

St Mary's Church, Bromley

Parish Magazine

June 2022

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p

Platinum Jubilee Picnic



4 pm Friday 3 June

**Join us with your picnic
in the church grounds
for a party to celebrate
Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.
Soft drink and cakes supplied.**

Welcome to the June edition of the Parish Magazine.

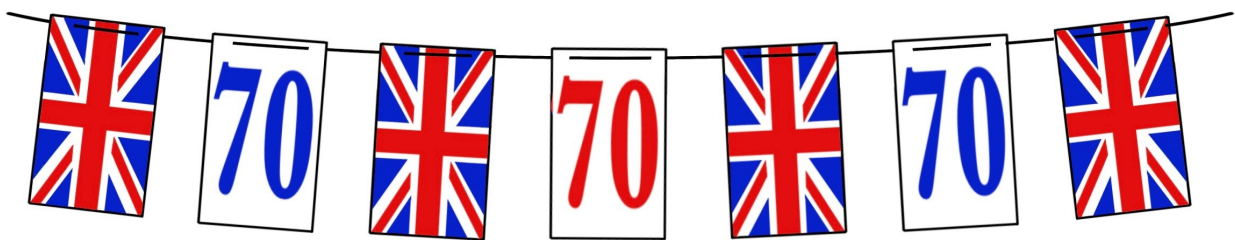
This month the Queen makes history by celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. 70 years in the job!

We join with millions across Britain and the Commonwealth who thank God for Queen Elizabeth's dedication, wisdom, and steadfastness over the past seven decades.

The world has changed so much since 1952. But through it all, our Queen has kept her long-ago promise to the British people, to serve them with all her heart and might. And, because the Queen is a Christian, we know that God has honoured her and helped her in her role.

Truly, God has blessed Queen Elizabeth II, and we thank Him for her.

Atlanta Topham



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Please support the editors by giving articles and notices to them by the copy date.



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Memorial Book

St. Mary's Church has a memorial book in which may be inscribed names of people associated with the parish. If you would like to know more details please contact Alan or Jean Read on 020 8402 0886.

Disclaimer

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various participants in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Editors.

OUR MARVELLOUS MONTH OF MAY



‘What shall we do when it's all over?’ This was a question that was asked in the spring of 2020 when the first lockdown was taking place. The idea was to do something to bring a sense of closure to the demanding experience of having so much taken away in terms over those months. But perhaps there was also a great assumption it would happen soon. But the dawn was false.

That first lockdown did come to an end but there were many reasons to think the whole experience of Covid was far from over. There was a programme of vaccinations followed up by secondary vaccinations and then boosters. The virus mutated in a variety of ways and set off fresh waves of infection. More restrictions came and went. But with the beginning of 2022 the future looked different. It looked like something could be done to mark a new beginning.

Last month St Mary's had Marvellous May which in a small and local way was seeking to offer something to our community. It was to lay on some imaginative events and opportunities for people to meet together. I have to say I've had a marvellous time and hope you have too. I write a week or so before the end of May and hope for a little more marvel still to take place! The programme began by drawing from a variety of people who had expressed gratitude for the support they had received from St. Mary's over the years. They had said they would like to put an event on for us and if that raised some money for the church, so much the better.

One of the privileges I had was to introduce events and then say thank you at the end. These words were on behalf of everyone who had come to enjoy what would take place and support those putting it on. I can remember talking about being delighted, excited, inspired and informed. For one event I spoke about being transported back to my children in their childhoods. The event was doing similar things to what they had enjoyed and I found it very touching. At another occasion I said how wonderful it was to have a live event with people that we know displaying their skills. So different from

strangers on the television.

One of the things I learned was just how much most of an audience is drawn from people who know the company of people putting on the event such as relatives of the youngsters dancing. Or the support is drawn from a clear common interest such as gardeners attending the plant sale. Another thing to see and rejoice in has been how many people have stepped forward to support the running of events. On one occasion illness looked like it would bring disappointment. But with initiative, imagination and gifted grandchildren; the show went on. And also cake; a lot of lovely cake was always around!

At its heart I always wanted Marvellous May to be seen as an open invitation to our church and community. So sending out two thousand leaflets was one way to make the events of the month available widely. Many thanks all those who put programmes through our neighbours from doors.

The other aspect of offering an invitation is receiving those who respond. The people who were in church Monday, Wednesday and Friday were there to gently befriend and explain. That personal touch is so important to people entering a strange building containing people whom they do not know. The same is true about the time of refreshments as part of the events. There is a generosity in the food and drink offered and a gentle opportunity for relationships to be reaffirmed or even begun.

When I chose the name Marvellous May I wanted something with a promise about it and expecting marvels is a lovely idea. Obviously the alliteration helped too. But it wasn't about bragging. It was about good things to celebrate being made available by a wide range of people. It was trying to be both an expression of community and also exploring what that means. I have learned a lot and got to know quite a number of people better.

Thank you to everyone who took part, attended and I think made May marvellous. As I write it isn't over yet so I'm looking forward to the remaining delights. But also what the next season of opportunities might be.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Keeler". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

FOLLOWING JESUS



We are called to follow Jesus, especially now in these days following the Resurrection - this exciting, good news needs spreading and sharing. But it has not always been an easy option and it still isn't. His first disciples found in Jesus, hope and healing, excitement and a new purpose in difficult times, but also a teacher so challenging, that some undoubtedly gave up, and some never joined him, like the rich young man who was held back by his great possessions, and could not bear to sell all that he had and give the money to the poor.

Jesus made it clear in Matthew 7 when he said "Enter through the narrow gate . For wide is the gate that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.but small the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it"

Following Jesus, living a Christian lifestyle, still involves difficult choices often very subtle ones, nothing like as clear cut as just keeping the 10 Commandments, it's a much more open ended set of choices. Jesus himself gives only 2 commandments in Matthew's gospel, but goodness, they are hard. Loving God is easy to understand, though very hard to do, loving our neighbours as ourselves is really tricky, much depends on how we feel about ourselves, never mind how we view our neighbours.

I share with you yet another dimension, and it was not until I read it quoted in a Lent book earlier this year that it struck me, from one of the Harry Potter books by J K Rowling. Dumbledore, Harry's headmaster, warns him as follows "There are dark days ahead, Harry, when we will be forced to choose between what is right and what is easy" (*Quoted in 'Be happy! A 40 day journey to Contentment. Peter Graystone*).

This is precisely the kind of situation that as Christians, we find ourselves in all the time. Not extremes of behaviour, as very few of us become career criminals or murderers, and those are easy to recognise and to avoid. BUT... there are always potential problems on a whole range of issues on which Christians (and everyone else) have to make decisions, do we choose the right or the easy way?

Making choices about what we eat and how we travel, bearing in mind the state of the climate and of the planet. Food with lots of air miles or food grown locally? Walk, use public transport, or go in the car? It is often quite hard to make the right choice even with these issues.

More complex decisions can be even harder, especially if we think that no one will know or find out what we do. Here they might involve remaining reliable and faithful in our commitments and relationships, especially amongst all those temptations, like should I cry off when a more exciting invitation arrives, or not bother about the lonely or the distressed who may need company or a visit. Perhaps I might dump the girlfriend or boyfriend when someone more attractive turns up, engage, or not in actively in recycling all our waste or redundant items, choose to be conscientious about paying all our taxes? We can all think of many different examples.

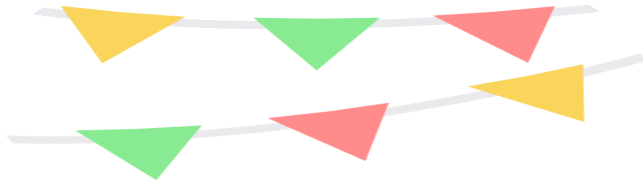
Jesus's comment about the narrow way highlights both the difficulty, and the small numbers of us who may navigate it successfully. That is not a reason not to try, as it is an obvious way in which we demonstrate our Christian faith, by making tough decisions, constantly seeking to choose right actions rather than take easy ways out, not compromising about what we know is right. We need to become unafraid of not taking the majority's favourite easy option. To be willing to choose wisdom or understanding, rather than silver as advised by the writer of Proverbs

New moral dilemmas arise constantly as the world changes and develops, giving us new decisions to make that earlier generations would never have dreamed of about technology, information and pornography, fraud and falsehood to name just a few.

If we get it right, we may end up both saving our souls and restoring the planet one decision at a time. In Deuteronomy 30:19 God says 'today (that) I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that you and your descendants may live'. Basically then, a large part of our faith journey needs to involve learning to follow that difficult, but also joyous and rewarding 'narrow (the) road that leads to life'. Stick with it, we will not have to do it alone because the Risen Jesus promises to be with us always, and we have each other for company on the way.

Alison Tyler

Marvellous May Cream Tea



Out came the bunting to set the scene for the Cream Tea on Sunday 1st May the first event to start off Marvellous May...

There had been much planning taking place behind the scenes to organise this, as the last afternoon tea event took place in the Autumn of 2019. Several boxes of vintage floral china cups, saucers, plates, milk jugs and tea pots came out of storage to give the right ambience for the afternoon. After the morning service the back of church and porch were set-up to become a 'pop-up' Tea Room. There was a great hive of activity to get everything ready in time for the guest's arrival from 2.30 pm. Thanks to Clem and Sally for their help in getting out the tables and chairs.

A dedicated team of willing helpers comprising Sylvia, Anthia, Margaret, Frances, Patricia, Ellen, Emily and Stephen were on top form. On the menu there was a choice of home baked plain, fruit and cheese scones, with clotted cream, butter, jam, strawberries and tea or coffee. Thanks to Mary F for baking fruit scones and to Alison for baking gluten free cheese and plain scones. We did not really know how many guests to expect, but around 50 people turned up. It was good to see so many folk chatting to friends they had not seen for a while, as well as welcoming some new guests coming in for the first time. There was a real buzz of conversation throughout the afternoon and the Cream Tea team worked really hard to look after them. Donations for the tea went to the Murals Restoration Fund and this was boosted by £286 + Gift Aid. A big thank you to everyone who supported, helped and donated to this event.



As we were setting up for the event a beautiful Peacock butterfly came into the church and settled on the drinks table, we worked around it and then thought it had left the building. When we got back home unloading the car, we found the butterfly had hitched a lift on a blue IKEA bag, but was not looking too well. Stephen very quickly searched online to see how to revive it. He managed to carefully take it into the garden and put a dish of lemon juice down. The butterfly soon started drinking the liquid and hydrated itself. The next time we looked out, it had flown away. We then put the kettle on and recounted the events of a very busy but enjoyable afternoon!



Anne Yolland



Techie trouble

The vicar had technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he muttered: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

Olive Oil

Olive oil; one of the most revered of oils.

Good quality olive oil costs MONEY.

When I looked, the most expensive oil came in at \$1458 per Litre. This was a Greek oil, but it did include flakes of gold leaf suspended in the liquid oil.

After that, there were several in the \$200 - \$300 range for various Mediterranean olive oils. Gordon Ramsey uses one costing \$75 for 500ml in his restaurants.

These days olive oil is mainly used for cooking, but it used to be used for light as well.

Other parts of the olive tree are also useful. The leaves are thought to have beneficial effects on the heart and circulation and the wood itself is prized for its appearance and also as a fuel. It is dense and gives a clean, hot burn.

Olive trees are long lived. These olive trees on the slopes of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem are also a couple of thousand years old. I am not sure that this is where the garden of Gethsemane was, but the trees are old enough to have been there at the time



There is a tree on the island of Madera which has been carbon dated to Roman times. A bit surprising when you consider that olives come from Europe and that Madera was only discovered by the Portuguese in the fifteenth century.

Perhaps the ancients got there first .

Production of olive oil was probably started about 8000 years ago in the Persian empire, but it was when the olive hit the Mediterranean in about

2500BC that it took off leading to a real population explosion.

It is a wonderful oil, with different grades useful for light and lubrication as well as for food.

The actual olives are absolutely unpalatable straight off the tree, as they have to mature in water or brine for several months to reduce the bitter oleuropein chemical in them. In the end, however they are prepared, they will be stored in brine, so you need to soak them in water to reduce the salt content before eating. After that, they can be marinated in oil (preferably olive oil) with herbs and spices before using them as an aperitif.

Olive oil is made by crushing the olive nuts, or kernels traditionally in a mill powered by a donkey or mule for about 40 minutes. Nowadays, this is done by machines in seconds. The paste that this process produces is then squeezed to extract the liquid. This liquid is a mixture of oil and water which will eventually separate out due to gravity, or nowadays by a centrifuge. Variations in how long and how fast the nuts are in the mill and how the oil and water split give rise to different grades of oil.

The residues of the nut paste and the water are difficult to get rid of as both are environmental hazards, the water killing any plants that it comes into contact with.

One last thing. Much of the olive oil that you see in the UK is slightly rancid. Olive oil, like most vegetable oils, is quickly affected by light (not so much by heat) and so you should always keep it in the dark. If you buy good quality oil and keep it in a closed cupboard, it should stay sweet for years.

There is much more to be told about this wonderful oil, but I am off to buy some now.

Trine Hevezi



Mothers' Union Matters

Everyone is invited to all meetings of Mothers' Union.

Mothers' Union is proud to be an organization that supports and nourishes women to take on leadership roles. This year, our Summer of Hope campaign coincides with the Jubilee celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen, who has not just led the country for the last 70 years, but has also been our dedicated patron.



The presence of women in leadership roles is now more important than ever – their voices are instrumental in engineering solutions that take into account the gender-based consequences of various problems, such as climate change and war. Even in their local communities, women often lead the way for many of their lives are deeply interwoven with their communities and therefore they know much more about these complexities than their male counterparts.

We are really excited about this year's Jubilee Summer of Hope campaign focusing on women in leadership and we invite your enthusiastic participation to amplify voices of women even more!

This year, the Summer of Hope campaign will be spread across 70 days from 1st June to 8th August 2022. The 70 days will be divided into 10 segments, with each segment focusing on a specific theme from the below:

- Hope
- Love
- Resilience
- Service
- Faith
- Joy
- Family



Across the country, Mothers' Union members will be growing sunflowers, having Bake Sales, organising Jubilee Quizzes, throwing Jubilee Parties, making Jubilee Jumps (skydiving!), scattering (Queen's Head) Scavenger Hunts, reflecting on 70 years of change for women, and rolling out the Jubilee Summer of Hope Bunting.

Look out for it all near you!

Peter Fall

MU Programme during June

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 16th June | 10.00am | Knit and Knatter for Charity. | Meet in the Front Room, knit and knatter over coffee and cake: wool, needles, patterns and advice available. Non-knitters always welcome to knatter. |
| Saturday 18th June | 12.00 noon | Summer Lunch | Meet at the Vicarage for a relaxed alfresco lunch in the garden. |

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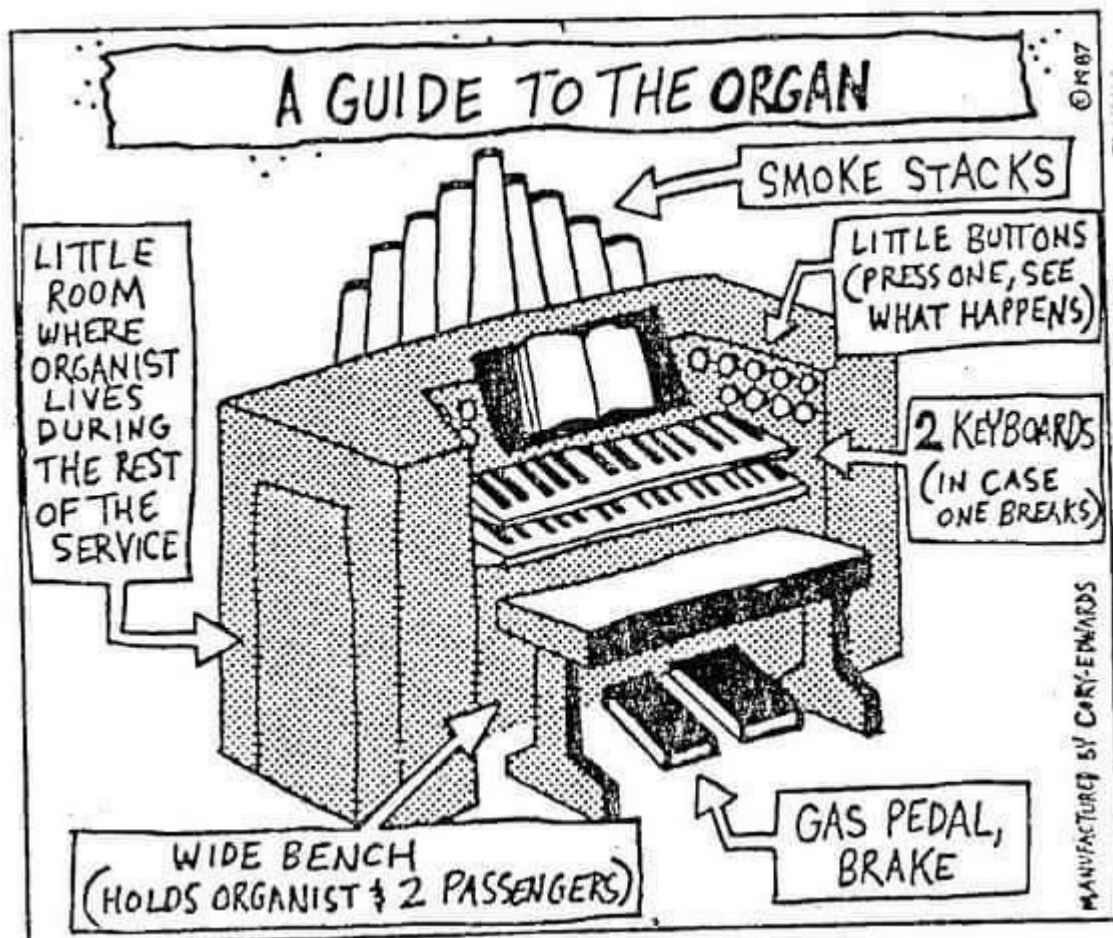


CHOIR AND MUSIC

“I can’t remember when we last had one,” said a member of the church choir.

Whether this was about the Choral Evensong service for which the choir was preparing, or about the cup of tea between our extended rehearsal and the service, was not clear. But it could have applied equally to either. The cup of tea was courtesy the “Marvellous May” initiative, which ensured that a hot drink was always available in the church throughout the month. The extended rehearsal was required by the choir, who had not sung a Choral service for a few years and were a bit low in numbers. Added to this they had just heard that talisman Ben James would be unable to come and take the rehearsal or direct the singing due to a viral infection (not Covid!).

However, St Mary’s is not known as the “well-prepared” church for nothing. In fact, I am not aware that it is known as the well-prepared church, but on this occasion, it was ready. Our organist for Choral Evensong was David Storey, one of our regulars, who particularly has missed the beauty and challenges of the Choral Evensong tradition.



He slid off the organ bench to direct the choir in the unaccompanied Introit (“Cantate Domino” by Pitoni), and conducted from the organ, with a wave or a nod, during the Psalm, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (by Wood in D). The music was selected by Ben, and the anthem “O thou the central orb” (Wood) seemed initially too imposing for a choir of our resources. But Ben knew his singers! And David extracted every decibel from each voice, so that nine of us filled the church with “harmonious noise”, as he ratcheted up the organ to match. By the time we closed with a last verse descant to “Austria”, the tune for “Glorious things of thee are spoken”, there was a feel of “Festival” around, totally in keeping with “Marvellous” May.

Peter Fall

Choir Anthems in June 2022

5th June “From the rising of the sun” (Ouseley)

19th June “O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace” (Lloyd Webber)

26th June “Come Holy Ghost” (Attwood)

Would your children enjoy a holiday camp this summer?

If your children enjoy multi-activity residentials with a mix of sport, adventure, arts and crafts, fun and games, or if they would prefer a specialist holiday which focuses on sailing, technology, performing arts or baking, then a Scripture Union summer camp may well be a holiday they would enjoy.

SU has been organising holidays and activities for children, young people and families for more than 100 years, and this year offers an extensive programme. More details at: <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/holidays-events>

A view from the pew



“Are you coming out?” I used to shout through the letter box of number 74 next door. And David would usually come running to the front, open the door and say “In a minute.” Sometimes his Mum would intervene and say that “David can’t come out to play today because.....” I rarely heard the reason. I might argue that “it isn’t going to rain”, or “we won’t go over the road”, or even that “we will go to the common to play football”. I rarely won her over. Mrs Jones was adamant that David would not be able to join me in the street. Only “street urchins” and “gypsies” roamed the roads. David was most definitely not “like that”, so he would not be “coming out”.

WHEN YOUR FRIENDS USED TO SHOW UP
AT YOUR DOOR TO COME OUT AND PLAY...



DO YOU REMEMBER?



But Jake Daniels has “come out”. He is the seventeen-year-old Blackpool footballer who recently declared publicly that he is gay. Professional football is seen as a hard man’s game. Gay men are generally perceived as “soft” and “effeminate”, being unsuited to the rigours of training and performing at the top level of sport. However, this brave move – which may well lead to adverse crowd reaction – has lifted the lid just a fraction on the taboo subject.

Despite homosexuality being decriminalised in 1967 (in England and Wales) sport has not generally followed the same open approach shown by for example entertainers or politicians. Hostile abuse, homophobic chanting and threats have remained in football, making it difficult for players to be true to themselves.

Interestingly, a number of high-profile women players have come out as lesbian, including England footballers Lily Parr, Lianne Sanderson, Casey Stone, Kelly Smith and Fara Williams. Attitudes around the women’s game seem to be more tolerant than in the men’s.

Where do we stand in all of this? Should we condemn such activity as sinful? Should we support every individual's right to make their own choices? Should we just keep our head down and hope that no-one asks us our opinion? Is the Bible a good guide on how to live our life? Is our God-given free will our primary resource?

I don't know the answer. I oscillate between thinking that it is wrong to go against the way God set up our sexuality, but then considering that it is wrong to criticise those whom God loves. Do we stick with ancient (allegedly) God-given rules, or "move with the times" to a more enlightened (by God?) period of human history? What do you think?

Peter Fall

Up to 500,000 children's story books on faithfulness distributed for Platinum Jubilee

Up to half a million story books are being given to primary school-aged children for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by the Church of England and Thy Kingdom Come, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's global prayer movement.



The book, 'Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle', is the latest development from the Cheeky Pandas, a children's online cartoon series.

The free storybook, based on the theme of faithfulness, helps children understand the faithfulness of God – in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service.

The book is part of plans for this year's Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which unites Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost. It is also an official Church of England schools resource for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Alongside the book, similar in size to Mr Men and Little Miss books, there will be a brand new five-part online TV series of the Cheeky Pandas, based on the Fruit of the Spirit and inspired by the Bible.

More details at <https://cheekypandas.com/product/queen-cj-and-the-bouncy-castle/>

Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

A special extended bank holiday weekend this month will give communities across the UK a chance to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In February this year, HM the Queen became the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years of service.

The weekend, from Thursday June 2nd to Sunday June 5th will include a birthday parade, beacons across the country, a 'platinum party' at Buckingham Palace, a pageant and thousands of street parties and lunches. Many churches will be holding special services and events.

A centrepiece of the celebrations will be a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, London, on Friday June 3rd. It's fitting that the service will form a key part of the Jubilee, as the Queen has been vocal in speaking about her Christian faith in a series of high-profile broadcasts.

In her Christmas Day broadcast in 2016, she said: "Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives.

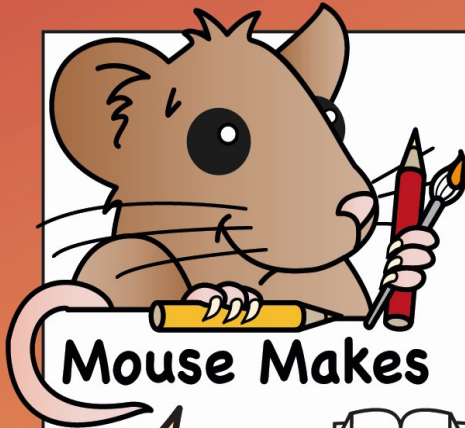
"I am one of them, because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe."

Journalist Catherine Butcher, who has written 'Our Faithful Queen – 70 years of faith and service' to mark the Platinum Jubilee, recalls: "The Queen Mother subscribed to daily devotional Bible reading notes. She regularly read Bible stories to the young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret and taught them to pray. Both girls started their weekly school lessons with half an hour of Bible reading, under the guidance of their governess, and weekly church attendance has been a lifelong pattern for the Queen, who is said to keep a well-read Bible by her bedside."

Catherine Butcher tells how evangelist Billy Graham wrote in this autobiography, 'Just as I am' about meeting the Queen on several occasions. He said: "I always found her very interested in the Bible and its message."

The Queen is Supreme Governor of the Church of England but her interest in faith goes well beyond this title. She holds a strong Christian faith and has exemplified this in her lifetime of dedicated service.

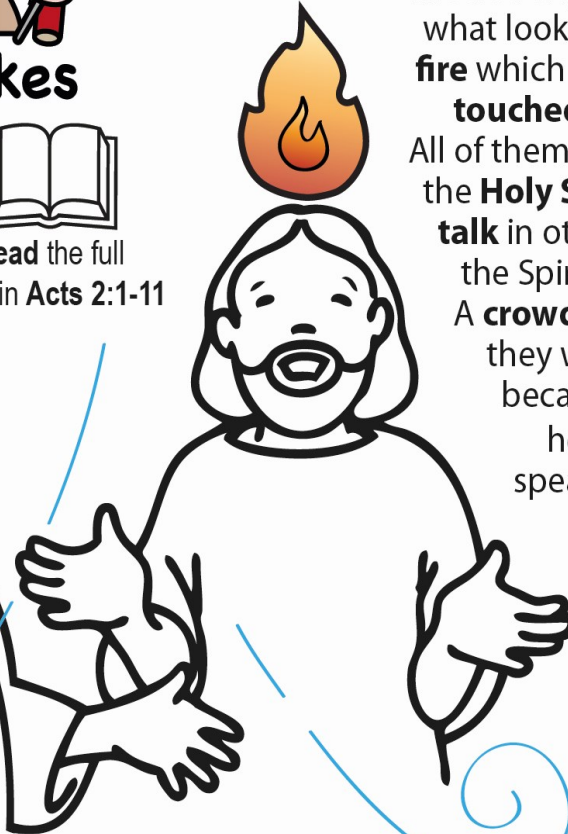
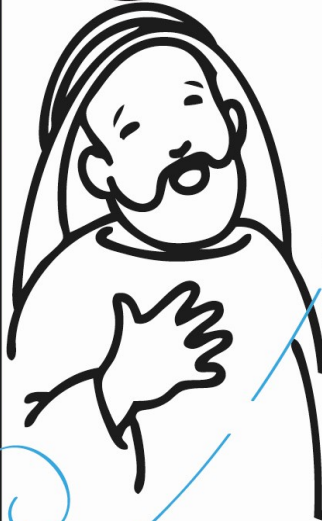
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Mouse Makes



Read the full story in Acts 2:1-11



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

It was the **festival** of Pentecost, **fifty days** since **Passover** and **Jews** from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to **celebrate**.

The **Apostles** and other believers were all **together** in one place when they heard a **sound** like a strong **wind** and **saw** what looked like **tongues** of **fire** which spread out and **touched each** person. All of them were **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** and began to **talk** in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. A **crowd** gathered outside, they were all excited because each of them heard the believers speaking in their **own**

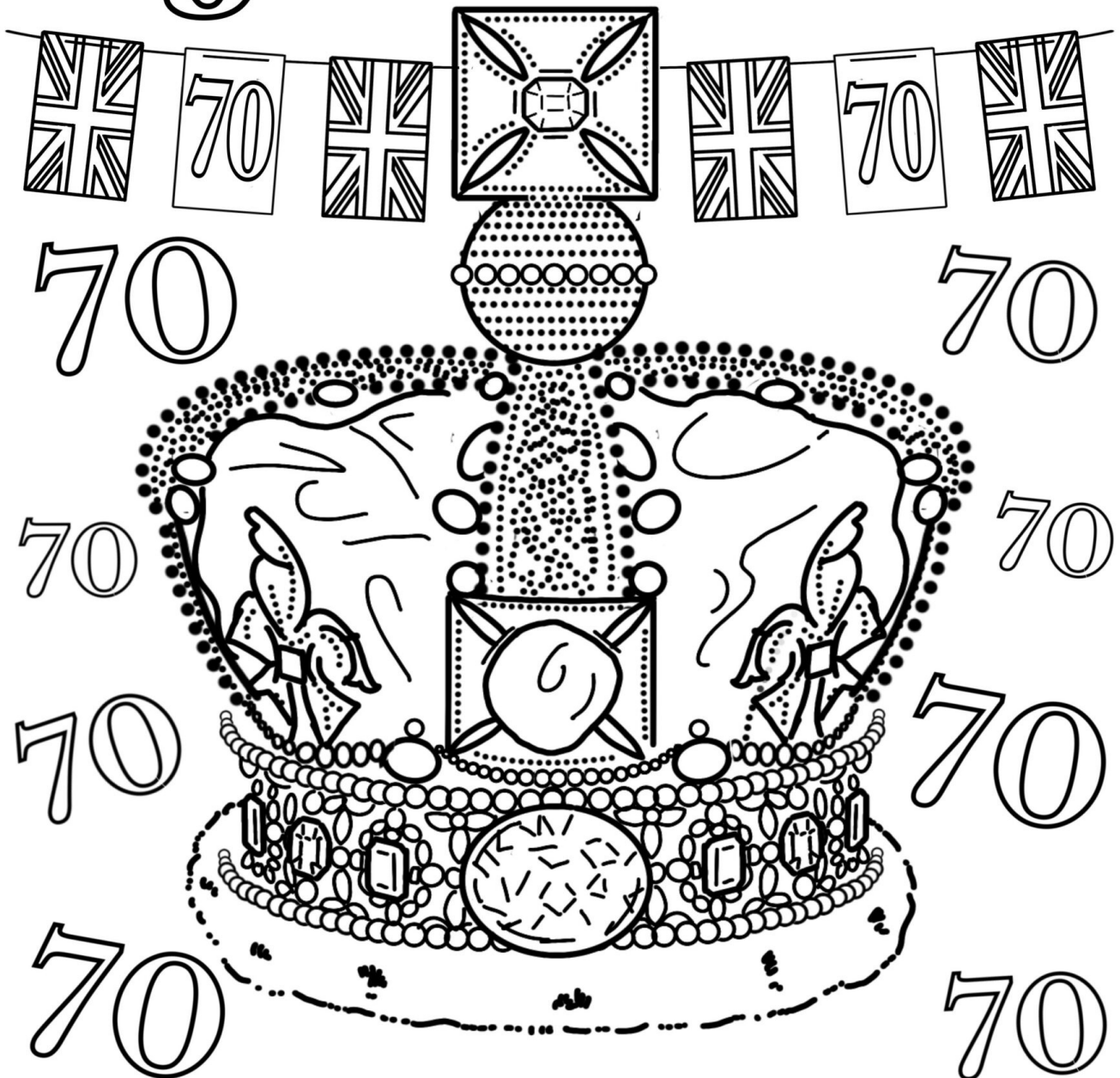
language about the great things **God** had done.

About 3,000 people **heard**, **believed** and were **baptised** that day!

How colourful can you make this picture

Platinum

70 Jubilee 70



Worship Diary

We are pleased to be offering worship with less restrictions but conscious that a degree of caution is still both wise and appreciated. The PCC recently discussed changes to St. Mary's Covid precautions. The following will be our practice for the immediate future:

- Wearing a mask will now be optional. Masks and hand gel will still be made available.
- All pews may now be used and the one-way system discontinued
- At the peace, physical greeting is now an option but non-contact greeting is still to be respected and movement about the church to be limited.
- At Holy Communion the elements for the congregation will continue to be covered until the distribution. Small individual cups will be continued to be used for the wine. The clergy and Communion Assistants will continue to wear masks and gloves for the distribution.

If you have any questions, please do speak with Alan, Alison or a member of the PCC.

Our Sunday Clubs meet when we do not have a Family Service or at times during school holidays.

Our services will continued to be live streamed and can be viewed on our Facebook page unless otherwise stated:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>

The words of the service can be found on our website:

<https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/lockdown/st-marys-worship/>

The services of worship for June will be as follows:

Sunday 5th – Pentecost

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 12th – Trinity Sunday

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 19th – 1 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 26th – 2 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|
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| <i>Day off Friday</i> | 74 London Lane BR1 4HE e.mail:agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk | |
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