

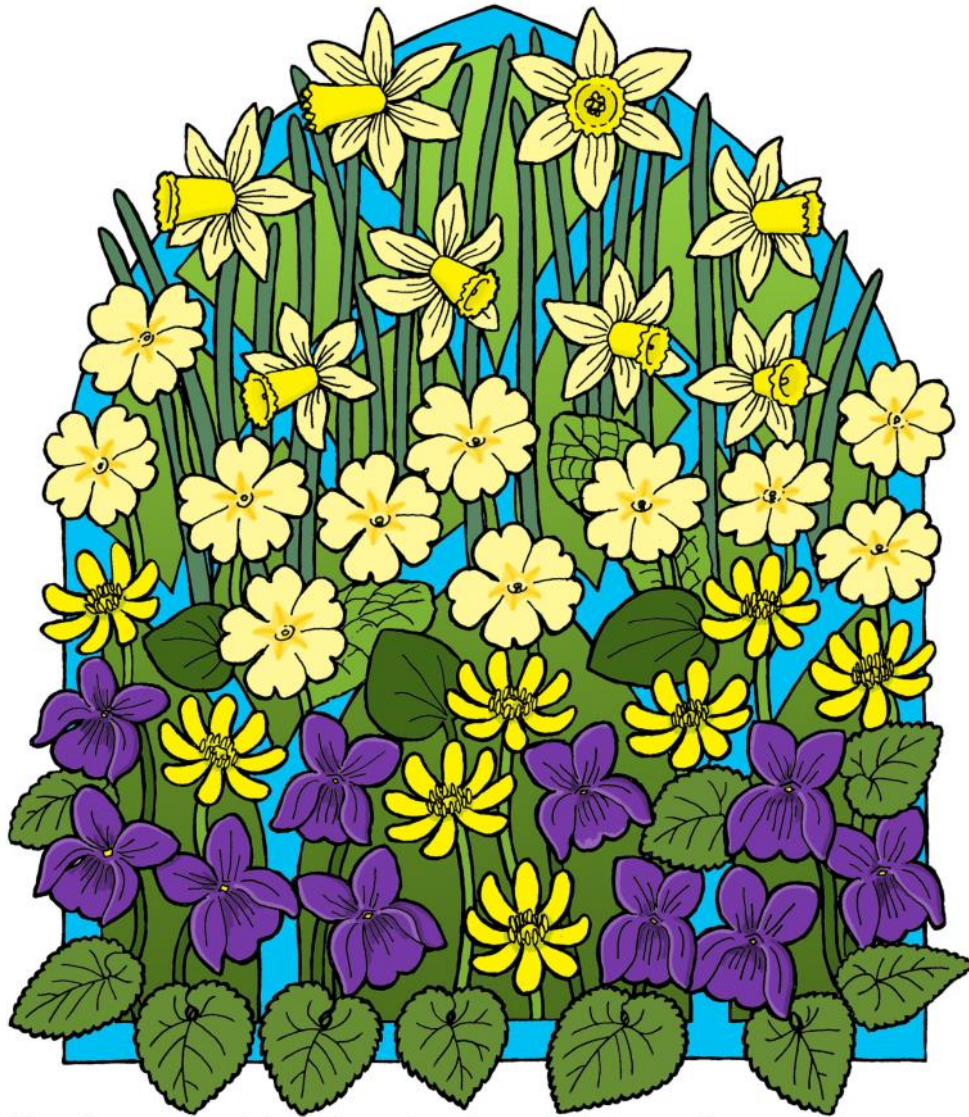
the KEY

Number 220

March 2022

50p

Website: www.bromleyparishchurch.org



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come!

Song of
Songs 2:12

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



A very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ira, who turned 100 last week! Many congratulations on this wonderful milestone. A lovely article follows from Ira's family telling us all about the celebrations.



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Reverend James Harratt

vicar@bromleyparishchurch.org

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Martin Cleveland

Jane Cleveland

wardens@bromleyparishchurch.org

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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,

Welcome to Spring, and welcome to the March edition of the Key! We have a packed edition this month as so much is going on, there are details in the magazine of Church walks, musical events and World Day of Prayer.

We also have an update from Footsteps International and Foodbank, and details of the Easter Garden, a recent sermon from Rev James and a request from the Starter Packs charity. Ira's family have written to tell us about her celebrations and Christine has contributed a reflection on a story from a previous edition of the Key. We also have the usual Bible stories, puzzles, diary dates...

I hope you enjoy the issue and please continue to send me your excellent contributions, I hope everyone else enjoys reading them as much as I did.

With love,

Lisa

Many thanks to Rev James for providing his sermon from the Sunday before Lent for us to revisit.

Readings: Exodus 34.29–35
2 Corinthians 3.12 – 4.2
Luke 9.28–36

So today we celebrate through the service 100 years of Ira, a remarkable achievement and a time to reflect on how our world has changed over those years.

That has been the theme also of a novel I have been avidly reading this week - “Light Perpetual” by Frances Spufford. I don’t know if you have read it but I have found it an utterly absorbing and beautiful piece of work.

The story in the main follows 5 children at first – Val, Jo, Vern, Alec and Ben - growing up in post war South London, in a fictional borough somewhere between Lewisham and Greenwich. Each chapter skips forward 15 years in their life – it’s a bit like the up documentaries if you remember them, following the lives of these five through the changing world, the challenges as youthful hope fades into middle age routine and beyond, of illness and recovery, marital abuse, financial ruin, and the world you know being taken away from you by the chances of fate and technology. Each character navigates their life, until it ends in the penultimate chapter with their last years, reflecting on the relationships made and broken, on the world as it is and how they come to peace with a life they didn’t necessarily envisage at the beginning of the book and redeem some of the rather bleaker episodes.

It is a bit of kitchen sink realism, quite literally in places when there is a lengthy description of washing up. But the power and poignancy of this comes from the first chapter of the book, which poetically describes a day in November 1944 in a department store where mothers and grandmothers and shoppers and our characters as toddlers are admiring some shiny new aluminium pots and pans up for sale, whilst silently and sleekly a V2 rocket breaks through the ceiling and in a moments flash of light, destroying the building, killing everyone within it and a good number of those around also.

The entire novel is an exploration of “some other version of the reel of time” where we see “All the would-be’s, might-be’s, could-be’s of the decades to come” for those lives cut short – it puts into focus the potential lost, the things that should have been as well as the pain spared. Though it is true of any work of fiction really, there is something extremely poignant given to everything you read knowing that in no sense it could happen. It brings sharply into focus the fragility of the lives on the page and indeed of our own.

You can guess from the title that light is important in it, you can possibly complete the rest of the prayer from which the title is drawn. And light is vital through the novel, it appears unbidden at key moments for characters, when they sense something more about life than the often grey humdrum of a London that feels often dirty and defeated. It draws attention, draws wonder, shows beauty amidst everything else. I loved it as a novel, and I recommend it to you too.

But that sense of something which draws wonder and brings more is important to how we understand our Gospel today.

One of the central ideas is that life needs often something more to it than simple survival to be rich and full, and that the chance to explore more is important to giving us a fullness of life and resilience to cope with struggles- you may be familiar with things like Maslow's hierarchy of needs. But it is baked into how we understand what should be the progression of our lives. Think of the labels we use for history- we go from the Dark Ages, to the Medieval or Middle Ages – the bit in between the past and the good stuff to come, then the Renaissance, rebirth, new life, new art and sculpture and thought, and then the Enlightenment with the triumph of reason – it in itself creates a narrative about movement and growth through history towards some imagined brighter future where we can be free of things that have shackled us.

We see this recognition of this need, more and more. When I was doing my essays on hospital chaplaincy as a curate, I pulled out a definition of what is spiritual care from one of the books as being “a quality that goes beyond religious affiliation, that strives for inspiration, reverence, awe, meaning and purpose, even in those who do not believe in God”.¹

And that sense of awe and reverence is explored generally in that novel I was reading, some find it, some do not, one character surrounds themselves with the most exquisite beauty of opera, but all it does is show him the emotions and truths he lacks in himself, the void open a little bit more with every performance.

It is very easy to talk about the need for reverence, awe and inspiration in general terms as being things we decide which add to our life, which give it that definition and focus.

But for Christians that light, that enlightenment has a definite shape, we see it in the story from our Gospel today of the Transfiguration. A familiar one, where Jesus

1. Ruth Murray and Judith Zentner, *Nursing Concepts for Health Promotion* (London: Prentice-Hall, 1989), p. 259.

goes up the mountain and is transfigured, it is an incredibly rich story. One of the things to take from it is that it is transfiguration, not transformation, what changes is not Jesus himself but how the disciples see and understand him. Here, despite having already claimed he is the Messiah, they see that Jesus shows us the radiance of God, the light perpetual which enlightens and gives meaning to our lives, the light which transcends the bounds of this earth and shows us something of eternity.

Last week the Archdeacon in his sermon told us something very simple, if you want to know what God is, look at Jesus. Today we see that message again, the power and light of God is found and seen through Jesus, his radiance illuminates through him even when we ordinarily cannot see it. If we want to see a life transformed by God, by the ultimate source of light and transcendence, we can look to Jesus and the life he led, the promises he made that the same can happen in our lives, drawing them occasionally from ordinary to extraordinary, and gives us a way to understand that.

All of this happens within the struggles of life, it doesn't remove them or make them go away. The novel tracks the very different struggles of its characters into which only occasionally these moments break in. Likewise in the scriptures these moments of glory, the Transfiguration, the Resurrection, and the Ascension are linked together, but in every case the moment of glory follows from and arises out of a revelation or a moment of suffering, today, the Transfiguration follows on from the disciples declaring he is the Messiah, and then immediately Jesus tells them that he must suffer and die, then he is transfigured. Glory and darkness always come together, we live in the humdrum ordinariness of a world which is broken in many ways, yet we hope for the greater glory of God, to know that transfiguring grace fleetingly in ways which give greater meaning to the whole.

So this week as we approach the dust and ashes of Lent, take time to sit, pray, meditate – read light perpetual, but take time to know that the true light which brings light to everyone, can be found in our lives when we watch and pray, when we set our eyes to the one who shows again and again in the midst of suffering, the glories of God, the light perpetual.

Ira Webber
100 NOT OUT!



I hope James doesn't mind me using his expression for the title of my diary of Mum's 100th Birthday celebrations. It seems so apt as only three weeks before, Mum had been in hospital with Covid pneumonia and the 20 days to go seemed a very long way off indeed.

Alison and I had made three birthday cakes in preparation. One each for the residents and staff at Nettlestead Care Home, the family party and the church family, including Fellowship. We were all set.

The timetable was a lunch of fish and chips at the Bricklayers pub in Chipstead on the day itself, followed by present and card opening. Thursday afternoon was Fellowship to meet friends and share Birthday cake. Saturday afternoon was Family afternoon tea. Sunday was church with cake and fizz. A demanding timetable for any age, let alone 100.

Mum was pleased to receive a visit from her cousin and husband from

Middlesbrough on the weekend before her Birthday. They spent a lovely day together reminiscing about Mum's old boyfriends and they were able to visit her at Nettlestead the following day.

The big day arrived. We picked Mum up at 11.30 from Nettlestead. The hair-dresser had just managed to fit her in before leaving. On arrival at The Bricklayers Arms we put Mum in a wheelchair with a 100 balloon tied on to the handle. From the moment we entered the pub we had the most amazing welcome from the staff and customers. Mum made her way through a child's portion of fish and chips and an enormous portion of bread-and-butter pudding with a candle and the whole pub sang Happy Birthday. This was all washed down with a complimentary bottle of fizz. She opened her card from the Queen and was proud to show it to all who were interested.

Whilst we were enjoying our lunch at the pub, we later learned that we had missed a request on Classic FM sent in by Mum's nephew and wife. Schubert was played in celebration of Mum's 100th. Fortunately, her niece and several other people heard the request.

After lunch we took her back to Nettlestead where the staff settled us in the conservatory and we were able to share card and present opening. There were lovely video messages from all the great grandchildren. Tea followed with Mum's Birthday cake and we left her absolutely shattered at 5.30pm. It was a wonderful day.

On Thursday afternoon the balloon was once again tied to the back of the wheelchair and we headed for Fellowship at the church. Again, a warm welcome awaited. After an interesting talk from a prison chaplain tea and cake were served. Everyone sung Happy Birthday accompanied by Garvin on his violin. We took Mum back to Nettlestead and told her that she had a whole day off before the next event.

Friday was a well-deserved day off from the celebrations. A chance to reflect and rest before the next big event.

On Saturday all the family gathered at church for afternoon tea. Banners, balloons, bunting and flowers were expertly displayed by Rosie and Sarah. The great grandchildren all wore t-shirts arranged by Sarah which had "Ira Maud Webber, 100 years old" written on the front and each child's individual name written on the back. This was done especially for Mum who always has trouble remembering all their names.

It was a beautiful sunny day and so the children were running in and out playing with cars, balloons, bubbles, trains and bikes. We had to keep our eyes on them as they kept trying to escape to the front of the church.

Musical entertainment was then provided by Sam on the piano and Garvin on the violin. Bring me Sunshine, Wonderful World and Czardas by Monti which

got everyone on their feet dancing and having fun. All the time Mum sat and watched, taking in all the action.

It was a wonderful family occasion and we were so lucky to all be able to get together after such difficult times, but it wasn't over yet!

Paul and Simon went into the churchyard and set up a rocket. One enormous bang and the afternoon was over. Everyone made an arch and sang "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow" and Mum was pushed through. We got her straight into the car and back to Nettlestead once again exhausted!

Mum arrived at church on Sunday morning to the bells ringing for the grand finale of her Birthday celebrations.

There were beautiful altar flowers in Mum's favourite colours arranged by Jan and kindly donated by the Sanctuary Guild.

James and Frank had kindly agreed that music specific to 100 be played and sung. The service started with an Introit "O taste and see". "All people that on earth do dwell" (The Old 100th) and the Stanford Jubilate (Psalm 100) followed. The whole congregation sang Happy Birthday accompanied by the organ, at the end of the service as Mum waved happily.

After Widor's Toccata, everyone made their way into the room for cake and fizz. It was wonderful seeing everyone once again together in the rooms after a service after such a long time. Such a fitting end to a lovely week.

So that was it, all over in a flash but with so many happy memories. Mum, Alison and I and all the family were overwhelmed with the cards, presents and good wishes that Mum received from family, friends and all the church family and the love and kindness in all her Birthday messages.

The celebrations will stay with us all for a very long time and we were grateful to all those people who played a part.

Gill Sammons and Alison Kay



✠ WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022 ✠

FRIDAY 4 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

10.30 a.m.

Salvation Army

Ethelbert Road
Bromley
BR1 1HU

I know the plans I have for you

Informed Prayer - Prayerful Action

Ecumenical - 365 days a year

24-7 - Prayer Movement

Women-led

www.wdop.org.uk Global

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



Press Release



"I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU"

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, we have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. We use our Bible text "I know the plans I have for you" from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. Preparation for the day has taken several years. Our International Committee based in New York coordinates the work of National Committees and facilitates the creation of our annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday in March. The service outline, created by the writing country, is distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background and children's and - for the first time - young people's activities.

All this work will come to fruition on Friday 4 March 2022 when services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches. We will use modern technology to reach those unable to access a service but hope to be able to extend a welcome and hospitality once released from lockdown.

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

2nd March - ASH WEDNESDAY, a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

The Bromley Boy Singers – Saturday 19th March at 11.30am

The Bromley Boy Singers are delighted to return to Bromley Parish Church on Saturday 19th March. 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

Saturday Morning Concert 2nd April at 11.30am

We are very pleased that our Saturday morning concert in April will be an organ recital given by Laura Schlappa who won first prize in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition in 2020. Laura will be taking part, along with other senior winners, in a gala recital celebrating the 10th anniversary of the competition, on Monday 28th March in Southwark Cathedral. She will then be travelling to Belfast to deliver the same recital in Belfast Cathedral. Before leaving for Belfast on Monday 4th April she has offered to play for us at St Peter and St Paul.

Laura Schlappa is an international organist who, apart from winning the Northern Ireland competition, has also won first prizes at the international organ competitions in Dudelange (2021), and London (2019) and the NIIOC intermediate competition (2018).

The recital will last for about 30 minutes. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

Refreshments will be served from 10.30am

This promises to be an excellent concert. Hope to see you there!

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

Church 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

Below is a reflection on an article from the previous edition from Christine, many thanks Christine for sharing!

I was pleased to read James's sermon (on Christian Unity) in February's Key, and it reminded me of the Week of Christian Unity in the late 60's when I lived in Maida Vale. One year I attended the service in nearby St John's Wood Parish Church. Part of that week was a People Next Door project of which I have good memories, meeting in a local home with people of different denominations to share our faith. I kept in touch with a member the Baptist church and had the very interesting experience of attending a baptism service of total immersion.

I look forward to 2023 when we can again meet in each others' churches during Christian Unity week.

Starter Packs

Starter Packs are in need of donations particularly single and double bedding that is clean and in good condition.

A full list of items needed can be found on the Starter Pack website at: <https://bromleystarterpacks.weebly.com>

Whilst every effort is made to use recycled items that still have life in them and can be given a second home there are some items that need to be purchased new and financial gifts to help with this are most welcome.

Please speak to Anne Horner Tree if you can help.

Easter Garden

For our Easter Garden this year we are asking for donations of spring and alpine plants, herbs and flowering bulbs that can if you wish be given in memory of a loved one or perhaps in celebration of an event.

The garden will be put together on Easter Saturday when we would like the plants to be brought along, anyone who has time to spare and can offer their help on the day will be most welcome.

Contact Lynn in the office or speak to James or Helen for more details.





St Mark's Players'
2022 Family Pantomime

Sleeping Beauty

★ Rescheduled from January ★
5th to 19th March

Saturdays
2.30pm & 7.30pm

Sundays
2.30pm

Adults £11 Children £9 (Group Discounts)

St George's Hall
Albemarle Road, Beckenham, BR3 5HZ

Supporting



★ **BOOK NOW** ★

www.sm-players.co.uk
07737 538794





**TO DONATE TO
US ONLINE SCAN
THE QR CODE**



WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

28th February 2022

Small Washing up liquid

Toilet rolls

Small tubs of non – bio washing tabs

Tinned Potatoes

Mens shaving foam

Long life Fruit Juice

Tinned Fruit ✓

Please, NO ✕

Baby formula

Out of date or fresh items

We have plenty of

Pasta, Cereal, Tea and Biscuits

Thank you!

**TAKE A PHOTO OF THIS LIST
WITH YOUR PHONE TO
REFER TO WHILE YOU SHOP!**

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF FOOD SUPPORT
PLEASE CONTACT US ON 0800 9 20 23 24**

**WE ARE LOOKING
FOR SOMEONE**

RELIABLE

WELL ORGANISED

A TEAM PLAYER

to run our warehouse
operation that stores donated
food and delivers it to our
centres across the borough.

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OF

CUSTOMER SERVICE

STOCK MANAGEMENT

TEAM LEADERSHIP

and you want to help local people in
crisis, might this be for you?

THE ROLE IS

FULL TIME SALARIED

BASED IN DOWNHAM WAREHOUSE

We can discuss flexible options (e.g. job share)
if you are interested.



**SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE
DETAILS ON THE JOB
AND HOW TO APPLY**



Mary Print, a retired Bromley GP some will know as Dr Matthews, and her husband Martin run Footsteps International, a charity that works with Christian partners in Kenya to rehabilitate street boys, care for orphaned and abandoned children, and feed children who live and go to school in slums.



Mary's health: Many of you have already heard that over the Christmas period Mary was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour. Surgery on 2nd February removed much of the tumour, but the operation left her with stunned neurons that paralysed her right side and left her unable to speak. Thankfully, these symptoms have started to reverse and she is expected to recover fully over time. When she is stronger, various follow up treatments will be possible..



Thank you so much for praying for Mary – please continue to ask God to restore her rapidly.

Despite our personal setbacks, our work in Kenya with street boys, orphans, and other disadvantaged young people continues. We cannot travel at the moment, but one of our trustees, our treasurer and two supporters are visiting on our behalf towards the end of February.

Here are very brief updates on our work in Kenya (some of you may have already seen these if you subscribe to our periodic email updates):

Sunshine street boys rehabilitation centre (where we care for 150 former street boys):

As Kenya's economy crashed during the pandemic, many more boys left home and school and drifted onto the streets to survive. We rescued 25 of them, and they have settled well.

Allan Tikan (left photo) is happy now that he has a warm bed to sleep in. After dropping out of school because his step-father refused to care for him, he went to live with his elderly grandmother. But she struggled to earn enough to feed him, and he went to the streets where he was found by our staff and offered a place at the Sunshine Centre.



Edwin's mother works in a quarry to earn enough to look after her family. It is a struggle at the best of times, and during the second Covid lock down her income plummeted. Edwin dropped out of school and went to the streets where he survived by begging for money. In July he was admitted to the Sunshine Centre and is now happily back at school (right photo, previous page).

Free school meals for children who live and go to school in the slums of Nairobi (Footsteps provides meals for about 380 children each school day)



Calvin Obonyo (left) and Idah Moraa (right) live and go to school in the kwa Reuben slum area of Nairobi. Each school day they receive a free lunch at the Church on the Rock primary school, a nutritious mix of beans, maize and rice. Boosting nutrition levels keeps the children healthy and reduces sickness absence, important factors in achieving good academic results. Below is an extract from the letter of thanks that Idah sent us:

We have been receiving delicious meals for lunch which have helped parents who are not able to provide meals for their kids. We say thank you for the meals that you have provided, it has been a great help to many parents and pupils.

Supporting orphaned and abandoned children, Mombasa:

Yvonne Atieno (left, following page) has had a troubled life, running away from the care of her grandmother, and often skipping school and being in trouble with the police.

To try to stabilise her, Njagi (the village elder in Timbwani village, Mombasa), and



his wife Constance have given Yvonne a room at their home. Njagi told us, "We are giving her counselling and we transferred her to another school (Tumaini Primary School). She is now doing well, both at home and at school."

Njagi and Constance also extended their help to Elnorah Mwachofi (photo above right). Njagi told us, "Her mother is in very poor health which has prevented her working. We therefore saw it wise to have Elnorah in our home and assist to the extent that we can. The good thing about her is that she is very hardworking and determined."

Footsteps has been providing support for several years to Njagi and Constance, two dedicated, hard –working (and materially poor) Christians with hearts of compassion for vulnerable children in their community.

Footsteps International

Registered charity 1091026

www.footstepsinternational.org



Church walks

Friday 11th February

Shoreham to Otford

5 mile circular walk

across fields and along riverside

meet Shoreham station 10.20am

Friday 1st April

Farnborough – High Elms – Downe

5 mile circular walk

St.Giles' church to Downe village

meet Farnborough 10.30am

Friday 13th May

Petts Wood and Hawkwood

bluebell walk

meet Petts Wood underpass 10.30am

All are welcome

further details contact Lynn in the church office

administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.



Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son..



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



so his father came out to see him.

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.



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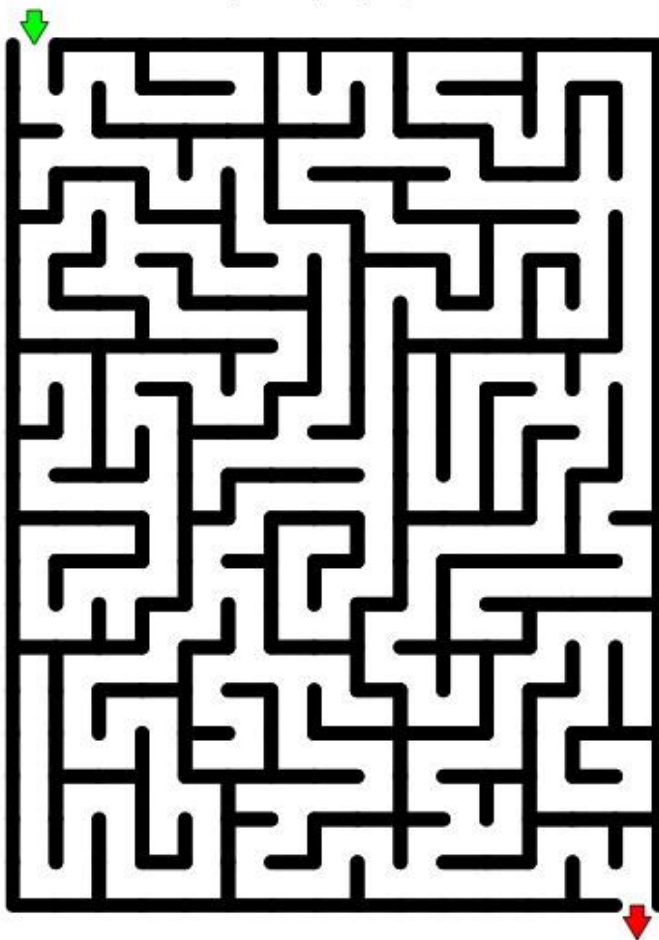
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Sudoku:

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

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The gardener and the Vine

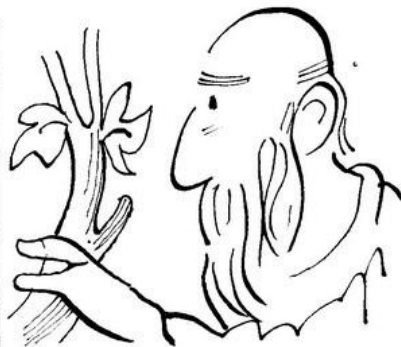


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

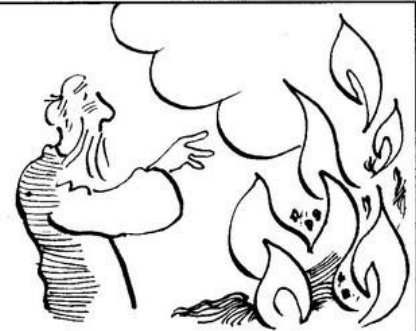
... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

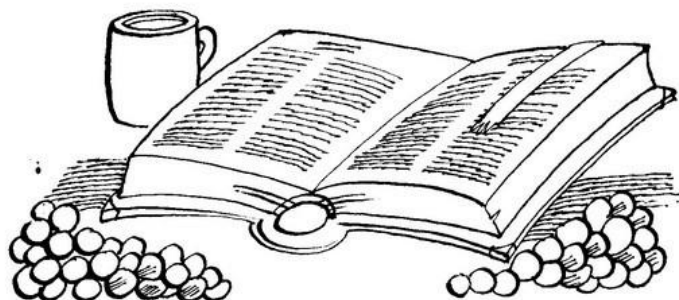


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...

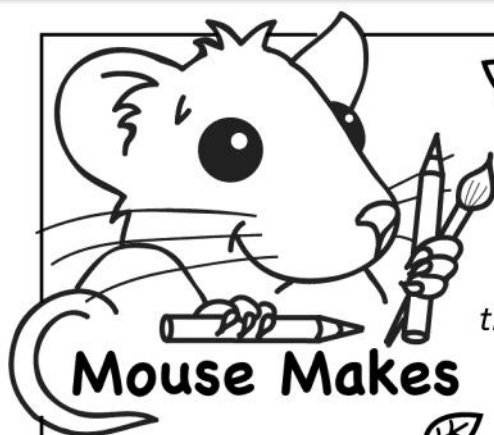


...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit,
nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each
tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good
they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil
things out of the evil they stored in their hearts.
People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your
impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that
grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus
say we should
treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31

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

_____ to everyone
who asks you
Luke 6:30

_____ for those who
are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

_____ those who
curse you
Luke 6:28

_____ Do
to those that
hate you
Luke 6:27

_____ and you will be
forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

When the angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son

(Annunciation, 25 March)

Almighty, loving Father,

Thank you for the month of March, the month of Spring, the month when hopes are high and new things seem possible, when even coming through the pandemic seems possible.

This month we remember the day that the angel told Mary that she would bear your Son – how could that have seemed possible to her?

Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever we may face, help us to have peace and confidence, knowing, as she did, that nothing is impossible with you.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

SPRING

An acrostic poem

(Taking each letter of the title word to start the next line of the verse)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,
 Petals of every colour and hue,
 Rain and sun caressing the earth
 Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view
 Now is the time of new beginnings
 Giving us pleasure all season through.

Selah

All this beauty God bestows
Upon the earth for us to share
So let us treasure such delights
And tread this world with love and care.

By Megan Carter

Lenten Contrition

During the middle of the tenth century the Bishop of Exeter, Leofric, presented a collection of prayers to his cathedral. The author is unknown, but the meditations present an insight into the Anglo-Saxon Christian spirit. Here is one considering Lent.

Give me, O Lord, patience and sense of purpose in each of the things which you send to beset me. You know the many wicked deeds which burden my heart. But out of compassion you set aside all blame and receive me as your own. Please protect me through the dangers and confusion of my transient life on earth, ensuring that in all things I strive for eternal life in heaven.

I know that I am very slow to make amends for my sins, despite the many favours you grant me. Fix my trust, my timid hopes, upon yourself, so that I may stand on a secure foundation. Lift up my thoughts with your wisdom.

Stand by me, Lord, and hold me upright when the gales of sin blow round me. And when the dark stormy night of wickedness closes in on me, guide my steps. My soul is already battered by the temptations to which I have submitted. My spirit is crushed by the weight of past misdeeds. My mind is stained by the memory of the evil in which I have participated. Throughout my life you have been unfailingly generous to me, although I have deserved only punishment.

Ah Lord, you are the only remedy. Let my suffering bring me true contrition, that I may receive your forgiveness, and so be made fit for the everlasting joy of heaven.

Grace of Love

The God of life to encompass thee,
Loving Christ encompass lovingly,
The Holy Ghost encompasser be
Cherishing, aid, enfolding to send
To defend.

The Three be about thy head to stand,
And the Three be about thy breast,
The Three about thy body at hand
For each day, for each night of rest,
The Trinity compassing strong
Thy life long.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

Nigel Beeton writes: "People are saying things like 'we've lost two years', but I don't agree. It's been a very bad time, and for those who've lost loved ones, a nightmare. But for those of us who have come through, we've had a glimpse of what generations before have come through. And, as the seasons turn, perhaps now at last we can look forward to warmth and summer again?"

The Vernal Equinox

In the season of the Spring
The day is equal to the night;
Summer's song we soon shall sing!
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago
Mornings spiked by bitter frost
But we shall bask in summer glow
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring
And for all the seasons, too,
Of life's rhythms we shall sing
Giving all the praise to You.

By Nigel Beeton

**PRAYER POINTS****March 2022**

Please hold the following in your prayers this month.

1. It is obvious that Covid is having an impact young on people. Almost every week we are getting calls from concerned parents/carers asking for support for their young person who is suffering anxiety in some way. Pray for our young people as they struggle with the ongoing impact of Covid. Also, pray for us as we offer advice and try to support them and their parents.

2. Give thanks for a successful half-term project, even though one activity had to be postponed due to the storm. Please pray for us as we prepare for our Easter holiday programme.

3. Continue to pray for our ongoing programme and that we will continue to offer a service that young people can enjoy but also feel supported when needed.

4. We are very grateful to those who support us, and we give thanks for them. Please continue to pray for our funding in what will be a very difficult year for all voluntary groups.

www.jusb.co.uk

Dairy Dates for March**Tuesday 1st March****Shrove Tuesday**

11.00am Toddler Praise

5.00pm Pancake Party - Zoom

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 2nd March**Ash Wednesday**

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

8.00pm Ash Wednesday service

Thursday 3rd March

10.00am Healing Prayer meeting - prayers are said from homes

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 4th March

10.30am Service for World Day of Prayer – Salvation Army, Bromley

Saturday 5th March

11.30am Baptism

Sunday 6th March**First Sunday of Lent**

10.30am Parish Eucharist

1.00pm -6.00pm Bromley Music Festival

Tuesday 8th March

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

8.00pm CTCB Lent Course - Zoom

Wednesday 9th March

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 10th March

2.15pm Fellowship

5.15pm Pastoral Team meeting

7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 13th March**Second Sunday of Lent**

9.00am Breakfast Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist visit from Abi Hiscock, Growth Enabler for the Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 15th March

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

8.00pm CTCB Lent Course

Wednesday 16th March

12noon -2pm Church open for private prayer

7.00pm Hope into Action prayer meeting

8.00pm PCC meeting

Thursday 17th March

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 18th March

7.00pm -8.30pm Bell ringing half peal

Saturday 19th March

11.30am Saturday Morning Recital – Bromley Boy Singers

Sunday 20th March**Third Sunday of lent**

10.30am All age Worship with Communion

Monday 21st March

8.00pm Ministry Team meeting

Tuesday 22nd March

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

8.00pm CTCB Lent Course

Wednesday 23rd March

12noon-2pm Church open for private prayer

7.00pm Hope into Action prayer meeting

7.30pm Children & Young People Committee meeting

Thursday 24th March

2.15pm Fellowship

7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 27th March

Mothering Sunday

9.00am Breakfast Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist

1.45pm -5.00pm Bromley Music Festival

Tuesday 29th March

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

5.00pm CTCB Lent Course

Wednesday 30th March

12noon -2.00pm Private Prayer

7.00pm Hope Into Action prayer meeting

Thursday 31st March

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

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.

Advance dates

Friday 1st April

10.30am Church Walk Farnborough – High Elms

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

The Children's Chapel is open daily for prayer and an opportunity to light a candle