



THE ROUND TOWER

The Parish Magazine of
St. Mary with
St. Leonard
Broomfield

February 2025

60p

St. Mary with St. Leonard

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Please note:

Copy for the Round Tower should be with the Editor by the 10th of each month please.

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Readings for February

These are the lectionary readings which we will use on Sundays during February. If you cannot get along to church, do try to read the readings and reflect on them on the days set.

Sunday 2nd February

9.30am

Malachi 3: 1 - 5

Hebrews 2: 14 - end

Luke 2: 22 - 40

Evening Prayer

Exodus 13: 1 - 16

Romans 12: 1 - 5

Sunday 9th February

Isaiah 6: 1 - 8

1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11

Luke 5: 1 - 11

Sunday 16th February

1 Corinthians 15: 12 - 20

Luke 6: 17 - 26

Sunday 23rd February

Genesis 2: 4 - 9 & 15 - end

Revelation 4

Luke 8: 22 - 25

From the Register of Services December 2024/January 2025

Wedding

21st December

Patrick Miller & Karen Adams

Baptism

12th January

Penelope Beatrix Jones

Greetings from the Churchwardens

Dear Readers,

I am writing this on a typical, cold, damp and dreary afternoon in January. I've just watched the lunch time news which is its usual list of doom and gloom. Do the news services ever consider "good news items" when they are putting the news programmes together? Fires are continuing to destroy huge chunks of Los Angeles, there is the total destruction of Gaza, demonstrating in South Korea and Keir Starmer fielding questions in the House of Commons. Not much to be cheerful about you may think but when you compare your standard of life with so many other people around the world, we have a great deal to thank God for. There is good news out there. Sometimes we just have to look a little harder for it.

There is so much going on locally and countrywide. We even have three people replacing Gary Lineker on Match of the Day. I never realised he had such big boots to fill. I'd like to commend to you the next talk in the People & Stone series. Jonathan Evens will be speaking about Thomas Huxley Jones and his wife and fellow sculptor, Gwynneth Holt who lived in High House on Main Road Broomfield and who are buried in our churchyard. Further details are on page 8. Do come along and learn about them at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, 8th February at 2pm. Both sculptors but with very different approaches to their art. This is the first of a number of talks planned through this year. Please keep an eye out for the others.

This year sees the regular overhaul of the electoral roll where the old roll is swept away and a new one started from scratch. Karen Paxton is in charge and further details can be found on page 28. Also on page 28 are details of the upcoming Annual Vestry Meeting where the Churchwardens are elected for the coming year and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which elects the PCC member and where reports of the past year's work are presented. Please do try and attend these meetings.

This month contains a recent sermon by Canon John entitled Epiphany. It is on page 6. Please do take the time to read it and think about its message. This, hopefully, is the first of many of his sermons to grace these pages.

Coincidentally there is an article on two paintings by John Everett Millais (page 20), “My First Sermon” and “My Second Sermon”, which illustrates the “daunting task” the preacher has in passing on his message.

Church members are working hard and doing a very good job, I’m sure you will all agree, in maintaining regular services and events during Rev’d. Carolyn’s continued absence. We’ve had a very busy few months and the Churchwardens are very appreciative of the effort involved. Please continue to hold Rev’d. Carolyn in your prayers.

All good wishes and God Bless

Margaret Powell

Churchwarden

Prayer for February

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

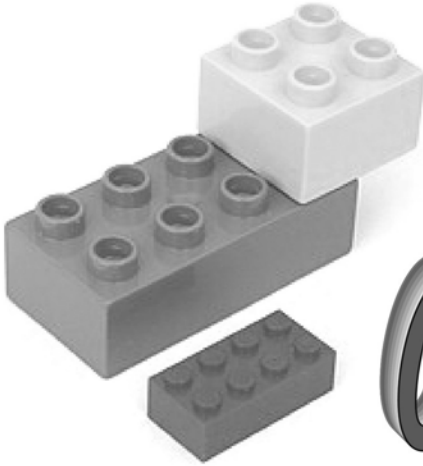
Lord - as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Daphne Kitching

Taken from Parish Pump, a resource for Parish Magazines.

St Mary with St Leonard
Broomfield Parish Church



LEGO CHURCH

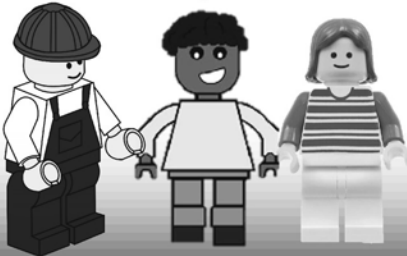
First Sunday of the month

9.30am

St Leonard's Hall

during the church service

Children & parents welcome



Building Church
Brick by Brick

Epiphany.

I am being asked by some of the members of St Mary's and St Leonard's congregation to make available copies of my sermons and for them to be published in the Round Tower. On the one hand I feel greatly humbled at such a request; on the other I am delighted that what I am offering generally week by week some want to reflect on, and having copies enables this pursuit. It also means that those who are unable to come to the church but are readers of the Round Tower can have a sense of being recipients of what those able to attend the church will have received. So here goes:

On the evening of the first Sunday of January, at the once-a-month Evensong, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, what the Book of Common Prayer calls 'The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.' The focus is on the visitation of three kings or astrologers or wise men, depending on the translation of Matthew Chapter 2 you use, to the Christ-child, three such persons in line with the presentation of gifts of gold representing majesty and kingship, frankincense representing priestliness and offering, and myrrh representing suffering. But there is a key question: 'Why does Matthew include this story as part of his account of the birth of the one previously called Emmanuel, God with us, at the beginning of a Gospel almost totally focussed on endeavouring to persuade Jewish readers that this Jesus is the fulfilment of their longing for a Messiah?' Did he intend that the visit of these three purported by the Book of Common Prayer to be Gentiles, to be an expression of Gentiles bowing the knee in the presence of Jews, perhaps acknowledging their superiority to non-Jews. Or was he wanting to convey the fundamental message that through a Jewish child/man, Gentiles would be participants with Jews of the salvation Jesus would enact? What is of further interest is that in the same way that Luke and John include the rejection of the Christ by his own people - 'there was no room for them in the inn' says St Luke; 'he came to his own but his own received him not' says St John - Matthew gives his own slant on rejection through the subsequent response of Herod demanding the slaughter of all infants, Jewish infants, under the age of one, resulting in what is referred to as 'the flight into Egypt' of Mary, Joseph, and the Christ-child.

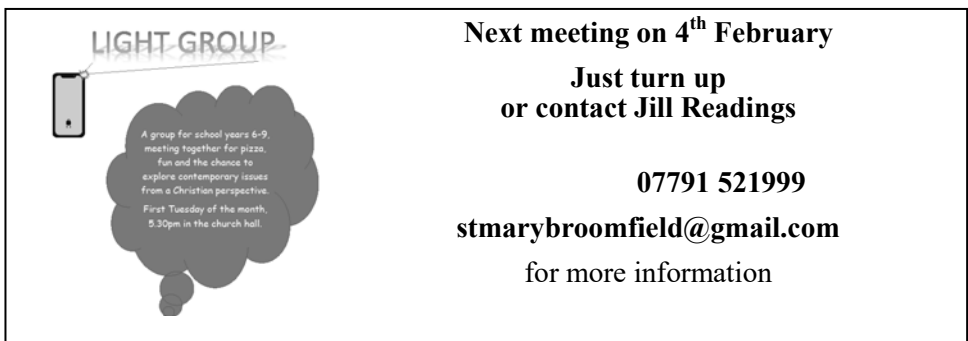
The word 'Epiphany' is fascinating. I like to translate it 'unveiling,' 'disclosing,' 'opening one's eyes, ears, to what has always been there, but of which one was unaware.' It's a bit like that response, 'the penny drops,' when suddenly what was confusing becomes clear, what seemingly was beyond comprehension is understood.

For the Old Testament reading on this Sunday evening we listened to the opening verses of Isaiah 60:

‘Arise, shine, Jerusalem , for your light has come; and over you the glory of the LORD has dawned. Though darkness covers the earth and dark night the nations, on you the LORD shines, and over you his glory will appear; nations will journey towards your light and kings to your radiance.’

Presumably this prediction was in the mind of St Matthew when he compiled his Gospel. Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish world, at the time of Isaiah symbolically immersed in darkness, literally ransacked by surrounding nations, the majority of its inhabitants taken into exile. It is interesting how often darkness and the longing for light is the content of the readings associated with Christmas, and here it is at the beginning of Epiphany, how darkness would seem to dominate, yet light, sometimes very faint and flickering, breaks through. Is there something here for us as we enter 2025? It has been predicted it will be ‘a dark year,’ when searching for light could be a challenging task. But in the vein of Epiphany, let us pray that we may be the recipients of ‘unveiling,’ ‘disclosure,’ so that although darkness may seem prevalent, within it we may perceive the light of the God who is never absent, and who St John asserts: ‘whoever receives him becomes a child of God’ just as he, Jesus, was.

Canon John.

The graphic is enclosed in a black rectangular border. On the left, there is a smartphone icon with a line extending from it to the text 'LIGHT GROUP'. Below this is a grey thought bubble containing text. On the right side of the graphic, there is a block of text providing meeting details and contact information.

LIGHT GROUP

A group for school years 6-9, meeting together for pizza, fun and the chance to explore contemporary issues from a Christian perspective. First Tuesday of the month, 5.30pm in the church hall.

Next meeting on 4th February

**Just turn up
or contact Jill Readings**

07791 521999

stmarybroomfield@gmail.com

for more information

Broomfield Parish Church

PEOPLE & STONE

A Project Rutherford Talk

Broomfield Artists

Thomas Huxley Jones & Gwynneth Holt



Jonathan Evens
Area Dean of Basildon

Saturday 8th February

2pm

Tickets £5 from the Church or email Ros
rosalindmercer0309@gmail.com



Made possible with

Heritage
Fund

*Raffle &
Refreshments*

Plaques

We are delighted that both a local woodworker and Sandon Men's Shed have agreed to help us by fashioning the pew remnants into beautiful plaques. These come in a variety of styles and sizes, ideal for use as house name or number plates, or with a text, as negotiated with Sheila Hasler. Prices vary according to size and requirement.

Please see Sheila or Trudy.



Church service

An auntie took her very young niece to church. When they returned home, her parents asked how it had gone. The little girl replied: "Well, the minister prayed, and I prayed. The minister sang, and I sang. The minister spoke, and auntie brought me home."

Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated and then called back: "No, but I'm from the same department."

Taste

A woman wasn't feeling well and went to A&E. The nurse asked her: "Have you experienced a sudden loss of taste?"

"No," admitted the woman sadly. "I've always dressed this way."



Eco Church

The Green Bible

Has anyone heard of “The Green Bible”? My Dad bought it for me a couple of years ago, knowing my involvement with Eco Church. It is the first Bible printed on paper from ‘environmentally and socially well managed forests’. But what makes it different from other Bibles is that it has over 1,000 passages about creation care which they have highlighted in Green. This makes it a great companion for anyone who would like to know what the Bible has to say about the environment.

One of the main things I like about it is the Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu – a thought provoking piece which really puts us straight on why we should be thinking of the environment and caring for the world God created. I share this foreword with you now.

“I would not know how to be human, how to think as a human being, how to walk as a human being, how to talk or how to eat as a human being except by learning from other human beings. I learn to be human by associating with other human beings. We are thus, according to the Bible, made for family. We’re made for community, we’re made for togetherness, we’re made for friendship. We’re made to live in a delicate network of interdependence, for we are made for complementarity. I have gifts you don’t have. And you have gifts that I don’t have. Thus we are made different so that we can know our need of one another. And this is the fundamental law of our being.

All kinds of things go horribly wrong when we flout this law – when we don’t ensure that God’s children everywhere have a supply of clean water, a safe environment, a decent home, a full stomach. We could do that if we remembered that we are created to be members of one family, the human family, God’s family.

We must act now and wake up to our moral obligations. The poor and vulnerable

are members of God's family and are the most severely affected by droughts, high temperatures, the flooding of coastal cities, and more severe the unpredictable weather events resulting from climate change. We, who should have been responsible stewards preserving our vulnerable, fragile planet home, have been wantonly wasteful through our reckless consumerism, devouring irreplaceable natural resources. We need to be accountable to God's family. Once we start living in a way that is people-friendly to all of God's family, we will also be environment-friendly.

As you read *The Green Bible* starting in Genesis, you will see that after God created birds, fish and animals he created humans to be his viceroys and to act 'compassionately and gently' toward all forms of life. The future of our fragile, beautiful planet home is in our hands. As God's family we are stewards of God's creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible, or we can be caring and compassionate. God says, 'I have set before you life and death ... Choose life (Deut. 30:19).

At the centre of the Christian Faith and Bible is the Cross. Jesus is described as our peace, the One who has broken down the wall of partition. He says of his ascent to the cross, 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself' (John 12:32). As if in this cosmic embrace, Jesus would wish to enfold all that God has created, the entire universe, into unity. His supreme work is to reconcile us to God and to one another and, indeed, to reconcile us to all of God's creation. It is possible to have a new kind of world, a world where there will be more compassion, more gentleness, more caring, more laughter, more joy for all of God's creation, because that is God's dream. And God says, 'Help me, help me, help me realise my dream'

Thank you.

(Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Foreword, *The Green Bible*)

Prayers for February

The Climate Coalition is the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on the climate and nature crises. Along with their sister organisations Climate Cymru and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, they are a group of over 130 organisations — including the National Trust, Women's Institute, Oxfam, and RSPB — with a combined supporter base of 20 million.

They bring together their members and partners to become more than the sum of their parts. Together, they are able to mobilise their collective memberships and

supporters, millions of ordinary people, to become an unstoppable political force.

Through their campaigns, they show that people across the UK support a safer, greener future. They want the next generation, at home and abroad, to benefit from a better future than the one we currently face. They are asking the UK Government and decision makers to deliver on its promises to protect us, people around the world and the next generation.

Let's pray that this charity succeeds in their mission and brings true change for those affected by climate change here in the UK and around the world. For further information on what they do please visit their website at www.theclimatecoalition.org.

Rachel Butterworth

(rachelabutterworth@gmail.com; 01245 616263; 07799 890306) and the rest of the Eco Team Sarah Clark, Sheila Hasler, Yvonne Heaver, Karen Paxton, Kathy Rouse and Glynis Worboys – we're always here to help and happy to hear any ideas about how we can continue on our Eco Church journey, so please do get in touch.

Bishop

A vicar was expecting his Bishop to come for lunch. He told his small son to be very polite to the visitor, and to address him as 'My Lord.' As they all sat down, the bishop smiled at the little boy and asked him how old he was. The little boy gulped and said: "My God, I'm seven."

Cow and choir

From a Cambridgeshire local newspaper in January 1900: 'WANTED – a steady respectable able man who can look after a garden, milk a cow, and sing in the church choir.'

PONDER WITH CANON JOHN

At the beginning of a New Year, I am going to invite you to think about a rather serious question. It's not directly related to a New Year resolution, but it could be thought of as indirectly doing so! It's this: 'What do you occupy your mind with?' or in better English: 'With what do you occupy your mind?'

Do you ever listen to 'Thought for the Day,' 10 to 8 every weekday on BBC Radio 4? Or do you have one of those calendars which every day provides a phrase or short sentence designed to offer a 'thought' or 'reflection' to stimulate your thinking? Sometimes the contribution comes from a historical person or source, sometimes from a belief system, sometimes religious, sometimes secular, non-religious, but always something to invite pondering - and this is necessary, important, isn't it, because behind every intention, every behavioural expression, every action, there lies 'thought,' 'thinking'?

Did you watch the Royal Institution Lectures, 3 evenings between Christmas and the New Year on BBC4? The subject was Food, the audience secondary school pupils. I was gripped as the twin brother of the lecturer used a camera to provide a visual demonstration of what happens when we eat and swallow food; and in the last lecture, the ingredients which are the contents of many processed foods - somewhat worrying!

But what really interested me was when 4 of the young people were each required to wear a label identifying them as either: Hunter/Gatherer, Doctor, PE Teacher, or Gaming Enthusiast, and the audience were required to rank them in order along a spectrum from the one using up the most calories to the one using up the least. Not surprisingly perhaps the one judged to be using up the most calories was the Hunter/Gatherer chasing after game for food; next came the PE teacher; then the Doctor; and lastly the Gaming Enthusiast. The criteria clearly were the assumed amount of physical energy expended in achieving their objective, or in the course of them doing their job. But then, surprise, surprise, the lecturer invited each of the four in turn to turn their label over to reveal the amount of energy expended by each representative - and the amounts were alleged to be the same! The energy expended through mental, intellectual, thinking activity, was alleged to be the same as that expended by chasing after game or teaching PE! I guess I was not the only one who was somewhat astounded!

So back to my opening question: ‘With what do you occupy your mind?’ and the obvious related question: ‘What resources do you draw upon with which to occupy your mind?’ Of course your day to day thinking includes all that which is necessary to enable you to live day by day, but even here you choose, nothing is automatic is it? I mean we choose what we eat, what we drink; if we drive then which make of car to drive, what programmes to listen to on the radio, to watch on the television, what books to read and not to read - are you a fiction person or a non-fiction person or a bit of both, or perhaps a faction person, not total immersed in fantasy, preferring to be somewhat earthbound but not altogether!

I’m one of those people who, perhaps naughtily, often wonders what the contents are of other people’s thoughts. When you’re on a bus or perhaps waiting for one, on the underground, the person opposite you not getting off until the tube pulls into a certain station. Why there? I wonder where he or she will be going, who they might be meeting, whether the walk from that station is to home, to work, to some leisure venue. Weird aren’t I?

But you see all the time, because of my endeavour to ‘be Christian,’ - and it’s sometimes far from easy! - I have to hold in my mind that claim by St John that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish,’ but enjoy that quality of life which in a number of references Jesus describes as ‘eternal,’ not subject to the ups and downs of time or circumstance, but constant through time, not always easy to grasp. And I try to hold to that assertion that ‘whoever,’ really does include ‘whoever,’ no one is excluded.

So what occupies one’s mind, one’s thinking, about people, oneself, anyone, is very important isn’t it? Some of us spent 4 Monday mornings in Advent reading about, reflecting on, what I called ‘4 Genesis Heroes - Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph.’ This first Book of the Old Testament presents us with 4 people, their relating particularly with their other family members, their hopes, their fears, their engaging and not engaging with God, each of them presented as succeeding and failing, hurt and hopeful, people, although in cultures different from ours, nevertheless their thinking, like ours, particularly with reference to themselves and God, sustaining them, directing them, in their moving forward towards goals, not primarily for their own benefit, but for those with whom they had to do. And that’s just like us isn’t it? Unless we decide to opt out, everyone’s past is followed by their present and by their future; whether we like it or not, time carries us all on to destinations some of which we choose, some of

which we land in, and then have to work out, yes still choosing, using our 'grey matter,' how to live within.

And I think this is a good place to stop as we ponder the content of our own thinking as we journey into a New Year. What do you think?

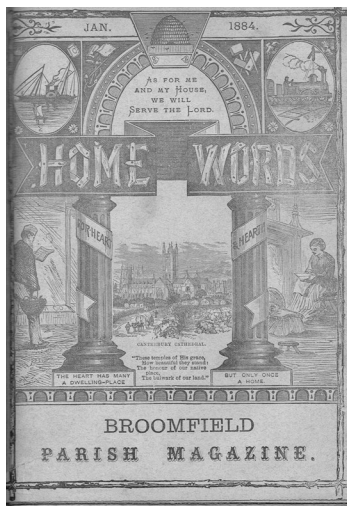
Canon John Brown

St. Mary's Church, Broomfield

Family Service Blessings

16th February @ 9.30am

All are welcome ~ Please come and join us!
Refreshments served in St. Leonard's Hall



Home Words:

February 1884

Entertainment

January's home grown entertainment that I reported on last month continued into February. On the 7th, the local population was able to attend an evening in the National School provided by the bell ringers playing hand bells, singers, Miss E. Green and Messrs. Lawford and G. Trimmer, and the violin playing of Miss L. and Mr W. Day. In addition Rev. Trimmer read "The Wayside Inn" and Mr. Goodchild read "Solomon Popkins".

According to the report from Rev. Trimmer, never one to err on the side of diplomacy, "the bell ringers want practice on the hand bells". The singers and the violin players, on the other hand, were fully appreciated. He refrained from commenting on his rendition of "The Wayside Inn"!

A report of the evening also appeared in The Chronicle of 15th February. The reporter was likewise critical of the bellringers. "The Broomfield Bellringers for whose benefit the entertainment had been arranged, appeared and performed a selection of tunes on the handbells, but either through nervousness, or some fresh hands trying their skill for the first time, they were not so successful as they have been before. It is to be hoped that they will retrieve their laurels on some future occasion."

For the other participants the reporter was in accord with Rev. Trimmer. "The chief features of the evening were the violin playing of Miss L. Day and Mr W. Day of Chelmsford and the artistic singing of Mr. Lawford. The latter gentleman is a favourite with Broomfield audiences, and it is scarcely necessary to say that his songs were unanimously redemanded. To the encore of his last song, "Come into the garden Maud", he responded by singing in fine style "Tell her I love her so." The readings were well selected and delivered by the Rev. W. Trimmer and Dr. Goodchild. The pianoforte solo, "Fedora" executed by Miss Goodchild and Miss E. Green, was worthy of a better instrument. Miss E. Green and Miss A. Day were honoured with an encore in each of their songs and Mr. G. Trimmer brought down the house in singing at the conclusion "He was a careful man," which had to be repeated."

On the 21st of February it was the turn of the church choir to entertain a National

School audience. “A pleasant evening’s amusement was arranged by the senior members of the choir, assisted by Mr Hopkins who shewed great skill in altering his voice and in changing the style of his songs. A very nice programme was prepared and the last of the series of Entertainments for the season was an entire success.

Educating Broomfield’s children

On the last two days of January 1884, the schools were examined by a Mr. Healing, an HM Assistant Inspector of Schools. “The examination was a searching one, and it is therefore all the more satisfactory to find that the children generally acquitted themselves well. The inspector particularly noticed the evenness of the teaching showing that no child was neglected, and thought the attendance remarkable.” In terms of results, “116 children were examined in the different standards of whom 112 passed in reading, 105 in writing and 89 in arithmetic, giving an average of passes of 88, This is very good and highly creditable to the teachers.”

The following is an extract from Mr Healing’s report: “The order and tone of this school are good and the instruction creditable. The reading is generally very fair as to fluency, but some scholars do not speak out clearly and audibly. The handwriting though lacking in firmness is neat and promising. The copybooks of the first standard should show far more text hand (sic), and the writing arrangements should be such as to leave none unsupplied with copybooks.”

“Spelling is very fair and composition good. The arithmetic shows considerable intelligence in the application of rules. The infants are in good order, and are taught with praiseworthy thoroughness and success. The First Class is very well advanced and the instruction is creditably even. The lower classes are good in reading, and fairly good in other respects.”

In response Rev. Trimmer notes that “this is the best report the School has had for some time.” He also points out that “copybooks are bought for the children by the parents, and we draw the attention of parents to the remark of the Inspector” (i.e. regarding having none unsupplied *Ed.*)

The high rate of attendance probably owes a great deal to the bonus system employed by the school. Over the previous year’s schooling, a bonus was paid to every child who had attended on at least 350 occasions. For the forthcoming year the bar was set a little higher. “A bonus will be given to every child who has passed into the First Standard, who has made over 400 attendances. This will, it is hoped, prove a stimulus to parents to keep their children regularly at school. It should not be forgotten that failure often follows irregularity, and failure means

another year from work.” This was a veiled threat to parents anxious to get their children out of school and into work to contribute to the family income!

The new schools committee of Messrs. Abbott, Carr, Simpson, James and Tunbridge met on 26th February and set the bonus rates for the forthcoming year. The following resolution was passed: “That the bonus paid to each child in any Standard for regular attendance at school will be on the following scale: 400 attendances 1 shilling; 420, 1s 3d. 440 and over 1s 6d.*”

“It will thus be seen that the Committee make no offer to infant children but to all children who fulfil the above conditions in any standard in the school.”

Alun Powell

- Presumably the number of attendances covered morning and afternoon sessions.

The Great Outdoors

These are actual comments left on US Forest Service registration comment cards by backpackers:

A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call.

Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.

Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness.

Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands.

Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals.

Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.

Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests.

Please pave the trails so they can be ploughed of snow in the winter.

The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.

Need more signs to keep area pristine.

A McDonald's would be nice at the trail head.

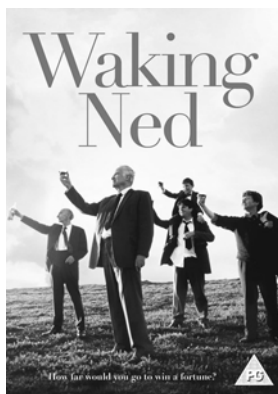
Too many rocks in the mountains.

The Film Club

Film Club resumed after the Christmas break as we got back together to watch Ladies in Lavender. We welcomed a new member, Helen, to the group and it was nice seeing everyone after Christmas. There were a few members missing but we hope to see them back at film club next month.

The January film starred Maggie Smith and Dame Judi Dench. This 'Award Winning' film was a heart-warming, evocative story of unfulfilled dreams, innocence and unrequited love. Set in Cornwall in 1936 the two sisters, Janet & Ursula, discovered a castaway on the beach below their house. The two sisters nursed him back to health and discovered his talent as a musician and from then they began to realise the effect he had on them, especially Ursula, whose life was never the same again!!

This film had charm, humour, joy and sheer class and was a real 'British Gem' !!! We enjoyed our lunch, the film and some goodies with our 2nd cuppa !!!



The film for FEBRUARY will be 'WAKING NED' and will be shown on MONDAY 10TH February at 12.30pm. It was recommended by our new member, Helen. It was released in 1999, is set in an Irish village and stars the late David Kelly, Maggie O'Toole and James Nesbit. It is known for being a Delightful, Quirky and Charming film.

A member of the local community wins the Irish National Lottery, and the rest of the local villagers set out to try and find out who the lucky winner is only to find that person may have died literally from shock!!! Then it seems the film is about how they can claim the winning money for themselves and what 'lengths'

they go to!!!

This film looks very entertaining and funny. I look forward to putting this on and watching this movie with you all. Don't forget your lunch and I'll bring the goodies – see you then.

‘ Sarah x

NB - We kindly ask for a small donation of £2 towards the costs in running film club. Thanks very much in advance. X

‘My First Sermon’

A painting by John Everett Millais

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, “This new one’s not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten.” Some churches in times past employed ‘sluggard-walkers’ who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.



Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this month’s painting, *My First Sermon* by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother’s prayer book

and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.

When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced *My Second Sermon* – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in *Cherry Ripe* and *Bubbles*. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of ‘the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.’

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we



might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon's success. Let us pray

that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us 'out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.'

Written by the Revd Michael Burgess and taken from The Parish Pump, a source for Parish Magazines.

Photographs courtesy of: John Everett Millais, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Church Calendar February 2025

Morning Prayer will be said in Church Monday – Friday at 9am ~ All are welcome to join us. The Church Building will be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10.30am – 12.30pm for people to sit and pray or to find out more about The Rutherford Project

Saturday 1 st	1.00 pm	Organ Society in St Leonard's Hall
Sunday 2 nd		Presentation of Christ in the Temple
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with Lego Church followed by refreshments in St Leonard's Hall
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 4 th	9.00 am	Working party in the Churchyard
	5.30 pm	Light Group in St. Leonard's Hall
Wednesday 5 th	1.45 pm	Baffled by the Bible 68 Longshots Broomfield
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 6 th	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
Saturday 8 th	2.00 pm	A People & Stones Talk – Broomfield Artists Thomas Huxley Jones & Gwynneth Holt in Church (see page 8 for details)
Sunday 9 th		The Fourth Sunday before Lent
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
Monday 10 th	12.30 pm	Film & Lunch Club in St. Leonard's Hall
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting in St. Leonard's Hall
Tuesday 11 th	9.00 am	Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 12 th	10.30 am	Mid-week Eucharist in Church with Coffee Morning after in St. Leonard's Hall
	1.45 pm	Baffled by the Bible 68 Longshots Broomfield
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 13 th	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
	2.00 pm	Friends of Broomfield Hospital in St. Leonard's Hall
Sunday 16 th		The Third Sunday before Lent
	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion

9.30 am Family Service followed by refreshments in
St. Leonard's Hall

-----HALF TERM -----

Tuesday 18th 9.00 am Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 19th 1.45 pm Baffled by the Bible 68 Longshots Broomfield
7.45 pm Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 20th 2.00 pm Beetle Drive in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 21st 4.15 pm Choir Practice in St. Leonard's Hall
Sunday 23rd **The Second Sunday before Lent**
9.30 am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments in
St. Leonard's Hall
Tuesday 25th 9.00 am Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 26th 1.45 pm Baffled by the Bible 68 Longshots Broomfield
7.45 pm Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 27th 10.00 am Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
2.00 pm Ladies Group in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 28th 4.15 pm Choir Practice in St. Leonard's Hall

March 2025

Sunday 2nd **The Sunday before Lent**
9.30 am Parish Eucharist with Lego Church followed by
refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
5.30 pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday 4th 9.00 am Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 5th **Ash Wednesday**
10.30 am Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Ashing
1.45 pm Baffled by the Bible 68 Longshots Broomfield
7.45 pm Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 6th 10.00 am Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall

for more details, visit our website: www.stmarybroomfield.org

***Bellringers** please call Bell Tower Captain Chris before Practice sessions to
check that they are going ahead 07730 796422

The seven day challenge

Do everything without grumbling Philippians 2:14

Some cancers, like skin cancer, are more obvious and you can remove them. Then there is the kind that grows undetected and destroys your body. Complaining is like that; it impacts your health and sabotages your success. Paul's letter says, "Do everything without grumbling or arguing." If you find yourself feeling negative and down, listen to what is being said around you. Is there a lot of grumbling and complaining? Are the people you spend time with constantly expressing discouraging thoughts and feelings? Maybe *you* are the one griping and complaining. Many times we become our own worst enemy by developing angry or bitter attitudes. Your thoughts and attitudes are your choice. Where you put your mind is up to you.

Follow what the apostle Paul wrote about putting off the negative and putting on the positive. (see Colossians 3: 1-15 and Ephesians 4:20-32) Acknowledge that there are problems .. but don't dwell on them... Do what you can do to remedy the situation. Remember, you can never change another person, only yourself and your attitudes. Find the positives ...focus on these and be thankful that God promises to be with you. Use Bible verses and inspirational sayings to re-focus when your thinking starts to go downhill. By changing your thinking, you change your outlook, and by changing your outlook you change your life. To one person the world looks desolate, to another the same world looks rich and interesting. What you see depends mainly on what you *look* for. Make up your mind not to complain for a day. Then challenge yourself not to complain for a week. You will be amazed how much better you feel.

Source: U.C.B. Word for today.

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible:

The Book of Job

'Why does God allow suffering?' This is a frequently asked question of Christians, because we believe in a God who is both good and powerful and it is explored in the book of Job. This book is part of the wisdom literature, along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Job was both wealthy and righteous, yet he experienced catastrophic suffering, losing all his wealth, children and health. This is portrayed as a result of Satan's challenge to God, testing whether Job's devotion to God was dependent on his circumstances or not.

The main body of the book (3:1-42:6) consists of dialogues between Job, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) and God. Job and his friends assume that God is almighty and just, and that no human being is wholly innocent. In the three cycles of speeches they wrestle with the reasons for Job's suffering, remembering his morally upright character.

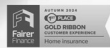
Finally, all are silenced by God, as He speaks Himself (chs 38-42). He points out that Job knows very little about the universe when he reflects on God's power. Job confesses his lack of understanding and weakness, but then goes on to confess his confidence and trust in God. This puts suffering in a right perspective. Job is not condemned, and the book ends with the restoration of his family and possessions.

The importance of this book is that it realistically addresses the painful questions of life, without offering simplistic answers. It focuses on *how* we should respond to suffering, rather than on *why* God allows suffering: '*Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.*' (1:21)

Written by Canon Paul Hardingham and taken from Parish Pump, a resource for Parish magazines.

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Chocolate

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: 'To Helen, with all my allowance.'

Experience

"Dad," asked little Ted, "what does a man's better half mean?"

"Usually," his father said, "she means exactly what she says."

Wedding dress

When my sister Andrea got married, she asked to wear my mother's wedding dress. The day she tried it on, Mother's eyes welled with tears. "You're not losing a daughter," I reminded her in time-honoured fashion. "You're gaining a son." "Oh, forget about that!" she said with a sob. "I used to fit into that dress!"



...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?

**St. Mary w. St. Leonard's Church,
Broomfield**

APCM and Vestry Meeting

will take place on Sunday 16th March 2025
immediately after the 9.30am Family Service

The Annual Review
will be available as hard copies and on our website
2 weeks prior to the meeting

Revision of Church Electoral Roll

The Church of England's 'Church Representation Rules' states that each Church Electoral Roll must be completely revised every 6 years. The next total revision is due in 2025 before the APCM meeting to be held on 16th March.

Therefore, new forms will be available as you enter Church for morning and evening services during the month of January 2025. Please return completed forms to myself or any member of the Clergy Team by Sunday February 26th, 2025.

If you know of anyone who is housebound but would like to continue to be on the electoral roll, please let me know and I will deliver a form to them.

Karen Paxton

Electoral Roll Officer (on behalf of St Mary's, Broomfield. PCC)

Those notices which didn't come out quite right...

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Jean will be leading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the programme herself and has been growing like crazy!

Volunteers are needed to spit up food for distribution.

This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

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 - Tinned vegetables and tomatoes
 - Tins of soup
 - Rice
 - Instant mashed potato sachets
 - Tinned pulses
 - Pasta sauce
 - Ketchup and mayo
 - UHT milk
 - Long-life fruit juice and fruit squash
 - Tea bags—40s/80s and small jars instant coffee
 - Cereal
 - Tinned fruit
 - Sponge puddings and tinned rice pudding
 - Instant custard sachets
 - Jam and spreads
 - Chocolate bars eg Kitkat /cereal bars/crisps/savoury crackers
 - All toiletries: shower gel, shampoo,
deodorant, handwash, toothpaste,
toilet rolls, washing up liquid, laundry tabs/pods
 - Nappies sizes 4 to 7
- We have sufficient pasta and baked beans, thank you

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Try our February Sudokus (solutions on page 43)

Easy

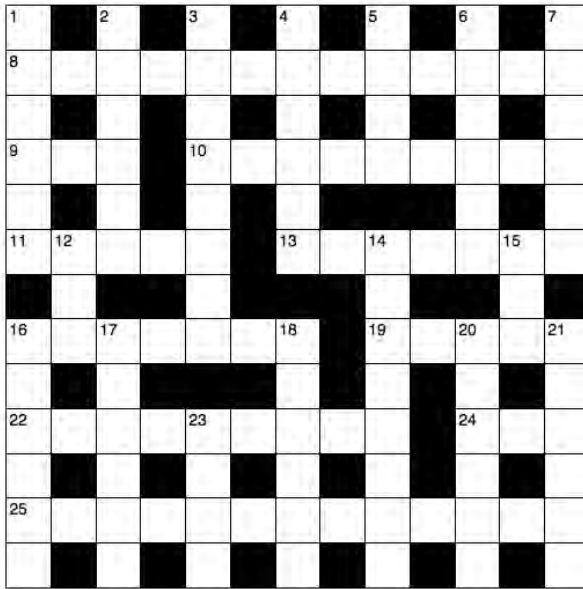
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		6			9			
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Intermediate

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							5	
		8		7	9	5		
2	9				6			8
	3			2		7		

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Crossword (answers page 43)



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel

- 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

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Tue: Closed
Wed: 7pm - 11pm
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Fri: 4pm - 11pm
Sat: 12pm - 11pm
Sun: 12pm - 10:30pm

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Broomfield Royal British Legion

Saxon Way, Chelmsford CM1 7YA

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Wed: 7pm - 11pm
Thu: 7pm - 11pm
Fri: 4pm - 11pm
Sat: 12pm - 11pm
Sun: 12pm - 10:30pm

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The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

A cartoon illustration of Jesus with a beard and a robe, gesturing with his right hand as if speaking.

STRONG ROOM

A cartoon illustration of a man in a robe standing next to a structure labeled "STRONG ROOM". Several sacks of money are visible.

ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

A cartoon illustration of a man in a robe standing in front of a building with a palm tree in the background.A cartoon illustration of a man in a robe holding a sign that says "YOUR MANAGEMENT IS A CHEAT!".

THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!

A cartoon illustration of a man in a robe standing in front of a building.

OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!

A cartoon illustration of a man in a robe looking worried, with a thought bubble above him.An illustration of an open book with text: "YOU OWE THE BOSS 100 SACKS 800 OF WHEAT".

THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!

A cartoon illustration of a man in a robe holding a book labeled "BILLS".

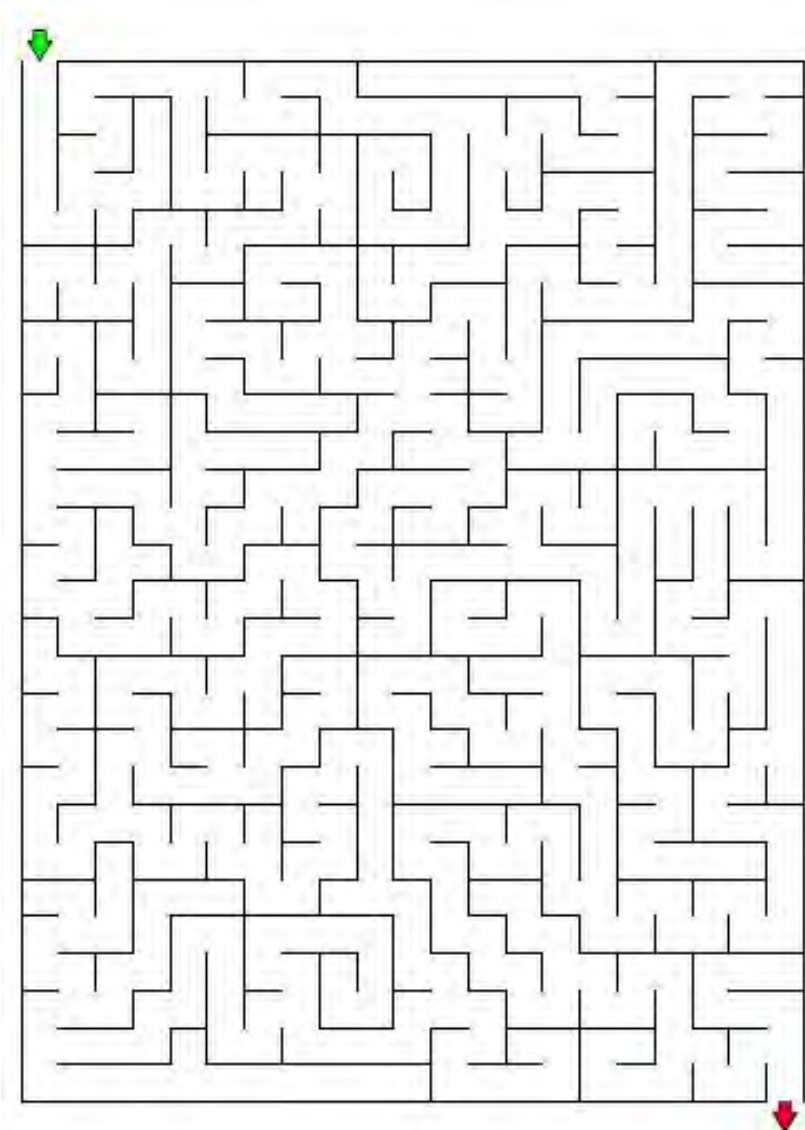
SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.

A cartoon illustration of a man in a robe walking away from a building.An illustration of a stack of books, one labeled "BILLS" and another labeled "ACCOUNT BOOK".

JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

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Broomfield Men's Shed - Charity of 2022/23 TALK

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Answers to crossword on page 32

O		H		I		E		O		O		A
C	R	O	S	S	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	D
E		P		L		H		A		S		D
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S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N	L	O	R	D
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Solution to
Sudokus on
page 31

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

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