

the **KEY**

Number 210

May 2021

50p

Website: www.bromleyparishchurch.org



...by faith we might
receive the
promise of the Spirit

Galatians 3:14

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

Churchwardens

Martin Cleveland

Jane Cleveland

wardens@bromleyparishchurch.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:30am to 12 noon

020 8464 5244 – please use this number for all enquiries

Contact: Lynn Hedges, Parish Administrator

administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org

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

Dear Reader,

Hello and welcome to the May edition of the Key.

We have for you charity updates from Traidcraft Exchange and Footsteps International, and a touching reflective piece written by Yuki Johnson, on the 10-year anniversary of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. There are also two excellent articles contributed by Reverend Anne, bringing some positivity to us as we move out of lockdown!

Look out for some lovely prayers and poems in the month when we celebrate the feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, and please don't miss Lynn's Diary Dates where you can make a note of the start of the return of musical events in the parish and the all-important APCM—all the forms you may need for this are available on the website (bromleyparishchurch.org/apcm) if you need to re-register for the electoral roll or wish to join the PCC.

I hope you have a happy few weeks and experience the joy of being able to see some people in person again!

With love, Lisa.

This month's sermon has been kindly provided by Rev Dr Anne Townsend, having been the first compline address of Holy Week.

BEFORE AND AFTER "C"

When I last spoke to you, at Candlemas, we thought about the way in which Snowdrops were bursting into life all over the place, through the cold wintry ground.

We thought of the sadness for so many ...of lockdown at Christmas ... of not being with loved ones when we desperately needed to be together, of young people with no work, of so many job losses and unemployment, loss of home, loss of security and so much more that makes us afraid.

But then we remembered the wonderful symbol of the snowdrops that for century after century have spoken of hope when things seemed to be at their most hopeless.

Last week, John went out into our garden and searched for Snowdrops. His face said it all - he couldn't find any. When he told me about his fruitless search his face indicated hopelessness?

At this stage in our seemingly endless pandemic, the absence of snowdrops may, to some of us, portray exactly how we feel inside. We've reached our second Pandemic Holy Week, and everything inside and outside may seem pretty hopeless and dark.

Yes, we've got the vaccinations ... butwe may wonder, will they really work to halt this illness and return us to normality?

I was sitting in my garden looking at some of the plant pots. I noticed that some contained a few hard brown bulbs, looking like stones – they'd been buried there for a few years, looking dead.

I almost threw them out... but then I remembered. My granddaughter had planted them three years earlier and they needed about three years' burial before they would sprout and blossom.

These were my Easter lilies, come to replace the snowdrops – the so called "white robed apostles of hope". Their trumpet-shaped flowers declare the totally amazing hope we have in Jesus, risen from the dead.

We may feel that like those apparently dead bulbs we're going to need total transformation after this pandemic. We talk about "before Covid" and "after Covid". As if the "before Covid" era was how God wanted us to love others and care for this amazing world. But, we know perfectly well that we've messed up and spoiled things big time.

We may wonder, can we ever return things to "normal"? Should we even try?

The pandemic has given us the opportunity of **not** returning to our old destructive “normal” in which we wrecked relationships and the world.

But change means that we have to be prepared for difference – and we don’t usually like this. We have to give up our old favourite ways of doing things and be prepared to follow new patterns.

But, are we prepared for transformation?

After all, that’s what death and resurrection are about.

Jesus became one with us, died, and rose from the dead to completely transform our world.

I trust that something reflecting this will happen in the months that lie ahead – But we need to be as sure as we can be that we’re not so stuck in our old ways that we prevent it.

I believe the Holy Spirit is going to do things differently.

It will be inconvenient for many of us,

it will be frightening for others who feel the rug has been pulled out from under their feet,

others may feel powerless and scared,

we may feel baffled by thoughts that the internet might play a major role in building God’s kingdom here on earth.

May this year’s Easter lilies be like trumpets heralding our trust that the Holy Spirit will make everything new again, and signalling our determination to cooperate in this.

Continued overleaf...



From Psalms of my life by Joseph Bailey

“Lord, My heart fears. I know that you have said “fear not” but my heart fears. Thoughts flash across the track of my mind, thoughts of evil not good, loss not gain, suffering not joy.

My thoughts exhume the past, bury the future, make the present a heavy burden.

Lord, I cannot control these fears, these thoughts.

I cannot look at the future with peace. But I trust you.

These fears run wild, careering thoughts of evil may make it seem that I *don't* trust but I do.

I trust you Lord.

I know your thoughts towards me are of good, not evil. I fear evil not you.

Yet fearing wild, I know that even evil from your hand is purest good.

I fear, I trust.

I trust you Lord

I trust your wisdom life spanning
your love death taming.

I trust you to know the end of this long-beginning moment.”

In the previous edition of The Key, you can read a newsletter updating us on the work of Footsteps International. Kenya is again in lockdown due to COVID19, so this charity that works to feed and educate children who would otherwise be on the streets, again finds itself essential to sustaining the lives of impoverished children and their families. Their website shows examples of their work and what you could do to help, including taking part in, or sponsoring one of the Sunshine Boys, to do the Virtual Kenya Marafun in June. Please do go online and have a look. Below is more information, and as stated you can also contact Ed with any queries.

For several years, Bromley Parish Church has been supporting 3 children in a Kenyan children's home, run by Footsteps International. These children left their homes because their families could not feed them and scrounged in rubbish dumps and bins to survive. There has been another Covid-19 lockdown so the home was forced to close. All the children returned to their impoverished families. To ensure that they do not return to living on the streets, Footsteps International have been distributing food parcels to the families of about 140 children.

If you would like to learn more or help these children please visit their website <https://www.footstepsinternational.org/>.

Alternatively, contact Ed Tree on 02084609381. Please include them in your prayers.

A moving memorial service was held at St. Martin's West Acton on the 6th of March this year remembering the events ten years ago of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield gave the address.

The service looked back to the day when so much changed for so many in the space of six long minutes and gave thanks for the rebuilding of communities and the lives of those affected by the disaster. The service is still available to watch on YouTube where it is possible to see the most beautiful images of the once devastated area ten years on. The link to watch is here <https://youtu.be/djD6twPmfaA>

The memorial service was arranged by Yuki Johnson. Before the opening of the church Yuki attended USPG morning prayer via Zoom sharing her reflections with those attending. Yuki has kindly given her permission for her words to be reproduced in The Key this month.

Reflection John 8:31-47 How we can be true disciples.

Thank you very much for giving me this chance to share my reflection on this day, the 10th anniversary of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Over these ten years I have met many people at the annual memorial services and vigils that have been held here, and I have visited the area affected by the 2011 disaster several times.

My reflection is about the events of 10 years ago, and what has happened since, but I want to set this in the context of today's reading thinking about the meaning of Jesus' words when he says, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples.' How can we be Jesus' disciples when faced with these events?

On 11th March 2011 at 2:46 in the afternoon – (5:46 in the morning here in the UK) a magnitude 9 earthquake occurred off the coast of North Eastern Japan, the biggest ever recorded in Japan. The earthquake lasted about 6 minutes. That does not sound long, but for an earthquake it is a very long period. Many people said it felt it would never end.

Just this physical experience can remain in peoples' minds like a long-term nightmare. The earthquake caused massive damage, and so did the Tsunami and Nuclear accident that followed. There are many other natural disasters but this in 2011 was very different because it was a mixture of earthquake and tsunami and nuclear accident – a triple disaster. It also is an example of a mixture of natural disaster and human failure.

One year after the disaster, I made my first trip to areas badly affected. It was one of the unforgettable memories of my life. I was astonished by the scale, when I stood on a small hill surrounded by emptiness, where many houses and communities had existed until the Tsunami washed them away. Nearby was a destroyed temple, with a box which had on it a sign. 'Plastic bags for collected bones'. It was a shock.

Still, 10 years later, 2,525 people remain missing – their bodies have never been found. Just last month a fragment of one body was found and identified, a mother. Her son said, 'I am extremely happy that my mother has been found just before the 10th anniversary. Now I can move forward.' In Japan, it is quite normal that people only accept the death of their loved one once remains have been found.

Since my first trip I have made another 4 visits. During one trip, when I stood in a deserted town within the contamination restriction zone, the only sound was the eerie high-pitched buzz of a Geiger counter. Radiation is invisible and it doesn't smell. I heard how many mothers were worrying about the safety of breastmilk or that their children were simply walking around outside. People from different faith groups, including Christians, provided space for them to share their feelings and tried to reassure them.

Now, after 10 years, we see recovery taking place. It has been reported that, by the end of this month, no one will be living in temporary accommodation.

But behind such successful stories of recovery, there are also people who have to face a harsh reality. Their home town, where they grew up, doesn't exist anymore. This is particularly a problem in those areas where people still cannot return because of the Nuclear contamination.

As a result the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Church in Japan) passed a resolution at its regular Synod in 2012 calling for all to, "Seek a world without nuclear power plants".

Problems related to accidents at nuclear plants are not easily spoken of among Japanese people however. Some people avoid the subject, even though they are anxious. There are people who had welcomed the nuclear power industry into their village or people who had benefited financially through jobs, for example. These people can feel guilt. We can be quick to make a judgement that people are good or bad. But it is not that simple. From today's reading, John's Gospel chapter 8 verses 34 we hear Jesus say, 'very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.' I can also say, 'everyone who feels guilt is often a slave to guilt.'

It is painful to hear how people have been abused and discriminated against because their hometown is Fukushima. It could be called a form of racism. Even some children have suffered from such mindless discrimination. Farmers have been struggling to sell their products as many consumers were concerned for the safety of their products.

This is the human story of the disaster – natural and man-made. The question is, when faced with this loss, grief and trauma, the destruction of community, the guilt of survivors, discrimination and poisoning of the very air and earth, how can Christians continue to follow Jesus – be his disciples? And how can Christians show others that they are His disciples?

Later in John's Gospel, (chapter 13) Jesus washes his disciples' feet, an act of love and service, and later he tells them to 'love one another, just as I have loved you'. It is through loving their neighbours, sharing their grief, working for the rebuilding of community, standing in solidarity with victims of nuclear exclusion, living forgiveness, loving and serving others that Christians both show they are disciples of Christ, and discover what it is to be a disciple.

Yuki Johnson

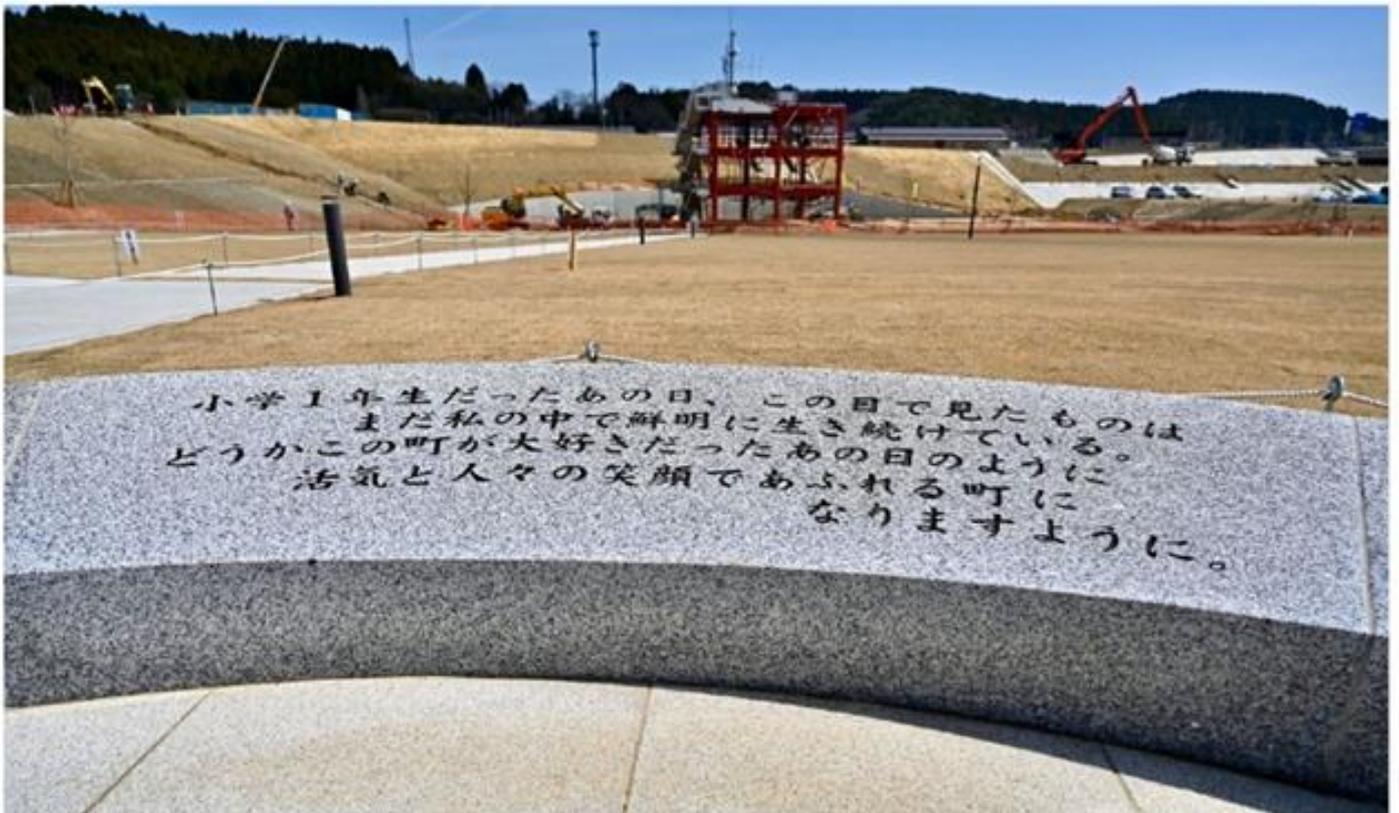
Licensed Lay Minister Japanese Anglican Church (UK) St Martin's West Acton Diocese of London

Commissioned Lay Chaplain to the Japanese Community St Michael and All Angels Church, Mill Hill

Reader Diocese of Worcester



Photograph taken by Shu Tomioka



The above photo was taken in 2020 by Masahiro Watabe at the Minami Sanriku Memorial Park

“On that day when I was in the first grade of elementary school, what I saw with my own eyes still remains vividly in my memory. I hope this town will be full of life, with people’s smiles, just like I used to love it then.”

Written by Lisa.

Many of you are aware of Traidcraft, the FairTrade company who sell products that ensure their producers are paid fairly. For many years Margaret faithfully ran a stall during coffee gatherings at BPC. Remember you can still shop their product range online, at traidcraft.co.uk. Traidcraft's partner company is Traidcraft Exchange, who are the campaign side of the charity, working to change the way that global trade operates. They aim to enable trade to create lasting solutions to poverty instead of following a model where the rich get richer and the poor are exploited. There is a lot of information available on their website, traidcraftexchange.org, where you can view some of their current campaigns including those against 'fast fashion' and supermarket trading practises.

I wanted to highlight one of their current campaigns, called The Regenerators Appeal. Many people living in less industrialised parts of the world are suffering the consequences of climate change, with little to no benefit from the industrial practises that that have contributed to this phenomenon. They are experiencing flooding, failed crops, different pest challenges in farming... But there are solutions, the power of science and technology means we first identify the problems, but then look for the solution. By regenerating farming practises, using greenhouses, novel irrigation methods, solar power, amongst other things, communities can protect their land and make it useable for future generations, whilst also building sustainable sources of food and income for themselves in the present time. However, these things require investment, and that is where support from Traidcraft Exchange comes in.

I'd like to introduce you to the '5 on the front line' campaign, telling real stories of real people to illustrate the importance of regeneration. You can follow on the Blog section of the website or even sign up for email updates. Kassim's story (Part 3 of the 5) is reproduced below (with kind permission).

"Sometimes you plant and get nothing."

That's what Kassim told us - and it rings true even for those of us not involved in any sort of farming at all.

Sometimes our plans and our efforts... add up to nothing.

But in rural Tanzania, where Kassim and his family live, 'nothing' is a dangerous word.

As Kassim explains -

"We usually plant in December and harvest around the end of January.

But because of drought, sometimes we have to wait until February...when you plant at that time, floods come."

Kassim is living without a safety net - no foodbanks, no social security, no other option than to make a success of farming.

If he wants to feed his family and educate his children - he needs his crops to make it to harvest.

But when weather turns against him, that becomes nearly impossible.

"The situation is getting even worse from year to year.

We lose our crops, there is an eruption of water borne diseases...

People starve from hunger."

It really is that serious.

But in these situations, your support can help provide the safety net that people like Kassim desperately need.

That's why the Regenerators Appeal exists.

Because with your help, people like Kassim can learn to grow crops that hold up against a volatile climate.

When those crops come to harvest - they can negotiate together for better prices and save money for the future as a group.

They become stronger, because they are together.

We have seen this plan work thousands if not millions of times in our 30 year history - and climate change only makes it more essential.

We can't accept that families like Kassim's could be left with nothing. So we need to act now.

With your help, we can make a difference.

Donate to The Regenerators Appeal between 8th March and 7th June 2021 and the UK government will double your gift to help the most vulnerable stand strong in the face of climate change.

Source: <https://traidcraftexchange.org/blog/this-is-kassim>



HOME CARE PREFERRED

AWARD WINNING CARE AT HOME

Plus lots of friendship, fun and support



PROUDLY PROVIDING QUALITY SUPPORT AT HOME AND IN
THE COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE SINCE 2012
CALL AND SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF OUR FRIENDLY TEAM:

0203 6565 605

HealthInvestor
Awards 2019

Finalist

HealthInvestor
Awards 2016

WINNER

www.homecarepreferred.com/bromley

Below is a further article from Anne, reflecting on memories that can help us understand and cope with our current situation. Many thanks Anne for sharing this with the Key.

Our lockdown cross

We had no idea that for over 50 years, our family was rehearsing and unknowingly preparing for the challenges of England's lockdowns of the 2020's.

We signed-up to serve as overseas medical missionaries in our early 20's, little realising that our children would take after us, and that both our sons would also work for NGO organisations in Southeast Asia. David as an audio-visual expert in his organisation, and Ditch finished his overseas career as the South East Asia Director of the Leprosy Mission.

We'd heard about missionary families splitting up and being separated for months, and sometimes even for several years, so that children would receive the kind of schooling that would prepare them for a Western University education. Children and parents might face the challenges of being apart for a year or longer. The disconcerting research of child psychologists Winnicott and Bowlby, into the effects of early separation in vulnerable children, was just being published and so we were not aware of the potential psychological damage it might cause.

The longest John and I were separated from our own parents, while we were in Thailand, was for our first five years as missionaries. After that, the separations also involved our children. For years we learned the painful lessons of lockdown, and experienced the heartbreak, and psychological complications that all too often follows early separation in some children.

As adults, our sons then took their families to South East Asia. In the same way that John and I had left our fathers and mothers to go overseas, so our sons followed suit – taking our six grandchildren with them. I greatly missed the new babies and their growing years, and understood for the first time the cost it had been for our own parents to make it possible for us to take our children overseas for years at a time. We rarely managed time together. When we worked in Thailand, there were no mobile phones. You had to travel for the best part of a day to a large city, like Bangkok, and book an appointment to make an expensive long distance telephone call. It was too costly to use aeroplanes for travel, and we travelled by boat - which took two or so weeks to reach their destination.

For a chunk of time, our son David worked in Thailand and the USA. Meanwhile, Ditch brought up his children in more than five different countries, the last place being Kota Kinabalu, in Borneo, East Malaysia. We worked hard and saved like crazy, to earn enough money to visit our scattered family as

often as we could.

On one such visit, I made friends with Maria, wife of their church's pastor in their Kota Kinabalu church. She was fascinated that I wanted to use Indonesian style, patterned and plain sarongs to create patchwork wall-hangings and bedspreads. We had several happy breakfast outings going round the market stalls and fabric shops. I triumphantly returned to England with a couple of suitcases threatening to burst open – and stuffed full with gorgeous sarongs.

A lifetime later, in 2021, one of these sarongs found a settled home in the little Victorian chapel in Bromley and Sheppards Colleges. One of the 45 Collegians, Brandy Pearson, gazed at one particular sarong until she almost heard it instructing her how creatively it could be transformed as part of her Easter hanging for the chapel.

The dark strips of fabric, bordered with gold thread lent themselves to form a cross. The centre of the cross beautifully echoed the original design on the chapel's mosaic floor - painstakingly being restored by Collegian, Peter Morris, and echoing the possibility that new life would spring into being, as a result of Jesus' resurrection following the agony of crucifixion.

That Easter hanging proclaims confident hope that after the terrible pandemic of Covid19, new life will eventually burst out and spring to the surface, just as the gold threads enliven the dark fabric of the cross. Our family survived our own kind of lockdowns and unknowingly trained for them many years ago. I am sure that we, and others, will not simply survive but will flourish in the exciting and challenging new life opening ahead.

Life is waiting for us to live it fully!

Anne Townsend

April 2021



In May, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension (13th May), Pentecost (23rd May, and also Trinity Sunday (30th May).

30th May: Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

Isaiah 45:22: 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.'

Genesis 1:1-2: 'In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...'

Judges 14:6: 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

John 1:1-3: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

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 of England Daily Hope free phone line – 0800 804 8044 - please spread the word.

The Church of England have set up a free phone line, available twenty four hours a day, particularly for those in mind who are unable to join online church services during this period of restriction. On offer are music, prayers, reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone.

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

**BROMLEY & BECKENHAM INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC FESTIVAL**



BENJAMIN GROSVENOR - PIANO

**Schumann
Liszt
Chopin**

21ST MAY 2021 @ 19:30

**ST Peter & St Paul's Parish Church Church Road BR2 0EG
TICKETS @ WWW.BBIME.COM**

Ripley Recitals Association

Ripley Recitals

53rd Season 2020 - 2021

Next Series

**We regret that our concerts are
currently postponed but look forward
to welcoming our artists and
audiences back to Ripley as soon as
it is safe and legal to do so.**

**In the Music Room, Ripley Arts Centre
24 Sundridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2PX**

Enquiries to: Christopher Town Tel: 020 8851 9116
Email: christophertown@ntlworld.com

Ripley Recitals is a Registered Charity No 295897

Churchyard parking permits are due for renewal on 1 May 2021. If you would like to park in the churchyard during the week and on Saturdays, then do please apply for a permit.

Donations are requested. As guidance, parking locally for once a week for two hours would cost £120 per year. If you are on the electoral roll then you are eligible to apply for a permit.

Please send a cheque to 12 Hengist Way Bromley, BR2 0NS and I will post your permit back to you. Alternatively, if you prefer to pay by bank transfer, then drop me an email at rdsammons@hotmail.com with your proposed donation and I will send you bank details and a scanned permit.

You may not be parking regularly in Bromley at the moment but hopefully we will be back to a more normal life soon.

Richard Sammons 0208 464 9391

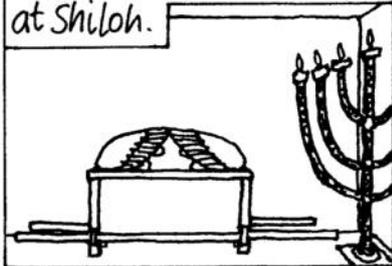
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them

When the Jews got to Israel, the Ark was kept at Shiloh.



The Jews did not keep God's laws so the Philistines attack and defeat them.



The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.



But the Philistines won. They took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their god Dagon.



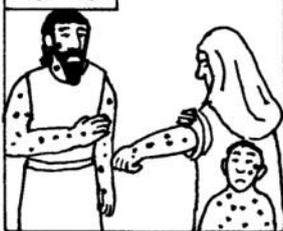
The next day they found Dagon's statue face down.



The next day it was over again and its head and hands had broken off.



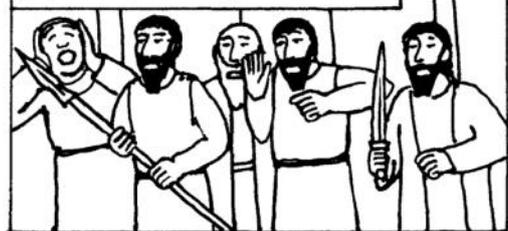
Then the people became covered in sores.



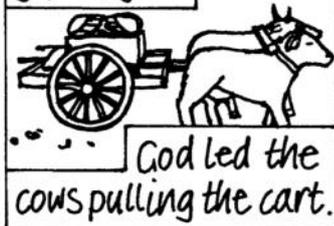
They moved the Ark to the city of Gath.



They were going to move the Ark to Ekron, but the people there wouldn't let them.



So they put the Ark on a new cart with a gift of gold.



At Bethshemesh, people harvesting saw the Ark.



But some treated it without respect and died.



Wordsearch—can you find the words from the *Bible Bite* story in the grid?

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

Shiloh

Israel

God

sores

Gath

safe

hands

Ashdod

Moses

Philistines

temple

keeping

head

Dagon

cart

chest

Ekron

pulling

Ark

cows

statue

celebrated

respect

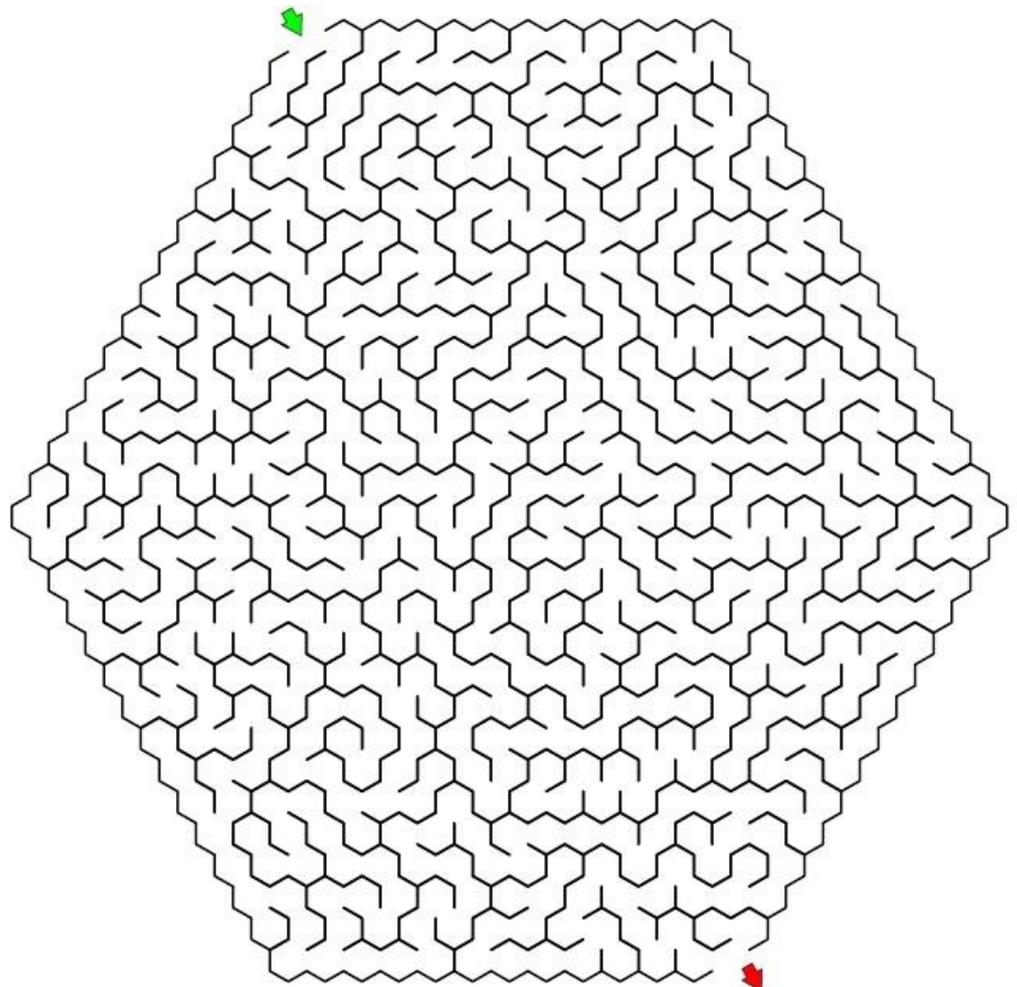
people

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

Sudoku:

Insert numbers 1-9 into each row, column, and 3x3 box

© 2013 KrazyDad.com



The Tale of the **TWO BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

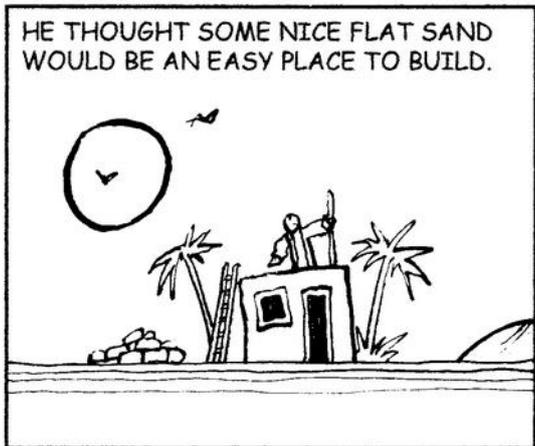
AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



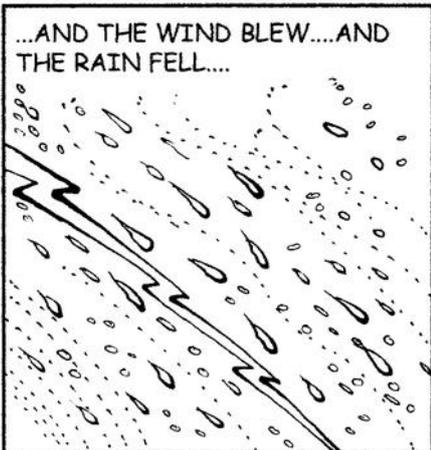
THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE



HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



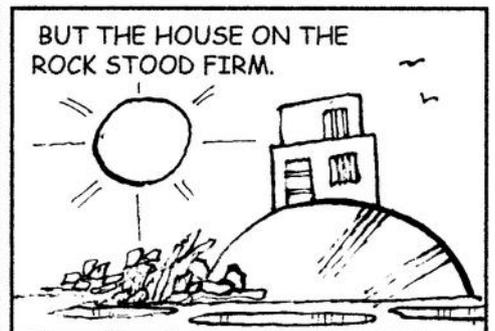
BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME...



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL....

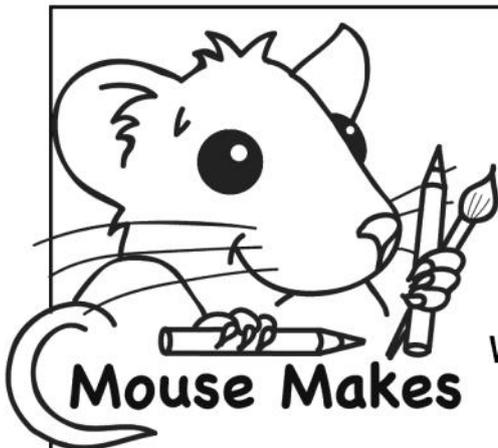


...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!



BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION!



On the day of **PENTECOST** the disciples were gathered together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was their reaction?

Acts 2:12-13

Who explained what was happening? What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many people were baptised that day?

Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet and see what the **Holy Spirit** produces in us:

KPZ
IVNJMJUZ
TFMG DPOUSPM
GBJUIGVMOFTT
LJOEOFTT
QBUJFODF
QFBDF
MPWF
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit
VSEIL
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit helps us to
WKNOW
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
HCTSEEA
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
KPESSA
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
PHLSE
us to tell others about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit helps us when we
AYPR

What is the work of the **Holy Spirit**? What does He do?
Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC _ ES
COMF _ RTS
REVEA _ S
IN _ OU
TRAN _ FORMS
HEL _ S
GU _ DES
_ GENEWS
CONV _ CTS
SANC _ IFIES

Ascension (Luke 24:44-53)

Scriptures fulfilled,
Minds opened,
We followed Him to Bethany.
And there was joy in the blessing
Of our risen Lord,
Jesus, God on earth.

And in the blessing
Was the leaving,
And in the leaving
Was the blessing –
His Spirit of life and power
To witness to the world
Of our ascended Lord,
Jesus, man in heaven.

By Daphne Kitching

The Travellers

They travelled together sad and forlorn
With all of their dreams shattered and torn,
It started so well, their hopes were high
Never to guess that He would die.

The Man joined the two as they walked along,
He asked why their faces were sad and long,
'Have you not heard' disbelieving they cried
'How the One we followed was crucified?'

Opening the scriptures He began to unfold
How the Christ should suffer as written of old,
It was not a disaster, but all of God's plan
That one should come as Redeemer of man.

They listened enraptured as slowly they saw
The purpose of God revealed in the Law
The Prophets and Psalms, it's all about Him
The One who should come and rescue from sin.

O that eyes should be opened and scripture
made plain,
To see Christ in its pages again and again,
That just like the travellers I too should see
The Master, the Saviour dying for me.

By Megan Carter

Ascension

To complete Your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, You ascended through the air into the heavens, before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way You showed that You are Lord of all, and are the fulfilment of all creation. Thus from that moment every human and every living creature should bow at Your name. And, in the eyes of faith, we can see that all creation proclaims Your greatness.

A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153). He was the main inspiration of the Cistercian Order of Monks.

Prayer for Pentecost

Loving Father God,

Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit;

Your Spirit who knows no restrictions or barriers;

Your Spirit who can reach us and be with us and in us, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances;

Your Spirit who comforts and heals and empowers us to live with confidence that, ultimately, all shall be well;

Your Spirit who connects us, through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Because of Jesus' victory over death we have hope and life forever.

Thank you, loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



My Garden?

I thought I owned a garden
A lovely place to be
A bird said, "Beg your pardon,
"This land belongs to me!"

A squirrel dropped a nut on me
Which wasn't what I'd planned
"Get lost!", said he, "for can't you see
"You trespass on my land?"

A pheasant flapped and squawked so loud
I scarce could hear me think!
"Get off my ground, for two's a crowd!"
He kicked up such a stink!

The wild-life around me
So loudly do protest!
They growl and screech till I can see
That I am just a guest!

By Nigel Beeton



PRAYER

Please hold the following in your prayers this month.

1. We have started to reopen our services again, starting with the Homework Club. Pray for the team as they work within the current restrictions but still provide an active service.
2. Please continue to pray for us as we plan our way forward, especially as we look at the next step in the road map on the 21st June.
3. The last year has been difficult for us, and although we have been able to keep in touch with our young people, we have lost contact with a lot of them. So, we will, almost, need to rebuild our membership as we reshape our services.
4. It's been almost a year and a half since we completed our business plan. We are now reviewing and updating that with a fundraising plan. Pray for us as we look at our strategy and also look at appointing a new freelance fundraiser this month.

www.jusb.co.uk

Dairy Dates for May

We are delighted church is open for public worship and private prayer.

To reserve a place for public worship please visit the homepage on our website

www.bromleyparishchurch.org where you will find the link or call the church office on 020 8464 5244

Services continue to be live streamed on our YouTube channel and Facebook page, the link can be found on our homepage.

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

We request face masks are worn whilst in church.

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said daily at 8.30am and 5.15pm, please join in from your homes.

Sunday 2nd May**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9.00am Family Breakfast Club ~ Zoom, meeting details available from the parish office

10.30am Parish Communion

Wednesday 5th May

10.30am Prayer during the Day - online

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 6th May

10.00am to 11.00am Healing Prayer Group ~ prayers will be said from

homes for the sick and those in need.
7.30pm Choir practice

Saturday 8th May

BPC Gardening Club postponed until further notice

Sunday 9th May**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

10.30am Parish Communion

Wednesday 12th May

10.30am Prayer during the Day - online

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 13th May**Ascension Day**

Service for Ascension Day- time to be announced

Sunday 16th May**Sunday after Ascension Day**

9.00am Family Breakfast Club ~ Zoom, meeting details available from the parish office

10.30am All-age Worship with Communion

Wednesday 19th May

10.30am Prayer during the Day - online

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 20th May

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 21st May

7.30pm Bromley & Beckenham International Music Festival launch concert

Ben Grosvenor, piano

Tickets may be purchased from www.bbimf.com or contact the church office.

Sunday 23rd May

Pentecost

10.30am Parish Communion

Wednesday 26th May

10.30am Prayer During the Day - online

12noon -2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 27th May

7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 30th May

Trinity Sunday

10.30am Parish Communion followed at 11.30am by our APCM

Monday 31st May

11.30am Bank Holiday Organ Recital – Phoebe Tak Man Chow



Updates to services and events will be posted on our website

www.bromleyparishchurch.org

Here you will also find the pew sheet with meeting details for events taking place on Zoom.