ones for long periods at sea. However, we can also experience storms in our own lives. In Acts 27 we read how Paul was being taken as a prisoner to Rome, when he was caught in a storm off Crete. After 14 days they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta.

Paul had warned the crew that it wasn't a safe time of year to sail: *"I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives."* However, Paul's words were ignored, and the ship sailed into a violent storm. By the third day they *'finally gave up all hope of being saved.*' How do we face up to storms in our lives? Do we worry and panic? God doesn't necessarily prevent storms from taking place, but we can trust His purpose through them.

Paul urged the sailors to *"keep courage, because not one of you will be lost, only the ship will be destroyed."* His confidence rested on an angelic promise: *"Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you."* Only the sovereign God, who created the wind and waves, can promise to save people from a storm. What does this mean for us in our circumstances today?

'Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. Grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.' (Amazing Grace: John Newton).

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

Noticeboard

July 2022

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...

the **KEY**

Church Rooms for hire.

Available for hire for meetings, study and Exercise Classes, etc.

We have varied, comfortable, no smoking accommodation with kitchen facilities and disabled access and toilet facilities to the rooms.



Rooms can be viewed on: www.bromleyparishchurch.org



Enjoy this recipe from Rev James...

This is the recipe I baked for the platinum jubilee celebrations. It is a delicious summery cake, and for such a special occasion cake, surprisingly easy to make. Having three tins of the same size does make it considerably easier!

Lemon and Elderflower Cake

For the cake 6 medium eggs 100g yoghurt 50ml milk 450g butter, softened 450g golden caster sugar 450g self-raising flour finely grated zest of 1 lemon, plus juice 3 tbsp elderflower cordial

For the icing 250g butter, softened 300g cream cheese 700g icing sugar finely grated zest of 1 lemon



Heat oven to 160 degrees Celsius (140 fan) Grease and line the base and sides of 3 x 20cm cake tins with greaseproof paper.

In a jug whisk together the eggs, yoghurt and milk.

Beat the butter and sugar together in a separate bowl, using an electric hand whisk. When you have a light and fluffy mixture, add the flour, the liquid in the jug and the lemon zest. Mix again until smooth.

Divide the cake mixture between the tins, level the surfaces and bake for 40 minutes.

Mix the lemon juice and elderflower cordial. When the cakes are cooked, poke all over the surface with a cocktail stick then spoon the lemon and elderflower syrup over the cakes. Leave to cool in the tins.

To make the icing, beat the butter until smooth with an electric hand whisk. Add half the icing sugar, then mix with a spatula in order to avoid a cloud of icing sugar. Beat again with the electric whisk. Add the remaining icing sugar, cream cheese and lemon zest and mix again with a spoon, then use the electric whisk to beat until smooth.

Layer up the cake with icing between each layer. Put most of the icing on the top of the cake, and spread over the top and down the sides with a palette knife. Reserve a little icing to cover any patches that appear. Decorating with fresh flowers at the end is a lovely final touch.

Noticeboard

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Something to make you smile...

the **KEY**

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee." The husband responded, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee." His wife answered, "No, you should do it, and besides it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Her husband said, "I can't believe that, show me." So she fetched the Bible and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages that it indeed says 'Hebrews'.

Many thanks to Ed for sharing this with the Key. It is great to learn about what is happening in our partner Church, St Paul's.

Bernard Mizeki

The weekend of the 18th June was very special for Zimbabwean Anglicans. They celebrated the life and martyrdom of Bernard Mizeki.

Bernard Mizeki 1861 to 1896

Bernard Mizeki was born in about 1861 in Inhambane, Mozambique, the country that lies between Zimbabwe and the sea. The country was a Portuguese colony discovered by Vasco de Gama in 1498; it became independent in 1975. When I first went there in 1967, the country was still very undeveloped; so much so that when I went into the countryside, I encountered people who had never seen a white man. You can imagine their shock when we landed our helicopter on the river bank outside their village!

When a teenager, Bernard Mizeki moved to South Africa with a cousin and worked as a labourer. In the evenings he attended an Anglican school in Cape Town and became a Christian. He learnt numerous local languages as well as English, French and Afrikaans (a version of Dutch). He then began to work in a Christian hostel for African men and studied the Gospel. With his excellent language skills and knowledge of the Christian faith, he was sent to Marondera in the east of Zimbabwe, then called Rhodesia, where he began to teach the Gospel. He built a mission complex and school. His 5 years in the area led to many converts. When the local population rebelled against the British, the church ordered him to safety but he refused and would not desert his post or converts.

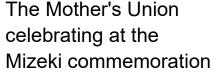
On 18th June 1896, rebels dragged him from his home and speared him. His wife found him alive and went for help. When she returned his body was gone. They later reported that, from a distance, they saw a blinding light on the hillside where he had been lying and heard a rushing sound, as though of many wings. Three years later a white Anglican priest returned to the area and re-established the mission.

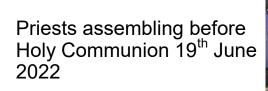
In 2012, my wife, Anne, and I were fortunate to be able to attend the celebration. We were unable to attend the shrine itself as the government had installed a renegade bishop as head of the Anglican Church and true Anglicans

Zimbabwean Celebrations

were banned from the shrine; instead the event was held in the local showground. It was an amazing experience lasting the whole weekend with prayer, singing, dancing and religious plays. The majority of the attendees camped out overnight. It culminated on Sunday with Holy Communion during

This year, after a two year break due to Covid-19, the celebration took place again with an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 people participating, with a large group from our partner church, St Paul's, Highfield. People came from all the surrounding countries to worship.









which approximately 10,400 people took the sacraments.

the **KEY**



Bible Bite

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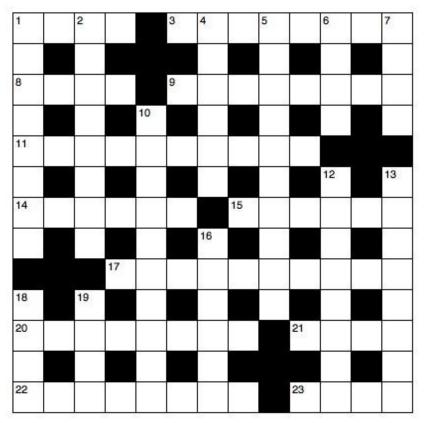


temple festival Mary evening teachers searching son home

men Jerusalem camp Passover feasting talking father women Jesus twelve Joseph third walking clever working children



Puzzles



Answers: AcROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer. 23, Deer. **DOWN**: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.

Across

1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)

3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)

8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)

9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)

11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10) 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)

15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6)(6)

17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10) 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)

21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom!Come out to —

him" (Matthew 25:6) (4)

22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)

23 'As the - pants for streams of wa-

ter,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)

2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)

4 'We three kings of — are' (6)

5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)

6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)

7 'Open your — and look at the

fields!' (John 4:35) (4)

10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)

12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)

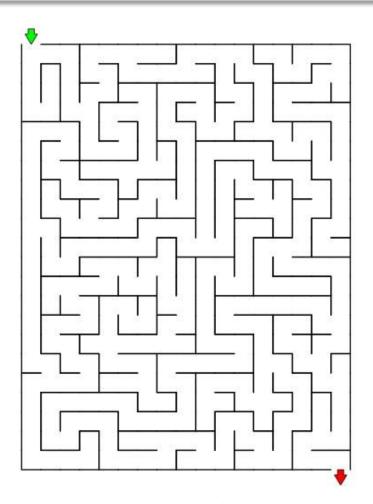
13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)

16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)

- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Puzzles

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Sudoku:

Fit the numbers 1-9 into each row, column, and 3x3 square.

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

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Picture Parable

the **KEY**

July 2022



Mouse Makes

July 2022



So often I can't wear the right clothes, Speak the right words, Fit the right mould, Be the shape people want me to be, Expect me to be, Demand that I am, To conform.

But you Lord Accept me, Release me, Make it possible to be me, Perfectly free In your service, Open for you To transform.

By Daphne Kitching

Dear Creator God

We thank you for Your wonderful creation. Your Word tells us that in the beginning You worked and then You rested when Your work was done. You didn't rest because You were tired, but because You saw that Your completed work was good. So, the seventh day became a time of celebration and blessing.

Help us, in these days of non-stop, sometimes intrusive means of communication, to follow Your pattern – to work and then to rest; to be restored and blessed by You. Help us to keep one day - Jesus' Resurrection Day - special for You.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The Summer Garden

Summer comes and waves her hand, The garden blooms at her command, Plants abounding everywhere As fragrant perfumes fill the air.

Roses, geraniums, lilies too Agapanthus with globes of blue, Sumptuous colours in such array, Their beauty takes our breath away.

To sit beneath the shady trees, To listen to the humming bees, As Summer wears her rainbow dress We thank God for such loveliness.

By Megan Carter

Evening Sun

After a day of cloud and rain The evening sun comes out again. Forget the gloomy day that's gone, And listen to the robin's song!

In the sunshine's golden glow See the garden's floral show! And nature, freshened, can rejoice In sparkling colour, scent, and voice.

If your day is damp and grey Know the cloud will go away – The pouring rain will soon be done And then will come the evening sun!

By Nigel Beeton

July 2022

Diary Dates

Sunday 3 Trinity 3

10.30am Parish Eucharist2.00pm Baptism4.00pm Godspace

Tuesday 5

10.00am Healing Prayer group 11.00am Toddler Praise 7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 6 12noon -2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 7 7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 8 7pm Quarter peal

Saturday 9 10am -12noon Gardening Club

Sunday 10

Trinity 4

9.00am Breakfast Church10.30am Parish Eucharist with Baptism6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 12 11.00am Toddler Praise 7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 137.00pm12noon -2pm Church open for private
prayer7.00pm7.30pm Ministry Team meeting7.30pm

Thursday 14

2.15pm Fellowship 7.30pm Choir practice

Saturday 16 11.00am Baptism 2.30pm Baptism

Sunday 17 Trinity 5

10.30am All age Worship with Communion

Followed by burial of ashes Margaret Payne

2.00pm Burial of Ashes John Ross Martyn

Tuesday 19 11.00am Toddler Praise last session of the term

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 20 12nooon -2pm private prayer 8.00pm PCC meeting

Thursday 21 7.30pm Choir practice

Saturday 23 10.00am Burial of Ashes

Sunday 24

Trinity 6 9.00am Breakfast Church 10.30am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 26 No Toddler Praise 7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 27 12noon -2.00pm Private Prayer 7.00pm Hope Into Action prayer meeting

Thursday 28 7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 31 Trinity 7 10.30am Parish Eucharist

July 2022

Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.00am in the Children's Chapel

The Children's Chapel is open daily for prayer

Church is open on Wednesdays between 12noon and 2pm for private prayer when consecrated bread is available for those who wish to receive.

Updates to services and events will be posted on our website www.bromleyparishchurch.org

To join Sunday worship online please visit our website www.bromleyparishchurch.org and

follow the link on our homepage.

Please continue to wear face masks in the church building.