



THE ROUND TOWER

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

June 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 June

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

Sunday 1st June

9.30am Said Eucharist

Acts 16: 16 - 34

Revelation 22: 12 - 14, 16 - 17, 20 - end

John 17: 20 - end

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Psalm 97

Deuteronomy 34

Luke 24: 44 - end

Sunday 8th June

9.30am Parish Eucharist

Acts 2: 1 - 21

Romans 8: 14 - 17

John 14: 8 - 17, 25 - 27

Sunday 15th June

9.30am Family Service

Romans 5: 1 - 5

John 16: 12 - 15

Sunday 22nd June

9.30am Parish Eucharist

Isaiah 65: 1 - 9

Galatians 3: 23 - end

Luke 8: 26 - 39

Sunday 29th June

9.30am Morning Worship

Psalm 138

Acts 11: 1 - 18

Matthew 16: 13 - 19

5.30pm BCP Holy Communion

Acts 11: 1 - 18

John 21: 15 - 22

From the Register of Services May 2025

Burials

8th May

Marion Elizabeth Walker

Aged 85 years

16th May

Donald Ernest Eastaugh

Aged 99 years

16th May

Mary Christine Rafferty Nugent

Aged 97 years

Greetings from the Vicarage

My dear friends,

As most of you will now know, my retirement was announced at the beginning of May and my final service took place on Sunday May 18th. Needless to say, this was not the way I envisaged my ministry amongst you would come to an end. I do hope that those of you who were able to share my farewell service feel a sense of confidence for the future as a Church Family.

I have been the Vicar of Broomfield for 14 years and it has been a great privilege. The regular routine of worship and prayer has been a sustaining force, which has enabled so much mission, ministry and restoration to take place. I have been blessed by your company during this part of my vocational journey and Jim and I will always feel a fondness for this amazing village in Essex.

It is never easy leaving a Parish because of the many friendships we have made and the sense of being involved with God's leading of us all as a church family. There are so many people that we are very fond of and saying goodbye has been difficult, not least due to the circumstances of my increasing ill health over the last year. We will be staying in the vicarage for a while as we look for somewhere to live in retirement, which we are hoping will be near the coast somewhere.

It is at moments like this that we need to remind ourselves that at the heart of any church is Jesus. It should never be about the Vicar, tradition, Wardens or anyone or anything else. As Psalm 127 says "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." It is vital for a church that nothing else gets in the way of the primary purpose of what we are called to do: to worship God, to love and serve Jesus, to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our community life together. It is the constant temptation for any church to get distracted by other issues and lose their way. "Unless the Lord builds..." I am confident that St Mary's will continue to build with the Lord at the heart of everything led by the wonderful leadership of the Wardens, PCC and ministry team who have stepped up and done so much to keep things going whilst I was off sick.

Let me finish this, my last letter, by thanking you all for your company throughout the years. I will try not to be a stranger whilst we are in the Vicarage, and I hope that I will be able to chat to many of you over the next few weeks. Please be assured of my continuing prayer for you all and for this parish, it has been such a wonderful place of vocation and renewal, praise and worship,

and I am sure that you will manage a vacancy with grace and enthusiasm. When a new Vicar is appointed, they will then be able to build on the last years and take the mission forward.

God bless

Carolyn

Rev'd. Carolyn Tibbott



FAREWELL TO REVEREND CAROLYN

As you may already be aware, Reverend Carolyn, albeit reluctantly, retired as our Vicar at the end of April

Since 2011 she has been the guiding light of the Church and our community. She has offered patience, wisdom, kindness, overwhelming and unwavering support to all. Apart from the regular services, Carolyn has officiated at weddings, baptisms and funerals and has

inspired faith. She has trained at least five Curates and also assisted with training others in the Diocese. She has stepped up to officiate at services at other Churches within the Diocese where there have been vacancies. She has worked tirelessly.

Each member of the congregation has been blessed by her diligence and care for them. Her hard work has been truly appreciated by all.

On Sunday the 18th May Carolyn officiated at her last service. This was extremely well attended and afterwards the congregation including Jim, Carolyn's husband, who has always wholly supported her and has also worked hard for the Church, enjoyed a gathering in the Church Hall to wish her well and bid her farewell.

Although Reverend Carolyn has now stepped away from "our" pulpit, her teachings and spirit will always be in our hearts.



Rev'd Carolyn cuts her retirement cake

Thank you, Carolyn, for your years of dedication. You have shaped our lives in ways that no words can convey.

As a result of Carolyn's retirement we are now officially in an interregnum. Throughout Carolyn's absence we church members have worked as a team to maintain "business as usual" in the church and churchyard. It has been a challenge but we have come through it so far with people's strengths and talents put to good use in all aspects of church life. It's surprising what skills emerge when different situations arise.

We are fortunate in having had support from various clergy over the months with Rev'd. Rose Braisby providing great service to us. Canon John Brown has done and continues to do sterling work in all aspects of Church life and latterly Bishop Tony has been a great support..

We shall probably not have a new vicar in place until the end of the year, or even later. It is a long process. The swift selection of Pope Leo XIV leaves us all envious. Please pray for us as we enter yet another stage in life here at St. Mary's Church, perhaps using the prayers on page 10. There is a specific prayer for the interregnum but the prayer for June with its theme of encouragement will also be apt.

We both would like to congratulate Jill Readings, church member and lay chair of the Deanery, on being appointed as an Authorised Local Preacher.

God Bless and all good wishes

Susan Garwood & Margaret Powell

Rev'd. Carolyn's Sermon at her Farewell Service on Sunday 18th May

John 13: 33 – 35 The New Commandment

Jesus said... Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Once upon a time... always a good way to start a story! Once upon a time there was a little girl who loved stories, she loved reading them (she was always a bit bookish), she loved being told them... but most of all she loved hearing the stories read from the huge black book in the little church she would go to with her Mum, every Sunday morning.

One Sunday the little girl heard a story which Jesus had told, it was being read by an elderly man who was very poorly, his voice was rich and deep, and he read slowly... and the words resonated with the little girl so intensely that, in that moment her life was transformed (although she probably didn't know it at the time). She was totally captivated by these words which she heard...

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

(From the Gospel of St. John 15)

One of the reasons that these words resonated so much was that the little girl's family name was 'Vine', and, always a daydreamer, she began wondering how she could be part of Jesus' own 'vine', how she could remain close to Jesus and how she could 'bear fruit' like the vines which her dad grew on his allotment which produced heavy bunches of grapes; beautifully sweet and juicy.

Working out what that actually meant has taken a lifetime and I am still found frequently pondering on these words of John 15!

I don't know how many of you remember, but for my Installation service, way back in 2011, I had wanted the reading from John 15 - so, I had, very cheekily, sent an email to the Bishop's office asking if I could have that reading. I received a curt reply from his PA saying that He chose the readings for Licensing services... so sorry, I wouldn't have a choice! It was only later when the information came through that I realised that Bishop Stephen had chosen John 15 – God works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform!

It has always been a passage close to my heart, and although the message at my licensing service was all about cutting back dead wood and allowing new growth, all about mission and ministry opportunities and working together as a church family to share the Gospel – I still, even on that nerve wracking occasion found the words of John 15 captivating me...

‘Abide in me, as I abide in you’

’ I am the vine, you are the branches.’

‘Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.’

These are the words which have guided my ministry here amongst you for the past 14 years. Early on, we committed ourselves to prayer, we worked together on our vocations, we saw them flourish. How many of you, sitting here, set down work that you didn't enjoy, that didn't quite fit and rose to a new challenge, inspired by knowing that God abided in you and had gifted you to serve the church – just as you are?

We saw change, people came forward with mission ideas, which we followed through. Others became confident to read or pray or serve or take a lead in worship We discovered together, that serving one another was a way of worshipping God. We built on all that was good from the past and ensured that fruitful ministry, through mission was shared in the community.

We celebrated the vocation of those called to ordained and licensed Ministry, the now Rev'd.s Anne, Sue, Philip, Diana, we trained curates... the Rev'd.s Julie and Dawn, we are supporting Andy on his journey towards ordination (what an inspiring Minister of the Gospel he will be!)... and just this week I heard the wonderful news that Jill Readings now has Authority to preach... she is officially an ALP! (Authorised Local Preacher), don't forget to congratulate her when you next see her.

We encouraged retired priests to fully engage with the work and worship here... Rev'd. Janet and Canon John... (although poor John didn't quite know what he was going to end up getting lumbered with!)

We empowered those who had a vocation to licensed lay ministries and supported them as their ministries naturally came to an end... Eric and Jennifer, both now enjoying their eternal reward; and our dear Mavis who I am really glad to see here today... together we helped them to find a new way of serving in this church family. We appreciated those who stepped up to roles on the PCC, or in worship, or in the community... as we have journeyed together, abiding in God's love, we have flourished... and I would like to think we have borne much good fruit.

But, all good things must come to an end... as they say! Well, for me, anyway, we have now come to that point where our paths separate, and we need to say our farewells. I was hopeful, as the date was set, that the reading for today would be John 15... but instead, the lectionary has given me a different gift, which I want to pass on to you... as Jesus was leaving his disciples, he comforted them, preparing them for the future ~ by giving them a new commandment... and so I have the privilege today, as I prepare to leave my role as Vicar of Broomfield to remind you all, as Jesus' disciples of today, in this place and time ~ of that 'New Commandment'... Jesus asks that his disciples 'love one another', and that love is to be of the same magnitude, with the same unconditional elements, the same quality as the love Jesus had shown to them, the same love that he has shown us. Jesus tells them that it is this quality of loving that will show everyone else that they - and that WE - are his disciples.

It is this excellence of love which will continue to bind you together as the body of Christ in this place.

It is this characteristic of love that will set you apart in the community – will intrigue those who do not yet know the saving power of Jesus - so much so - that they will wonder what makes you different, strong in the face of adversity, joyful in the face of loss and bereavement, brave in the face of pain.

It is this condition of love which will sustain you through all types of adversity and will bind you together as a family, able to support each other and those who you do not even know – through the power of the Holy Spirit whose nourishment is all you need to draw on when the loving feels difficult or hard.

One of my favourite hymns is the one we have just sung as a gradual hymn... number 662 in the hymn book if you want to turn to it. The second verse says something deeply important about the love of God...

“... we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.”

If God’s love doesn’t seem sufficient enough... it is because we don’t understand that love, we impose our own understanding of love on to it. God’s love is totally unconditional and always available. We are created in the image of God as pure love and we are to see that image of God in ourselves and in each other... if there is a limit to God’s love, then it is us who are restricting it, making it too narrow.

If we think we have done anything so wrong that we cannot be forgiven, then think again! God’s pure love offers total forgiveness of all of our sins. We make God strict and stern and unapproachable... Continue to look to your own understanding of Love, of God – know that you have the capacity to show the wideness of God’s mercy, the depth of his love, the completeness of his acceptance of you and of others.

I leave you today with a huge heartfelt thank you for the journey we have made together through these 14 years, for the prayers which have sustained us and all that we have achieved in worship and in sharing the love of God through mission and ministry together.

Most good stories finish with a ‘happily every after’... and so will this one if you continue worshipping together, praying together, working together, and most importantly of all ~ loving one another... as Jesus loves you.

Let us pray:

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life:

Give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the father.

Amen

Prayer for June

Dear Lord,

June is the loveliest month, with long days and the beauty of summer all around us. Thank you that, in the church's year this month, we remember one of the loveliest of your followers – Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement. He encouraged the believers in Antioch to *remain true to the Lord* with all their hearts. Through his ministry of encouragement, a great number of people were brought to know you.

Lord, we all thrive when we are encouraged. And we, your people, so need to be encouraged today in this world which can seem so confusing and discouraging. So, thank you for those who have encouraged us in the past, and for those who encourage us now.

Help us to read your living unchanging Word and to remain true to you with all our hearts. Help us to be a *Barnabas* to those we know who might be struggling. May we bear fruit in our discipleship.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daphne Kitching

Taken from Parish Pump, a resource for Parish Magazines.

A prayer for the interregnum

God our Father,
you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus and called us to be his body in this place. Send us your Holy Spirit, at this time of uncertainty and change, to fill us with vision and energy; make us faithful in prayer and worship, that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community.

Guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new Incumbent for this parish, that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people: ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

80th Anniversary of VE Day 1945

The sermon given by Bishop Tony Robinson
at St. Mary with St Leonard, Broomfield on 4th May 2025

After nearly six years of war Winston Churchill spoke to the crowds in London and across the nation: ‘In the history of our country there has never been a day as great as this’.

I am pleased to tell you I’m not old enough to remember VE Day! Maybe one or two are? So the excitement of 8th May 1945 was too early for me. Today gives us all an opportunity to recall afresh the excitement of victory on 8th May 1945 in the enormous effort of that terrible war. Images of that excitement abound this week on television and our papers.

On Sunday 13th May 1945, The Archbishop spoke of the pride in the armed forces, in the example set by the King and Queen, in the leadership of Winston Churchill. He described the war as a fight to the death against totalitarianism and added, I quote, ‘totalitarianism is an ugly word for an ugly thing’. That ugliness we saw in its fullness particularly in the ‘ghastly truth of the concentration camps and prisoner of war camps in the far east’.

Ronnie Knox, that great preacher, pointed the way in which we were to thank God. I quote: ‘Thank God not so much because our enemies have been humiliated as because one more warning has been pasted up on the notice-board of history against the drunkard’s dream of world-conquest.’

It was a time of great rejoicing indeed. But there was also much sorrow in that rejoicing: so many not coming home; so many lost lives at home; so much destruction. Sense had to be made of all the death and suffering: lives taken and many lives given.

In the prayers of those days, as in these days too, the reality and cost of self-sacrifice is central. Indeed, we have recently celebrated on Good Friday the ultimate prayer, the prayer of the mystery of the Word of God in our flesh, offering himself in sacrifice for our freedom.

In the face of the ugly and wholesale death of war we are either struck dumb or we cling to the Cross of Christ. He alone gives death and suffering a new and redemptive dimension. He gave of himself that we might live. So too did so many. In his Godhead Jesus has victory over death; in his humanity he gives us a share in that victory, such that we, in our turn, can make an offering of our

suffering and even of life itself. No wonder the words of the hymn *Abide with me* strike such a deep chord in our land. 'Hold thou thy Cross before my closing eyes... in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me'. This, too, we remember today with profound thankfulness.

There was another sense in the hearts of many on that day in May eighty years ago. They knew that huge challenges lay ahead. A social order and a society had to be rebuilt, not just here but in so many other countries, too. New dangers stalked the world: poverty, long-term unemployment, rancour and discord which had to be overcome if a true peace, always more than the absence of war, was to be constructed.

History tells us that in the post-war years some great achievements emerged from dialogue and mutual effort. A need was recognised for more than a renewed economy. A renewal of spirit, a renewal of identity, a renewal of values and personal moral vision was needed to replace the deconstruction of so much in the brutality of warfare. The vision of faith, the Christian faith, played a crucial part in that effort, notably in the construction of a renewed system of education. Similarly, the NHS emerged, and social renewal in housing and welfare. It was a time of building, houses and souls. That too must be part of our reflection today, and part of our thanksgiving. Sadly although much has changed many of the same problems still exist in 2025.

Through our politics, through our business and enterprise, through our education, through our families, through our faith we can fashion a society focussed on and dedicated to the common good, a good from which no one, absolutely no one, is excluded.

Victory in Europe, 8th May 1945, was a marvellous moment. The war continued in the Far East until September. But it was a moment of such invigorating joy that we do well to remember and celebrate it in thanksgiving and prayer. May God bless all those who won for us that victory. May God bless us all in our present struggle. May God and the light that He alone can give, always be our guide and our strength. Amen.

Bishop Tony Robinson

In the footsteps of St Patrick

On 22nd April, just after Easter, I and sixteen pilgrims journeyed together to Crossgar, County Down in Northern Ireland to walk along parts of St Patrick's Way, exploring the landscape and Christian heritage of this part of Ireland. St Patrick's name and legacy are linked to many spiritual sites in County Down, and Patrick also died in this county. His final resting place is beside Down Cathedral, a place of Christian worship since the 5th century.

We stayed in Tobar Mhuire Monastic Retreat in Crossgar, set in beautiful grounds surrounded by impressive woodland trails and a beautiful prayer garden. Some of us had just discovered an App which identifies birds, so each day there was a competition as to who could hear the most birds!

With an average age of seventy-four, we came prepared with walking boots, walking poles, waterproof jacket and trousers, (there is a reason why the countryside is a patchwork of lush and very green fields!), and a strong determination to finish each walk, come what may. One walk took us along the Coastal Camino, an ancient pilgrim path of sandy trails and clifftops ablaze with bright yellow gorse bushes. The sky was blue, there were panoramic views of the Irish seacoast and the Isle of Mann. A challenging walk, but we were inspired by the sights of sandy beaches, blue grottos and rugged rock formations. Another day saw us walking in the heart of the Mourne Mountains through Kilbroney Forest park with a CS Lewis inspired Narnia trail. The author holidayed in the Mourne mountains and the location inspired his fictional landscapes in 'The Chronicles of Narnia'. We visited Tobar Mhuire Monastery for a talk on faith and spirituality by one of the monks. Someone asked what was the difference between a monk and a friar. Apparently, monks generally lead a cloistered contemplative life within the monastery, while friars are active in ministry and service to the world. One brave pilgrim asked of the monk "But what do you do all day?" Unperturbed, and with a gentle smile, he kindly led us through his day of cooking, washing, cleaning and making candles, interspersed with much praying!

Climbing Slieve Patrick, the holy mountain of St Patrick, was a challenge. This was part of an ancient path which leads to the tallest statue of St Patrick in the World. In 1932 work began on building the Mourne granite statue to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of St Patrick bringing Christianity to Ireland.

The final 8-mile walk took us through Tollymore National Forest Park, (more bird apps!) along the Shimna River, along the way visiting an ancient hermitage built into the riverbank. How pleased were we to see our coach at the end of that walk.

It was a very special week. As a group we encouraged each other, spent time comfortably together and gathered in the round each night for Evening Prayer. Each morning, we received daily scrolls of St Patrick's own words from his confession to reflect on during the day. An example of which:

**I have cast myself
Into the hands of almighty God, who is
The ruler of all places,
As the prophet says
'Cast your concerns on God
And he will sustain you.'**

As a child I had read stories of the life of this Irish saint, but a visit to the St. Patrick Centre in Downpatrick was very informative. Around the beginning of the 5th Century, Patrick, the son of a wealthy Romanised Briton was snatched by the Irish Celts along with other youngsters and taken to the slave markets in Ireland. Captive for six years he endured great loneliness and isolation, but eventually escaped and after many adventures by land and sea returned to Britain. However, he said he received a call in a vision where an Irish man named Victorious called out to him: "We ask thee boy, come and walk among us once more"

Believing he was being guided by God, Patrick bravely returned to Ireland to spread the Gospel throughout that land. It is said that his greatest legacy was his preaching of Christ crucified, buried, risen and coming again and the importance of a personal relationship with Him.

As we said our farewells, we all agreed it had been a very rich and meaningful time for every one of us. We had completed every walk safely, enjoyed some breathtaking scenery (without getting wet!) made new friends and discovered how important the faith of St Patrick was in bringing Christianity to Ireland. The words of the hymn known as St Patricks Breastplate perfectly encapsulates Patrick's faith.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Amen

Chris Bailey

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**



PONDER WITH CANON JOHN

Thankfully I am still moved by Jesus' resurrection narratives recorded by St John in the 20th chapter of his Gospel and his alone. I write 'thankfully' since there is a danger that familiarity with Biblical stories causes one to switch off - 'I've heard it all before: there is no need for me to listen.' Of course, if you don't listen you have no idea what you might be missing! And this year we heard the Easter readings in the context of the 80th anniversary of VE day, which prompts me to invite you to ponder possible links!

You may not be aware that the Sunday readings are not the choice of the preacher but are stated in a lectionary produced by the Church of England Liturgical Commission for national use. The preacher is of course at total liberty to ignore them and to use readings of his or her own choice, but some of us consider abiding by the lectionary gives to we who preach and congregations the opportunity of appreciating the breadth of scripture in both Old and New Testaments and sometimes the Apocrypha.

So on Easter Day we listened to St John's rendering of the encounter outside Joseph of Arimathea's now open and empty tomb where a totally distraught Mary of Magdala had seen Jesus' crucified body laid, with the one she assumed to be the gardener: 'Sir, if you have taken him away tell me where you have laid him and I will take him away,' only for the supposed gardener to speak her name. Her response at seeing her previously crucified Lord now standing before her pronouncing her name, was totally overwhelming, and her response, what all of us who have been bereaved in devastating and sometimes not so devastating circumstances echo, the lunging forward to hold to oneself the assumed departed, only for Jesus to respond to her: 'Do not hold on to me, for I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' My response is to reflect: 'Was this not a yet more painful 'bereavement,' that the Lord whose death and burial she had witnessed, and whose risen presence she had encountered, now said to her: 'Do not hold on to me; let me go!' And in then telling her to go and inform his disciples of their encounter, she had no guarantee she would ever see him again! So as I shared with the congregation in my sermon on the Sunday following Easter Day, my first pondering is what I referred to then as the demand that we have to be prepared 'to let go of our loved ones who have died,' which for many of us may be an extremely painful message to heed!

My second pondering comes from St John's account of Jesus breaking into the tightly barred and bolted upper room where his disciples had imprisoned

themselves 'for fear that the fate which had befallen him would also befall them.' St John records: 'He breathed on them,' and gave them a commission and authority, the carrying out and exercising of which would require them to leave their self-imposed prison: 'Receive Holy Spirit: those whose sins you forgive they will be forgiven; those whose sins you retain will be retained. 'He breathed out of himself that quality and pattern of life which he had exhibited during his ministry of which they were all witnesses, a life which in resurrection had demonstrated its superior power over the evils of humankind which had nailed him to a criminal's means of execution. It is this notion of 'breathing out' and 'commissioning' which I find both motivating and demanding.

For many of us the commemoration and thanksgiving of the 80th anniversary of 8th May 1945 was a moment of a mixture of deep sadness and joy. My mother had to 'let go' of her husband of barely 2 years, he being a victim of World War 2's list of those killed in action; although I was obviously not aware at the time, I had to 'let go' of a father of just over 1 year, my father's parents of a son of 31 years old. In 1997 as we were preparing to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary I had to 'let go' of my first wife aged 51, her mother of an only daughter. For a parent to have to 'let go' of their child of any age must be deeply traumatic; the experience goes totally against the grain; as a prospective parent you do not participate in the giving of new life only for the requirement that you 'let go' of that new life before the end of your own!

BUT, but, maybe there is some comfort even consolation, in the imagery of Jesus breathing out his life into his disciples. Do you recall the imagery of Genesis 2, the second of the two ancient Jewish assertions regarding the origins of the created universe? We are taken to a sculpture's studio to witness the creator at work. Initially he sculpts a corpse only when he has finished his creating to breathe into the nostrils of his workmanship his own breath, so that the corpse becomes a living being. Is there something in the suggestion that at the moment when those we love cease to be living beings, they breathe out that which has made them unique, that which is the reason why we have loved them and always will, that which made us admire them, that which they gave to all with whom they had to do throughout the time of their physical presence with us and others? And in breathing their uniqueness out, the onus is on us to decide whether or not we are prepared to take into ourselves their uniqueness, their motivation for living, their identity, the qualities of their being, all that they gave to us for us in turn to give to all those with who we have to do, not to let them die in vain, but to excel in the riches they offered to us and which we are invited to impart to others? What do you think?

Jesus breathed his death-destroying life into his terrified disciples, commanding them to proclaim and live the message both of forgiveness and of judgment. If he were to stand in our midst today and breathe his life into us, what do you think he might demand of us? Those who did not return from the battlefield between 1939 and 1945 ‘breathed out their life.’ If we were to consider ourselves the recipients of their ‘breathed out life’ what for you would be its content? I think it’s worth pondering, don’t you?

Canon John Brown

Crooked politicians

The editor of a small country newspaper, furious over several government bills that had recently been passed, printed a scathing editorial with an enormous headline: ‘HALF THE LEGISLATORS ARE CROOKS.’

Many local politicians were outraged and exerted tremendous pressure on him to print a retraction. He finally gave in to the pressure and ran his apology with the headline: ‘HALF OF OUR LEGISLATORS ARE NOT CROOKS.’

Beware of the new Amazon scam

I asked my husband to order me some expensive jewelry but motorcycle parts came instead! Thankfully, they fit his bike.

Encore!

The new curate had visited the local prison and taken along his electric guitar. He was so pleased with the applause that he responded: ‘Thank you very much for your appreciation. I so hope that I will see you all back here again next year.’”

Community Engagement and Outreach

As part of the Chelmsford VE Day 80 event organised by Chelmsford for You on Monday 5th May, Ian and Ros Mercer, helped by Kathy Rouse on the day, created and manned a display about Rosemary Rutherford's War Art as part of the exhibition in the Shire Hall. From the moment of opening there were streams of people visiting the exhibition and queuing outside. Much interest was shown in the artworks and especially the stained glass and the fresco which was printed on a roll-up banner helpfully paid for by Chelmsford for You.

Ros Mercer presented a talk on Rosemary Rutherford's War Art in the Cathedral later in the afternoon, which was well received and appreciated. Cathy Pearson is giving a talk on Rosemary Rutherford at Chelmsford Museum as part of the Essex Book Festival on 21st June.

The Round Tower Society is visiting the church briefly as part of their tour of Essex churches on Saturday 7th June. On the same day, the Amateur Geological Society is visiting the church for the day to look at the monuments and the church walls. This will be guided by Ian & Ros Mercer.

The next People & Stone talk, 'Churchyard Stories', is planned for Saturday 19th July when Karen Paxton will be able to give her talk on the stories of people buried in the churchyard and Malcolm Taylor will talk about the institution of the War Graves.

Ros Mercer





Home Words: June 1884

In June 1884 there were a couple of Sundays where the services were aimed at providing support for the poorer parts of the Diocese.

On 22nd June there was a rather unusual service in the Parish Church, a flower service with a flower sermon. This appears to have been an annual event since the report in Home Words notes that in 1883 a total of 300 flowers had been sent to the London Hospital and the Children's Hospital at Shadwell. It seems too that some of the flowers were

available for sale though there is no indication of where the proceeds went. In 1883, it is reported, a large bunch of flowers was bought by a man in the morning since he was unable to attend in the afternoon. The report goes on to say that "we hope those who attend the Service will bring flowers and that they will tie around them a text of Scripture on a card and that we shall have even more flowers than last year to divide between the hospitals.

The hope was answered. We read in the July edition of Home Words that "the interest in the service was, if anything, greater than ever. It took a long time for the long string of children and grown up persons to present their flowers and the bunches reaching the large number of 353. In 1882 there were 282 and last year 315. A third of the flowers are this year sent by Mrs Pelly for the poor of St. John's Stratford. The Vicar preached from Matthew vi, 28 'Consider the lilies'"

A week earlier the church service had incorporated sermons for the Diocesan Societies with the offertories given to the Bishop of St. Albans' Fund and to the House of Mercy at Great Maplestead. The Bishop's Fund "helps to provide the means of grace for the crowded districts of the Diocese along the east banks of the Thames, and the Rescue Work which is being successfully carried on in Stratford and other towns requires homes like that at Maplestead in which patients may for a time be cared for, and started afresh in life."

The House of Mercy, also known as the Magdalen Home, was established in 1868 and was to support 'fallen' girls and women. Accommodation was limited to 50 individuals with an age range of 15 to 24 (later raised to 30). Residents

were expected to stay two years and were taught needlework and laundry work. Originally under the control of the Diocese of Rochester, by 1884 it had been transferred to the Diocese of St. Albans. The House continued its social service work in various forms until 1957 when it was closed down.

In Broomfield at large Home Words was pleased to announce that the Cricket Club “which showed so little signs of vitality last year, has started with renewed vigour this. There was a very good attendance at the annual meeting on May 19th and 13 new members were elected.”

However, a match between Little Waltham and Broomfield on Whit Monday ended with a win for Little Waltham. A return match was scheduled for 1st July but the result is not recorded.

Alun Powell

Life in the Circus

A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."

Church Calendar June 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

Sunday 1 st	9.30 am	The Seventh Sunday of Easter Parish Eucharist Parish Eucharist with Lego Church followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 3 rd	9.00 am	Working party in the Churchyard
Wednesday 4 th	10.00 am	Bible Study Group - 2A Hearsall Avenue
	1.45 pm	Baffled by the Bible - 68 Longshots Broomfield
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 5 th	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 6 th	4.15pm	Choir practice in St. Leonard's Hall
Saturday 7 th	10.30 am	Amateur Geologist Society and the Round Tower Society visit
Sunday 8 th		Pentecost
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
Monday 9 th	12.30 pm	Film & Lunch Club in St. Leonard's Hall
Tuesday 10 th	9.00 am	Working Party in Churchyard
	5.30 pm	Light Group meeting in St. Leonard's Hall
Wednesday 11 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
Thursday 12 th	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice*
	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
	2.00 pm	Friends of Broomfield Hospital in St. Leonard's Hall

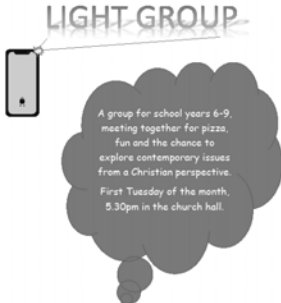
Sunday 15 th		Trinity Sunday
	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Family Service followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
Tuesday 17 th	9.00 am	Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 18 th	10.00a m	Bible Study Group - 2A Hearsall Avenue
	1.45 pm	Baffled by the Bible - 68 Longshots Broomfield
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 19 th	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
	2.00 pm	Beetle Drive in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 20 th	4.15 pm	Choir practice in St Leonard's Hall
Sunday 22 nd		Trinity 1
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
	2.00 pm	Ros and Ian Mercer Open Garden at 2A Hearsall Avenue, Broomfield
Monday 23 rd	10.00 am	Standing Committee Meeting in Committee Room
Tuesday 24 th	9.00 am	Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 25 th	10.00 am	Bible Study Group - 2A Hearsall Avenue
	1.45 pm	Baffled by the Bible - 68 Longshots Broomfield
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 26 th	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
	2.00 pm	Ladies Group in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 27 th	4.15 pm	Choir practice in St Leonard's Hall
Sunday 29 th		Peter the Apostle
	9.30 am	Morning Prayer followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
	5.30 pm	BCP Holy Communion

July 2025

Tuesday 1 st	9.00 am	Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 2 nd	10.00 am	Bible Study Group - 2A Hearsall Avenue
	1.45 pm	Baffled by the Bible - 68 Longshots Broomfield
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice*
Thursday 3 rd	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall

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What will you do in Heaven

‘Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth’ (Revelation 21:1)

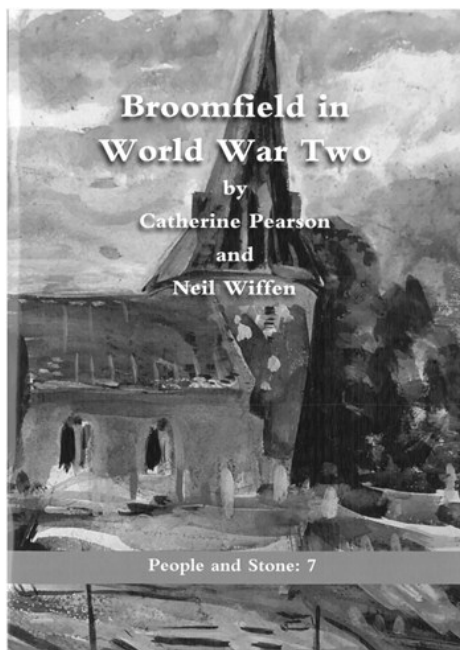
Perhaps the reason many of us are not as excited about heaven as we should be, is because of what we have been told; that we will stand around playing harps, singing songs and worshipping God for ever. Think about it. When the singing and the prayers in an average Sunday morning service lasts no longer than twenty minutes, many get bored. So, when we hear that we will be doing this nonstop, twenty four hours a day forever in heaven, you can understand why we can’t comprehend it or celebrate it. But there is more than one way of worshipping God . Astronomers estimate the existence of hundreds of billions of galaxies, which is more than ten galaxies for each person alive today! So, you won’t run out of things to do in heaven and it certainly won’t be boring.

It has taken thousands of years for billions of humans to explore one tiny planet – and we have barely scratched the surface. Exploring the marvels of the new heavens and the new earth will keep us intrigued for ever. Also our love for God will grow infinitely bigger as a result. So, we will never cease to worship Him. Jesus told the woman at the well that God is looking for those who ‘worship ... in the Spirit and in truth.’ (John 4:23.) If you worship out of ignorance, worship is empty. God doesn’t just want you to worship Him; He wants you to know who you are worshiping and why you are worshiping Him. Worship is twofold : ‘in the Spirit and in truth.’ So, learning the truth about God will keep you busy, excited, satisfied and fulfilled for all eternity.

Source U.C.B. Word for today.

Short Thought

We often think or say ‘isn’t mother nature wonderful’, and so she is, but then how awesome is Father God for providing mother nature.



Broomfield in World War Two

Throughout the month of May, St Mary's has been decorated in the patriotic red, white and blue as we honour the VE Day of 80 years ago. The team of flower arrangers worked hard to not only present aptly themed arrangements, but also to sustain them over the whole period. Starting with a commemorative service led by Canon John, then enjoying various community street parties and council events, culminating in our fantastic VE themed May Fayre, it has certainly been a time of celebration.

Nevertheless, whilst celebratory enjoyment has been highly appropriate, for some difficult memories could have been raised. For those of us fortunate to have never experienced war, it is vital we understand what was involved and fully appreciate that war affects not just the brave service men and women but every man, woman and child.

On Saturday May 17th Neil Wiffen and Dr. Cathy Pearson helped 110 of us with just that in their presentation of *Broomfield at War*, the latest in our series of *People and Stone* talks. Unlike other events, where the research undertaken for the talk has been subsequently captured in a booklet, this time the talk was generated from the publication. Growing up in the village, both the presenters had been fascinated by the war memories of their family and friends, and sought to gather these before they are completely lost from the collective memory. They also enlisted others to help with research at the Essex Record Office, so the publication is both touchingly personal yet historically rigorous. The captivating booklet recounts tales of wartime life as experienced in Broomfield village. It was thrilling to see our church packed with so many visitors, enthralled by the anecdotes recounted. Many had not visited us before so took the opportunity to explore the church and exhibition afterwards. This included a display of photographs of some of the evacuee children accommodated in Broomfield.

Others appreciated sitting in the courtyard sunshine whilst exchanging memories and enjoying tea and cake.

With the sale of many booklets, we raised over £1100. Our very sincere thanks go to Neil and Cathy, and all who supported the event with their baking and serving.

The booklet “*Broomfield in World War Two*” is available in the church or from Ros Mercer rosalindmercer0309@gmail.com at £10 plus p&p.

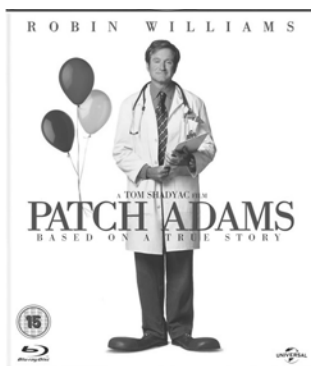


Dr Cathy Pearson and Neil Wiffen

The Film Club

I recently watched this film with my kids and had forgotten how funny it was and how talented Robin Williams was. So, I thought we'd have a 'run' of the 'late' Robin Williams films as we did with the 'late' Maggie Smith. This film was about a bitter divorce, between Daniel (Robin Williams), and his ex-wife, (Sally Field). Daniel disguised himself as Mrs Doubtfire, the newly recruited elderly 'Housekeeper/Carer' employed by his ex-wife after she won the custody battle.

He disguised himself as the housekeeper in order to be close to his 3 children. The trials and tribulations he went through along the way whilst disguised as 'Mrs Doubtfire' were very entertaining especially when he dropped his mask from his window and it was then run over by a truck, and when he burnt his padded breasts on the cooker!!! There was lots of laughter in the room as well as tea, cake and treats!! The film was enjoyed by all.



The film for June will be '**Patch Adams**' and will be shown on **Monday 9th June at 12.30pm.**

Continuing with the 'Robin Williams' theme, and his type of humour, this film looks to be very entertaining and endearing. It's a 1998 comedy drama film, set in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Based on the life of a medical doctor in California, Hunter, who had had suicidal thoughts used his humour, rather than psychotherapy to his fellow patients which then provides him with a new purpose. There's also romance, and a great film soundtrack to sing along too. This film was 'big'

back in the day along with films at the time such as 'Titanic' and 'Castaway'. So let's give it a go and see what we think!

I hope you will all join me – don't forget ya lunch and I'll bring the goodies!!!

Sarah x

NB - We kindly ask for a small donation of £2 towards the costs in running film club. Thank You.

NBB – Thank you again for your kind donations to our 'Film Club' hamper – this looked great and certainly went down a treat !!



St Mary's Ladies Group

At our April meeting we were delighted to welcome our speakers, Alison Douglas the chairperson of The Friends at Broomfield Hospital together with Marion Lee, one of the volunteers.

Alison began by telling us that this year they were celebrating 75 Years since the formation of the League of Friends of Broomfield Hospital. It was started by a group of people providing small comforts for the patients who were primarily suffering from TB and were in hospital for long periods of time. That small group grew - and the aim of the charity then was the same as it is now, to raise funds in support of Broomfield Hospital, its patients, staff and visitors.

Marion told us that the Friends now have more than 50 volunteers. They have two shops, one in the main atrium and another in the west wing. Both sell coffee, sandwiches, snacks, cold drinks, cards and small gifts. They run a trolley service providing an invaluable means of taking the "shop to the wards" and also a library trolley service enabling patients to borrow books. All profits from these activities are used to fund much needed equipment and services for the hospital.

Alison explained that money is only used to buy items that the NHS cannot supply. Departments contact the Friends with a proposal which is then discussed by the trustees as to whether funds can be used for that particular project. Over £104k was donated to such projects in 2024. Recent donations include a Billigun Jaundice Meter for the maternity unit, a Hoverjack, used to lift patients after a fall and two tilt chairs for the stroke unit.

After many interesting questions to the speakers from our members, Alison concluded her talk by saying that the time and effort given on a daily basis by the Friends volunteers is as vital today as it was when the group was first established 75 years ago.

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Easy

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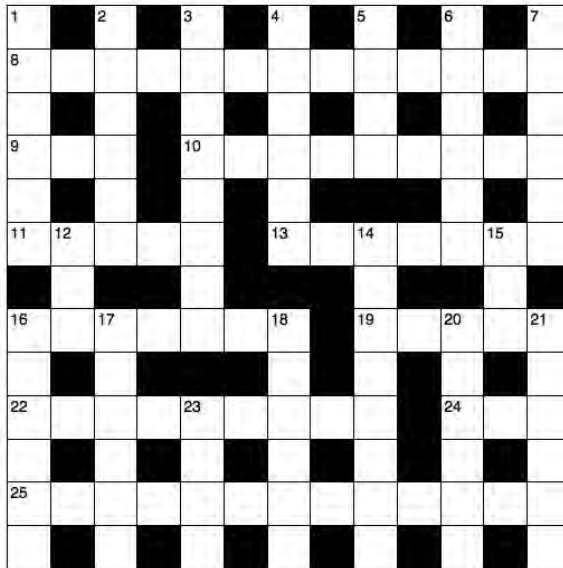
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Intermediate

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Crossword (answers on page 43)



Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
 9 In favour of (3)
 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
 22 Holy Communion (9)
 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — —' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

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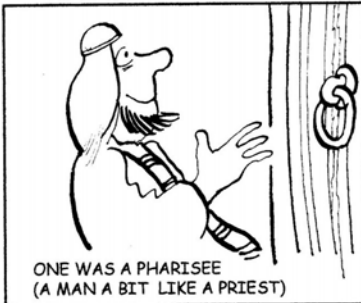
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The
Tale of the
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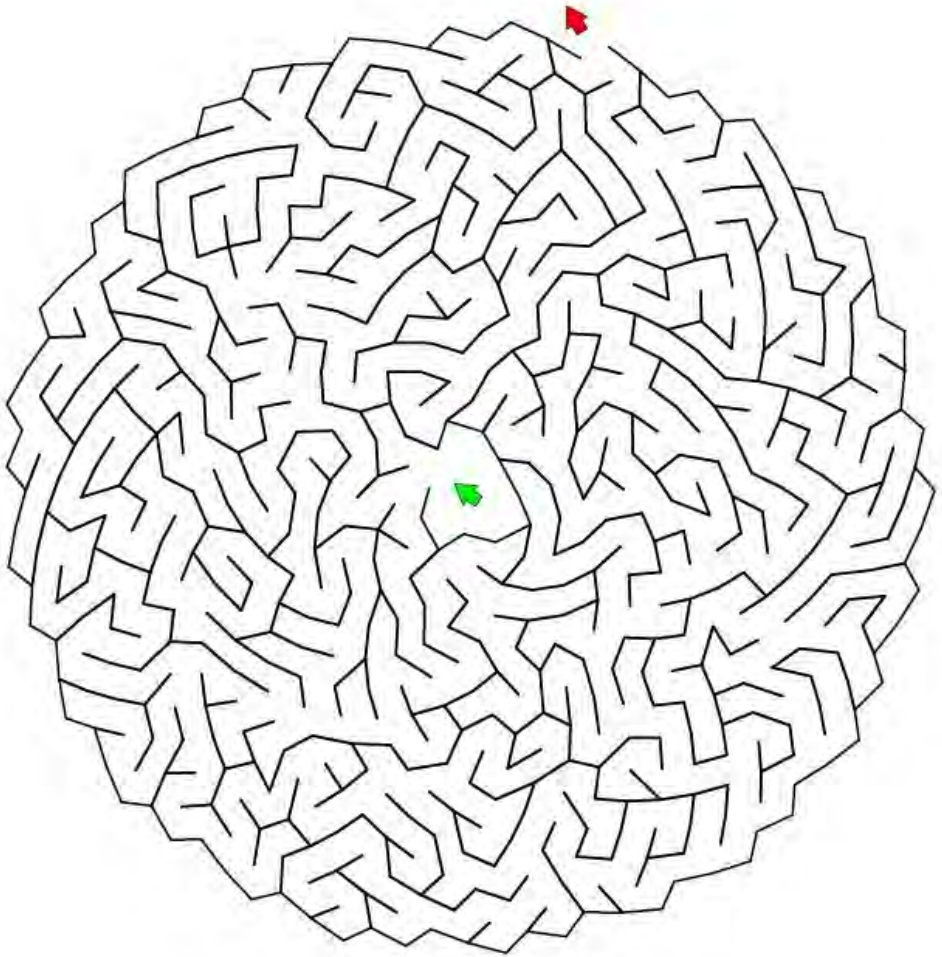


THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
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**Broomfield Cottage
Gardeners' Society**



FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

Sunday 20th July 2025

AS PART OF THE VILLAGE FAYRE

Broomfield Village Hall

rear of The Angel, Main Road, Broomfield, CM1 7AH



2.00pm to 4.00pm

Plant Stall and Tombola



Cookery, Preserves, Craft, Photography and Children's Classes

For Schedule & Entry Form please phone Show Secretary on 01245
355505 or 01245 443108 or email bcgsshowsecretary@gmail.com

EVERYONE WELCOME

FREE ADMISSION

www.broomfieldcottagegardenersociety.co.uk

Answers to crossword on page 32

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

Solution to
Sudokus on
page 31

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

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

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If you would like to advertise in the Round Tower please contact:

Alun Powell (tel. 442842).

From September 2024 the rates (for twelve issues) will be:

Quarter page £30

Half page £60

Full page £120

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***The Church of St. Mary with St. Leonard,
serving God and the people of Broomfield
yesterday, today and tomorrow***



for more details visit our website
www.stmarybroomfield.org