

St Mary's Church, Bromley
Parish Magazine
November 2021



God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease,
poverty and pain shall end,
and the earth knows the peace of heaven,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG

www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p



Some of the poppies from the Field of Remembrance
in front of the church building



These are the flowers that were brought to the All Souls Service
on the 31 October along with the two Books of Remembrance;
all of which were presented during the service.
Numbers are not everything but 103 names were included
in the Roll of Remembrance.

Welcome to the November edition of the Parish Magazine.

WE (Parish Magazine editors) have managed to keep the magazine going (with the help of a very few contributors) during the last 18 months of the pandemic. Now unless we can get new blood on the editorial staff there will be a problem with producing the magazine on a monthly basis , if at all. Elaine Wakefield who was our technical producer as well as an Editor has retired leaving Jill Atkinson and myself as editors. I'm aware many parishes have one editor but we have had three quarters working as a team which means one is not pressured into producing the magazine every month. If you feel you would like to come on board as an editor please contact Jill or myself.

The Parish magazine is an important outreach source to the congregation and to all parishioners it would be sad to lose it or to resort to a leaflet once quarter. We also need more contributors please think about whether you could help by writing an article now and then for the magazine.

Jo Clark

If you wish to make payment for the magazine online the bank details are:

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A free pdf copy is available from the website.

This month's editor : Jo Clark

Editor for December/January: Jill Atknison

Copy date: Tuesday 21st November 2021

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



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*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path*
-Psalm 119:10

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.

Remember, remember..



Last year presented many challenges with the lockdown and restrictions on meeting with people. I imagine different people found different aspects of this challenging. Having children at home and supervising home schooling was for many people a new skill. Not being able to travel and take holidays was tough. I wonder what your experience was?

One of the things for me was that time felt so strange. I remember thinking 'I don't believe this is October'. The months had passed but there had been an absence of the usual pattern of meetings and celebrations. In some strange way for me it was as if time had not passed in the same way.

As a child one of the celebrations I enjoyed was what was then called Guy Fawkes Night. Leading up to it you could buy Guy Fawkes masks and fireworks in newsagents. People would make full size figures that represented Guy Fawkes that would be put on the top of bonfires. Our family would have a party in the back garden and let off fireworks. But we did not burn poor old Guy Fawkes!

I also remember it was a time of public information films on the television warning people of the danger of injury from fireworks which could be many and horrible. As time has passed private fireworks parties have been replaced by big public displays. The emphasis has moved from Guy Fawkes to the fireworks themselves and the celebration being called Bonfire Night.

For me the fifth of November was also announcing that Christmas was not far away and our family Christmas celebrations were one of the highlights of the year. Celebrations give an order to life and with the end of October and November there are the festivals of remembrance.

The first in the church calendar is All Souls. St. Mary's has its service to remember the people we have know, loved and who have died .It is a way publicly to mark the lives of people who have been parted from us by death. Most of the people remembered will have died some time ago, maybe some years. They are remembered without the immediate experience of loss. This

gives some space to think of them, may I say, with a little more clarity.

Having a service also gives an opportunity to set some time apart to be reflective. Of course this can happen at any time but some structure can help. It maybe that you take time on the anniversary of a dear one's death or their birthday, to have some time to remember aspects of their life.

November has Armistice Day on the eleventh with two minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. There is also Remembrance Sunday with familiar commemorations including its two minutes silence as well. As with Bonfire Night, Armistice has had changes in its meaning. From remembering the First World War to then including the Second World War this has gone on to take in other campaigns especially current conflicts. But there is also a re-evaluation of what past conflicts were about. In particular the loss of people from other lands or races who fought who have been forgotten.

These acts of remembrance are part of the structure of our time as the year passes. They tell us who we are as we remember the people who had been so precious and have not lost their value through death. They also enable us to grow as we transform our identity. England is not now founded in being anticatholic which was a sentiment deep in Guy Fawkes Night. We recognize that our nation was in some sense a multicultural society during the World Wars because of the range of people who fought in our armies.

The title of this piece come from a ditty for Guy Fawkes Night. 'Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder treason and plot'. What we remember matters. But what happened is not settled. There are people who have been forgotten that need to be remembered. There are values that now need to be left in the past. There are events that need to be re-evaluated even if we find we are not the people we thought we were. But in all of this the search is for truth and Jesus says the truth will set you free (John 8.32).

Best wishes



The Vicar's Day off is Friday

Change and Provisionality



Revd Alison Tyler

Our Christian calling is to change, to change into the likeness of Christ, following in his footsteps, living lives of mutual love and service and to actively seek the new life he offers. On one level this is so obvious I do not need to say it, and then on another level human beings are generally not fond of change, find it threatening, and seek stability, predictably and reliability instead. So, we do need to remind ourselves that we are called to change, my observation of myself is that whilst I long to change, I also resist it very strongly. There is so much to enjoy wherever we are and predicting what will happen if I risk change is largely impossible, so often I prefer not to risk it. The problem is, we are now in a situation in which change has become even faster and more inevitable. The post-Covid world will be one of provisionality and change. The issues Covid has shown up and has amplified will need actions taking, and the way ahead is not clear so any decisions we make may be provisional and need rapid revision. Living with uncertainty will become a part of our new normal, and we will need to resist the temptation to look inwards and hope it will go away.

We have been through an extraordinarily difficult time, and we are living in an age of deconstruction, of questions and lack of confidence, all leading to distrust of institutions and of leadership. Much media activity seems to be either about conspiracy theories or about pulling people down, stirring up negativity and creating divisions when collectively we would be better served by working together. Such social conditions undermine our confidence in our faith as Christians - but now is not the time to back off in despair, rather we need to return to our roots to our calling.

As Paul told the Philippians in chapter 3 we need to be following him in imitating Christ – in service and self-emptying love, giving ourselves for others, confident we are following Christ, standing firm in our calling even though we are in a new world. It may well become a world in which all decisions are provisional and open to change if circumstances change. So we

need to seek reassurance in those fundamental things that we know and believe.

Over and over again we can return to our roots for strength and inspiration, to our baptismal promises and the Commission we are given at our baptism and which we all repeat at any time we renew our baptismal promises. It will protect us from being too inward looking, and direct our attention outwards to our sisters and brothers and the communities in which we live. There are no easy answers to facing the future, hope, faith, and trust in God on the one hand, and on the other the very practical actions from the baptism service. These things will give us a good starting point, so I have copied them to encourage us in the times ahead.

The minister leads the congregation in the Commission

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil?

and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All With the help of God, I will.

Eternal God, our beginning, and our end,
preserve in your people the new life of baptism;
as Christ receives us on earth,
so may he guide us through the trials of this world
and enfold us in the joy of heaven, where you live and reign,
one God for ever and ever.

All Amen.



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR (Part-time)

required to work in the Parish Office attached to the
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63 College Road, Bromley BR1 4HE

10 hours per week, £10.85 per hour

The successful candidate will often be the first point of reference for parishioners and will need the ability to deal sensitively with a variety of people.

The person appointed will need to demonstrate good secretarial and organisational skills, with the ability to work both independently and as part of a team. A presence in the worshipping life of the congregation and support of the Ethos Statement of the Diocese of Rochester are required.

Experience using Information Technology
is essential to this role.

Further details and application form available from
St. Mary's website <https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/>

Closing date for applications 19 November 2021
Interviews will take place on 24 November 2021

St Mary's Bromley Quiz Night with Sally Adcock



To be held on **Saturday 4 December** by Zoom. Join from **7.15pm** start promptly at 7.30pm. You will only need pen and paper, plus drinks and snacks of own choice. 5 rounds of questions, with interval break of 10 minutes after round 3, to replenish drinks etc. and comfort break. This is aimed as a fun way for people to get together socially but virtually and all are welcome. Minimum donation please of £5 to boost our charitable giving, St Mary's Plaistow PCC account number: 42417198, and sort code: 60-04-02. Please include "Quiz" in the reference field. Keep quizzing!!

Topic: St Mary's Bromley Quiz Night
Time: Dec 4, 2021 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81088275699?
pwd=dExmbEtwVWJDUCtxT2gybEo0Z1NXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81088275699?pwd=dExmbEtwVWJDUCtxT2gybEo0Z1NXdz09)

Meeting ID: 810 8827 5699

Passcode: 618884

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Mothers' Union Matters



On Saturday 27th November 2021 members and friends of Mothers' Union are coming together across Britain and Ireland, and around the world, to hold a three minute silence at 1.03 pm. This is our Global Day of Action in response to the call for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

“1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse” and that Mothers' Union as a leading women's organisation believe this to be unacceptable. Much press and research has also shown that cases of domestic violence have increased during lockdown and the pandemic and so there is more need than ever to join together and say “No more 1 in 3”.

We will gather, where possible, for a three-minute silence at 1.03pm (linking to the 1 in 3 theme). MU want to make this as big as possible, combining the voices of four million members around the world – calling for action on an international scale and in the country where we live.

Yes, even in England and Wales there are terrifying levels of gender-based violence, as these O.N.E. **Domestic Abuse** statistics indicate:

- Almost one in three women aged 16-59 will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime (Office for National Statistics (2019), Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2019).
- On average, two women a week are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics (2019), Homicide in England and Wales).
- In the year ending March 2019, 1.6 million women experienced domestic abuse (Office for National Statistics (2019), Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales).
- The Children's Commissioner has estimated that 3 million children in England under the age of 17 live in a household where an adult has experienced domestic abuse (Children's Commissioner (2018), Estimating the prevalence of the 'toxic trio', Vulnerability Technical Report 2).

Regarding **Sexual Violence**, the statistics make equally depressing reading:

- Nearly a quarter of women have experienced sexual assault or attempted sexual assault since the age of 16, while one in 14 have

experienced rape or attempted rape (Office of National Statistics (2021), Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration, England and Wales: year ending March 2020).

- In 2019-20, Rape Crisis specialist services in England and Wales were accessed by 66,045 people. They provided 775,447 sessions of specialist support, including advocacy, emotional support and counselling (Rape Crisis (2021), Rape Crisis Statistics).

There are also available figures for **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** and also for **Forced and Child Marriage**. It is hard to comprehend that these matters are prevalent in English society, but raising awareness is part of the task undertaken by MU to combat these evils.

Here is the prayer that will follow the three minute silence:

*Lord of justice and mercy,
Who has called us to be the body of Christ,
Use us as his hands and feet in the world;
To raise awareness of what must be challenged,
And to address the plight of the vulnerable.*

*We unite together across the world
To champion the cause of justice
And to offer up our prayers for all who
Are affected by gender-based violence.
Amen.*

We ask you to join with us as Mothers' Union members pray for an end to all gender-based violence.

Peter Fall



WELCARE in BROMLEY are holding their annual Thanksgiving service at Bromley Parish Church at 11.30 a.m. on Friday 19th November. All are welcome to attend to hear about the work done locally to support families in Bromley. It is followed by a free buffet lunch.

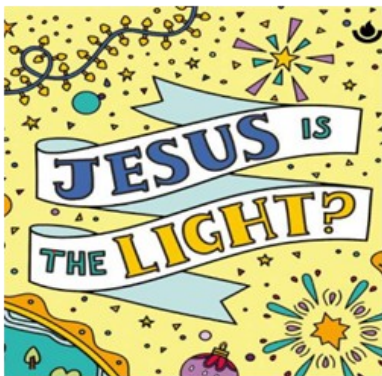
Sunday Clubs Light Party – 31st October 2021



As Autumn is now here, Sunday Clubs are being held in Church House. We still meet in church at 10:30am and then we will walk over to Church House for a Bible story, songs, games, craft and prayers.

We really did enjoy 'Garden Church' over the summer, so much so, that one young person (naming no names!) was upset that Sunday Clubs are now indoors!

We held a special Sunday Clubs Light Party on 31st October 2021, where we celebrated Jesus, as the 'Light of the World'. At this time of year, we thought about other celebrations that are held, with some of these celebrations that are often associated with darkness, however, we as Christians, believe that light is stronger than darkness!



We thought about different sources of light, with 'light related' items being pulled out of the song bag e.g. torch, lantern, matches, candle, magnets with a lighthouse and a sun. And discussed how much we needed light in our lives.

We then played a memory game where all these items were shown for 2 mins and then covered up, with the young people having to remember them all!

We also watched a short animation presentation from Scripture Union, which reminded everyone of Jesus's key words in John 8:12 'I am the Light of the World' and we learnt the following actions to remember the verse:

- I am (*point up to heaven*)
- The light (*open and close finger to make twinkly actions*)
- Of the world (*make a big circle shape with both hands*)

The young people then decorated candle holders with sparkly stickers and autumn leaves, which were then carried into church singing 'This little light of mine' with the church lights dimmed.

Nina Arcuri

Huge thanks to all the people setting up and contributing to Sunday Clubs



*Frances Boyden Michael Clements
Jacqui Harney Anne Yolland*



CHOIR NOTES

St Mary's Church Choir has continued to sing at every service during the pandemic, though with reduced numbers and full Covid precautions. For some time these were the only voices heard singing in the service, as it was considered too risky for the congregation to sing out loud. However, everyone is now able to sing in church, but social distancing is still being maintained, masks are worn when moving around and hand-gel is applied routinely.

Choir practice on Thursday evenings has resumed, with full precautions, and a maximum of ten items is rehearsed each week. Some of these are for imminent services, some anthems are repeated from a previous week and some are completely new.

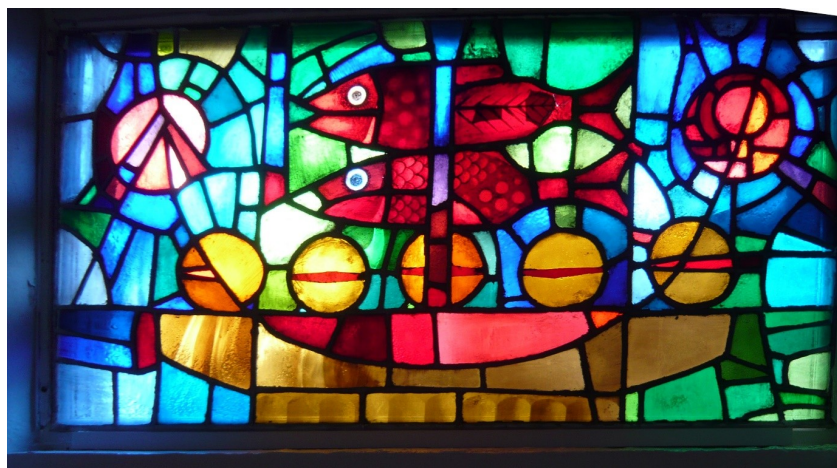
Because of the limitations imposed, and for lack of a regular tenor voice, the choir has been exploring anthems for three, rather than four, voice parts, i.e. soprano, alto and bass. Some of these SAB



anthems are arrangements of well-known songs – which can be confusing, as the accompanying parts differ from the original. However, it does give the choir an opportunity to overcome the difficulty of a missing voice part. That there are so many arrangements (and original compositions) of this sort for SAB indicates how valuable (and rare) a resource the tenor voice is. Clearly St Mary's choir is not the only one to suffer in this regard.

The choir is now planning for the Advent and Christmas seasons, with many popular carols to prepare for the special services. It is hoped that, with careful planning, the choir may be able to have a few more singers than has been the case for most of this year. If you would like to join the choir for one or more of the Advent/Christmas services, please speak to a member of the choir or contact Peter Fall (details at the end of the Magazine). Peter Fall

Little Fishes



The miracle represented in the window is one of the best known New Testament miracles, the Feeding of the Five Thousand, from just five loaves and two little fishes and it is reported in all four Gospels.

There are other fishy miracles in the Bible, both New and Old Testaments. After the feeding of the five thousand, probably the next one to spring to mind is Jonah and the whale. Jonah is swallowed whole and lives in the belly of the whale for three days before being spat out.

There have been a couple of more recent examples of people being swallowed whole. The most recent one was of the coast in Cape Cod in June this year. It was reported by the BBC, amongst other news organizations, when Michael Packard, a lobster diver, was swallowed by a humpbacked whale. He was more lucky than Jonah and was spat out after less than a minute with only a dislocated knee. Before him, there was a South African wildlife photographer, Rainer Schimpf, in March 2019 who was photographed by his colleague at the point when he was half swallowed by the whale. Of course, none of these were actually swallowed. These whales have very narrow throats, only the width of your arm, so they are bound to spit out the person who has been accidentally taken into their mouths.

There were also the miraculous catches of fishes on the sea of Galilee. After the fishermen has been unsuccessfully fishing all night, Jesus told the fishermen to cast their nets into the water and the re-

sulting catch was massive. We have all seen the massive fish balls in David Attenborough's "Blue Planet", where large shoals of fish get rounded up into swirling masses by the predatory tuna, seals, dolphins and so on, only to be swallowed whole by enormous whales exploding from the deep.

Less spectacular, but still amazing are the shoals of filter feeders which gather when the currents and weather form concentrated patches of the algae that they feed on. These algal blooms and the fish that feed on them can get so large that they are visible from space. This is probably what happened earlier this autumn. We were in Eastbourne, buying fish from the fishermen's shop on the beach and I asked how fresh were the mackerel. "Oh, very fresh – we have just now picked them up from the beach. Go down and have a look – the sea is absolutely boiling with mackerel". When we went down onto the beach we could see drifts of silver whitebait and the occasional mackerel washed up onto the shore, so fresh that they were still moving. The small children were collecting whitebait to use as bait for the lobster pots and the older ones were harvesting the mackerel for the shop, where they were selling them cleaned and gutted. The silver drifts of whitebait extended all along the beach, into town – a couple of miles at least.

This was so unexpected that even the seagulls took time to notice the bounty, but eventually they did and on the third day they arrived in force



There are many other fisherman's tales to be told, but I will let them all get away.

Trine Hevzi.

A view from the pew



The old gospel song “I’m a believer” has always rung true for me. I tend to believe most things. When at primary school I was naïve. At secondary school I was gullible. As an adult I want imagination to be real.

I have what is known as the “Tinkerbell effect”. You may have been to a pantomime of “Peter Pan” and seen Tinkerbell presented as a bright spotlight, acting as Peter’s conscience. But when she drinks poison, to prevent Peter taking it, her light dims, and the audience is encouraged to believe in her and clap, to make her come back to life. It always works!

Believing in something strongly enough to make it become true for you is what is called the “Tinkerbell effect”. It was coined by Frank H. Durgin (a psychology professor) in a paper he wrote in 2002. He argued that the brain “fills in” to make sense of what it sees, hears or perceives.



Some experiments were conducted with random dots on a screen. The observer was asked to make the dots all move from left to right by willpower alone. After a short while, the observer claimed that he had been successful. Although the dots were still completely random, he perceived them as moving from left to right. Another observer was asked to make them move the other way; and claimed to have done it. Finally they were both asked to repeat the experiment together – and both claimed that the dots had moved – for one observer to the right, and for the other to the left. This appeared to be an example of the imagination imposing order on a random event. Durgin described “the character of perception as an

act of imagination fitted to the available information”.



Think about Ten Pound Notes (don't we all!). Why is that scrap of paper worth something? Because we all imbue it with value. We *see* a piece of paper. We *imagine* real, hard cash. Fortunately, so does everyone else. “Money is a story we tell

ourselves.” (*Nehu Narula, Digital Currency Initiative Director*).

By the way, there is also a “Reverse Tinkerbell effect”. Examples are:

- the more you think that your vote matters, the more likely you are to vote – and the less your vote will matter.
- the more people think a place is a quiet and unspoiled spot, the less quiet and unspoiled it becomes.

I hope that you get to see a pantomime this Christmas season, and that, like me, you are able to suspend your disbelief.

Peter Fall

St Mary's Festival Choir

Sadly, there will again be no Festival Choir concert at St Mary's Church in November this year due to the restrictions of Covid-19. We are hopeful that 2022 may see an improvement, and that the Festival Choir will be able to meet for practice in the Spring. If so, this would lead to a performance of “Olivet to Calvary” by Maunder on Good Friday 15th April.

There are even ideas being formulated for a Festival Choir concert in Autumn 2022, loosely based around creation. The working title is “And it was very good”, which should inspire our confidence that it will actually happen. A sequence of words and music is planned to bring together the wonder and the joy of all we see about us.

Peter Fall

Lest We Forget

*'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place: and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard amid the guns below.'*



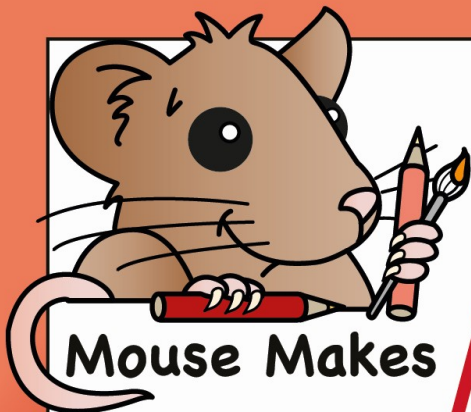
This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

From Jo Clark



Mouse Makes



I AM
THE

Read John 10:11 and 14



I AM
THE

Read John 15:1 and 35



I AM
THE

Read John 6: 35,51



OF



I AM
THE

Read John 11:25

AND THE



I AM
THE

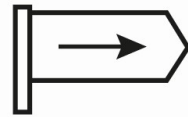
Read John 18:12

OF THE

I AM
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Read John 14:6



I AM
THE

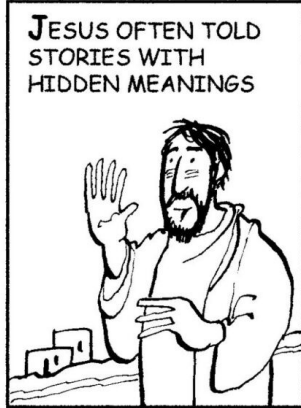
Read John 10:9



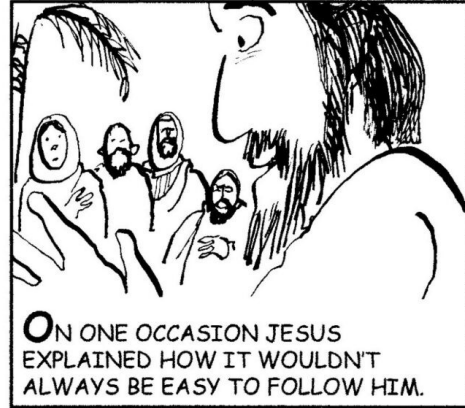
B R A N C H E S L I F E T B
S H E P H E R D F A T H E R
L O J G A T E R W O R L D E
I V E D D I A M O A U I N A
F I S E O B L I G H T F O D
E N U G O O D W A Y H E H E
R E S U R R E C T I O N B L

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

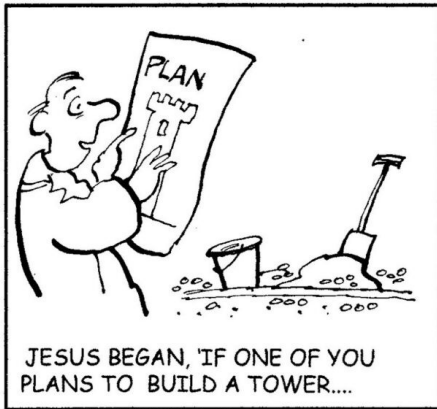
The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....'



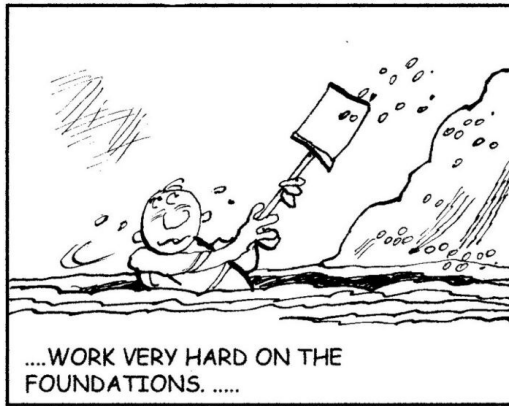
...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



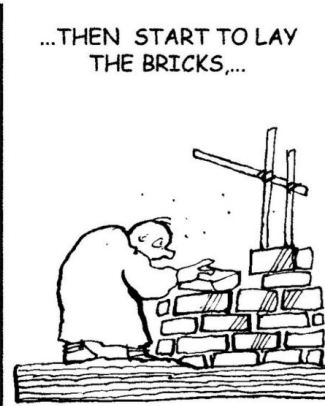
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....



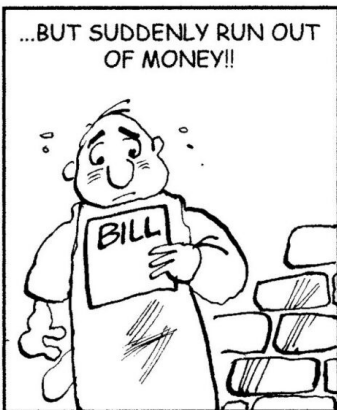
...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,



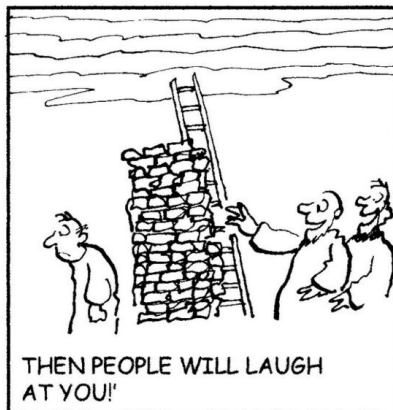
...WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.



...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

Worship Diary

It has been good to continue to recently restore some aspects of our worship. We have reintroduced the congregation receiving wine at Holy Communion and singing.

Our Sunday Clubs continue to meet when we do not have a Family Service. But as the Autumn draws on there will not be Garden Church and Sunday Clubs will take place in the church hall.

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 November will be as follows:

Sunday 7th – 3rd Sunday before Advent

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 14th – Remembrance Sunday

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 21st – Christ the King

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 28th – Advent Sunday

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

We also have a quite service of Compline at 8.00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday on our Facebook page.

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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