

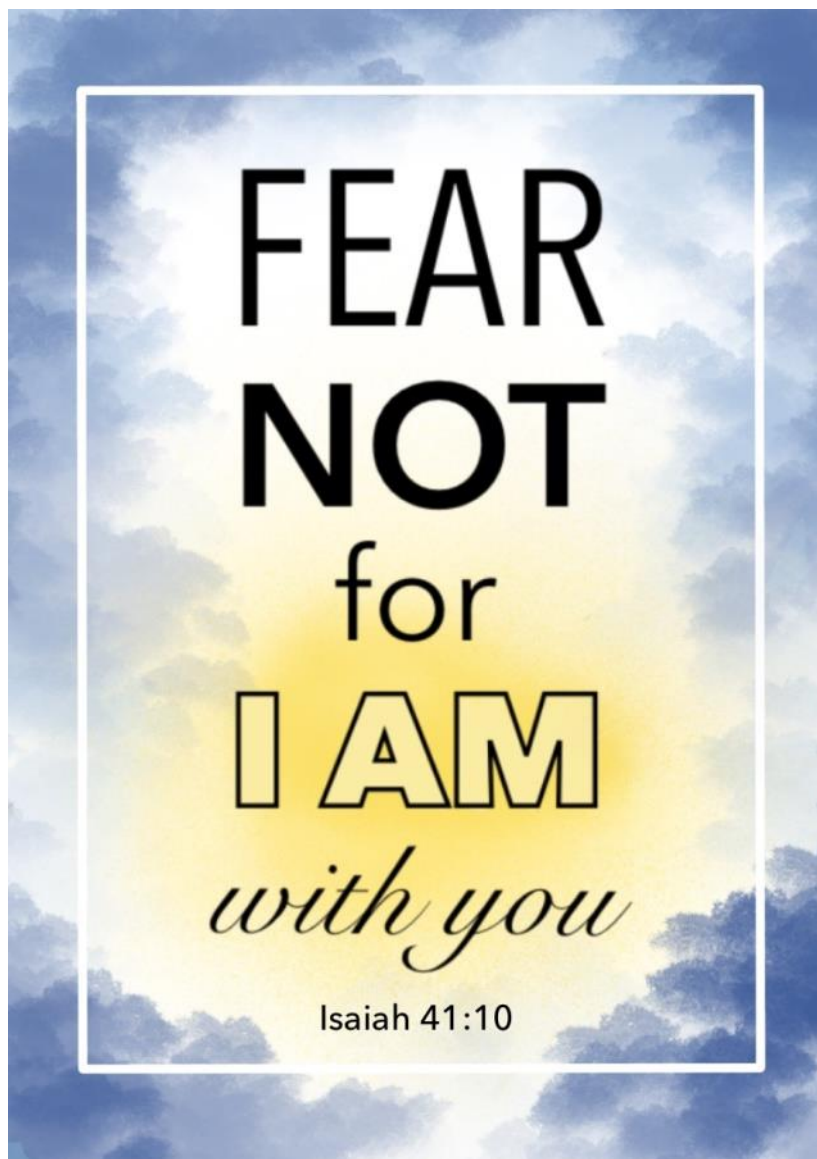
*the*KEY

Number 222

May 2022

50p

Website: www.bromleyparishchurch.org



News of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

Church Road Bromley BR2 OEG

"Proclaiming the Word and Work of God"

Member of Churches Together in Central Bromley



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

Hello Reader,

Welcome to the May edition of the Key!

This month we have an excellent Easter sermon from Rev James as well as some information on Church events, including the Church Walks, Hope Into Action training, and the upcoming celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

There is also an article on the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven, and the usual Bible stories and activities to go with them.

I'd like to draw particular attention to one of the poems, 'The Refugee' by Nigel Beeton. It really struck a chord with me at this time when the news is full of normal people like us whose lives changed overnight. We pray for peace, and we pray for comfort for all those in our world who are affected by conflict.

I hope you have a good month and 'see' you at the next edition,

With love

Lisa.

This sermon has been kindly provided by Rev James, from the dawn service on Easter Day.

One of my favourite moments of the year is the time before this service, when I am in church, pottering about as I set up. The church is in darkness, and I just sit for a while as the light starts to build towards dawn, as the birds begin to sing, it is incredibly peaceful and still with that frisson anticipation of all that is to come.

Yet those moments of stillness and peace bear no resemblance to that first Easter morning we see in our Gospel. There we have Mary Magdalene in turmoil at the trauma of Jesus' death and his hasty burial without proper preparation, hurrying to the tomb at first light to recover what she can of the situation by doing what she can to anoint the body. Only to see that the stone has moved, so she runs, runs back to tell to Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, who immediately run back to the tomb to see what is going on. Peter, who is likely a bit more middle aged, you can imagine puffing along behind the other younger disciple, but typically barrelling straight into the tomb to see what happened. Seeing the empty tomb they immediately set off to tell the others, leaving Mary overwhelmed by it all, in distress over what has happened to Jesus, until his voice cuts through it all.

The only still and peaceful place in the running about and high emotion is really the empty tomb, the place of death and nothingness, which this story is not about. One of the things to draw from this is that actually Easter happened amidst the chaos and rush of life, not removed from it. It is very easy to isolate Easter as a single special day, we have built up to it with a week of services, we have got up at an unreasonable hour to mark something special. And indeed it is important, but only if we see it connected to life as it goes on around us, because that is where its meaning and relevance is. It is in the

confusion of doubt and despair of the disciples that it happens, not removed from it, not delivered as a nice clearly written explanation they can sit down and discuss. It is there as part of life and everything else that happens in it.

If the peace before the service is one of my favourite times of year, then conversely one of my least is actually preparing the sermons for today. I think it is a pressure most preachers feel, and actually a lot of the time I think Easter sermons are not always the best. There is too much to do and often the temptation is to fit in close to 2000 years of theology, debate and pastoral practice, or to try and construct a logical case based on evidence, or generally do an awful lot in quite a small amount of space. And it doesn't always work.

What we see this morning in our reading is none of that, there is chaos and confusion – what is going on what does it all mean. Nothing is really explained, implications we know will take weeks to begin to be worked out as Jesus appears to his disciples and teaches them what is going on before his ascension, for the church more widely it will take centuries of vigorous and occasionally violent debate to hash out the basic language and concepts that are all foundational to how we understand and discuss faith. Even in the early church the process of learning about the faith was long – some suggest up to 3 years, others a mere lengthy series of talks before and after baptism. It takes time to work it all out and that is not what we see on that first morning.

What we have instead is scene of life in its confusions and its lows especially at this point, but cutting through that is just a glimmer of hope, that things can be different. In her distress Mary hears Jesus' voice, something she is attuned to – and in it the possibility of all changing, of longed for hopes resurrecting, of the pattern of pain and disappointment she has known being broken for ever. She might not understand quite what or how, but that sense at Jesus' voice of something else being possible is there and it is real, more real perhaps than the other things of her life.

Easter is not a static thing found in the silence of set days and elaborate ritual, rich and important as it is, we like Mary are commanded not to hold onto the moments but go and tell others about it. What do we communicate, what is it that draws people into thinking deeply about the things of God – it is that voice that cuts through the things of our lives, and says it can be different, it can be hopeful, that no matter what happens as life continues to buffet about through times of joy and sadness, that there is a hope which we can find and hold on to. That essence, that moment, that possibility – that is what happens this day by a tomb in Jerusalem, it is what happens for us here in suburban London, the world has been changed and we can change with it if we want to. The starting point for all journeys of faith and understanding, the rest can come later. The question for us, the question facing all people, is if we hear that voice of promise calling our name, are we willing to respond.

26th May: Ascension Day**Where did Jesus go at the Ascension?**

In Salvador Dali's picture of Jesus' ascension all you can see are his feet! As we celebrate the event this month, it prompts the question *'where did Jesus go?'* Peter says Jesus *'has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand'* (1 Peter 3:22). However, the New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing at the Father's side.

At Pentecost Peter said that Jesus is *'exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear...'* *"The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand'"* (Acts 2: 33-4). Peter is affirming Jesus' position of authority and power at the heart of the universe. By pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the life of heaven ie eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God's provision for our lives.

When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he points out, *'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'* (Acts 7:56). Our experience of heaven is only ever partial, as we live with the reality of suffering and setbacks. However, Jesus is still on the throne! We are called to trust him daily.

The Bible also tells us that *'Christ Jesus who died....is interceding for us.'* (Romans 8:34, cf Hebrews 7:25). Even when we don't know how to pray, we have the assurance that Jesus is already praying for us! He knows our needs even better than we do ourselves, so when we feel condemned or defeated in our Christian lives, we have somebody on our side!

The Ascension reminds us that the risen Jesus lives in the immediate presence of God, and both transcends and embraces our present experience. This truth lies at the heart of the *up* language used to describe the event.

'Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the One who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find Him.' (Tom Wright).

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

Ripley Recitals Association

Ripley Recitals

54th Season Summer Series 2022

Friday 17 May 7.30pm

Vickers Bovey Guitar Duo

Julian Vickers & Daniel Bovey

Guiliani: Grandi Variazioni Concertanti Op.130;

Rameau: Pièces de Clavecin: La Poule,

Le Rappel des Oiseaux, Musette en Rondeau,

Les Cyclopes; Nin-Culmell: Tonadas;

Ravel: Alborada del Gracioso;

Janáček: In the Mists; Piazzolla: Tango Suite

In the Music Room, Ripley Arts Centre

24 Sundridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2PX

Tickets: £15.00 Season Tickets: £25.00

Children/students £5.00 Season Tickets £8.00

Available from: Christopher Town Tel: 020 8851 9116

Email: christophertown@ntlworld.com

Ripley Recitals is a Registered Charity No 295897

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 10.00am

All are welcome

further details contact Lynn in the church office
administrator@bromleyparishchurch.org



Old Testament Live



**10am to 4.30pm Saturday 28 May
in the church building of St. Mary's Bromley
entrance £14**

An adult day of fun and inspiration to explore the Old Testament.
It will be Run by Walk Through the Bible.
Please book with the QR code on the right in advance.



St Mary Bromley, 63 College Road, Bromley BR1 3QG
Nearest bus stop Morgan Road for 126, 314, 336 and 261.
Yellow lines on College Road and noon - 2pm, parking restrictions locally.
<https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk> (QR code right)



This is part of a month of activities at St. Mary's that we have called:

Marvellous May *at St Mary's*

It is an opportunity to see a very attractive church building
and enjoy a wide range of activities which include:

<i>Art Display</i>	<i>Choral Evensong</i>	<i>Knitting</i>
<i>Ballet Belles</i>	<i>Christian Aid Week display</i>	<i>Musical Miscellany</i>
<i>Bible Reading</i>	<i>Cream Tea</i>	<i>Organ Recitals</i>
<i>Bromley Boys Singers</i>	<i>Harlequins Theatre School</i>	<i>Plant Sale</i>

Full details can be found on our website which has a colourful programme which can be downloaded. Use this QR code for Marvellous May information:





*Come and Celebrate
the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with us on
Saturday the 4th of June 2022
2pm – 5pm
in the church garden*

*food, games, musical entertainment for everyone
bring your friends and family
everyone is welcome*



Hope into Action Training Day

with Laura Cuthill from HIA

St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, BR2 8AT

Saturday 21st of May 10am – 3pm refreshments served from 9.30am

Bring your own lunch

From Hope into Action:

The purpose of this training is to equip and envision you to love and serve our tenants with the love and grace that Jesus has given to us. It is not a task to be taken on lightly as you will be building relationships with people who are struggling on the margins of society and may not have experienced love or community in this way before. You may encounter challenging behaviour from people who are often dealing with isolation, conflict, crime, abuse and/or substance misuse, but you may also have the privilege of seeing people changing, reconnecting with family members, getting jobs, learning to cook for the first time. It will be a roller coaster ride but as you persevere and keep looking to God and his strength, we pray that you will find the experience very rewarding and maybe even life-changing!

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" Galatians 6:9

Our heart is to give you some tools, knowledge and insight to help you connect with those you will be reaching, whilst also looking after yourself. Our prayer is that through our training and the accompanying manual: 'your love may abound more and more with knowledge and depth of insight' (Philippians 1:9).

We cannot cover all specific specialist areas in this initial training course, but as we enter this partnership, we will be able to support you with our experience and expertise along the way. There are some key learning objectives of the HOPE training and by the end of it our aim is that you will:

- Understand homelessness better
- Be practically equipped and understand what it means to be a 'friend with a purpose'
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of the friendship & support group and how you will work together with Hope into Action
- Be equipped as a better listener
- Have a stronger understanding of boundaries
- Understand our policies on confidentiality, safeguarding and emergency procedures

Bible Bite

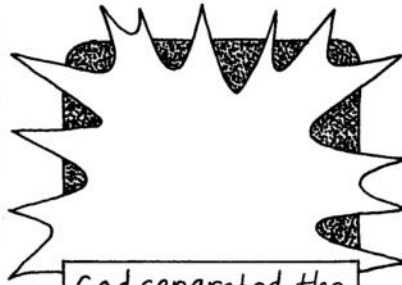
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3.

This story is at the start of the Bible, and the start of time...

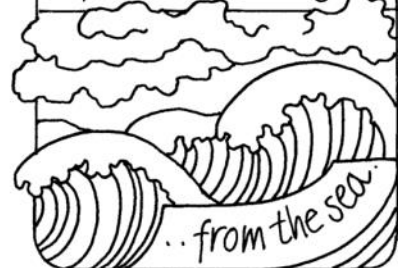
When God first made the universe it was empty and shapeless. God said...

Let there be light!



God separated the light and dark.

On the next day, God separated the sky...

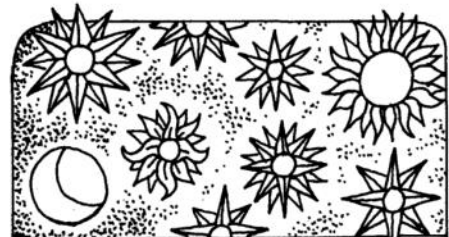


...from the sea.

On the third day God separated the sea...



...from the dry land. Then He made plants of all kinds grow on the land.

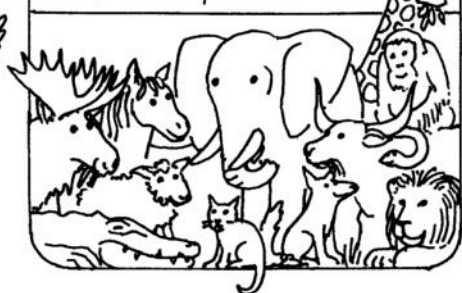


On the fourth day God made lights shine in the sky for day and night.



On the fifth day God filled the sea with all sorts of fish, and the sky with all sorts of birds.

On the sixth day God made all kinds of animals...



and then He made people, men and women.

God told the people....

Take care of all I have made.



God saw that everything He had made was very good.

On the seventh day God rested...



and so did everyone else!

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

animals

dark

everything

land

made

people

sea

sorts

birds

day

fish

light

men

plants

separated

universe

creation

everyone

good

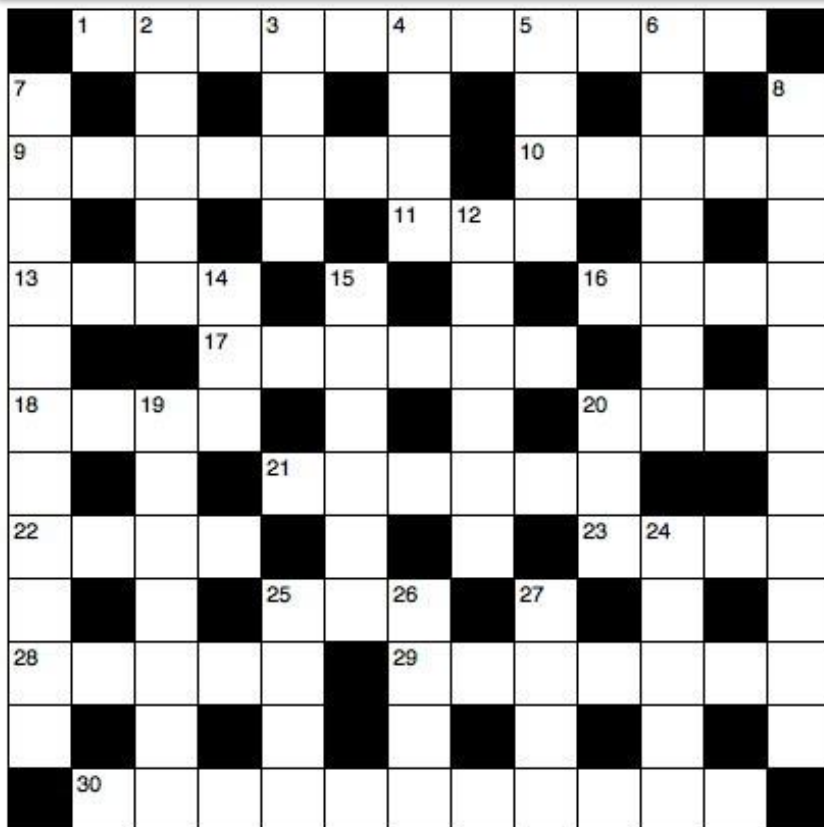
lights

night

rest

sky

women



Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.

DOWN: 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.

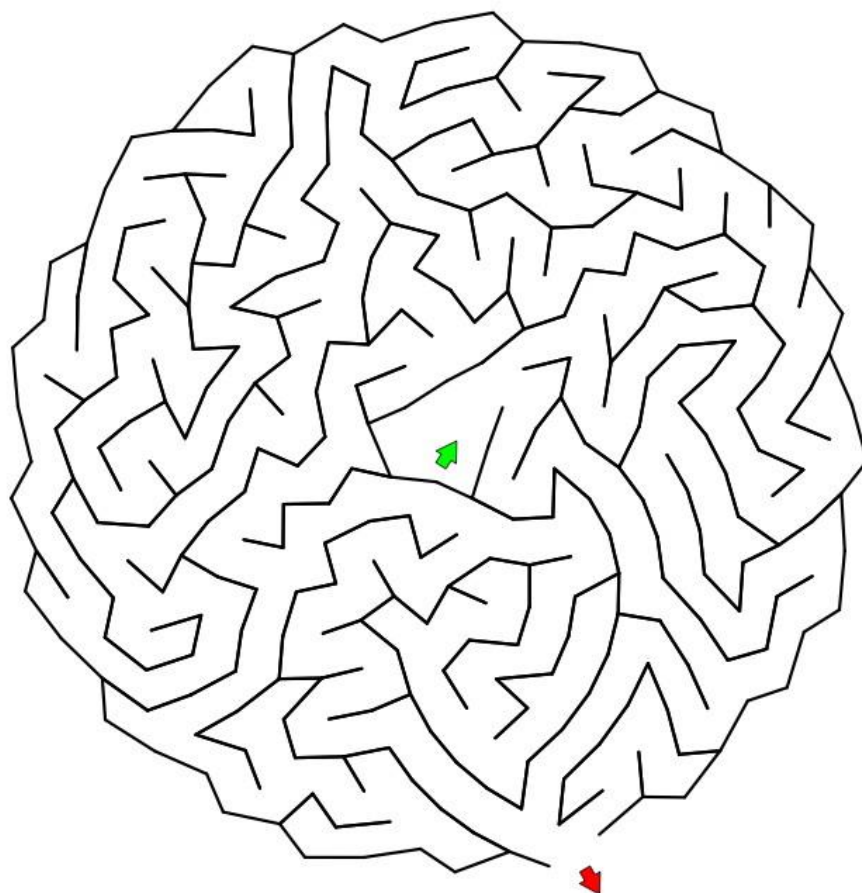
Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)
 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
 13 Stagger(Isaiah 28:7)(4)
 16 'Anyone,then,who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
 17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6)
 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)
 20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)
 22 'After that,Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
 25 Has(anag.)(3)
 28 'This is the account of Shem,Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
 29 'I will...make them drunk,so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
 30 Paul said of him,'he often refreshes me and

is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)
 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)
 15 'He...became obedient to death,even death on——!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)
 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3)
 24 One who worships Brahma,Vishnu or Shiva (5)
 25 'Give to everyone who—you'(Luke6:30)(4)
 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

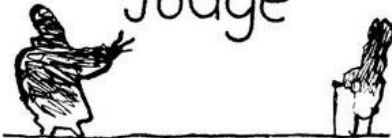


Sudoku:

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

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

The
Tale of the
**The Widow
and the Judge**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

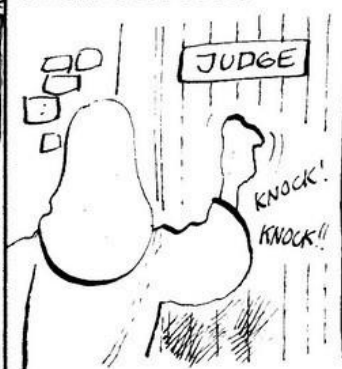


ONE WAS ABOUT A PROUD JUDGE...



...AND A POOR WIDOW

THE WIDOW NEEDED HELP
FROM THE JUDGE.



BUT HE WAS FAR TOO PROUD
AND BUSY TO LISTEN

BUT THE WIDOW
WOULD NOT GIVE UP



PLEASE COME AND SORT OUT
MY LEGAL PROBLEMS



AT LAST THE JUDGE
GAVE IN - AND WENT
TO HELP THE WOMAN

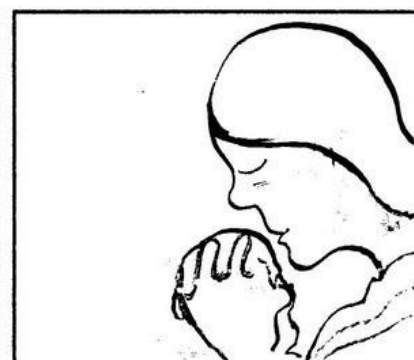
I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE
YOU KEPT PESTERING ME!

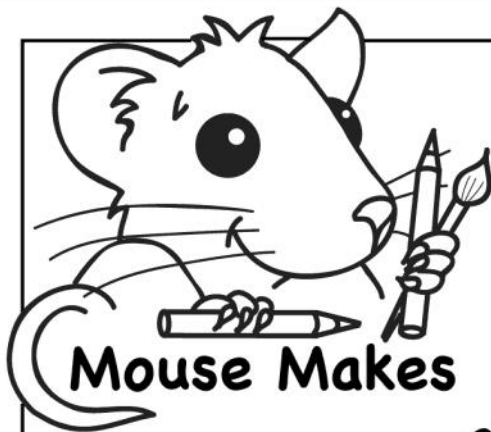


JESUS EXPLAINED - 'GOD IS
MUCH KINDER THAN THE JUDGE
- WE DON'T HAVE TO **PESTER**
GOD...

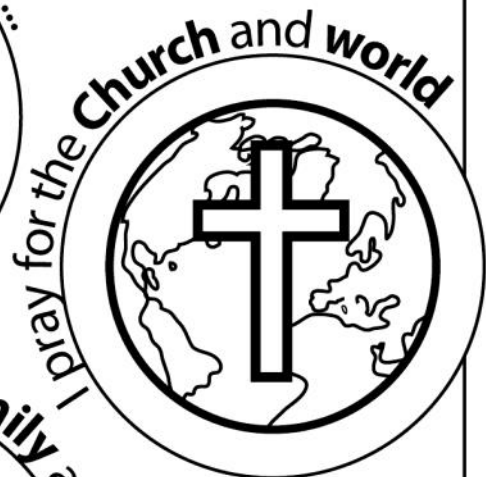


...HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS
WITHOUT OUR NAGGING HIM.





"Give thanks to the
Lord for He is good,
His love endures
forever"
Psalm 136:1



"Never stop praying."
1 Thessalonians 5:17



"Do not be anxious about
anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6

Jesus said,
"This, then, is how
you should pray:

Our

_____ in _____
hallowed be your

_____ your

_____ come,
your _____ be
done, on

_____ as it
is in _____.
Give us this day our
daily _____.
And

_____ us our _____,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.
And _____
us not into
temptation, but

_____ us from the
_____ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13
to fill in the words.

Prayer for May

Dear Father in Heaven,

As we thank you for May, this most beautiful of months, we are aware that not everything in your world is beautiful; not every attitude or action is beautiful, or kind, or just.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world that we can sometimes feel overwhelmed. Help us, Lord to remember that Jesus came to bring all this brokenness together, to bring reconciliation and wholeness. Thank you that by His life, death and resurrection Jesus overcame death for ever. Thank you that He ascended into heaven so that the Holy Spirit could come to live in believers, to give strength and power and resilience, so that Your work goes on.

Thank you that nothing in all creation - no evil attacks, no illness, no human powers, no circumstances at all - can ever separate us from Your love.

We will not be overwhelmed as we keep our eyes on You.

We may not always understand, but we acknowledge You to be the Lord, who reigns over all - and we are thankful.

In Jesus name. Amen.

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

Nigel Beeton writes: 'Now our thoughts are overshadowed by the terrible situation in the Ukraine. I looked at the masses of people on the station platforms, and I thought, "only a couple of months ago, each one of those people had a life, a home, a shop to buy food, perhaps somewhere to grow daffodils, maybe a church to worship God, and their own hopes and dreams for the future. Now they are just part of a mass of people shuffling towards a westbound train.'

The Refugee

All that I was, I no longer am
All that I have, I hold in my hand
My home, my love, my world are all gone
One among thousands, I shuffle along.

Only last week I knew who I was
All that has gone, and only because
Someone in a land a long way away
Turned life into hell one terrible day.

He started a war, his heart icy cold
He rained down his hell on the young and the old
I ran for my life for I had no choice
And nobody heard the fear in my voice.

Everything's gone, and all that is 'me'
Summed up in a word – the word 'refugee'.
I have no control, no say in my fate
Just one in a crowd, I stand and I wait.

Waiting for what? The future's unclear,
For armed men have taken all that I held dear
Along with my hopes, and all I had planned
All swept away by the tanks in my land.

One thing alone puts a smile on my face
A far nicer stranger has come to this place;
A bed for the night? A cup of hot tea?
And - best of all - someone who sees me as me.

By Nigel Beeton

Sunday 1 May**Easter 3**

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Monday 2 May

11.30am Bank Holiday organ recital

Tuesday 3 May

11.00am Toddler Praise

2.30pm Funeral t/l Douglas Bull

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 4 May

Church closed for private prayer to-day due to electrical works

Thursday 5 May

10.00am Healing Prayer meeting - prayers are said from homes

7.30pm Choir practice

Saturday

2.00pm Rehearsal for confirmation candidates

Sunday 8 May**Easter 4**

9.00am Breakfast Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Confirmation service led by Bishop Simon followed by refreshments

Monday 9 May

10.00am Funeral Enid Knight

7.30pm Living in Love and Faith course, refreshments from 7.15pm

Tuesday 10 May

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 11 May

12noon -2pm Church open for private prayer

8.00pm Ministry Team meeting

Thursday 12 May

2.15pm Fellowship

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 13 May

10.00am Church Walk, bluebell walk through the woods at Petts Wood

7.00pm Quarter peal

Saturday 14 May

10.00am – 12noon Gardening Club

Sunday 15 May**Easter 5**

10.30am All age Worship

11.30am APCM

Monday 16 May

7.30pm Living in Love and Faith course, refreshments from 7.15pm

Tuesday 17 May

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

7.30pm Children's Committee meeting - church

Wednesday 18 May

12noon-2pm Church open for private prayer

8.00pm PCC meeting

Thursday 19 May

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 20 May

2.45pm Funeral John Ross-Martyn

Saturday 21 May

10.00am – 3.00pm Hope Into Action Training Day – St. Augustine's Church

11.30am Saturday Morning Recital

Sunday 22 May

Easter 6

9.00am Breakfast Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist

3.00pm Creative Funtime

Monday 23 May

7.30pm Living in Love and Faith course, refreshments from 7.15pm

Tuesday 24 May

11.00am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 25 May

12noon -2.00pm Private Prayer

7.00pm Hope Into Action prayer meeting

Thursday 26 May

Ascension Day

2.15pm Fellowship

8.00pm Ascension Day service

Saturday 28 May

2.00pm Wedding Blessing Donglin

Sunday 29 May

Sunday after Ascension

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Monday 30 May

7.30pm Living in Love and Faith course, refreshments from 7.15pm

Tuesday 31 May

No Toddler Praise – half term

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Advance dates

Saturday 4 June

2.00pm – 5.00pm Celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee with us in the church garden

Morning Prayer is said daily at

8.00am in the Children's Chapel

The Children's Chapel is open daily for prayer

Church is open on Wednesdays

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

Updates to services and events will be posted on our website

www.bromleyparishchurch.org

To join Sunday worship online please visit our website

www.bromleyparishchurch.org and follow the link on our homepage.

Please continue to wear face masks in the church building.