

St Mary's Church, Bromley
Parish Magazine

JULY/AUGUST 2024

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p

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End of Term Breakfast

Sunday 21st July 2024

at 10.30 am

in the church garden, if dry

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Welcome to the July and August 2024 edition of the Parish Magazine.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition. What a lovely surprise it was to receive an article from Alan and Gill (page 8).

The deadline for our September edition is Friday 23rd August, please keep your articles coming in.

Have a lovely summer.

Atlanta Topham

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

Sort Code 09 01 51

Account 27769404 (St Marys Plaistow Parish Magazine)

Monthly cost 75p

Annual cost (10 months) £7.50

Postal service (10 months plus 2nd class postage cost) £14.10

A free pdf copy is available from the website at admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk.

This month's editor: Atlanta Topham

Editor for September: Jo Clark

Copy date: 23rd August 2024

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.

Ordinary Time ?



Summer has suddenly arrived in all its full light and heat, already things are beginning to dry out slightly and to scorch, berries are beginning to form and fruits to take shape.

Yet its only three weeks ago that we drove down the M11 through roads and lanes awash with the flowers of late spring ,the wild roses like joyous bunting weaving through the hedgerow, the marguerite daisies, the elder and the blackberry bushes like bridal veils in the hedges, and the cow parsley just bursting into bloom, all set against the lush bright green hedges that have grown so well , and kept s green due to the very wet spring.

Spring and summer are reminders of the profligate generosity of God in creation, the variety and quantity of abundant and beautiful life, flowers plants and seeds, all of which come to fruition in the glory of autumn. They are also reminders to live in the present and to enjoy the beauty whilst we can, because many beautiful things are fleeting and do not last long.

Its only about 6 weeks since Ascension Day and 5 since Trinity Sunday, and yet we are in Ordinary time. Which is not ,as it sounds, about ordinari-ness, but from its Latin roots, a word meaning 'order' about the numbering of the Sundays in order. There is nothing at all ordinary about God's gift of time, certainly not the summer season it is full of wonder and potential.

It is not a short season in the Church's year either ,but a longer one in which to celebrate, study and seek to understand Jesus's teaching and his ministry in greater detail. The great events of Christmas ,Easter and Pentecost are the mountain top experiences of our faith journey, ordinary time on

on the other hand is the everyday miracle of living in God's presence and learning more and more about the Kingdom. Listening for the still small voice.

The liturgical colour for ordinary time is mainly green, for the growing and spreading of the Gospel, like the plants in the hedgerows and the seeds they generate. Green is also the colour for Creation and we are called in these difficult days to join the lament along with so many others, for the spread of deserts and wildfires

We have celebrated the physical return of Jesus to his Father at the Ascension, and now we have the chance to explore once more the world he has left us in, transformed and made new, To look for and to find new meanings in the light of his teaching and ministry. At the same time we come to terms with his seeming absence, present with us now only in the bread and wine, the encounters in our prayers, and with one another, 'when two or three are gathered together'. But also within the natural and created world that God has made.

When Jesus rose from the dead everything was made new and changed, so we are part of that new beginning, that fresh exploration, going about our daily lives seeking to be aware of God's activity in them, in creation and in our relationships together.

It is in seeking meaning and purpose in making holy all the moments of our everyday lives, that we can be set free from the destructive norms of our society, the domination of market forces, the false values around success, possessions and over consumption, and instead enjoy the generosity of God and of one another. We can practice building up our communities, both large and small, restoration and renewal wherever possible, and we learn to live more simply and to take joy in enough. Enjoy spending time with God in the summer!

Alison Tyler

Alan and Gill – Santa Ready!



Yes it is very early to speak about Christmas but we have recently sorted out the fireplace in our retirement bungalow. The congregation of St. Mary's gave us a very generous cheque when Alan retired at the end of January. We put quite a bit of this towards a lovely fireplace which has taken a little while to finally be installed. We are now ready for our Christmas Eve visitor. In due course we are thinking of getting a log burner. It is amazing to realize we have now lived here for over three months. The move went well. The unpacking of the bungalow is complete and it does feel very much like home. There is still the garage to be sorted out and the garden will take many months to tame. Being patient in the garden will be important as the previous occupant was a keen gardener and we have been told there are great treasures to be cultivated. One of these has been raspberry canes and we have taken several pickings already, very juicy.

We have begun to get to know some of our neighbours and the general atmosphere in the village is very welcoming. Most people will say hello and have a few words of conversation with us. We have been attending the churches of the East Trent Group. The sort of arrangement is very much what is found in the countryside with eleven churches. The main ones have a Sunday service but most only occasionally. The group has been in interregnum since the end of January (déjà vu?) with two regular retired priests, lay ministers and support from the diocese to conduct the services. The arrival of a freshly retired vicar has caused great excitement. However Alan is still in his early months of retirement and does not even have Permission To Officiate yet.

It has been a delight to have a number of friends and relatives visit and in some cases stay with us. We have also travelled to see our daughters in Berlin and Edinburgh and friends in London. We have been asked 'what is it like to be retired?' In a good way we do not feel we have settled into a new way of life. But maybe we are going to continue to find many new activities and challenges. Amongst other things already Gill has joined a book group and Alan has joined a sailing club. We have begun to explore Nottingham, Lincoln and Newark. There have also been trips to local RSPB sites and the wonders of the National Trust property at Belton near Grantham.

We continue to hear good things about the ongoing life of St. Mary's. We have so many fond memories of our time in Bromley and wish you all the best, not least with the appointment of the next vicar.

With our best wishes

Alan and Gill

Choir Notes

Members of a church choir are modest people, not given to boasting or show (mind you, just look at them each Sunday, in their distinctive robes, marching all round the church, graciously smiling at the congregation as they pass, and serenely taking their seats in the sanctuary).

Choir members are inoffensive folk (but if you don't want to get a hard stare, don't cough during their anthem), who are much given to excessive politeness ("After you, Sybil." "No, I insist, Gwendoline:" accompanied by a light push).

Their modesty extends to their knowledge of music ("What did you say a "crotchet" was, Sybil?"), a discerning ear ("Why did she say "Hymn 995?" I can't find it in my hymn book."), and a generous, co-operative spirit ("Why do I have to sit next to him? He can't sing a note in tune.").

Fortunately, the choir is blessed with understanding individuals who go out of their way to help members who are struggling with the notes ("No, Arthur. It's an "A". Higher: higher!"). And cometh a new choir member, cometh a real generosity of spirit. "No. I don't think we have a robe to fit *your* figure, dear."

It is, of course, a great advantage to have mature singers in the choir. Singers who have heard it all before and know what to do in every eventuality. "We turn to bow to the altar during the *last* verse of the *last* hymn." "No, surely that must be wrong. There must be time to process to the back of the church and return down the central aisle before the

hymn finishes. How long are the verses? Perhaps we should move during the *first* verse of the final hymn? Or maybe during the *penultimate* hymn? Though that might upset the preacher, if we moved *before* his sermon!"



But you can relax, as the choir members do. Not in the sense of playing Scrabble in the choir pews, as used to be the case, but more like “there is always someone to follow in a choir”. And the person who is followed knows what to do, knows when to sing, and (usually) knows what to sing. Because St Mary’s Church Choir operates without a conductor, though we do have a bus *driver* in our ranks, each member has to listen. Easily said, but not so easily done, when you yourself are singing! And to whom do you listen? The loudest voice? The sweetest voice? A voice with approximately the same pitch as yours? The idea is that it ensures most singers realise, before the end, when they are singing a different verse to everyone else. Or even a different hymn! Yes, listening skills are very important for a singer. This was proved recently when the organist moved the hymn tune up a semi-tone at the end of a verse. This had been tried before, many years ago, with disastrous consequences, so no-one had dared recently. The choir response was heart-warming. According to their personality, some stuck with the old key; some just “did as they were told” and still others tried to unite the factions by floating in the netherland between two keys – never quite in tune, but never quite out of tune either. It was a parable for the church, “stuck in the mud”, “trying to move forward”, “trying to appease both groups”. And like the church, the choir then moved on together, strengthened by the experience.

Peter Fall

We thank you Lord of all creation, for the wonder of the world in which we live: for the earth and all that springs from it; and for the mystery of life and growth.

From a prayer by Basil Naylor



A view from the pew



Having no permanent vicar is a trying time for members of a congregation, but St Mary's folk are bearing up remarkably well under the experience. In fact, some might suggest that the smorgasbord of priests and preachers presented weekly at the church has broadened our outlook and advanced our faith. Be that as it may, there is the risk that absence of a person at the helm reduces the effectiveness of a church's mission. Nonetheless, the arrival of new people in the pews is still happening and is cause for (ever so tactful) rejoicing.

St Mary's folk have always been a friendly lot, so chatting after service, over a cuppa, is a regular occupation for many in the church. This may make it harder for a newcomer to "escape" un-noticed – or it may mean that all the regulars are chatting with each other and have no eye for someone new hesitating before trying to speak with someone. Do they then give up and leave, without a word in their direction? It would be even better if they received an introduction to a few regulars, who may have something in common with them.

We all want to be loved, and spending time with a person is a good way of showing this. And if members of the Church of Jesus cannot do this, then who can? Of course, we are all busy, and mostly have enough contacts to be going along with. But the person entering our church may be seeking help, support, a friendly face, advice, shelter, or any of a hundred other reasons. Our task is to befriend the newcomer, uncover the need (if appropriate), and involve someone who may be able to help.

So if you manage to engage with someone after church who would (for example) like to come along and sing with the choir, do feel able to involve me, or any other choir member. But please don't push them in my direction if it is flower arranging that is their passion!

Peter Fall

Mothers' Union Matters

The Mothers' Union *is* its members.

St Mary's MU is no different. Its members **are** the Mothers' Union in North Bromley. In other words, they are the face of an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide. Its members are not all mothers or even all women, as there are men, widows, singles and grandparents involved in its work. Its main aim remains the support of marriage and family life, especially when there are times of adversity.



In contrast to trends in the rest of the United Kingdom, the MU at St Mary's is flourishing, with a full programme of events, offering mutual support to its members, and high "visibility" in the district. This summer has seen a new venture - of a cream tea, which was happily taken up by members. We went to "Jams on the Hill" in Beckenham and everyone enjoyed an excellent cream tea and good conversation.

The other side of the MU is its firm foundation in the Church, as shown by the annual Wave of Prayer, held on 14th July this year. Our prayers will be focussed on the dioceses of Toliara in Madagascar, Mbale in Uganda, Zaria & Ndokwa in Nigeria, and Chattisgarh in India, as well as on our home diocese of Rochester. The Wave of Prayer runs continuously, around the globe, so that the work and members of each and every area in which Mothers' Union is active is prayed for at some point. No wonder MU is such a strong force for good in a difficult world, being so grounded in prayer.

St Mary's has been allocated half-hour on **Sunday 14th July**. As this is a Sunday, the Wave of Prayer will be held in the North Transept of church after the morning service, when our members will take their cup of coffee to meet and pray.

Our Summer Porch
Coffee Morning this year
will be on **Wednesday 7th
August** from 10 am.

Everyone is invited to
drop in to the church

porch for a cuppa and a chat (biscuits/cake optional), or to sit outside
(weather permitting!). The Coffee Morning is in support of the MU Project
“Summer of Hope”. As examples of the possibilities, £42 will provide
agricultural training for a person, and £86 will support the Literacy Project.
Whatever is raised on 7th will go towards these worthy causes.

Peter Fall



Next MU Meetings

September

Wednesday 4 th	at 10 am	Members at Grace Café
Thursday 19 th	t 10 am	Knit and Knatter

MU Wave of Prayer

Sunday 14th July

This year our Diocesan Wave of Prayer will be on Sunday 14th July.

We will say these prayers in the North Transept, after the morning
service.

Please do come and join us for this short service

Confirmation, Sunday 19th May 2024 (Pentecost)

Place: St Mary's the Virgin Church, Vicar, Rev'd Amanda Spence

Confirmation by The Rt. Rev'd Dr Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Rochester

Candidates were Nicolas, Julia (husband and wife) and Susie, from the Parish of St Mary's the Virgin, presented by Rev'd Amanda Spence

Brenda from the Parish of Holy Trinity, Bromley Common, presented by Rev'd Roger Bristow

Myself, Sheila Crimmin, from the Parish of St Mary's Plaistow, presented by Rev'd Alison Tyler

My two daughters, Helen and Jane, were there to support me.

The day was brilliant, both the confirmation service and the weather. One of the candidates, Nicolas, was also baptised before confirmation. The Church and congregation were so welcoming and the Bishop was very kind and supportive. He even helped me on the steps when I struggled. His sermon was on Pentecost, which is always inspiring. The reading was from Acts 2: 1-21 (When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place) and the Gospel was John 15.26-27; 16.4b - 15 (When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf). There were five hymns, 'Be thou my vision', 'Amazing Grace', 'All to Jesus I surrender', 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' and 'Shine Jesus Shine'. (Fortunately, all familiar to me).

Two of us, Nicolas and myself, read out the statements that we had prepared, as to why we wanted to be confirmed, and then sent to Bishop Jonathan prior to the confirmation service. This I found particularly profound.

I was surprised at how emotional I found it, but was so glad that I had finally come to the right time and place and had been confirmed. Alison has been so supportive and challenging while I have prepared. For that I will always be thankful.

After the service we went into the meeting room, which is attached to the church. It is a beautiful light room (with an integral kitchen) and were welcomed again, with a wonderful supply of cakes and refreshments. It gave us all chance to discuss the service. A truly memorable day.

Sheila Crimmin

Super Saturday: Great North Swim & Dave Day

Since my last newsletter piece, I was true to my word about swimming again in the Great North Swim.

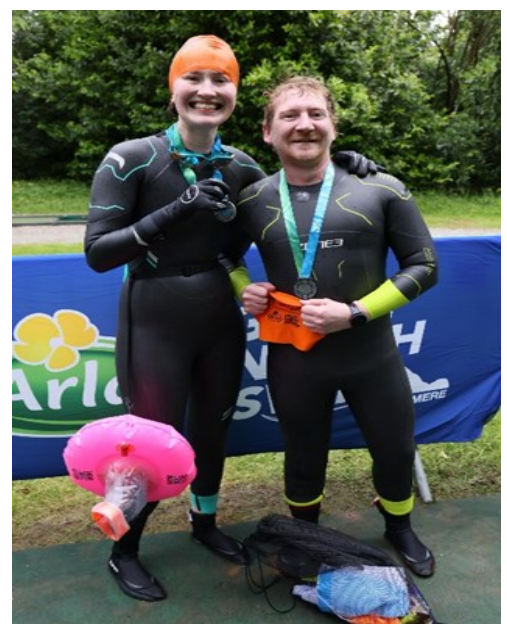
When I signed up for the 2024 Great North Swim in July 2023, I was still high on the endorphins from my first event the previous month. Excitingly



this year my (now) fiancé, Luke, was also able to take part, as he has recovered from his shoulder surgery in early 2023 which prevented him from competing, but he was a big support in giving me a lift to the swim.

This year I swam in aid of Bromley Little Theatre, who I pledged to swim for at their 2024 fundraising campaign launch (December 2023) to go towards their target of raising [£85,000](#) this year to support the ongoing redevelopment of the theatre.

On Saturday 8 June, it was finally time to take to the water again! I was able to complete a 1 mile (1,600m) swim in 47:32 (for those of you who enjoy stats, this means my pace was 2:58/100m). According to my official finish time, this was not a personal best as I was 00:01:03 slower than last year. However, the chip time does not reflect just how choppy the water conditions were or the fact that I had the onset of severe calf cramp 250m from the end and had to really dig deep to pull myself through the water for the final section and be able to get out of the water unaided. Despite before the swim saying we would meet by the baggage reclaim – as we knew we'd get separated in the water – Luke waited to meet me by the finish arch and we were able to get a finishers picture together.



As before, the swim was in Windermere, England's largest lake. Unlike last year, where I was blessed with a water temperature of 20°, when we arrived at Brockhole on Windermere, the Lake District visitor centre where the event was held, the water temp was 14.9°. 15° is the minimum temperature that Great North Swim allows swimmers to swim without wetsuits (called skins swimmers). The 5° temperature change was noticeable, especially as I had not done any open water training since the swim last year. Thankfully I had some neoprene gloves to wear so my hands didn't get cold (a Christmas present from Luke). I am looking forward to more open water swims in the Lakes over the summer in preparation for taking part in swimming 1 mile in Swim Serpentine in September.

In preparation for the swim, despite trying to swim at least a couple times a month until the end of 2023 (swimming a total of 35km) and taking the beginning of 2024 off, I got back into the pool for the Easter Bank Holiday and over the course of April and May regained my stamina from last summer. In May, I swam a total 17,100m (an increase of 6,675m on May 2023), swimming 2,000m on two occasions as well as logging my longest swim on Strava of 2,525m. My goal for the end of the summer whilst I train for swimming in the Serpentine in Hyde Park is to increase this to 3,000m+. I have been assured by others that the water in the Serpentine will not be like Windermere, hopefully I'll see an improvement on my finish time.

Overall, we had such a great experience together and are already looking forward to doing it all again next year when I'll be swimming under my new married surname of Watkins. After the swim we walked back to Ambleside where we had stayed the night before and drove back to Barrow in time to see people lining the roads in readiness for the 'Dave Day' motorbike convoy due to arrive in the town that afternoon. 'Dave Day' was an event organised to remember TV chef and one of the Hairy Bikers, Dave Myers, who sadly died earlier this year. He was a proud Barrovian and the motorcycle convoy travelled from London to Barrow. , , .



Si King, Hairy Biker, front left with Dave's widow Lili riding pillion arriving into Barrow

We got back just in time to park the car and headed straight out on to Abbey Road to watch the bikers start to arrive, before walking along into town to soak up the atmosphere. Living as close as we do to Abbey Road, we could hear the sound of all the bikers as they continually streamed into the town during the rest of the afternoon/evening. A very memorable day!

Lastly, I have yet again been blown away by the support and generous donations for Bromley Little Theatre. As of 23 June, I have raised £1200 (including Gift Aid) and will be keeping a fundraising page open until September. Thanks for reading and your support.

Emily Yolland

Book Review

“Fully alive: Tending to the Soul in Turbulent Times” by Elizabeth Oldfield published by Hodder and Stoughton 2024

Sometimes I read a book and find myself saying ‘of course’, recognising my own thoughts, but better expressed, every few pages and wishing I had had the opportunity to read it sooner, Of course I couldn’t have done so, as it hadn’t yet been written . The book, Fully Alive, is one of those honest engrossing accounts of a life being lived, in difficult times. Elizabeth Oldfield herself ,describes them as turbulent, Confucius might have described them as interesting. I experience our times as difficult and challenging.

Living the life of faith has always been counter cultural in my lifetime, the meanings that we as Christians look for and hope to find in our lives are increasingly obscured, by the secular thinkers and those loud voices which drown out either by accident or intent the still small voice that we know God often uses when speaking with us. It is good to be reminded that “The glory of God is a human being fully alive” and to be reassured that we not alone in our journey or our seeking for that fullness of life.

This book is described by others as a ‘rare thing’, an honest and hopeful account which shares with us the writers’ own life of seeking and learning, and being one of those of us who are still seeking and finding nourishment and meaning for life’s journey in our faith, and in trying to practice our faith.

I myself sometimes find myself quoting one of my children who when quite young said something like, “I can’t prove anything about God, but living as if God exists makes life much better”

This is a very good read, deep and challenging but not difficult to understand, it’s like finding a wise friend to come with me on my journey, who is already well on the way.

Alison Tyler 2024

St Mary the Virgin, Hayes –another St Mary’s

St Mary’s the Virgin, Hayes, is a very historic church. People have been worshipping there for over 800 years. Today few medieval features remain, but some 13th century structures still exist in the tower and the west wall and the nave roof is late 15th century. Today it is predominantly a Gothic church. It was extensively restored and added to in 1856 and 1862, to a design by the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott. Then a later 1879 addition was designed by his son, John Oldrid Scott. Further modernisation took place when the chancel was redesigned in 1904-5 (probably the work of Sir Thomas G Jackson). The south porch was added in 1963 and a new vestry extension was added in 2005. The extension includes the meeting room and kitchen. In its present form it is a hall church with an aisled nave of three vessels of similar heights under three parallel roofs. The church has three aisles. Most of the stained glass windows date from Victorian times.

Within the church are several memorials including two Prime Ministers, William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, and his son William Pitt the Younger, the latter of whom was baptised in St Mary’s. They lived in a country house, Hayes Place, which was opposite the church. It was also the home at a later date to Sir Everard Hambro of the Hambro Banking family.

In the churchyard there is an imposing memorial to Sir Everard Hambro, graves of many notables including General Alexander Mackenzie Fraser (1809), Sir Vicary Gibbs and also the grave of 9 year old John Panis, who had been brought to the country as a slave. Panis was the general term for an enslaved Native American. He died in 1763. There are also war graves, both from the First and Second world Wars.

The people. We all know of the William Pitts but the others mentioned above are also interesting. Sir George Gilbert Scott (13th July 1811 – 27th March 1878) was a prolific English Gothic Revival architect and although he started his career designing workhouses (more than forty of them in the wake of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834) he went on to design and work on so many famous buildings, churches and cathedrals. He was very much inspired by Augustus Pugin. He was the architect of the Midland Grand Hotel at St. Pancras Station, the Albert Memorial, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office amongst so many other London buildings.

But he worked country and world-wide on hundreds of projects, including St Mary's, Hayes. In 1858 he designed Christchurch Cathedral, Christchurch, New Zealand which was left badly damaged by the earthquake in 2011. Demolition was blocked and in 2017 it was decided to reinstate it. He is buried in Westminster Abbey. He had five sons, one of whom was John Oldrid Scott (17th July 1841 – 30th May 1913) who was also an architect and who worked on St Mary's designing the south aisle and transept, the financing of which was by Lord Arthur Sackville, 4th son of the second Marquess of Salisbury and eldest son of Mary Sackville-West. Lord Arthur Sackville became an engineer and was very involved in railways, including campaigning to bring the rail to Hayes. In 1873 he built his own home in Hayes, Oast House, on the edge of Hayes Common. In 1878 he gave money for the building of the south aisle of the church as well as the south transept to house the organ. On the wall of the south aisle there is an inscription 'The transept for the organ with the vestry adjoining were the gift of a parishioner. And to increase the accommodation for the poor this aisle was built by him upon condition that all the seats therein should be forever free and unappropriated.' He eventually moved back to Keston and so attended church there. With his engineering background he was renowned for keeping a tool kit in church in case anything went wrong with the organ or anything else.

Sir Thomas Graham Jackson (21st December 1835 – 7th November 1924) was also a distinguished architect and worked extensively in Oxford including designing the university's Examination Schools and the Bridge of Sighs over New College Lane. His alma mater was Brighton College and he has a stone memorial tablet in their chapel, part of which he had built as a First World War memorial in 1922-23. He and his wife travelled extensively, particularly in Dalmatia, and wrote many travel books. He also was a great fan of M.R.James and he wrote a collection of supernatural stories himself, 'Six Ghost Stories'.

General Alexander Mackenzie Fraser (1758 – 13th September 1809) On the female side he is descended from Lord Lovat. Amongst other campaigns he was at the Great Siege of Gibraltar, served during the American war of Independence and during the Peninsular War he was in Portugal and Spain (1808-1809) and was present at the Battle of Corunna, commanding a division.

He died, (in 1809) from complications of an illness, which he had suffered during the Walcheren Campaign. He was a British General of the Napoleonic Wars.

Sir Vicary Gibbs (27th October 1751 – 8th February 1820) was an English judge and politician. He had the sobriquet of 'Vinegar Gibbs' because of his caustic wit. He was known for his disagreeable temper. He was called to the bar in 1783 and took silk in 1794 and had a successful legal career. The Pitt ministry courted him and he first held office for the Prince of Wales (1795 – 1805). He became a Member of Parliament in several constituencies. He became Solicitor General in 1805 and Attorney general in 1807. Subsequently he became Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, a member of the Privy Council and in 1814 Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. The Court of Common Pleas was founded at the time of Magna Carta but was abolished on the 16th December 1880. Probably the most famous case that he heard was when a libel action was brought by Lady Frances Webster and her husband over an allegation that she had an affair with the Duke of Wellington. He died in his London home in 1820 but was then interred in the Churchyard of St Mary the Virgin in Hayes.

Sir Everard Alexander Hambro (11th April 1842 – 26th February 1925) was a member of the Hambro banking dynasty. His paternal great-grandfather and grandfather were Danish bankers and his father founded Hambros bank in London. Sir Everard joined the bank and was on the board of directors of the Bank of England 1879 to 1925. He helped save Barings bank in 1891. Where was he in 1995 when Barings needed someone?



St Mary the Virgin, Hayes, is certainly a very interesting church and well worth a visit if you haven't been before.

Our Star

Our nearest star,
a glowing globe
- from Creation -
of heat and light,
enabling life on earth
and enjoyment of
science and seasons.

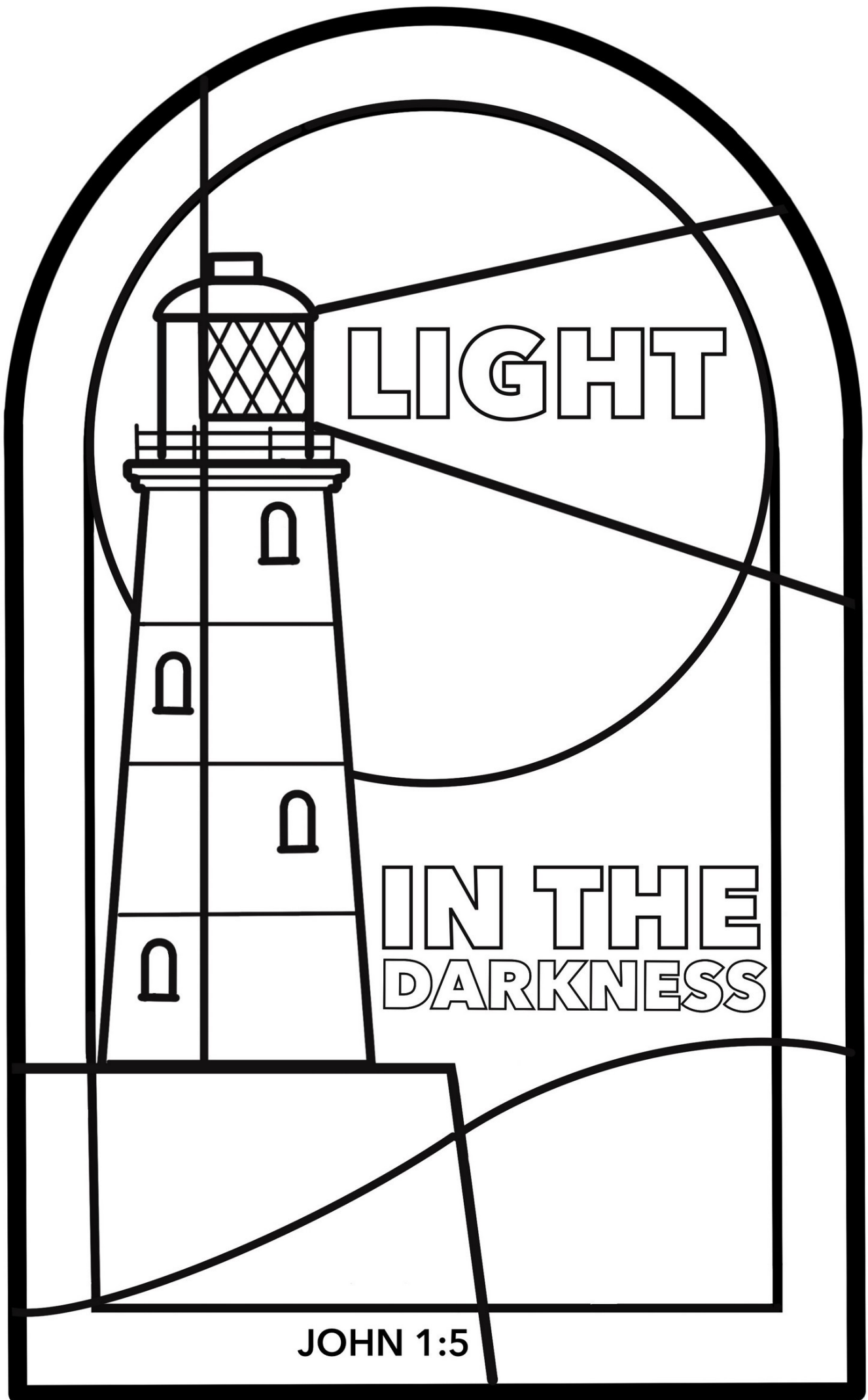
The sun.

Our closest Star,
a Radiant and
Eternal Source
of Magnificent Magnitude.

A Holy Gift,
the Light of the World,
with Burning Love,
gives Life to the World.
The Day Spring from on High
Shines Forever, and close to
our hearts.

The Son.

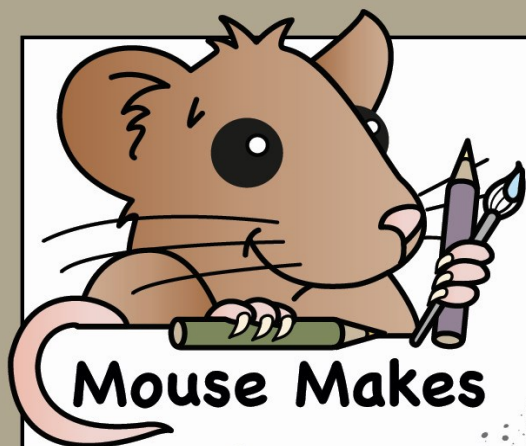
Barbara Buckingham



LIGHT

IN THE
DARKNESS

JOHN 1:5



How many days did the Lord
tell Joshua to march around
the city of Jerico?

Joshua 6:3



What did the priests
carry that were made
from rams' horns?

Joshua 6:4



What was carried
along behind the priests?

The Joshua 6:4

On the seventh day
how many times did
they march around Jerico?

Joshua 6:6



Who was saved from
Jerico along with
her family?

Joshua 6:17

READ
the story
in Joshua
5:13-6:27

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

JERICO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD
CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND
DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

Find the question answers in the word search too!

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On the perils of 'standing in' for another vicar

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever *you* do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation

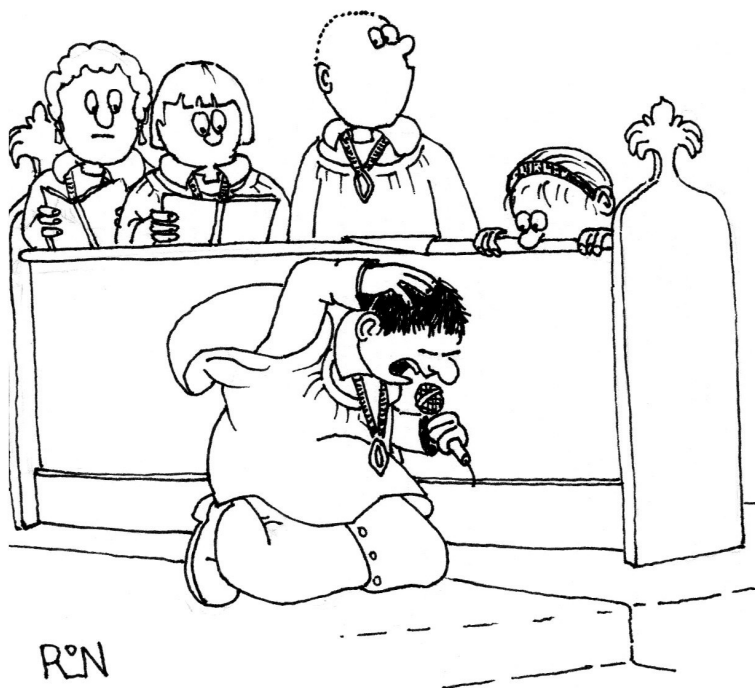
dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be *nothing of the sort*. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Gary sang a solo

ARIES Polar Flights (Part 1)



On the 9th January 1941, an Avro (A.V. Roe & Co. Ltd.) Lancaster bomber first reached for the sky from a South Manchester runway as part of Britain's war effort to begin its journey from raw prototype to a war-winning icon.

Lancaster PD328, named Aries was used for the first polar flight and was a special aircraft belonging to the fleet of aircraft at the Empire Air Navigation (EANS) at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire, the centre of air navigation expertise and the home of the Specialist Navigation (Spec N) Course. The aircraft was built as a standard Mark 1 bomber and had completed a round-the-world flight in 1944 as part of the RAF preparation to deploy heavy bombers to the Pacific theatre, once Germany had been defended.

The flight would constitute the world's first airborne comprehensive scientific investigation of the polar area and would represent the first British flight to the North Pole. Aims would include testing new navigation techniques, evaluation of navigation systems, conducting a magnetic survey, obtaining radar mapping, collecting meteorological data and photographing Arctic topology.

In April 1945, the aircraft was extensively modified where all the armament and armour were removed, camouflage paint was replaced by a glistening metal finish, the fuselage was altered for streamlining and the fuel capacity expanded increasing the range to 5,000 miles or about 21 hours continuous flight. To prevent astrodome misting, there was to be no heating and the crew would always be on oxygen. At RAE Farnborough, an array of scientific equipment was added and distributed throughout the aircraft, including 7 compasses, a gyro, 2 astro- compasses, 3 sextants, radar, 2 radar altimeters, air mileage indicator, drift recorder, flux-valve dip meter and 3-axis flux-valve magnetometer to determine dip and magnetic field strength.

There were 11 crewmen selected for the aircraft, chosen for their specialist knowledge and skills.

Aries left Shawbury for Meeks Field, Reykjavik, near the capital of Iceland on the 10th May 1945 just 2 days after VE Day, from whence they had intended a sortie over the North Geographic Pole. Unfortunately, the weather was very bad and they waited until the 16th May when they took off but things didn't go well because of cloud and icing, forcing them to return to Reykjavik. After refuelling and less than two hours after landing, Aries was airborne again using a different route and the Pole was crossed at 0200hrs on the 17th May, then circled before the return journey back to Reykjavik at 0900hrs. Many of the crew had been awake for 56 hours!

Aries spent a further 9 days searching for the position of the North Magnetic Pole. Within 200 miles of the magnetic pole, compasses became more erratic but with the aircraft slowing down and accelerating, the needles wandered aimlessly. The crew did not attain the North Magnetic Pole but on reaching their Prudent Limit of Endurance, it was evident that it lay north-northwest of previous estimates. Aries turned south and touched down at Dorval in Montreal and then flew back to Shawbury, landing at 1245hrs on the 26th May, having made the first non-stop flight from the North Pacific coast to North West Europe in 18hrs 26mins.

Aries had flown over 24,000 miles in 110hrs, half of which lay within the Arctic Circle. Amongst the data, there were 30,000 magnetic recordings and 2,000 photographs but they still could not say exactly where the magnetic pole lay!

There were 4 successor aircraft to Aries I, with Aries IV in October 1954 being an English Electric Canberra from the Royal Air Force Flying College making the first flight by a British jet over the North Geographic Pole. After Aries V, the name was given to polar flights undertaken in a variety of aircraft by each Spec N (later to become AeroSystems) Course. In 2020, it is recorded that RAF Shawbury still named one of its helicopters "Aries".

In Part 2, I will give an account of my time on the Aries Polar Flight during 1988.

Roger Benoy



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Worship Diary

We offer a variety of services through the year. They are mostly on a Sunday at 10.30am and are mostly Family Communion. Most months we also have a Family Service which does not include Holy Communion. We hope you will find us a warm and friendly congregation. If you have questions about what we do, why we do it or how you might like to be more involved please do speak with a Church Warden, a sidesman... or anyone really!

Our Sunday Club is a valued provision for our youngest members. They do not meet when we have an All Age Communion Service or during school holidays.

Services for July and August

Sunday 7th July—Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club

Sunday 14th July—Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am All Age Communion (no Sunday Club)

Sunday 21st July—Eight Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club)

Sunday 28th July—Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion (no Sunday Club)

Sunday 4th August—Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion (no Sunday Club)

Sunday 11th August—Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am All Age Communion (no Sunday Club)

Sunday 18th August—Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion (no Sunday Club)

Sunday 25th August—Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion (no Sunday Club)

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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