

# *the*KEY

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50p

Website: [www.bromleyparishchurch.org](http://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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Hello Reader,

Welcome to the June edition of the Key.

Thank you to those who have contributed to this magazine, particularly Jane, Mike, Frank, Donya and Lynn who have all sent items with news or events or thoughts, it's always great to receive these things to keep the magazine relevant to our Church community.

I hope you are enjoying the summer that seems to be appearing!

With love and best wishes

Lisa

*Many thanks to Mike for sharing this sermon with the Key. If, like me, you were watching from home you may have missed this as there was a technical issue so here it is for you to catch up on, or to revisit.*

**Mike, Sunday 7th May, 5th Sunday of Easter.**

**TEXTS:**

New Testament: Acts 7.55-end

Psalm: Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

New Testament: 1 Peter 2.2-10

Gospel: John 14.1-14

This Sunday falls in the middle of the coronation of King Charles III. Yesterday was the coronation itself. Tomorrow is the Bank Holiday granted as part of the celebrations. As monarch, King Charles is both head of state and head of the Church of England. For some, that statement may come with some controversy – whether we should have a monarchy at all or instead have a republic, and whether King Charles is or will be a “Good King”, to use the words of Sellar and Yeatman in their spoof history, “1066 And All That”. Likewise, controversy whether he should be head of the church, or whether we should have an established church at all. But I’m going to park all that this morning.

Before he became King, King Charles commented that he may want to be seen, not as “the Defender of the Faith”, the traditional title for the monarch as head of the church, but instead may want to be seen as “the Defender of Faith”, recognising both the plurality of faiths within the United Kingdom but also the importance of “faith” itself. Whilst I don’t want to spend the rest of my life looking over my shoulder for Beefeaters coming to whisk me off to the Tower, in one respect His Majesty can be challenged on this. Again, more of this later. However, his recognition of the plurality of faiths ties in with our Gospel reading this morning and Jesus’ statement that “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” This is usually seen as a statement about the size or capacity of the Kingdom of Heaven. However, I’d like to think this morning about whether it can also be understood to say something about the diversity of the Kingdom of Heaven as well.

For King Charles’ statement about being “Defender of Faith” reflects the diversity and plurality of beliefs within his Kingdom, the “many dwelling places” if you like, within which different faiths are practised. Looked at from a different perspective, the United Kingdom itself has “many dwelling places” – whether it is the different kingdoms, the regions within these kingdoms, the towns, cities, villages and so on. And that is before you get to the more intangible differences based on gender, sexuality, racial or cultural background, age, social background, hobbies, interests – and I could go on.

There are so many “dwelling places” that we could almost be forgiven for thinking that there is more that divides and separates us than unites us and which we hold in common. But there are things which unite us and which we hold in common – culture, values, if only the ability to agree to disagree non-violently and to resolve

our differences this way; or tolerance, to accept that there are differences but to allow people to live as they choose, subject to the restraints of certain values or laws. In the words from the Flanders and Swann song, “Misalliance”, a song about 2 different plants, the honeysuckle and the bindweed, who twist in different directions, but who weren’t allowed to keep their relationship going due to their “differences”:

“Together, they found them, the very next day,  
They had pulled up their roots and just shrivelled away.  
Deprived of that freedom for which we must fight,  
To veer to the left or to veer to the right!”

Hark at me, with my cultural references from a book from 1930 and a song from 1957! Both, I hastily add, from before I was born! But they show that, whilst some things change and improve, there are other constants which we share with previous generations. The coronation ceremony which dates back hundreds of years. The Christian faith which goes back 2 thousand years, but which can trace its roots to the origins of creation itself.

We can all probably think of something which epitomises that common identity, what it means to be British. Doesn’t always have to be big things. 2 weeks ago we were on a train to Luton airport on our way to Scotland, which was busy with people returning after the London Marathon. We sat next to and got chatting with someone. Now, a funny thing happens when you reach 60. You find yourself chatting with strangers. Don’t know why. I call it a type of OCD – that’s Old age Conversation Disorder. You can’t help it. Young people out there – don’t take it personally. We’re not being nosy or intrusive. We just feel that your day might be cheered up with a little sprinkling of conversation with us. Anyway, the man we were chatting with told us that he comes down from Luton every year to watch the London Marathon. Not to run in it. Or support someone who is running in it. But just to be part of a spectacle which he believes shows London at its best – whether you are running for the personal challenge, running to raise money for charity or there to support or just be part of the occasion.

Or yesterday as I was speaking with the Vicar whilst decorating the mini cream sponges with fruit, but struggling to fit them on, I commented on how plump and bountiful were my wife’s fruit – and you could almost hear the collective “ooh er Vic-ar!”

Britishness is a bit like the proverbial elephant – hard to describe but you know it when you see it.

But amongst all that variety, difference and even disagreement, we need something as a symbol of who we are, which can bring, if not all, then most of us together and is a symbol of who we are. Whatever you think of the monarchy as an idea and King Charles as a person, he is the head of state and symbol of the British people. Which is why, to me at least, and I think many others, occasions such as the coronation are an important moment to reflect on and celebrate who we are and take hope from who we might be.

If that is the more secular theme for today, to think at the time of the coronation of King Charles III as head of state of the one house but with many dwelling places, then it is also important to reflect on his role as the head of the Church of England. As I mentioned earlier, the conventional view is that, when Jesus is describing the Kingdom of Heaven as God's house, but one which has many rooms, he is referring to the size and the capacity of his house for all those who believe in him. But I think the reference can also be to the different rooms that reflect all the different experiences of God, all the different journeys that are made to God and all the different experiences along the way. This could be to the different Christian Churches – Eastern Orthodox, Western Catholic Church, all the different Protestant churches and the different “wings” within each of them, or to the different personal experiences.

However, this is not to say that all religions are of equal value, or that within our faith anything goes. Today's passage from the Gospel contains an important – bold, audacious, controversial, arrogant even – statement by Jesus that “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Just pause for a moment and think just what it is that Jesus is saying. Not that religion in general, or a belief in a god, can be shown to be a “good thing”, with religious people being happier, having greater meaning to their lives and being more likely to help those in need. But in the end it doesn't matter which belief system you follow, or what you believe. Because Jesus is not saying, “I am a way to God”. No, he is saying that he is the way to God and the only way to God.

Now, that doesn't mean that those of other and no faith have no value or cannot in their way serve God's Kingdom, any more that being a Christian is a guarantee of righteous behaviour and good living. But it does mean that it is important to proclaim the gospel, the good news that through Jesus we can know God – as Jesus says, “If you know me, you will know my Father also.” Therefore, whatever merit there is in King Charles' desire to be the “Defender of faith”, to Christians he is the “Defender of the Faith”, no matter how discordant that may sound to the modern “every view, belief or experience” is of equal value. Our confidence and boldness in Jesus' statement can be proclaimed with humility and understanding.

If that leaves a lot of from this passage unsaid, or appears to speed through some challenging and complicated ideas, then let us conclude by reflecting that Jesus is the way and the truth and the life.

He is above all the way to God, not a model to copy exactly but someone whose teachings need to be applied to our own lives and circumstances. As important is that there is a way to God, rather than God being up there or out there, remote, unreachable and unknowable.

And because he is the way to God, Jesus is also the truth and the life.

Jesus is the truth because by his life, teachings and example we can come to know what it means to be fully human, but always to God's glory and to bring about God's Kingdom, not for our own glory or our own purposes.

Jesus is the life because, by his death and resurrection, he offers the hope that we

too can escape death and the confines of this life and experience everlasting life.

This is summarised in the meditation of Thomas a Kempis:

“Follow thou me. I am the way and the truth and the life. Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou must follow; the truth which thou must believe; the life for which thou must hope. I am the inviolable way; the infallible truth, the never-ending life. I am the straightest way; the sovereign truth; life true, life blessed, life uncreated.”

It is in part because of these themes that this passage is popular at funerals, and therefore it might seem an odd passage on which to focus as we celebrate the coronation of King Charles. But it is that hope and reassurance which it offers which should also give us joy in our hearts.

So let us today celebrate all that unites us as a nation, but also all the differences that make life so rich and rewarding, by proclaiming “God Save The King!”

And let us also celebrate, as we move beyond Easter, the fact that, if we can get to know Jesus, we can also get to know God; and that Jesus is here with us to show us how we can do that. So, with joy in our hearts and praise on our lips, let us give thanks to Jesus, King of Kings, who is the way and the truth and the life.

**The Bromley Boy Singers – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am**

**The Bromley Boy Singers** are delighted to return to Bromley Parish Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June. The choir has performed in Truro Cathedral, the Hall for Cornwall, La Madeleine in Paris, St Clement Dane's, All Hallows by the Tower, St Sepulchre without Newgate and at the Royal Festival Hall. The boys have worked with several adult groups including the Allegri Singers, Kentish Opera, British Youth Opera and the English Baroque Choir; they have also performed Bach's St Matthew Passion with Dame Emma Kirkby at St. John Smith Square with Bob Chilcott at The Royal Albert Hall and with The English Baroque Choir, Concordia and Lewisham Choral Society. The boys also regularly take part in The Brandenburg London Choral Festival.

Tours have brought them to Paris (2013 & 2017) and Cornwall (2015 & 2017) where they won the prestigious '*John Langdon Award for Youth Choirs*' at the Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival in 2015.

*"Lovely tone, very well articulated...very musical throughout...an accomplished choir with great potential...you have everything!"*

Alan Simmons, adjudicator – Cornwall Male International Voice Choral Festival

On their 2017 tour to Paris they performed, by special invitation, at Notre Dame Cathedral, La Madeleine and Disneyland and celebrated their 40th Anniversary with the world premiere of special commission '*Broadside Ballads*' by James Lark, a work they re-visited at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 2018. In October 2019 they toured Belgium, which included a performance in Ypres (Menin Gate).

Admission to the concert is free with a retiring collection.  
Refreshments served from 10.30am



*Some thoughts on the topic of aging, many thanks to Jane for contributing this.*

It is said that age exists only in the mind – to which I can imagine most of us would respond “what rubbish”. True, we may sometimes feel about 25 mentally, but unfortunately our bodies tell us otherwise - I know mine does! Long gone, for instance, is the time when I could happily spend a day working in the garden and finish up with just a slight, rather satisfying, muscle ache which disappeared by the following morning; whilst grey hairs, varicose veins, the need for stronger spectacle lenses and, of course, the constant battle with a thickening waistline, all point to the reality of my advancing years.

But, of course, we can do nothing about it – ‘while growing up is optional, growing old is mandatory’ – and we have to accept the inevitable with grace. Francis Bacon observed “age will not be defied”; and Maurice Chevalier, asked on his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday what he felt about getting old, commented “Considering the alternative, it is not too bad at all.” Certainly, the senior years could be said to bring their compensations. With age comes confidence to replace the uncertainty of youth; the disappearance of embarrassing blushes and painful self-consciousness that were such a torture during those years when any failure seemed total and permanent, sensitivities ran high and criticism wounded unbearably. And we mustn’t overlook the Freedom Pass! George Burns, that very long-lived comedian never without a cigar, rather proudly stated “I was brought up to respect my elders – so now I don’t have to respect anybody.”

However, our experience of ageing cannot be considered a fun time, whatever some might have us believe. How many of us could agree with this sign on the wall of a retirement home in Norwich?

‘We will not weep that spring be passed  
Or autumn shadows fall  
These years shall be, although advanced,  
The loveliest of all.’

Huh! Who are they trying to kid?

‘Every man desires to live long; but no man would be old’ wrote Jonathan Swift. Sadly, in this country society tends to revere the young and discard what age and hence experience can offer.

There can be no doubt that, with all its losses, old age is likely to be the most difficult period of our lives, and I think we would all agree with the premise of youth being wasted on the young, which is echoed in Herbert Asquith’s comment “Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.”

With its multiple concerns – the loss of our peers and perhaps a partner, decline in mobility, deterioration in health, reluctance to become physically dependent upon



others, maybe financial hardship and worry about maintaining in our homes, and all that the future may hold – it can be a worrying and really quite frightening time, particularly in these days when the decline of amenities which so affect the elderly – health services, banks and post offices, transport – is increasingly evident. There is a natural fear of the unknown, of loss and pain, for many a prevailing unease about death itself.

You may be familiar with this prayer written by a 17<sup>th</sup> century Nun:

‘Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody’s affairs. Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

‘Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others’ pains, but help me to endure them with patience

‘I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

‘Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.’

But, amid all the gloom, let us not forget God’s promise in Isaiah:

‘I have cared for you from the time you were born.

I am your God and will take care of you

Until you are old and your hair is grey.

I made you and will care for you.

I will give you help and rescue you.’

Finally, on a lighter note, a true report of a visit made by the late Queen Mother to an old people’s home. Smiling sweetly and clasping the hand of a white-haired resident, she enquired “Do you know who I am?” to which his response was “No love, but see that lady over there? She’s our matron, and she’ll be able to tell you.”

*Jane Cleveland*

**9<sup>th</sup> June Columba of Iona, missionary to the UK**

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include going into voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

*Here is a prayer of St Columba:*

Christ With Us

My dearest Lord,

Be Thou a bright flame before me,

Be Thou a guiding star above me,

Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,

Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,

Today and evermore.



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Two fun events in support of our work with disadvantaged children in Kenya

## Virtual Kenya Marafun

17th June 2023



On 17th June, our former street boys will be running a Marafun near the Sunshine Centre in Kenya.

The boys would love to know you were taking part too.

You can run, walk, swim or cycle any distance you choose, anywhere you want, and at whatever speed you are comfortable with.

Last year 540 people in 5 countries took part in the Virtual Kenya ~~Marathon~~. This year we are aiming for more participants (and more countries).

Please send us a photo of your ~~Marathon~~ to share with the Sunshine Boys, and raise some sponsorship by using the QR code or clicking on the box below.



**Make the Sunshine Boys happy - sponsor now!**

**IF YOU LIVE NEAR BROMLEY / SE London...**

... we are planning a ~~Marathon~~ **Picnic and sponsored walk** in Norman Park, Bromley. Join us if you can!

**Parking & Start Point:** Free car park in Hook Farm Road, Bromley, BR2 9SX

**Picnic:** Start time 1pm

**For the younger ones:** Face painting & bubble machine

**Walk/Jog/Run:** The marked path around Norman Park is 2km long, but you can do as much or as little as you want! (starts 2pm).

**Interested?**

Contact Martin Print on 07802 810014 or email

[martin.print@footstepsinternational.org](mailto:martin.print@footstepsinternational.org) so we know you're joining the fun!

Virtual Kenya Marafun 17 June 2023



Anyone - Anywhere - Anyway



*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...*

### **HELP SAVE JUSB**

Sadly JusB is now in danger of closing

For JusB, like many voluntary groups, obtaining financial support over the last few years has been difficult due to the huge demand on funders, exacerbated by the issues post pandemic and the cost of living crisis. We are now currently in the position where we have just over three months funding left to enable us to deliver our activities and if we do not secure £75,000 by the end of June then sadly we will have to say goodbye to our amazing young people and close.

If you are aware of any businesses who can support us then we would be extremely grateful to have their details. Our work is vital to the young people of Bromley so please do not let 20 years of experience go to waste. With your continued support, it will gain us vital time to help us secure those bigger grants to sustain the future work we do.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Ned McWhirter, Project Manager,  
[ned@jusb.co.uk](mailto:ned@jusb.co.uk) or 0208 464 2722 [www.jusb.co.uk](http://www.jusb.co.uk)

*The JusB Prayer Points for the month can be found in the 'Prayers and Poems' section, please pray for them at this uncertain time.*



We will be resuming the annual summer trip to Broadstairs this year on Saturday 15th July. There will be a minibus running from the church to the beach in the morning and back in the evening, seats available on a first come first served basis. It is a short walk from the station to the beach for those who want to make their own way by train. We usually meet on the beach at 11.00am. Bring your own picnic. There is a café on the beach and plenty of places to eat in the town. Please watch the pew sheet for further details and put the date in your diary. It is a good day out and fun for all ages. Further information from Donya - [mattanddonya@virginmedia.com](mailto:mattanddonya@virginmedia.com)



## St Peter and St Paul, Bromley Patronal Festival

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023



10.30am Parish Eucharist

followed by

bbq in the church grounds



All are welcome to join the celebrations

Let us know of any dietary requirements.

Vegan and gluten free options will be available.

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## The Alban Pilgrimage

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**Preacher: The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover**

*"In so many ways, Alban's story is our story - many in our world today are fleeing persecution and seeking refuge, just as he did more than 1,500 years ago. I look forward to joining the Alban pilgrimage in June, as we travel together joyfully sharing in his story."*

Photo credit: Diocese of Canterbury

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**Celebrating one of the greatest stories in the Christian faith in a truly spectacular way.**

### **Saturday 24 June**

Join us for the Alban Pilgrimage - a magnificent procession organised by St Albans Cathedral, to celebrate St Alban, Britain's first saint.

Each year, 12ft tall carnival puppets, representing figures from the story of St Alban, take to the streets to reenact the historic events which lead to St Alban's execution at the hands of the Romans. The puppets are accompanied by people of all ages dressed as lions, Roman soldiers, angels, chariots and more, resulting in a stunning spectacle of colour and celebration.

Continue the Pilgrimage Day celebrations with an afternoon of Tudor-themed fun on the Abbey Orchard. Meet King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn and try your hand at playing Tudor games with re-enactment group Tudor Legacies. Join our Summer Artist in Residence to make your own secret coded messages on scrolls, as well as other activities fit for the whole family.

**11am** | Procession starting at St Peter's Church, along St Peter's St, Chequer St, High St, George St, Romeland and finishing at the West End of the Cathedral.

**12noon** | Medieval Festival on the Orchard

**12noon** | All are invited to join our Pilgrimage Eucharist. Preacher: The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover.

**5pm** | Pilgrimage Evensong. This service ends with a procession to the shrine of St Alban, where red roses are placed on the shrine in an act of celebration.

A hidden gem (by Lisa)

*I recently visited the café at St John's Church in Beckenham; I recommend it if you're in the area! It's a really lovely, quite large space with lunches, drinks and all-important cake on offer. The volunteers were all so friendly so if you fancy a chat this is somewhere to bear in mind!*

*They are looking for volunteers so I asked if I could put something in the Key in case someone is interested - the manager Linda kindly provided some details (below). I understand there are plans to extend the café's opening hours to include Saturdays in the near future, if they have enough volunteers. If you'd like more information or to apply, please contact Linda by emailing [linda@stjohnsbeckenham.org](mailto:linda@stjohnsbeckenham.org).*

### **Green Bird Café – Who we are and what we hope to be**

- Green Bird Café opened its doors to the community of Eden Park in October 2021 as an outreach initiative of St John's Beckenham
- Green Bird Café is open to the community on three days of the week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am to 2.00pm). On Tuesdays, it hosts St John's Toddlers' Group which is open to any toddlers from the local area and their parents and/or carers
- Green Bird Café is run by a dedicated, caring, enthusiastic and varied team of volunteers who are predominantly, but not exclusively, members of St John's Church – what they all have in common is the desire to do God's work by sharing his love and peace with whoever walks through our doors
- Our volunteers have all received relevant training for the roles they perform, and they undertake regular training sessions to ensure we can continue to provide a quality service to our customers.
- In 2022, Green Bird Café was inspected by Bromley Environmental Services and was awarded 5 Stars. We are rightly very pleased to have met such high standards and strive in all we do to maintain that level of excellence for the good of our customers.
- Green Bird Café is about serving good food and coffee at a reasonable price but more than that, it is a place where we can offer a warm welcome, a listening ear, support and companionship to anyone from the community; in short, it is where we can put into practice Jesus' instruction to love our neighbour as he loved us.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

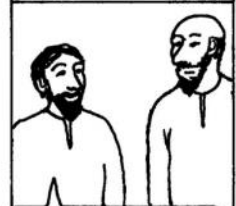


At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah

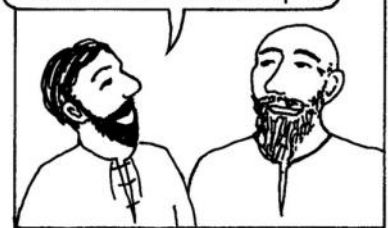


So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

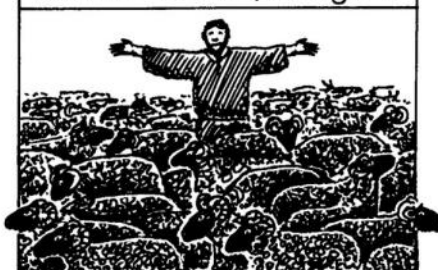
As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



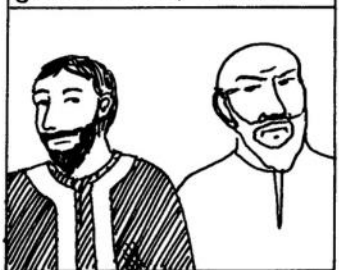
Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



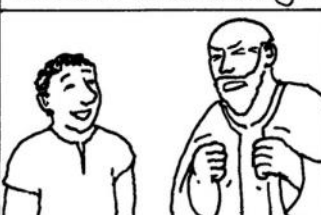
Laban became very jealous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...

Jacob!



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

sheep  
Leah  
years  
run  
flock  
agreed

God  
work  
sister  
Rachel  
black  
father

angels  
jealous  
away  
marry  
Jacob  
wages

seven  
brother  
home  
Laban  
cousin  
moved

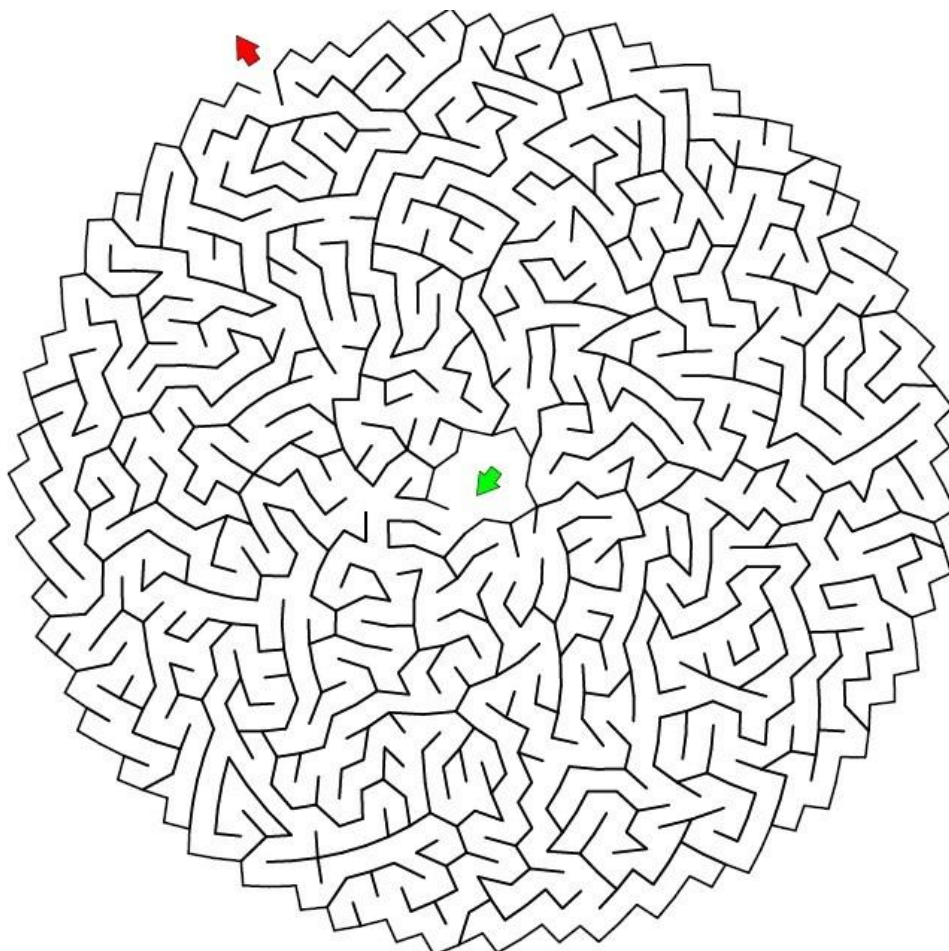


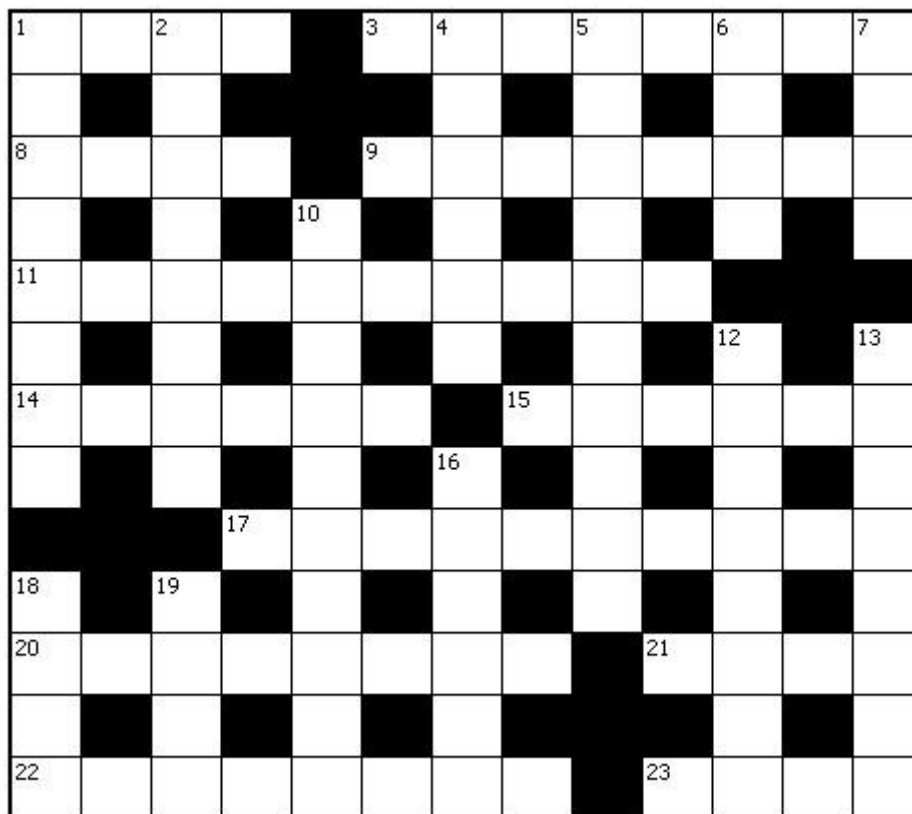
1	5							
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	3	6		2	9	1		
	7			1	2			
8	9						4	1
			3	9			2	
		7	9	4		2	3	
		5	7					
							8	6

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Sudoku:

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





**Answers:**

**Across**

1 care; 3 paradise; 8 null; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic; 14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary;

20 covenant; 21 Thai; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden

**Down**

1 conflict; 2 religion; 4 arrest; 5 affliction; 6 Iona; 7 Eddy; 10 allegiance; 12 preached; 13 Assyrian; 16 a son of; 18 Scot; 19 DVLA

**Across**

- 1 See 23 Across  
 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)  
 8 Invalid (4)  
 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)  
 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)  
 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)  
 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)  
 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)  
 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)  
 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)  
 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)  
 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

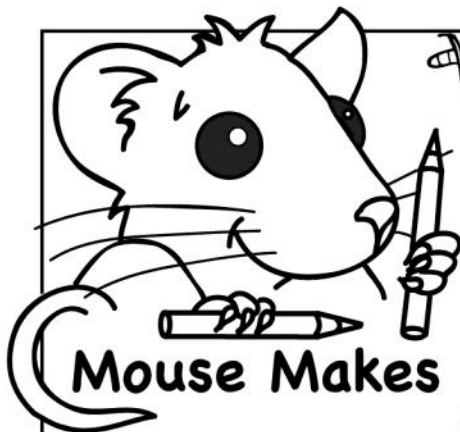
**Down**

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces

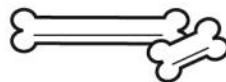
(Habakkuk 1:3) (8)

- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)  
 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)  
 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)  
 6 St Columba's burial place (4)  
 7 Swirling current of water (4)  
 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)  
 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)  
 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)  
 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)  
 18 David Livingstone was one (4)  
 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)





The Lord said to Moses,  
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh  
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...  
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord  
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."  
 As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the  
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



**1**  
**Water turns to Blood**  
 Which water turned  
 to blood?  
*Read - Exodus 7:19*

**2**  
**A Swarm of Frogs**  
 In which  
 places were the  
 frogs found?  
*Read - Exodus 8:3-4*

**3**  
**A Plague of Gnats**  
 When Aaron struck his  
 staff on the ground  
 what became Gnats?  
*Read - Exodus 8:16-17*

**4**  
**Swarms of Flies**  
 In which land were the  
 flies not be found?  
*Read - Exodus 8:22*

**5**  
**Death of Animals**  
 Which animals that belonged  
 to the Egyptians died?  
*Read - Exodus 9:2*



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

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON  
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH  
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES  
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT  
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE  
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND  
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

**6**  
**A Break out of Boils**  
 What did Moses throw into  
 the air before boils appeared  
 on people and animals?  
*Read - Exodus 9:10*

**7**  
**A Rain of Hail**  
 What also rained  
 down with the hail?  
 Where did it not hail?  
*Read - Exodus 9:24-26*

**8**  
**A Swarm of Locusts**  
 Where did the wind  
 come from that brought  
 the locusts to the land?  
*Read - Exodus 10:13*

**9**  
**Darkness over the Land**  
 How many days did  
 it remain dark?  
*Read - Exodus 10:21-22*

**10**  
**Death of the Firstborn**  
 At what time would the  
 firstborn in the land die?  
*Read - Exodus 11:4-6*

# The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN  
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH  
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO  
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN  
MY BARNs AND BUILD  
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS  
OLD BARNs....

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD  
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST  
MAN IN THE TOWN!



I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN  
EAT, DRINK AND BE  
MERRY!



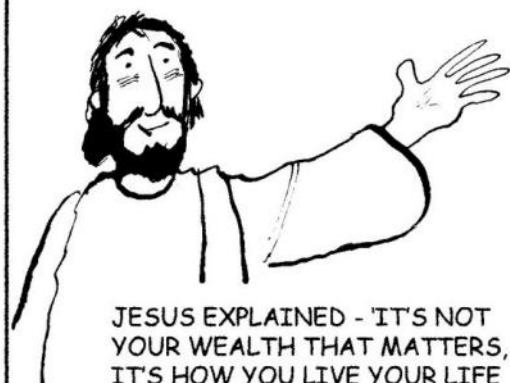
BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,  
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS  
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT  
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,  
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE  
THAT'S IMPORTANT



## JUSB PRAYER POINTS

*Please hold the following in your prayers this month.*

- Please continue to pray for JusB's financial situation. Trustees have had to issue redundancy notices to staff to comply with the legal statutory notice period.
- Please pray for all staff at this time as they face an uncertain future and will need to look for work as well as continue with JusB work. This will be a very physically and emotionally demanding time in the months ahead for staff.
- Pray for our young people as our work with them continues. Our projects will continue to provide support and activities right through to the last day of projects.
- Please continue to pray that we will raise enough funds to enable us to continue to our work with the young people of Bromley.

[www.jusb.co.uk](http://www.jusb.co.uk)

**Prayer for June 2023**

Dear Father,

As we come to this beautiful time of year, the month of June, we thank you for the wonder of your creation and the way our spirits are lifted as we see all around us the freshness of a new summer.

This month we remember Barnabas, whose name means, *child of encouragement*. He was a good person, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Lord, help each of us to be a *Barnabas* to someone today, to encourage and lift up, led by your Holy Spirit and full of faith.

Help us to share your love and goodness, especially with those whose circumstances are difficult. Help us all to trust you through good times and testing times, knowing you are always with us, always encouraging us, always faithful.

In Jesus' name. Amen

*By Daphne Kitching*

**The Wonder of Creation**

The rising sun that streaks the sky with colour,  
Each day we see more marvels that unfold,  
Nature has a palette like no other -  
Creation is a wonder to behold.

And can it be this happened all by chance,  
Or did some cosmic force become involved?  
A Power operating out of time  
That has a greater story to be told.

Our Universe defies all understanding,  
Its vastness reaching endlessly in space,  
Eternity - we find it hard to fathom  
Or of One perhaps who set it all in place.

A Deity beyond the realms of time?  
We do our best to try and understand -  
Of a mighty hand that flung the stars to flight  
Could be the hand still beckoning to man.

*By Megan Carter*

*Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: I was in Amsterdam last year, a city which was the home of an extremely courageous young woman, Anne Frank. From 1942 until her arrest in 1944 she and her family (and some other refugees) lived in a small section of an Amsterdam House, the entrance hidden by a bookcase. We can barely imagine what life was like crammed into that tiny space, completely unable to get out and stretch your legs or take a breath of air. It all ended in probable betrayal and arrest, and the Frank family could have just been part of those terrifying statistics were it not for the fact that Anne's diary was discovered after they had gone:*

### **The Bookcase**

A simple wooden bookcase  
So plain to prying eyes  
Concealed a family, hiding  
From Nazis and their spies.

And Anne Frank kept a record  
Of their long time inside  
She told us of the tensions  
And what it's like to hide.

How hard it is to live so close  
As day comes after day;  
When you must stay well hidden –  
When there's no other way.

She told us of the arguments  
With strangers and with kin  
She told us of the hunger  
And dread of life within.

She told us of the bravery  
Of those who, though unpaid,  
These brave souls daily risked their lives  
To bring them food and aid.

She told us of her youthful hopes  
When evil men had fled,  
In forty-four, those hopes were  
dashed  
The Nazis came instead.

But how would we, who live in  
peace  
Whose lives run close to plan  
Have known of life in fear and  
dread  
If it wasn't for brave Anne?

*By Nigel Beeton*

**Thursday 1**

7.30pm Choir practice

**Saturday 3**

10am -12noon Starter Pack donations morning

**Sunday 4****Trinity Sunday**

8.30am Holy Communion (CW)  
10.30am Parish Eucharist

**Tuesday 6**

11.00am Toddler Praise  
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

**Wednesday 7**

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

**Thursday 8**

2.15pm Fellowship  
7.30pm Choir practice

**Saturday 10**

11.30am Saturday Morning recital ~  
Refreshments from 11.00am

**Sunday 11****Sunday after Trinity**

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

**Tuesday 13**

11.00am Toddler Praise  
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

**Wednesday 14**

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

**Thursday 15**

7.30pm Choir practice

**Friday 16**

5.00pm Wedding rehearsal

**Saturday 17**

11.00am Wedding Aimee Van Vlaanderen & George Tsiatsis

**Sunday 18****Trinity 2**

8.30am Holy Communion (CW)  
10.30am All age Worship with Communion +  
Baptism Dativa & Maria Ernesto

**Tuesday 20**

11.00am Toddler Praise  
7.30pm Bell ringing practice

**Wednesday 21**

12noon Midweek service  
12.30-2.00pm Church open for private prayer  
8.00pm Standing & Finance Committee meeting

**Thursday 22**

1.00pm Burial of ashes  
2.15pm Fellowship  
5.00pm Burial of Ashes  
7.30pm Choir practice

**Friday 23**

7.00pm Quarter peal

**Sunday 25****Trinity 3**

9.00am Breakfast Church  
10.30am Parish Eucharist



**Monday 26**

All day preparation for Schools' Festival

4.00pm Schools' Festival volunteers + leaders thank you and information time. Refreshments + a chance to ask questions.

**Tuesday 27**

All day Schools' Festival

No Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

**Wednesday 28**

All day Schools' Festival

No Midweek service

Church will be closed for private prayer

**Thursday 29**

7.30pm Choir practice

*Sunday 2 July*

**Patronal Festival**

8.30am Holy Communion (CW)

10.30am Parish Eucharist followed by BBQ

**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 12.30pm and 2pm, consecrated bread is available for those who wish to receive

To join Sunday worship online please visit our website [www.bromleyparishchurch.org](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org) and follow the link on our homepage.

Updates to services and events are posted on our website [www.bromleyparishchurch.org](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org)