

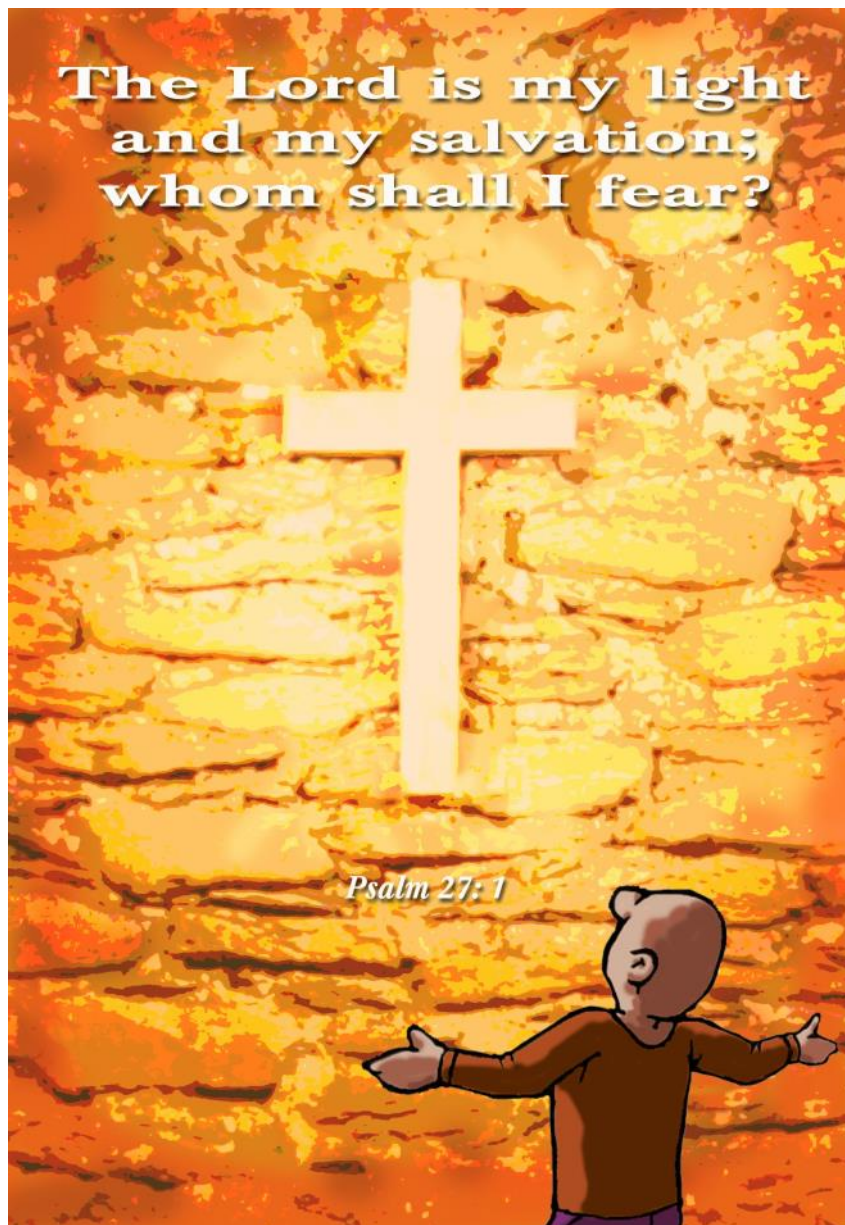
# the KEY

Number 243

March 2024

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



**Vicar**

Reverend James Harratt

[vicar@bromleyparishchurch.org](mailto:vicar@bromleyparishchurch.org)

**Anna Chaplain**

Reverend Sophie Sutherland

07962 156673

**Parish Office**

Usual office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am to 1pm

**020 8464 5244** – please use this number for all enquiries

Contact: Lynn Hedges, Parish Administrator

[administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org](mailto:administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org)

**Contributions/suggestions for the Key**

[thekeyeditor@gmail.com](mailto:thekeyeditor@gmail.com)

*Dear Reader,*

*Firstly, many congratulations and much love to Lisa, our editor, and Michael on the arrival of Baby Jaden at the end of January.*

*We hope that everything is going well and baby Jaden is settling into family life.*

*I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of the Key—if you would like to receive our weekly enewsletter from James, our vicar, with all the latest news then contact me in the office with your email address and I will arrange for this to be done.*

*With love Lynn*

*Many thanks to the Reverend Valerie Pearce for providing us with this month's sermon from the second Sunday of Epiphany*

Bible readings:

I Samuel 3:1-10

(Revelation 5: 1-10)

John 1:43-end

France has a new Prime Minister, who's very young, known to be gay and said to be a very good communicator. It is hoped by some that he will be the person to save France from extremist politics, but I wonder how the average French citizen is reacting to him? Some may be swept along by his rhetoric, and quickly sign up to follow him, others may be more cautious, standing back and waiting to find out more about him.

It's always been the same with regard to Jesus, both at that time and on through history. Some have been quick to respond and follow him, while others have taken their time and held back, wanting to find out more before they would commit.

It seems that Nathanael, whom we heard about in the Gospel reading today, was very much in the latter camp and took some persuading and encouraging to even approach Jesus.

We don't know much about Nathanael. Besides this story, we know only that he was privileged to see the risen Christ and it is thought that he became one of the disciples, and was the same person as Bartholomew. In this first encounter with Nathanael, Jesus said, "Because I told you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these!" (v. 50). In other words, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

"Most certainly, I tell you, hereafter, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (v. 51). That might seem like strange language to you, but it would not have been strange to Nathanael--not at all.

Way back in the beginnings of the Jewish people, God made a covenant with Abraham. God promised to make a great nation of Abraham's descendants

and to bless the whole world through him (Genesis 12:1-3). Then later, God renewed that covenant through Jacob--Abraham's grandson. God gave Jacob a vision--a vision of angels ascending and descending on a ladder from heaven to earth (Genesis 28:10-22). There's an old camp song about that--"We are climbing Jacob's ladder"--you may have heard it.

A ladder from heaven might seem like strange to us, but Jacob understood it. He knew that the ladder meant that the heavens, where it was believed God dwelled, had broken open so that God could visit earth. Jacob named the place Bethel, which means, "dwelling place of God."

When Jesus told Nathanael that he would see angels ascending and descending, Nathanael would think immediately of Jacob's ladder. Nathanael would know that Jesus was promising that, just as Jacob experienced God's presence, so Nathanael would also experience God's presence.

But there's an odd thing about this story. In the original Greek:

When Jesus says, "You will see greater things than these!" he uses "you" singular, indicating that he is talking to Nathanael.

However, when he says, "You will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man," Jesus uses "you" plural.

In other words, Jesus was talking to Nathanael, but then he began to talk to the disciples--to all disciples--even to us. It's not just Nathanael, but all of us who will see great things--heaven opened--angels ascending and descending--the treasure-house of God spilled out upon the earth.

And indeed that happened in so many different ways. After the resurrection, the disciples gathered at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. There, amidst tongues of fire and sounds of a windstorm, Peter preached and three thousand people walked down the aisle to be baptized. It was an amazing day! 'Heaven opened'! 'Angels of God ascending and descending'!

And then a crippled beggar asked Peter for alms. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none, but what I have, that I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, get up and walk!" (Acts 3:6). And the man got up and started walking. He would walk a little bit--and then he was so excited that he would jump --and then he would praise God! "He entered...into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God!" (Acts 3:8). Amazing! 'Heaven opened'! 'Angels of God ascending and descending'!

And then Saul went to Damascus to persecute Christians, but Jesus blinded him with a great light--and dropped him to his knees--and Saul became Paul, the great Christian missionary (Acts 9:1-22). How amazing! 'Heaven opened'! 'Angels of God ascending and descending'!

You might say, That's all well and good, but it was two thousand years ago. We haven't seen the heaven opened or angels coming down for a long time now.

But we have! The heavens that opened when Jesus came have been open ever since. Some people couldn't see it while Jesus was here on earth, and some still can't. But eyes of faith see wondrous things happen all the time. 'Heaven opened'! 'Angels of God ascending and descending'!

The world isn't always kind and gentle. There are terrible wars: between Israel and Gaza, in Ukraine, in Yemen, Sudan, and there are many places in the world today that have brutal and inhumane systems, lacking in real justice. And in our own country, while many of us have been aware of it, we've had a terrible injustice brought to light and put in the public domain with the drama 'Mr Bates versus The Post Office'. And even in our own lives things don't go according to plan and we can experience great suffering and confusion and sometimes we wonder where God is in all the darkness and mess and muddle.

So sometimes we have to be on the lookout for God's actions in our lives.

In those places where the Spirit of Christ has had the greatest influence, there has been a softening of justice. In those places where the Spirit of Christ has had the greatest influence, women enjoy freedom and respect. In those

places where the Spirit of Christ reigns, lives are changed, neighbourhoods are transformed – even whole nations become better. ‘Heaven opened’! ‘Angels ascending and descending’!

Just one example comes to mind – how after the terrible Grenfell fire, the first people who were there to help were the people of the local church. Evidently it only has a small congregation, but from the early hours of the night of the fire it became a centre of refuge and of volunteering and donations.

It’s only the eyes of faith that can see the angels and the heavens. Nathanael had been a sceptic ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’, but when he met Jesus he knew that he was known in his heart, and that he desired the good and Jesus blessed him for his willingness to see.

Like Samuel, we may hear a voice calling us. Do we block our ears and think that can’t be for me, do we turn away, or do we dare to follow where we are being led?

Jesus hopes to bless us too. He asks only that we come and see – that we deal with him honestly – that we give him a chance – that we step out in faith. If we do that, he promises that we will see wondrous things. ‘Heaven opened’! ‘Angels ascending and descending’! And so, by the grace of God, we will.  
Amen

## **Saint's Day**

### **1<sup>st</sup> February – Seiriol, saint of Puffin Island**

You can find traces of old saints in most corners of the British Isles, but Seiriol is one of the only two saints connected to Anglesey, and certainly the ONLY saint connected to Puffin Island.

It was back in the 6<sup>th</sup> century that this gentle abbot first settled in Penmon, and built a little church. His ruined beehive cell still survives there today, as does the well from which he drew water, both for his own use, and also for baptising local people.

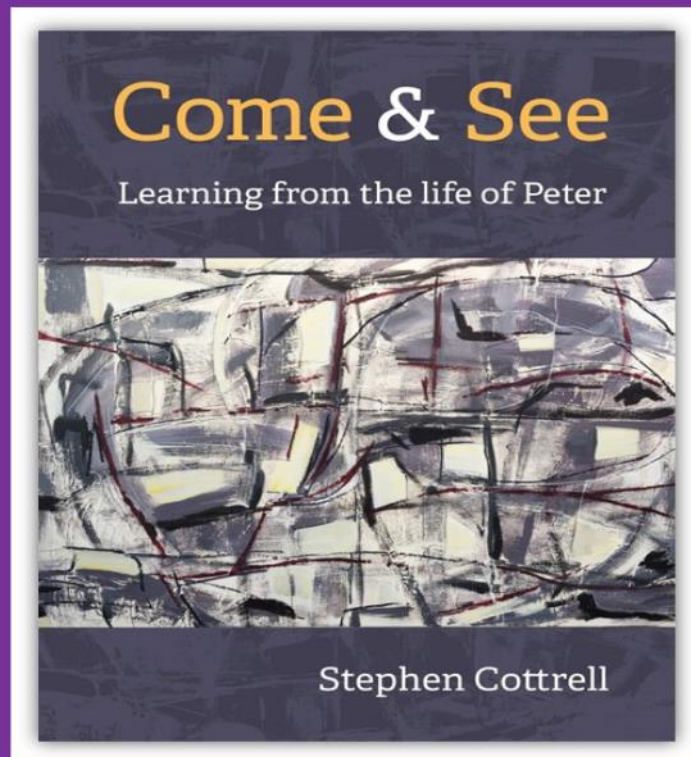
Like many other Celtic saints, Seiriol would have travelled by sea. So he felt comfortable near the coast on Anglesey, on low-lying land. Although he lived as a simple hermit, Seiriol soon attracted followers, and eventually he decided to establish a small monastery. He chose to build it on nearby Ynys Seiriol, now called Puffin Island.

That little monastery on Puffin Island saw some scary action in 632, when Edwin of Northumbria was chasing the Welsh king, Cadwallon, and ended up besieging him on the island. Cadwallon was finally conquered, and history moved on, but the monastic ruins of Seiriol's little monastery are still there today.

Seiriol seems to have been a purely local saint who never attracted a very great number of followers. The only known dedications to him are at Penmon and Puffin Island. But Seiriol's life and work are still a testimony today. He is a gentle and encouraging reminder of what an impact even a simple local Christian can achieve, by simply being faithful to Jesus Christ in the place where he is.

Lent 2024

# Lent Course



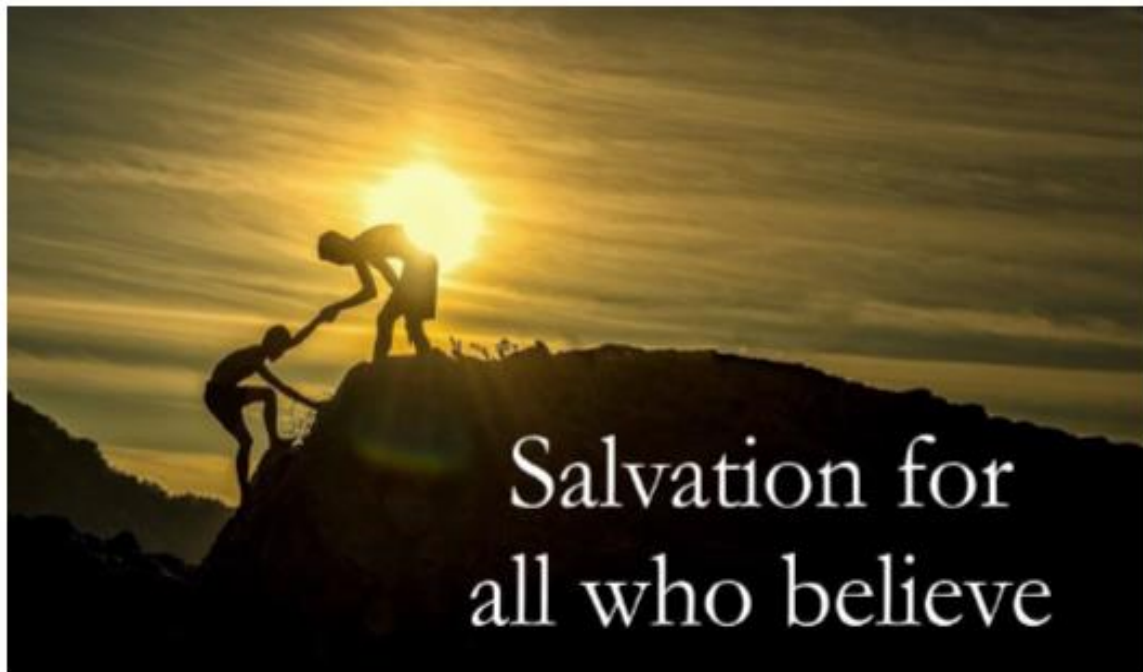
**Join us as we journey through  
Lent, learning from the life of Peter**

**Every Wednesday, 12.45 – 2pm  
from  
21st February – 20th March  
in the Shortlands Room**



Churches Together in Central Bromley

# Lent Course 2024



Salvation for  
all who believe

Six studies in Paul's  
Letter to the Romans

Tuesdays 7.45 to 9.30pm  
20<sup>th</sup> February to 26<sup>th</sup> March

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

Admission free All welcome

*Further details from [vicar@saintjohnsbromley.com](mailto:vicar@saintjohnsbromley.com)*

# **PCC news**

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

**PCC NOTES for the meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## **Matters arising from previous minutes**

BPC's use of data from the new CCTV system had been registered with the Information Commissioner's Office, making us fully compliant in our use of this form of data.

The work on the [Bell-tower](#) had been fully completed. New taps had been fitted in the Rooms toilets.

World Toilet Day. Donations of £465 [had](#) been received so far against a target of £480. BPC will be matched with toilets in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nepal and Pakistan.

## **Financial statements and issues**

'Housekeeping' figures to the end of November 2023 were reviewed. Income was £189,087 against a budget of £172,058. Fair Shares receipts showed a healthy increase following the stewardship campaign, and a Gift Aid claim for 2022 had yielded £11,329. Expenditure was £181,849 against a budget of £173,536. The main categories [of over-spend](#) were Church repairs and maintenance, reflecting major projects and the effects of damage during the year, and General Expenses, which included legal fees for the sale of the leases on Hammelton Road properties. Taken together these figures showed a surplus of £7,238 for the period against a budgeted deficit of £1,478. After payment of further commitments Becky expected BPC to end the year with a small surplus. In discussion it was confirmed that Hope [Into](#) Action had made the first rental payment on the Homesdale Road property. Interest income had increased following recent investment decisions, and it was agreed that £100,000 of BPC's cash reserves should be transferred to a Virgin Money account offering 4.5% interest.

## **Premises-related matters with financial implications**

Members asked for confirmation (subsequently provided) that the work on the [Bell-tower](#) would be funded from legacies.

Lead theft and consequential damage. [Unfortunately](#) the insurance company were likely to reject BPC's claim as there was no evidence that the stolen lead was Smartwater marked. It was agreed that Marc Hare, who had carried out excellent repairs following the tree damage, would be asked to carry out the work now required, and that Ubiflex – a non-lead alternative – would be used to avoid the risk of further thefts.

Roof leak. A leak had been found in the tower, caused by cracks in the asphalt on the flat roof. It was agreed that the roof would be sealed by a liquid rubber product that could be walked on. Contractors would be asked to advise on the

case for replacing the entire asphalt at this stage, although it was recognised that this would be a complex and expensive task.

Rochester Avenue property. The current tenants were planning to leave during the coming [months, and](#) did not want to renew on a fixed term lease. It was agreed that the lease would be renewed on a rolling basis, rather than two months' notice being given. This would give greater certainty to the tenants without being likely to disadvantage BPC income.

Water supply to boiler. Problems had been experienced recently, and an initial check at the junction with the street had failed to identify the cause. Some changes were being made at that point, and the situation would be monitored before deciding on next steps.

### **Wedding and funeral fees and Church hire charges**

Tables showing current fees and statutory charges for 2024 imposed by the Diocese were reviewed. For those fees over which BPC had discretion, increases of £5 in wedding organist fees and £10 per pedestal for flowers were agreed. It was decided that fees for car parking supervision and verges support should be £40, and the charge for entry into the Church Book of Remembrance should be increased to £50, to offset current losses. Church and Rooms hire fees would remain unchanged for 2024, as many current hirers were struggling to meet existing charges.

### **APCM 2024**

It was agreed that this year's APCM would be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Any other business**

Parking signs and feather flags. Designs were approved for signs to be placed near the church gate [and flags](#) near the church door to welcome visitors and show that specific activities were under way.

Prayers of Love and Faith. James reported that these had been commended by the C of E as resources to be used in praying with and for same-sex couples. Such use is at the discretion of vicars, and James indicated that he is ready to use the prayers if asked.

Bromley Veterans Athletic Club are planning to make a significant donation to the meals project run [from](#) BPC, as part of their charitable activities.

Bromley Homeless Starter Packs. Anne introduced the 2023 review of the project, which showed the steadily increasing number of packs produced each year, paralleled by rapidly growing demand. She said that she is planning to step back from the project during 2024. The meeting recognised that this raised major issues over its future management, operation and funding, which would need to be considered in detail.

## **What's on**

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**

PRESS RELEASE

*'I beg you, bear with one another in love'*

The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 'bear with one another in love' seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ. World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of those women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns, and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday 1 March 2024 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Palestine. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, see the WDP website: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

*A service for World Day of Prayer will be held at St. Mary's Church,  
College Road, Bromley at 10.30am*

*All are welcome!*

## News from our local charities



21 February 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters of JusB,

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the closure of JusB after 20 years of dedicated service to children and young people in our community, effective March 1, 2024.

Despite the tremendous efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, we regret to inform you that we have been unable to secure the necessary funding to sustain our operations. This decision was not made lightly, and we share in the profound sadness that accompanies this announcement.

Since our inception, JusB has been committed to providing a safe, secure, and supportive space for children and young persons to thrive. We are immensely proud of the positive impact we have made in the lives of countless individuals and families, and we are grateful for the unwavering support of our community throughout the years.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of JusB, including our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. Your hard work, commitment, and resilience have been instrumental in shaping our organization and empowering the young people we serve.

Once again, we thank you for your unwavering support and partnership over the years. It has been an honour and privilege to serve our community alongside such dedicated individuals, and we are deeply grateful for the impact we have made together.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hullah'.

David Hullah (Chair of Trustees),

Andrew Lancaster, Mike Deves, Roger Brighton, Helen Oaks, Rebecca Hedges

*(very much keeping JusB in our thoughts and prayers—editor)*



## Advertisements



We clean your oven..... so you don't have to.

Call today to have your oven, hob, extractor or Aga professionally cleaned

### **Rob Hadgiyianni contact details**

**Tel 01689 253525 Mob. 07957 325452**

**E mail [robhadgiyianni@ovenwizards.com](mailto:robhadgiyianni@ovenwizards.com)**

**[www.ovenwizards.com](http://www.ovenwizards.com)**

## Bible Bites

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

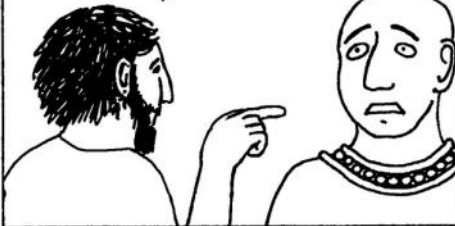
Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day...



Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?



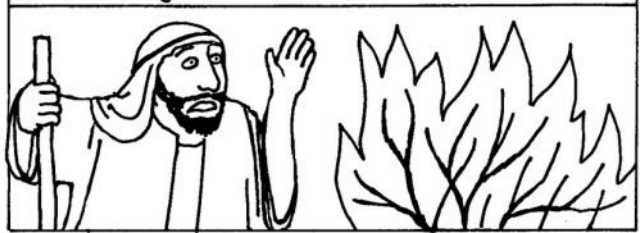
Moses had to run away from Egypt.



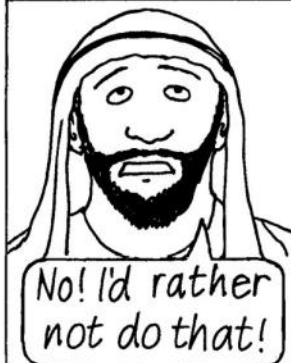
He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.



One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..



You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.

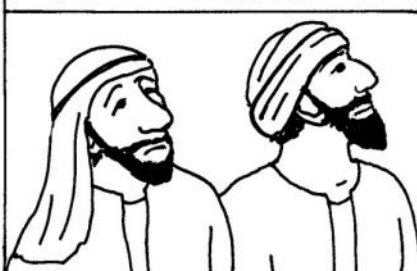


No! I'd rather not do that!

It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you



Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh



Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.



No!

Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!



## Puzzle Pages

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

change  
burning  
choice  
Moses  
father  
leave  
Egypt  
bush

attention  
mountain  
Paraoh  
sheep  
run  
Hebrew  
body  
Sinai

brother  
killed  
Midian  
Aaron  
princess  
married  
people  
never

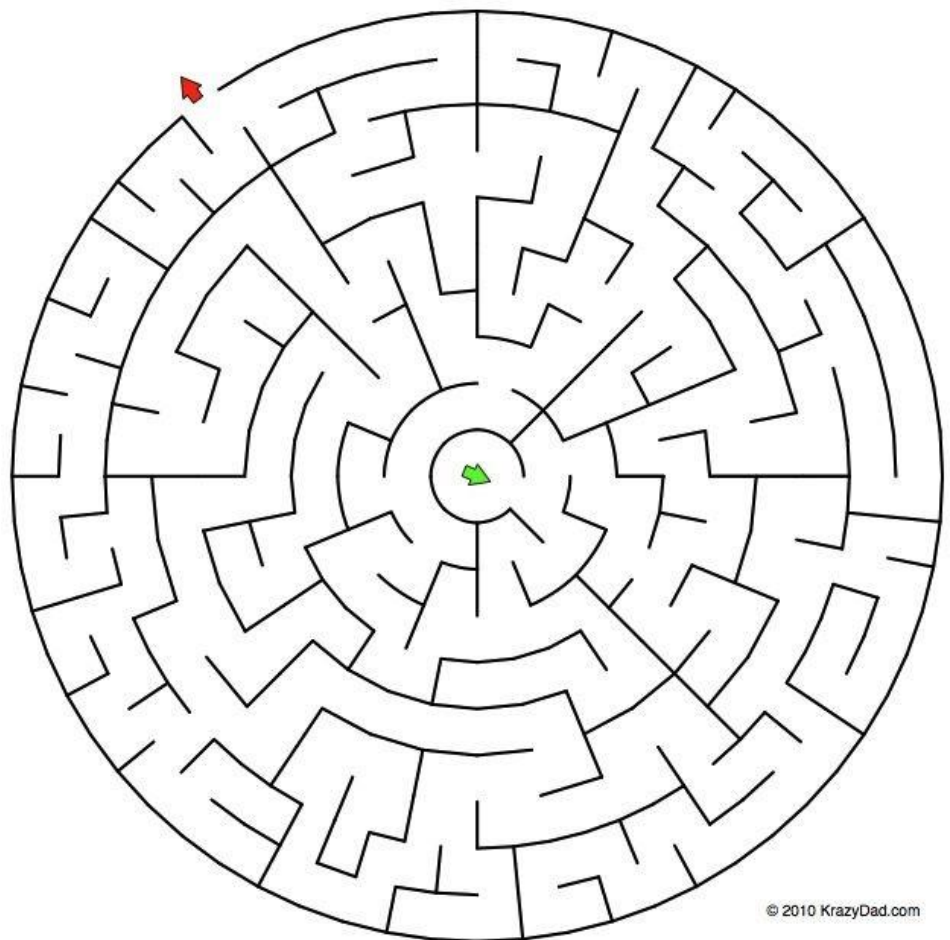


		5			7	3		
	1					2		
7				1	5			6
	5	9			6			
			3			4	2	
6			5	4				7
		1					8	
		8	2			6		

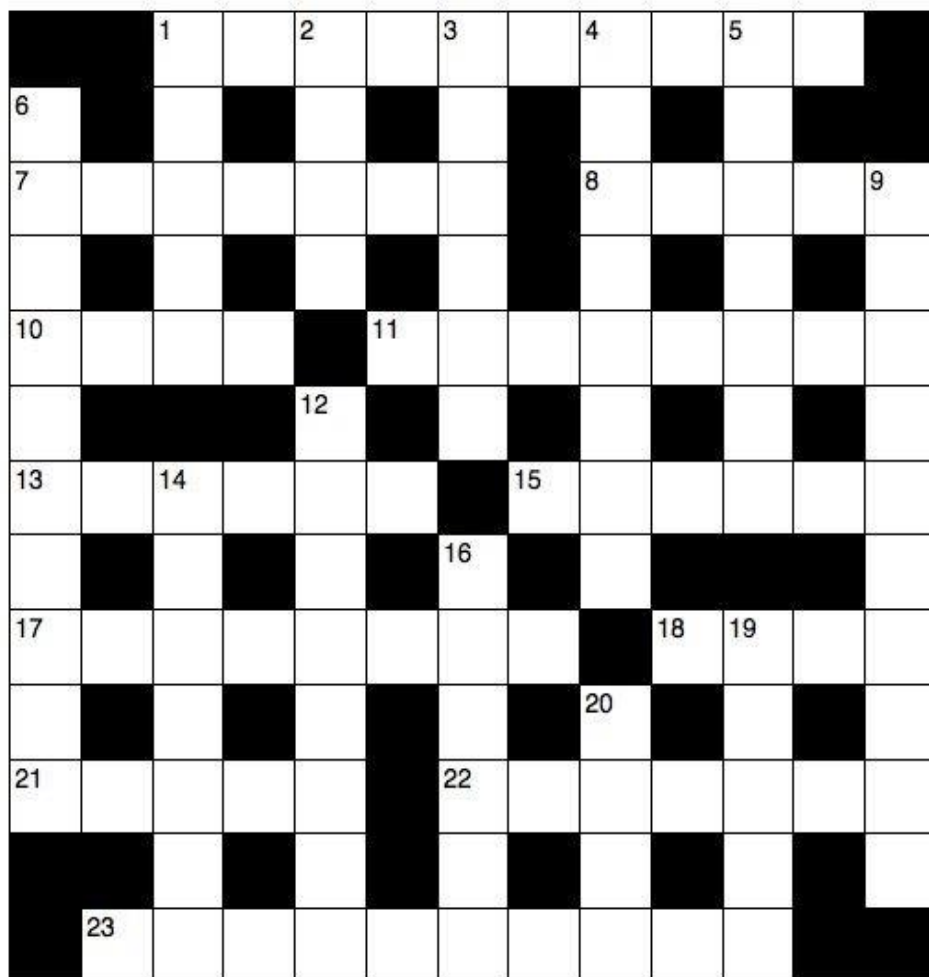
© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku:

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



© 2010 KrazyDad.com



**Answers:**

**ACROSS:** 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

**DOWN:** 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.

**Across**

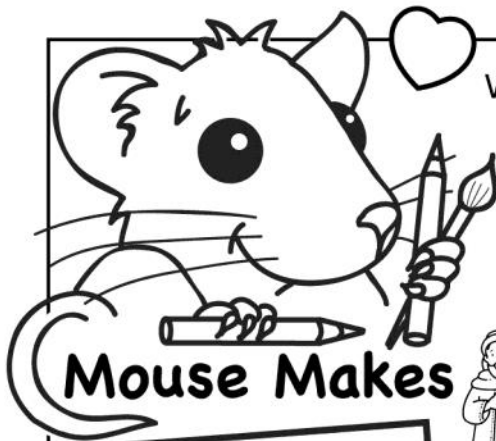
- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)  
 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)  
 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)  
 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)  
 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)  
 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)  
 15 Breakwater (6)  
 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)  
 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)  
 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)  
 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)  
 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

**Down**

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)  
 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)

- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)  
 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)  
 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)  
 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)  
 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)  
 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)  
 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)  
 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)  
 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)  
 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

# Mouse Makes



Who were the first couple?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 1:5



## CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

## FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
MFU OPU NBO  
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL  
UFO WFSTF  
OJOF

## DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E E Z R E E L I Z A B E T H R  
S V Q S L R Z J I B O A D A M  
R E B E K A H O J R A O Q N O  
U I S A A C A S A A Z P R N S  
T H A Q N H Z E C H A R I A H  
H R U T A E V P O A I E B H I  
S A R A H L T H B M A R Y S D  
P R I S C I L L A Q U I L A

ABRAHAM  
ADAM • AQUILA  
BOAZ • ELKANAH  
ELIZABETH  
EVE • HANNAH  
ISAAC • JACOB  
JOSEPH • MARY  
PRISCILLA  
RACHEL  
REBEKAH • RUTH  
SARAH  
ZECHARIAH

## Picture Parables

# 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...

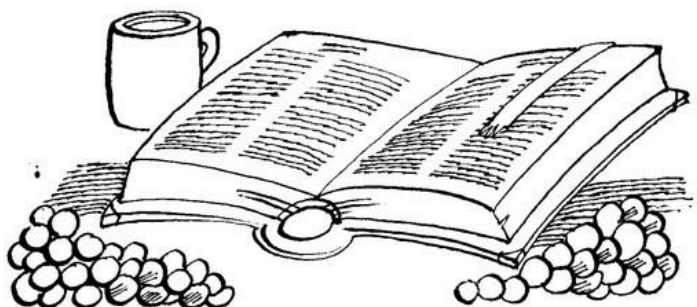


...OR NO FRUIT AT  
ALL...



... 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.

## **Prayers and poems**



### **PRAYER POINTS**

February 2024

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

1. Our young people have asked for prayers for health and happiness for all attendees and that the future of JusB is a secure one.
2. We pray that we will be able to navigate a pathway through our financial problems. Due to the cost-of-living Crisis and economic climate, we again find ourselves in a position where we need to secure 40k by the end of February. Despite concerted efforts, the larger grants we had hoped to secure, have not been fruitful. We pray for more insight as to how to move forward to a more sustainable future.
3. Please pray that we can raise awareness of the work we do to a wider audience through our Social Media Campaign and to get across how great the impact will be on the lives of the young people if JusB does need to close.
4. We pray that the youth work team are equipped with the skills to help young people build up their self-esteem and confidence, particularly in times of uncertainty.

## Prayer for February 2024

Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death.

In his name,  
Amen.

**True Love**  
(Lk2:22-35)

Broken world,  
Broken lives,  
Broken hearts  
Without hope  
Until there, in the Temple,  
In that bundle of a baby,  
Love provides  
Restoration,  
According to His word.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## **The Day the Sun Stood Still**

Joshua prayed as entrenched in battle,  
He called on his God to come to his aid  
For the sun to stand still and the moon to rest,  
And as God responded the sun was stayed.

The battle was waged and the enemy routed,  
The night held back making victory theirs,  
For God had extended His mighty arm  
As the day was lengthened in answer to prayer.

Another battle had yet to be fought,  
No sun just darkness covered the land,  
A cross was erected, a Man nailed upon it,  
Jesus our Saviour dying for man.

He came as the Light stepping into our darkness,  
Spreading hope where once there was none  
Forgiveness, salvation is ours, will we take it?  
This wonderful gift bestowed by God's Son.

*by Megan Carter*

*Nigel Beeton writes: '11<sup>th</sup> February is 'Transfiguration Sunday.' We have a window in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds which depicts the Transfiguration, and I always find it really inspiring. It was a breath-taking moment, and we can scarcely imagine the impact it had on the watching Peter, James, and John.'*

## Transfiguration

Reveal Thyself to me,  
Transfigured shining Son!  
Thy Holy radiance may I see  
God's own anointed One.

The prophets there with Thee  
What stories do they tell?  
What holy words of mystery?  
What glories do they spell?

Then, God's own mighty voice  
Rolling through shrouding cloud;  
Must make the hardest heart rejoice  
To hear Him clear and loud:

"This, my beloved Son!  
"Listen to what He says  
"Know that He is the chosen One  
"And follow Him all thy days!"

*(Tune: Trentham)*

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Winter Now

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow  
Has left the heavens all coldly clear;  
Through leafless boughs the sharp  
winds blow,  
And all the earth lies dead and  
drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;  
His life within the keen air breathes;  
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,  
And clothes the boughs with glitter-  
ing wreaths...

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold,  
As well as summer's joyous rays,  
Us warmly in thy love enfold,  
And keep us through life's wintry  
days.

*From a poem by Samuel Longfellow  
1819-92*



## Diary dates for March

<b>Friday 1</b> <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	10.30am Service for World Day of Prayer – St. Mary's Church, College Road, Bromley <i>I beg you, bear with one another in love</i> prepared by the Christian women of Palestine
<b>Saturday 2</b>	10am-12noon Starter Pack donations and pack make up morning
<b>Sunday 3</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	8.30am Holy Communion (CW) 10.30am Parish Eucharist
<b>Monday 4</b>	10.30am Bumps & Babies 8.00pm Churches Together in Bromley meeting – church rooms
<b>Tuesday 5</b>	11.00am Toddler Praise 7.30pm Bell ringing practice 7.45pm Churches Together in Bromley Lent Course – in church
<b>Wednesday 6</b>	12noon Midweek service 12.30pm -2.00pm Church open for private prayer 12.30pm Lychgate Lunch 12.45pm BPC Lent course – church rooms
<b>Thursday 7</b>	7.30pm Choir practice
<b>Friday 8</b>	12noon Service of Thanksgiving for Martin Cleveland - church
<b>Sunday 10</b> <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	9.00am Breakfast Church 10.30am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Choral Evensong
<b>Monday 11</b>	10.30am Bumps & Babies 8.00pm Eco committee meeting
<b>Tuesday 12</b>	11.00am Toddler Praise 4.00pm Schools Festival meeting 7.30pm Bell ringing practice 7.45pm Churches Together in Bromley Lent Course – in church
<b>Wednesday 13</b>	12noon Midweek service 12.30pm -2.00pm Church open for private prayer 12.45pm BPC Lent Course – church rooms
<b>Thursday 14</b>	2.15pm Fellowship 7.30pm Choir practice

<b>Sunday 17</b> <b>Passiontide</b>	8.30am Holy Communion (CW) 10.30am All age Worship with Communion 1.00pm Bromley Music Festival
<b>Monday 18</b>	10.30am Bumps & Babies 8.00pm PCC meeting
<b>Tuesday 19</b>	11.00am Toddler praise 7.45pm Churches Together in Bromley Lent Course
<b>Wednesday 20</b>	12noon Midweek service 12.30 – 2.00pm Church open for private prayer 12.45pm BPC Lent Course – church rooms
<b>Thursday 21</b>	7.30pm Choir practice
<b>Sunday 24</b>	9.00am Breakfast Church 10.30am Parish Eucharist with the procession of palms
<b>Monday 25</b> <b>Holy Monday</b>	10.30am Bumps & Babies 8.00pm Compline
<b>Tuesday 26</b> <b>Holy Tuesday</b>	11.00am Toddler Praise 7.30pm Bell ringing practice 7.45pm Churches Together in Bromley Lent Course – in church
<b>Wednesday 27</b> <b>Holy Wednesday</b>	12noon Midweek service 12.30pm – 2.00pm Church open for private prayer 12.45pm BPC Lent course – Church rooms 8.00pm Compline
<b>Thursday 28</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<i>School term ends</i> 2.15pm Fellowship 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist with stripping of the altar
<b>Friday 29</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	9.00am Family crafts + hot cross buns 11.00am Churches Together in Bromley Procession of Witness – meet in church car park 12noon -3.00pm Three Hours at the Cross
<b>Saturday 30</b> <b>Easter Eve</b>	10.00am Preparing the Easter Garden
<b>Sunday 31</b> <b>Easter Day</b>	<i>Clocks go forward</i> 6.30pm Dawn service followed by refreshments 10.30am Parish Eucharist followed by Easter egg hunt + refreshments

\*

**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

Morning Prayer is said at 9.15am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 9.15am in the Children's Chapel

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)