

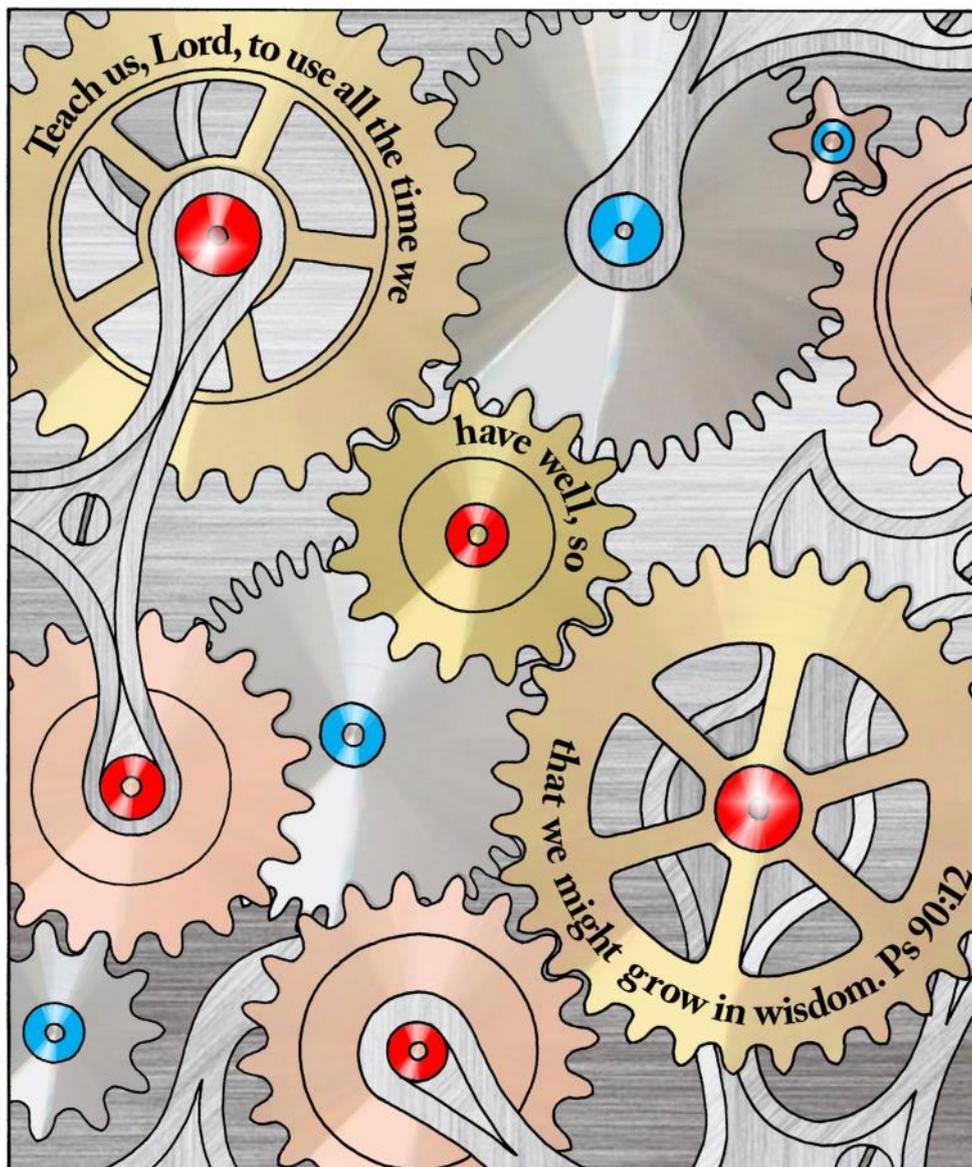
the KEY

Number 214

September 2021

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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Hello Reader,

Thank you for picking up this edition of the Key! It has been lovely seeing some of you in person recently.

I had to keep checking I was getting this edition correct—September? Surely not! But yes, welcome to the September edition. We have an excellent sermon from Mike, information on the new walking club where you can also incorporate some fundraising for Harare, reminders of the upcoming music events, and all the usual features.

I hope you enjoy it and have an excellent month. See you at the next edition!

Lisa

This sermon has been shared by Mike, from the 10:30 service on Sunday 8 August. Many thanks Mike for sharing this with the Key.

TEXTS:

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 18.5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalms: 130

New Testament: Ephesians 4.25-5.2

Gospel: John 6.35, 41-51

I don't know about you, but I sometimes question whether I've had a good lockdown. I'm not talking about the important things like health, work, child-care and so on, but the opportunities squandered – no new language learnt, no Joe Wicks workouts, no catch-up on all those books I've been meaning to read, no sourdough starter – you've seen all the articles. I've done quite well on a few box-sets, enjoyed engaging more with nature and even responded well to my wife's Bake Off Challenge by producing for a couple of weeks a few cakes and tray bakes until I realised that, with no visitors, they still had to be consumed – which meant cake at elevenses and cake at afternoon tea time and, without the Joe Wicks workouts, I developed the dreaded lockdown body, but not of the good sort. When my son teased me about it, I replied: "trapped inside this comfy lockdown body there's an inner sculptured Adam Peaty screaming to get out!" To which my son replied "Just the one Adam Peaty in there Dad?!"

Ah well, perhaps I should have gone with the sourdough starter. Despite its association with hipsterism – along with the bewildering choice of bread on offer today – it is easy to forget that bread remains a staple of the developed World's diet, and a much more important staple for the developing World, not to mention the World of the Old and New Testament. Understanding how basic and fundamental bread is to life helps when we come to think about one of Jesus' great "I Am" statements we heard in our Gospel reading today. Jesus declaring "I am the Bread of Life".

Jesus' statement is part of a long section in John's Gospel on the theme of Jesus as the Bread of Life, or the Bread from Heaven. It began 2 weeks ago with the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand and continues directly or indirectly for the next 2 weeks. Whilst there is some repetition throughout the passages, there are some specific themes picked out in this week's reading.

Above all, Jesus' statements that he is the Bread of Life or the Bread from Heaven are bold statements about his divine identity and unique relationship with God.

Simply saying “I Am the Bread of Life” reflects the way that God describes Himself in the Old Testament when he says “I Am”.

Using the word “Bread” also conjures up all sorts of Old Testament imagery for his listeners. “Bread” or “manna” echoes the story of Moses and the Hebrews in the wilderness being fed by God. Later this very physical sense of “feeding” developed into more abstract ideas of God, the Law and divine wisdom when there is talk about wisdom feeding listeners with the “bread of understanding”.

Jesus had felt the need to challenge his listeners. He had earlier fed them physically with bread and fish, but they had not understood the significance of this. Yes they were impressed, but they wanted to take him away and make him their king. Jesus escaped and they caught up with him. We have this series of discussions of which today’s reading forms part, but still the listeners do not get it. Even when Jesus challenges them with the bold statement that “I am the bread of life” and the “bread of heaven”, which, as we have seen, is laden with meaning about his divine identity.

This failure to understand is shown when we hear that the crowd started to complain about him. Again they are limited by what they think they know and what they are prepared to believe. They see Jesus in human terms – after all they know his parents, don’t they? That said, they have heard him teach, they have seen what he can do – including the miracle of being fed by him. So there must be more to him. But this understanding is always on their terms. At one level it is their materialistic needs that are met when they are fed. At another level they want Jesus to be their leader, king even – but one who gives them what they want, not what he is offering.

If that is a difficulty that those of Jesus’ time faced, it was not unique then or now. Grumbling was what the Hebrews did when wandering in the wilderness, despite being fed by God. And are we any different now? Whether believers or non-believers, do we have difficulty accepting Jesus’ claims, or only accepting them on our terms? We can see Jesus’ humanity and be impressed by his words and deeds, but he died a less than impressive death. How can that Jesus be divine? Let’s focus on what we can see and understand, let’s focus on what we want from a god or what we want a god to be.

But let’s not be too hard on ourselves, whether believers or non-believers. After all, we are talking about the divine, something which is beyond our everyday human experience. How are we supposed to understand fully or properly what it means to be divine? We know it will be different. But how? And if we have some idea of there being some superior being, a spiritual entity we might call “God”, how do we rationalise this with the claims of this clearly human Jesus? For many people have claimed to be “gods” before and since.

The starting point is that God is active in the world, has been since creation,

and the sending of his Son, Jesus, into the world is a continuation of this, as we hear in our Old Testament readings each week, and as we hear in the Old Testament references in today's and other Gospel readings. And in these verses we have the key to understanding this. As Jesus explains, only he has seen the Father – therefore, if we want to understand God, we can do so through Jesus who is in this unique position to reveal God to us. This is not a position that Jesus seeks to abuse as others with similar claims have done. As Jesus explains elsewhere, he is there to do God's will, and as he makes clear here, it is still God who draws people to Jesus – quoting from Isaiah, "they shall be taught by God", and having heard and learned from God, they come to Jesus.

This is God taking the initiative, just he did with the Hebrews in leading them out of Egypt and feeding them in the wilderness. And the act of coming to Jesus – here seeing him as and believing him to be the "Bread of Life" is not simply our choice, or a result of our efforts. It is God who draws us to him through Jesus, but it is on his terms. It is his invitation to us to believe. We can choose whether to accept, but it is still God's invitation.

Whilst it is God's invitation and his terms, there is no compulsion and the offer is freely given and is open to all.

And what is on offer? Nothing less than eternal life. This is not some vague future promise of a "life after death" as some sort of disembodied spirit.

The offer of eternal life is a reflection of the quality and quantity of life that is being promised.

The quality of that eternal life is no less than being transformed as we share in the inner life of Jesus – a life which, as the "bread of life", nourishes us, sustains us and helps us to grow.

The quantity of that eternal life is infinite. Being infinite that life begins here and now, not at some time in the future, if we have faith and believe in Jesus. And being infinite it stretches beyond death ultimately to the bodily resurrection.

If we eat of this bread of life that is freely offered we are told that we shall never be hungry. That does not mean that we do not continue to depend upon that bread or to continue to feed upon it. But it does mean that we shall no longer be hungry in the sense that the emptiness at our very core is satisfied.

The offer of eternal life, starting now, is there. It is up to us whether we choose to come to Jesus and believe in him so that we can share in that eternal life.



Saturday Morning Concerts presents

Piano recital given by Constance Chow (Concert Pianist)

Saturday 11th September 11.30am



Admission Free

Retiring Collection

Please see the August edition for a biography of Constance Chow.

Walk Harare

We are hoping to raise money for our link parish in Harare who are struggling with the effects of the pandemic and finding it difficult to get by, by walking, as a congregation the 6959 miles to Harare whilst raising funds to support our link parish. Keep a tally of your everyday walking and extra walking activities, let Lynn know in the office, and we will keep a record to see how long it takes to walk the distance.

Donations can be made at tiny.cc/walkharare

Please see the next page for details of the new Church walking group!

Church Walks

If any of you would like to join Sally and Lynn on the autumn walks they have planned over the next few months you will be most welcome.

All abilities, all ages, all dogs more than welcome!

Sunday the 19th of September Beckenham Place Park following All age Worship and coffee, meet in the churchyard for a stroll down Martin's Hill to Queensmead continuing into Beckenham Place Park finishing with a circular walk through the woods and around the park. Please feel free to dip in and out of the walk as you wish.

Saturday the 16th of October Petts Wood and Hawkswood, meet at PW station 1.50pm for a 2pm start. A really lovely walk through NT woodland and farmland of approximately 5miles. Easy walking but can be muddy after rain.

Friday the 26th of November Shoreham Village loop this more challenging walk with the promise of magnificent views will take around 2 1/2 hours. We meet at Shoreham station 10.20am for a 10.30am start.

Sally and Lynn will be pleased to tailor the walks to fit needs.

Join us and at the same time raise money for covid support in Harare by adding your miles to the tally chart

For more details contact the church office.

This comes from a blog by Alistair Birkett, director of Rural Ministries for Scotland and Northern England. You can read more at:

<https://www.ruralministries.org.uk/blog/anticipatingtheharvest?>

Thanking God for our blessings

Our winter barley ripened quickly this year, and soon the combine harvesters were rolling here on the Northumberland / Scottish Border.

As the first trailer load of grain came into the shed, I ran my hands through the golden grains, offering a short prayer of thankfulness as I savoured the smell of fresh cut barley. It was a good harvest.

I've often reflected on the Old Testament festival of the Firstfruits, where the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the spring harvest to God (Leviticus 23:9-14). I think this act required great faith, as they trusted God for a fruitful harvest to come, something that was far from certain, given their utter dependence on the weather.

I'm not sure about you, but I'm always up for giving thanks *after* the event. I'll sing 'Come ye thankful people come' and rejoice that "all is safely gathered in", but am I able to trust with anticipation for what is *yet to come*?

The festival of the Firstfruits reminded God's people that everything they had came from Him. I am reminded that I must learn (and relearn) to trust in God, who has proven His faithfulness to me, over and over again.

Perhaps right now as a church community or an individual you're waiting for a certain event, standing on the cusp of a new initiative, praying for a certain outcome or anticipating a long-held vision becoming reality. Let's all keep trusting that whatever the challenge, however things turn out, irrespective of what we anticipate, God is going before us and has secured the Firstfruits of an even greater harvest through Jesus, as He rose from the dead.

Just as the grain offering to God in the Old Testament anticipated a harvest to come, Paul reminds us that Jesus' victory anticipates an even greater bodily resurrection and eternal peace (1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

As we continue our journey with Jesus through the challenges of each day, let's do so with a deepening faith and trust. In the meantime, bring on the harvest - I'll see you on the other side!

3rd September: St Gregory the Great – the pope who saved the ‘angels’

Pope Gregory never called himself ‘the Great’, but instead ‘the Servant of the Servants of God’. Nevertheless, Gregory was one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. The son of a very rich Roman senator, he left the service of the State upon his conversion as a young man. Gregory then sold off his tremendous estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome, and gave generously to the poor. He became a monk and adopted an austere lifestyle. But he was destined to be a frustrated monk, because successive popes kept appointing him to jobs with major public responsibilities.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, “They are Angles.” Moved with compassion for these humiliated and despised men, he replied, “They are not Angles, but angels!” He wanted to lead a band of missionaries to England to evangelise the Angles, but then plague broke out in Italy, and during this time he was elected Pope.

Reluctantly he accepted, and then sent to work to deal with the crises facing Christendom: plague, floods, famine, and a Lombard invasion. But busy though Gregory was, he did not forget the Angles. He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

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 2021 - 2022

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Kings 1: 5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother

You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David



He's having a big party to celebrate right now!

I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



Long live King Solomon!

At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



What's going on?

David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.



King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.



d	a	v	i	d	g	i	h	o	n	t	h	e
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c	i	g	n	p	e	e	m	u	l	e	t	i
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party

trumpet

everyone

Adonijah

king

friends

invited

Nathan

promise

sanctuary

Bathsheba

trouble

mule

mother

scared

announced

David

Gihon

son

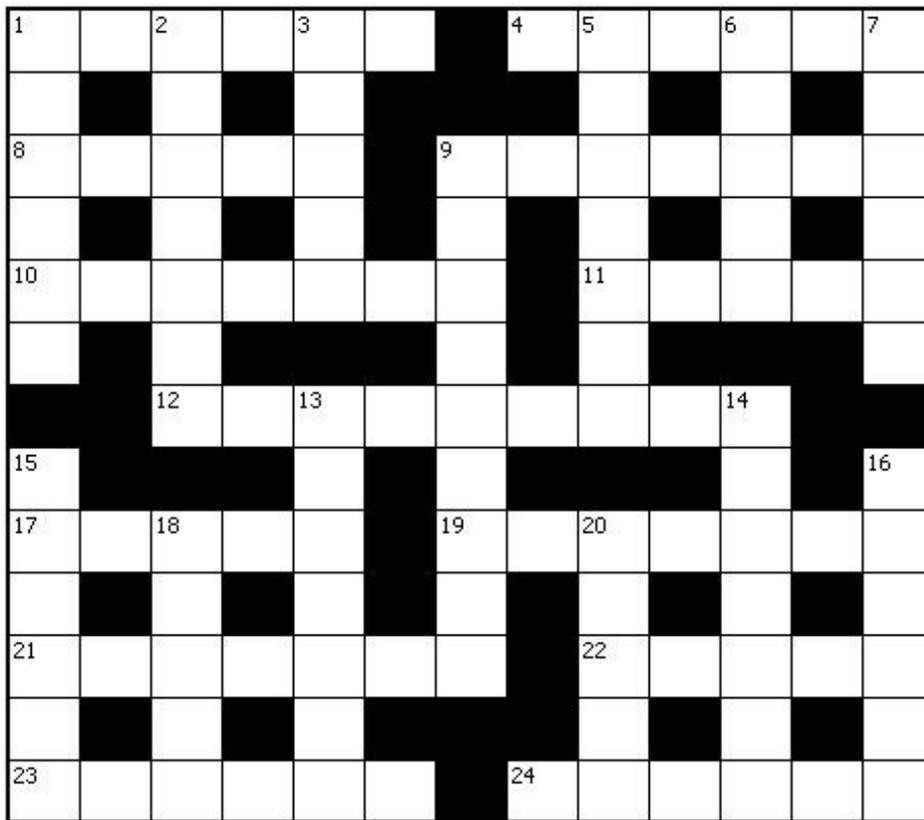
noise

annointed

Solomon

celebrate

old



Answers

ACROSS 1 access; 4 blinds; 8 rhyme; 9 loyalty; 10 Antwerp; 11 Aeon; 12 loftiness; 17 Satan; 19 Obadiah; 21 on earth; 22 storm; 23 exhale; 24 depths
DOWN 1 Adrian; 2 crystal; 3 siege; 5 lay bare; 6 nylon; 7 saying; 9 Lappidoth; 13 funeral; 14 spit out; 15 ashore; 16 Thomas; 18 teeth; 20 aisle

Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Down

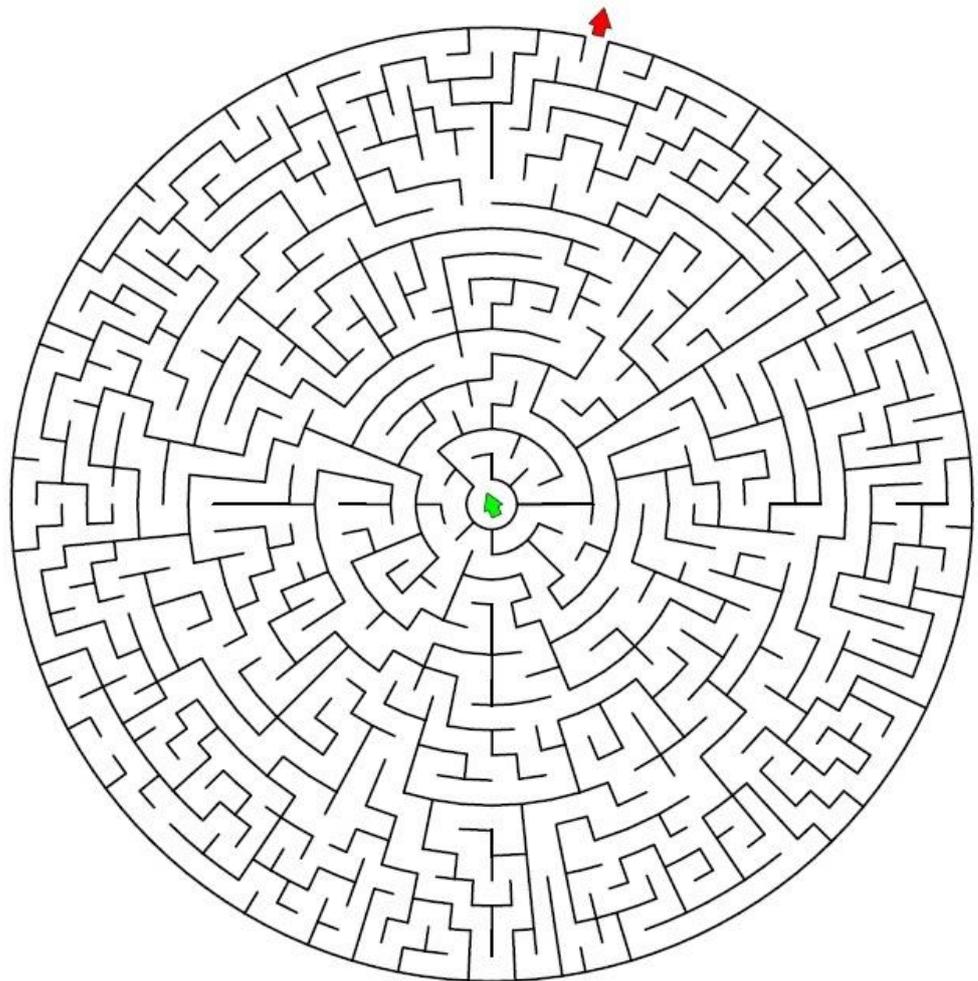
- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

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Sudoku:

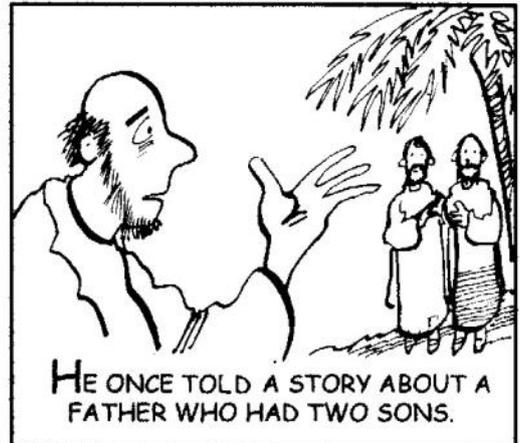
Insert numbers 1-9 into each row, column, and 3x3 box



The tale of
the
Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

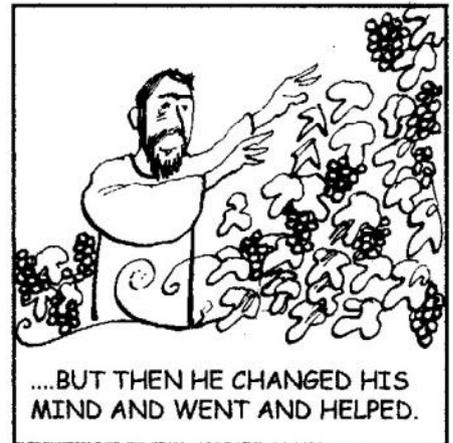


HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A
FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.

THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T!' SAID THE
OLDER SON...



...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.

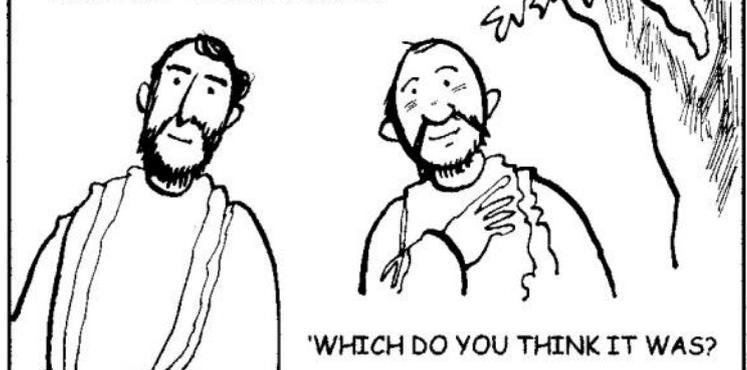


'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT
HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

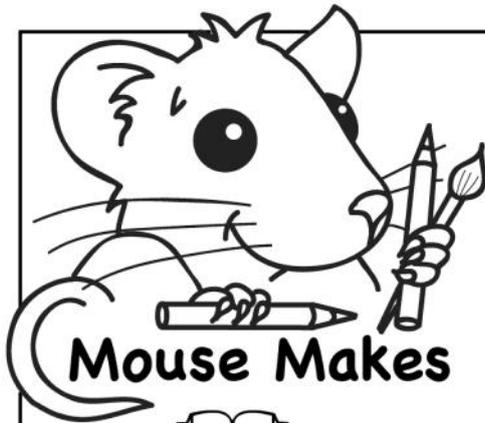
...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER
WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?'



Mouse Makes



Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread." he asked her.

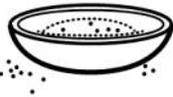


She answered *"All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."*

"Do not worry." Elijah said, *"Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."*

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

- WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY

September Prayer

Dear Lord,

September – the month of new beginnings for many, as summer fades and school and college terms start.

After such a strange time of restrictions, hopes of freedom, with warnings to be cautious, it is hard to know what to expect this September.

We can't know what lies ahead, Lord, but we *can* trust you to see us through whatever it turns out to be.

Thank you for your promise, *I will never leave you or forsake you... (Hebrews 13:5)*

Help us to hold fast to that promise, to keep trusting you - and to be thankful for each September day.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Name above all Names

Name above all Names, what's in a name?
Jesus, Messiah, He's coming again,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End,
Apostle and High Priest, the sinners Friend.

Walking on water, calming the storm,
God incarnate calling us home
Creator, the I Am, nailed to a tree
Lion of Judah dying for me.

Risen, the Victor, conquering King
Coming with clouds redemption to bring
To gather His bride for heaven above
To reign with the Lamb whose name is Love.

By Megan Carter

Nigel Beeton writes: "September, of course, is when we remember the Battle of Britain – on the 15th, to be precise, the anniversary of the day on which the Battle turned in Britain's favour and Hitler realized that it would not be possible to invade without incurring huge losses from air attack. Covid permitting, the Spitfires will be up in the sky this month, and we will watch in wonder and gratitude."

Spitfire

The heavens ring with Merlin's roar
We gaze in wonder from the ground
To see a great old aircraft soar
And marvel at the engine's sound.

The Spitfire loops and rolls and dives
We smile and gasp and clap and cheer;
The pilot shows his skill and strives
To make us think he has no fear!

No fear – but eighty years ago
Young men of barely adult age
Sat in those planes, true courage shown
They flew into the battle's rage.

They too would loop and roll and dive
Not to impress a watching crowd
But so that Britain might survive –
And hist'ry shows they did us proud!

So many died within those planes
The watchers would with horror see
A blazing trail of smoke and flames
As brave men died to keep us free.

Yes – watch the Spitfire, and rejoice
Rejoice to see the pilot's skill.
Remember those who had no choice
But met the foe with iron will.

By Nigel Beeton

Night Sanctification

Father, bless me and my body keep,
 Father, bless me in my soul;
Father, bless me through this night of sleep,
 In my body and my soul.

Father, bless me as I live my days,
 Father, bless me in my creed;
Father, bless me in my binding ways,
 To my life and to my creed.

Father, sanctify to me my speech,
 Father, sanctify my heart;
Father, sanctify my portion each,
 In my speech and in my heart.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

Evil all about us

Lord, I don't understand how people do the horrible things to each other which I read about in the newspapers. Lord, I cry to You to help those who inflict such injuries. Take hatred from their hearts; give them understanding of the evil they do. Strengthen the persecuted; give them courage and a firm belief in You.

Give me and all who try to serve You the desire to serve the suffering and fill us with the love which will defeat the power of evil in the world.

By Michael Hollings (1921–1997), a Catholic priest in London

Dairy Dates for September**Wednesday 1st September**

10.30am Prayer during the Day - online

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

7.30pm Children & Young People Committee meeting

Thursday 2nd September

10am -11am Healing Prayer meeting, prayers will be said from homes for the sick and those in need.

7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 5th September**Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

9.00am Family Breakfast Club in the church garden

10.30am Parish Eucharist

12noon Dedication service for Alec Thompson

pm Baby Blessing

Tuesday 7th September

11am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice by arrangement with Tom Hinks

Wednesday 8th September

10.30am Prayer during the Day - online

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 9th September

[2.15pm Fellowship](#)

7.30pm Choir practice

Saturday 11th September

10.00am Gardening Club

11.30am Saturday morning recital

Sunday 12th September**Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

10.30am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Tuesday 14th September

11am Toddler Praise

7.30pm Bell ringing practice by arrangement with Tom Hinks

Wednesday 15th September

10.30am Prayer during the Day - online

12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

8.00pm PCC meeting

Thursday 16th September

7.30pm Choir practice

Friday 17th September

7.30pm Concert - Bromley & Beckenham International Music Festival

Saturday 18th September

4.30pm Concert – Bromley & Beckenham International Music Festival

7.30pm Concert – Bromley & Beckenham International Music Festival

Sunday 19th September**Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

9.00am Family Breakfast Club in the church garden

10.30am All-age Worship with Communion

12noon Church Walk to Beckenham Place Park

6.00pm Concert – Bromley & Beckenham International Music Festival

Tuesday 21st September

11.00am Toddler Praise
7.30pm Bell ringing practice by arrangement with Tom Hinks

Wednesday 22nd September

10.30am Prayer during the Day - online
12noon – 2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 23rd September

2.15pm Fellowship
7.30pm Choir practice

Sunday 26th September
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 28th September

11.00am Toddler Praise
7.30pm Bell ringing practice by arrangement with Tom Hinks

Wednesday 29th September

10.30am Prayer During the Day - online
12noon -2pm Church open for private prayer

Thursday 30th September

7.30pm Choir practice

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said daily from homes at 8.30am and 5.15pm, do join in if you can.

Church is open on Wednesdays between 12noon and 2pm for private prayer when consecrated bread is also 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