



THE ROUND TOWER

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

February 2026

60p

St. Mary with St. Leonard

Vicar	Currently in Interregnum	
Associate Priest	Canon John Brown canonjbrown@mac.com	210184
Church Wardens	Susan Garwood Woollards, Church Green CM1 7BD garwood@btinternet.com	442820
	Margaret Powell 14 Butlers Close CM1 7BE margaret.powell49@btinternet.com	442842
Parish Administrator	Anna Duke Available Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 am - 11.30 am 07469 556055 clericalstmarybroomfield@gmail.com	
Other contact points		
Church Website	www.stmarybroomfield.org email stmarybroomfield@gmail.com	
Church Vestry	01245801601	
Duty telephone	07464 321616	

Please note:

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

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Contents

	Page
Readings for February	2
From the Register of Services	2
Greetings from the Churchwardens	3
Lent Course	4
Prayer for February	5
A Prayer for the Interregnum	5
Broomfield 150 years ago this month	6
Broomfield 100 years ago this month	7
Deanery Day	9
Sermon by Canon John	10
Lego Church	13
Film Club	14
Sanctus	15
Ponder with Canon John	16
Hymn of the Month	19
The Seven Deadly Sins: Greed	20
Foodbank	21
Calendar	22
Bible Quiz	24
An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Isaiah	25
A Perfect Ending	26
Tools with a Mission	27
Easyfunding	28
Saint Lleurwg's Church, Hirwaun	30
Crossword	32
Sudokus	34
Children's Corner	40
Sudoku and crossword solutions	43
Index of Advertisers	44

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 1st February

9.30am

Malachi 3: 1 - 5

Hebrews 2: 14 - end

Luke 2: 22 - 40

5.30pm Evensong

Psalm 48

Exodus 13: 1 - 16

Romans 12: 1 - 5

Sunday 8th February

9.30am

Psalm 148

Genesis 1: 1 - 2.3

Romans 8: 18 - 25

Matthew 6: 25 - end

Sunday 15th February

8.00am

2 Peter 1: 16 - end

Matthew 17: 1 - 9

9.30am

Exodus 24: 12 - end

2 Peter 1: 16 - end

Matthew 17: 1 - 9

Sunday 22nd February

9.30am

Genesis 2: 15 - 17; 3: 1 - 7

Romans 5: 12 - 19

Matthew 4: 1 - 11

Greetings from the Churchwardens

Dear Friends

We are now a month into 2026. Not a wonderful start to the year with the usual tales of flooding, power cuts, breaks in water mains and school closures. At least the worst of the flu epidemic was left behind in 2025 and we are now beginning to see the first hints of Spring with the appearance of snowdrops, There is a particular clump just inside the Vicarage gate and it is always a boost to see then coming through at this time of year.

At St. Mary's we are praying that there will be some good news following our second round of advertisements seeking a new incumbent and that this time there will be a response. There is a prayer on page 5 which I would ask you to use during February. We remain optimistic that we will be welcoming a new incumbent in the near future.

Canon John Brown has been a wonderful support to us during Rev'd. Carolyn's sick leave and then the interregnum. He has put an immeasurable amount of work into the parish, putting himself forward to officiate at all sorts of services whenever they occur, compiling lists for readings etc and has been a great source when seeking advice and support. It's been a full on year with innumerable burials of ashes, funerals, burials, cremations, weddings and baptisms as well as the regular Sunday and weekday services. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He leaves us at the end of February for a well deserved "retirement". His last Sunday with us will be on March 1st, St. David's Day (Dydd Gwyl Dewi) when both Bishop Adam of Bradwell and Archdeacon Jonathan Croucher will join us for the 9.30 service. Thank you so much Canon John. Hopefully we will still be able to enjoy his "Ponderings" in the Round Tower.

We had very successful Christmas services with excellent attendances especially for the Village Carol Service and for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. It was wonderful to see the Church so full and to see so many young families in the Crib Service. The Puppets' performance added enormously to the occasion. Thank you very much to all who contributed either taking part or organising these very special services and, indeed, to everyone who keeps us ticking over from week to week. Our organist and musical director, Jill Parkin, deserves a special mention and thanks for the tremendous job she did over the festive period. Many thanks, too, to the bell ringers for adding to the festivities.

It was also lovely to welcome the children, staff and parents from Broomfield Primary School who held their Christmas Services in St. Mary's. It was a delight to see so many pleasant and well behaved children enjoying and participating in their Christmas celebrations.

And so to 2026. The next event in the church calendar will be the start of Lent. Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday are on the 17th and 18th February and the first Sunday of Lent will be on 22nd February. See below for details of a Lent Course to be held at the home of Ros Mercer, And then to Easter which is early this year. Hopefully by then we will know whether we have somebody in place to lead us into St. Mary's next chapter.

God bless

Margaret

Churchwarden

Lent Course

All welcome!

The course will be based on "Walking the Way of the Cross" by Steven Cottrell, Paula Gooder and Philip North.

It will be held on Wednesday mornings in Lent starting on 25th February at the home of Ros Mercer, 2a Hearsall Avenue, Broomfield (behind Nisa).

Beginning at 10.30am and followed by a Soup Lunch for Christian Aid. Offers to make soup would be welcome.

After Eden

Adam was out walking with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked, "Father, what's that place?"

Adam replied, "Boys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home."

Prayer for February

Dear Lord,

The shortest month, the snowdrop month! February brings those beautiful, hopeful little flowers, also called Candlemas Bells. Thank You, Lord, for the beauty and the hope.

Thank You for the reminder of when Jesus was presented at the Temple as a baby. Thank You, for Simeon recognising in that vulnerable baby the promised Saviour of all the world. Oh Lord, how this world needs to hear afresh that message of salvation.

Open eyes to see You and to know You. Open ears to hear Your message of hope and reconciliation. Open hearts to receive Your love and to share it, for the sake of all the suffering people of the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

Taken from Parish Pump, a resource for Parish Magazines.

A prayer for the interregnum

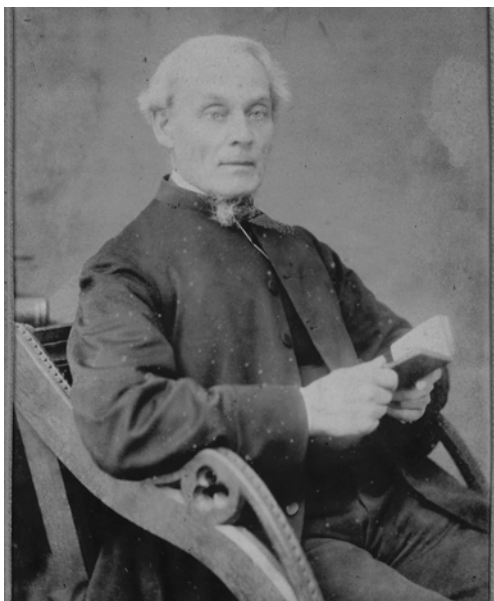
While our Parish is in an interregnum which will extend until well into 2026, please use the prayer below.

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.

Broomfield 150 Years Ago This Month



Rev'd. John Bradford
Whiting MA
Vicar and amateur engineer

Towards the end of 1875 the Rev'd. John Bradford Whiting left Broomfield to take up the position of vicar at St. Luke's Ramsgate.* In February 1876 he was back in the Chelmsford area and for reasons completely unrelated to his Church of England role. He was in Chelmsford to attend an event at the Essex and Chelmsford Museum. The object of the event was threefold. The first was a talk by Dr. J. E. Taylor, a well known geologist and curator of the Ipswich museum, on "Earthquakes and Volcanoes, their History and Origin". The second was to "experience the effect of lighting a room of considerable dimensions with the Silber light." The Silber lamp was a form of internal gas lighting developed by Albert

Marcus Silber, and had won his company, the Silber Light Company, a silver medal at the Manchester Exhibition of 1875. It was, according to the local press, a success, with the room "most satisfactorily lighted".

The third object of the event was to demonstrate the "New, Non-Smoking, Economic Fireplace" manufactured by Mr. T. H. P. Dennis of Chelmsford. And this is why Rev'd. Whiting was in attendance. The new stove, named the Volcano, was based on his designs and he was there to explain his invention to the assembly.

As part of the demonstration, reports the Chelmsford Chronicle of 18th February, the stove was "put up opposite the chimney breast near one end of the room, the escape pipe for the smoke being carried into the chimney, while supplies of fresh air for ventilation were obtained by means of another pipe which extended from the stove to one of the windows, a pane of glass having been taken out so as to

expose the mouth of the pipe to the outer air. This outer air, when admitted, is warmed by passing through a series of vertical tubes, and is then thrown into the room, and the heat and smoke are made to circulate the different compartments into which the stove is divided so completely that the amount of warmth which escapes up the chimney is reduced to a mere bagatelle.”

The chairman for the evening, Mr. F. T. Veley as well as thanking Dr. Taylor for his “able and learned lecture, noted that “he never knew the room better warmed and lighted than it was tonight, and he thought they must feel satisfied with the Silber light, and also feel much indebted to Mr. Whiting for introducing his new system of warming.” Mr. Whiting was, obviously, a man of many talents.

- See the Round Tower December 2025 for a short biography of Rev’d. Whiting.

Broomfield 100 Years Ago This Month

The Broomfield Social Scene

There were plenty of social events taking place in Broomfield in February 1926 to while away the dark evenings. Both the Women’s Institute and the Junior Women’s Institute held meetings during the month. At the former, presided over by Mrs Nash of Broomfield Court, a Mrs Mead demonstrated “quick and useful cookery” and there were 11 entries for the cake from a given recipe competition. Mrs Wiseman won first prize, Mrs Saltmarsh came second with Mrs Sewell in third place. At the Junior W.I. meeting there was a talk by a Miss Bancroft entitled “Things of interest in London” . “London is a fine town” was danced by some of the members. The competition, “Guessing Tunes” was won by Misses K. Harris, M. Blackburn and F. Day.

A “successful” dance was held in the Church Hall for the Football Club with the Broomfield Band “much appreciated”. Mr Sewell was the MC and a guessing competition was won by Miss G. Bradley and Mr. F. Wilson.

The Temperance Society held its annual entertainment event at the British School, the newly installed Rev’d. G. A. Bunbury presiding. According to the Chelmsford Chronicle of 5th February “an excellent programme was contributed by the choir, Olive Martin, Irene Downs, N. Gamble. Edith Clarke, A. Burton, J. Chennels, E. Mead, E. Pudney, F. Day. L’ and D. Turner, J. Barratt, E. Garner, H. Sprawling, N. Brown, D. Gardiner, J. Gladwyn and E. Rose.”

Primitive Methodist Church

The anniversary of the church was held on Sunday 7th February. In the morning, Rev'd. J. Neville conducted the service with Mr. J. A. Feltham taking the young people's service in the afternoon and Rev'd. F. Cranham taking the evening service. The following Wednesday a public tea was held for about 100 people. After tea there was a "capital" musical programme with Mr. W. J. Everitt, Mrs. R. Batting and the string band contributing instrumental items. The Misses Ida and Ivy Fisher, D. Saunders and L. White sang duets, with Miss D. Windus at the organ, and Miss Beale gave a recitation.

Bell Ringing

A peal was rung in the Church as a welcome to Rev'd. G. A. Bunbury and Mrs Bunbury. Lasting 2 hours and 55 minutes it consisted of "minor 5,040 changes (being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, College Exercise, Double Court, Woodbine, New London, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob). The ringers were W. Windley, treble; H. Warn, 2; H. Bradley, 3; C. Clarke, 4; H. Devenish, 5; E. P. Buckingham (conductor) tenor.

Alun Powell

Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God."

The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute

Chelmsford Deanery Synod
invites you to a

DEANERY DAY

Open to All Church Members

Saturday 28th February

9.30am - 3.30pm

Meadgate Church, The Orchards,
Mascalls Way, Great Baddow, CM2 7NS

*Come and hear about sources of support, ideas and
success stories, and worship together*

Workshop Sessions Networking opportunities

Support from the Diocese

Parish Giving

Multi-parish working

Unusual Outreach

Youth & Children

Safeguarding

Church Wardens / Treasurers

Meet the Area Dean

Wellbeing and prayer space

No charge - Bring your own lunch

For more details and to book your place email
chelmsforddeanerysynod@gmail.com

Sermon by Canon John on 24 December 2025.

Below I give you the sermon which I preached at the Midnight Eucharist in St Mary's on Christmas Eve. I trust you find it reassuring as we enter 2026.

Old Testament: Isaiah 9.2-7; Epistle: Hebrews 1.1-4; Gospel: John 1.1-14

I give you three phrases from tonight's Gospel:

First: The WORD was GOD, and the WORD was made flesh and dwelt among us;

Second: In him was LIFE and his LIFE was LIGHT for all humanity;

Third: The LIGHT shone in the DARK and the DARK could not overcome it, consume it, blow it out.

First, the WORD was GOD, and the WORD was clothed in the flesh of we humans, and dwelt among us, well not quite us but amongst those who were alive at the same time that he was alive.

For the Jews God was I AM, or I WAS, or I WILL BE. The root of the verb TO BE. In the same way that we cannot grasp hold of TIME, what I have just said in the present is now past; what I am about to say is yet in the future, and when I say it it will be in the present, and having said it it will be in the past; the future will soon be present, then immediately past; we can't get hold of time - so the Jews of Old were called by a God who they could not encapsulate, and of whom they were forbidden to construct any image - Ten Commandments number 2. For the Jews God was invisible.

By contrast the great Christian assertion is that the God of the Jews is no longer invisible, but was born an infant in a Bethlehem stable, within humanity's time. The God of the Jews is identifiable in one called Jesus of Nazareth, Emmanuel - 'God is with us,' - visible, audible, touchable, as a human being, just like you and me. This is the astonishing claim of Christian Faith, and we have to decide for ourselves: 'Is such a claim, such an astonishing assertion, true or false?' Because if we say it is true, all sorts of implications follow. Throughout history both Jews and Muslims, have and do acknowledge that Jesus of Nazareth is a prophet, but they are not prepared to go that one step further and say that this Jesus is their God in human form. The assertion is there in tonight's reading from the Letter to Hebrews: 'he bears the imprint of God himself' and in the New Testament letter to the Christians at Colossae: 'This Jesus is the image of

the invisible God.’ The assertion has been around for a long time, and if we agree with the assertion, all sorts of implications follow!

Second, in him was LIFE and his LIFE was LIGHT for humankind. Upon whom or perhaps what, do you base your pattern for your day by day living, since certainly for each of us there is a basis, perhaps more than one, for our daily living. Who, what, is, are, the models you look up to, in accordance with which you endeavour to live your life, those you aspire to be like because there is something about them which you admire? I am fascinated by the assertion of St John, that the LIFE of Jesus was / is, LIGHT for humankind. Are you one of those who believes that some are born evil, while others become evil? Or do you hold the belief that all are born with the potential for both good and evil, and the ways in which they / we respond to whatever they / we face, invites either a good or evil response; or those occasions when we choose to or are persuaded to initiate, we have the choice to initiate that which is beneficial or that which is harmful? The choice is always ours! I take seriously this assertion of St John that the LIFE of Jesus was/is LIGHT for humankind, the LIGHT which shines during the day as well as in the dark, the LIGHT which attracts, which holds one’s attention, the LIGHT which beckons, and time and again we find ourselves having to choose between following the LIFE of him who is LIGHT, or walking in, promoting, a life of darkness, both for ourselves and others with whom we have to do.

And thirdly, if we choose or have to walk in the dark, says St John the LIGHT which is Christ will always be present. What was it he asserted? The LIGHT shone in the darkness, and the darkness, despite the enormity of its size, proportionally so much greater than the LIGHT, it was not able to snuff the LIGHT out. This is the great hope to which Christian Faith invites us to hold, and not only us, but to convey this hope, offer this hope to all with whom we have to do. At this service last year I predicted that 2025 would be a dark year. Regrettably my prediction has proved true. In Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Myanmar, Southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United States, Bondi Beach, Manchester, Southport, the streets of *our* cities, within, outside, to and from our schools, on our trains and buses, evil rears its ugly head. There is darkness all around us, and who knows how much darker it will get during 2026!

But Christianity has at its heart this astonishing assertion that no matter the

enormity of the darkness, the LIGHT of the LIFE of the Christ will never be snuffed out. History tells us that those who endeavour and do destroy today, will themselves be destroyed tomorrow. In the last century two World Wars eventually came to an end: yes, many were killed, bereaved, and wounded, but eventually the perpetrators of the evil were themselves destroyed. Such is my predication for 2026 that those who today perpetrate evil, tomorrow will themselves be destroyed or called to give account. This is not to invite complacency, but rather to ensure that each of us takes into ourselves that LIGHT which is the LIFE of the Christ, to live that LIGHT wherever and with whoever, darkness prevails. Our task as people endeavouring to be Christian, to be Christ-like, is constantly to be conveyors of HOPE, to be LIGHT wherever darkness is to be found. My prayer for you all is that this Christmas tide you will make this endeavour your own, and will be sustained in it throughout the year that lies ahead of us.

Amen

Canon John Brown

Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

We congratulate our youth group for raising nearly £500 for drug abuse.

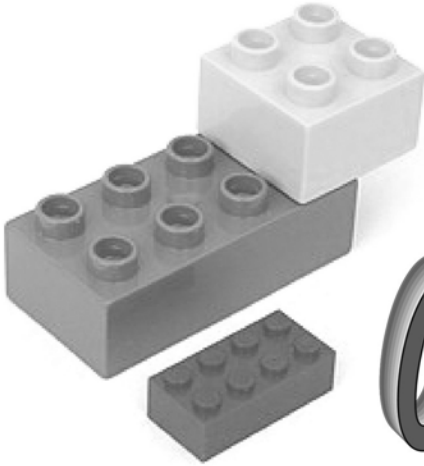
We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon.' "

Any church member aged over 18 can join our lay ministry programme. It requires a minimal amount of training and time. The first course is six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring either a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert in a covered dish.

Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order."

St Mary with St Leonard
Broomfield Parish Church



LEGO CHURCH

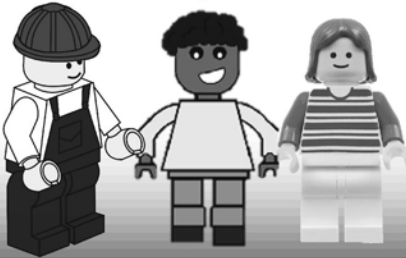
First Sunday of the month

9.30am

St Leonard's Hall

during the church service

Children & parents welcome



Building Church
Brick by Brick

The Film Club

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! It was nice to see everyone back at Film Club for the start of 2026. The film for January was 'La fille mal gardée' – which was recommended and brought in by Helen, one of our regulars. It was a 'Ballet' which was filmed at the Royal Opera House in 2005 and which, incidentally, is being shown 'live' again there *this year!*

The Ballet was premiered in 1789 in Bordeaux, France. '*La Fil mal garde*' is French for '*Wayward Daughter*'! Also known for '*The Girl who needed watching*'! It was a comic ballet inspired by Pierre-Antoine Baudouin's 1765 painting, *La reprimande/Une jeune fille querellee par sa mere!*

There was a 'panto' element to it hence why we watched in January as its still technically 'Panto Season'! Everyone seemed to enjoy the ballet and sat watching and enjoying the musical soundtrack played by a live orchestra! There was lots of chat about the performance after the viewing. Everyone left happy and Cheery for the day ahead!

Something different for February!! The film to be shown on Monday 9th February at 12.30pm is Fisherman's Friends'.



A regular member from Film Club asked for this film to be shown last year and it kept being put on hold for various reasons. 'Finally,' we will be watching this film this month! Filmed in Port Isaac, Cornwall, and released in 2019, it stars Daniel Mays, James Purefoy, and many more! This film is about a cynical London music executive who hears a singing group of ten Cornish fishermen whilst out on a stag weekend, and he believes that they can achieve a top ten hit! The difficult part is convincing them he's right and getting the 'sea shanties' band to sign up!! This looks like a great comedy drama for easy viewing

and a light-hearted, fun, an easy watch! So come along and enjoy the film, remember to bring your lunch and I will bring the GOODIES !! I look forward to seeing you there!

THANK YOU. X

NB - We kindly ask for a small donation of £2 towards the costs in running film club. **Thanks again for coming to Film Club (on the 2nd Monday of the month) . It's a PLEASURE to run Film Club and to see you all.**

See you soon,

Sarah x

SANCTUS

Sanctus is a local charity which has operated for 12 years in the heart of Chelmsford. We have been contacted by Emma Hughes who has advised the following:

“In our community, many people are struggling. These individuals have often been dealt with a tough hand by life’s circumstances, facing a myriad of complex issues including homelessness, addiction, mental health struggles, immigration challenges, veteran issues and disabilities. I am sure you and your community see many of these people on the streets of Chelmsford and we acknowledge the many positive things you already do to assist them. At Sanctus we too believe everyone deserves a helping hand from their local community to get their life on track. Times are tough for our charity, funds to continue our work are incredibly hard to secure and we urgently need further support from the local community. We are asking if Broomfield Parish Church would consider supporting us through a collection, a donation drive, or by simply raising awareness among your congregation. Your assistance would be invaluable in allowing us to continue our vital work.

We also warmly invite you, your clergy, and members of your congregation to visit us and witness our work firsthand. We believe seeing the positive impact of our services will demonstrate why your support is so critical.”

The PCC have advised that although we are unable to support financially at this time, we would raise awareness of the charity, their work and their invite to visit. For further information, please visit their website at www.sanctus-home.com

Virginia Buckley

PONDER WITH CANON JOHN

Were you aware that according to the Church's Calendar Christmas Day celebrations of the birth of the Christ child are followed by 3 days of commemoration of martyrs - on Boxing Day Stephen the first Christian martyr, on 28 December what are referred to as the Holy Innocents, and on 29 December the only murder thankfully of a serving Archbishop, namely Thomas a Beckett, in Canterbury Cathedral while he was celebrating Mass. A little light relief is provided by the Calendar on 27 December with the recalling of the life and writings of the Beloved disciple, John. Does this context on the part of the Church to the birth of the Christ child strike you as strange, even disgusting?

According to St Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen was one of 7 followers of the original disciples of Jesus chosen by them to respond to the complaint of Greek speaking members of the early church that certain widow members of the church were being discriminated against when it came to the sharing of provisions amongst the membership. So as directed Stephen responded to their need. He is often referred to as the first Deacon, which literally means servant! But some of the Jewish community, not necessarily of the Church, were jealous that Stephen was responding to the needs of non-Jews! They trumped up totally spurious charges against him, persuading the Jewish religious leaders to summon him to give account of his actions. Stephen spoke eloquently in his defence, but it was not sufficient to prevent him from being stoned to death, St Luke noting that one, Saul of Tarsus, was a witness to his execution. Could it possibly be that in a totally paradoxical way the blood of martyrs spells the possibility of salvation for future generations ?

You will doubtless be familiar with the story of the directive of King Herod, following the request of 'wise men from the East' as to the location of an infant they named 'King of the Jews,' that all male children under the age of 2 should be murdered, in the endeavour to kill the Jesus child as soon as possible after his birth. The child along with his parents had of course escaped to Egypt. Presumably Herod was terrified not only for his own fate, but that if the Romans as the occupying power were to hear of the presence of a potential usurper in his midst, they would threaten both him and potentially the total population with the assumption of their governance rather than his. Does it sound familiar even today?

So I find myself reflecting on this devastating directive by a manifestly authoritarian ruler, asking the question: 'Later in his life did Jesus become aware that because of his birth within his and subsequently our human society, innocent

male infants were slaughtered? And whether such an event had any impact on his sense of his calling?' Clearly Jesus could not be held accountable for the terrible slaughter, but *that it occurred because of his birth*, did this have any implication on the content of his ministry? What do you think? St Matthew who records the event gives no direct indication, but there are indications in his and the other Gospel compilers that Jesus took the presence of children very significantly. Do you remember when presumably mothers brought children to Jesus to bless them, and his disciples tried to shew them away, since in Jewish society children were regarded as having no significance until they reached the age of 12 when they were regarded as adult and thus expected to contribute to Jewish society? The response of Jesus was to say: 'Let the children come to me, do not put obstacles in their way, since it is only those who are prepared to become as little children who will enter the kingdom of God.' Children initially are totally dependent, vulnerable, with no airs or graces, no grounds, endeavours, claims upon which to be accepted. As the Christmas Carol states: 'Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling.' It's no wonder that 2 days after the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, we commemorate the slaughter of the Holy *Innocents*. They had had no time to sin or obtain grounds for acceptance!

Many years back my former wife and I spent the early evening of 29 December in an underground chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. We were sharing in a simple service of commemoration at what is believed to be the very spot where on 29 December 1190 Archbishop Thomas a Beckett was murdered by 4 of Henry II's soldiers. The murder, according to legend, resulted from the Archbishop daring to put his head above the parapet in defence of his fellow bishops who on behalf of the populace had resisted following through the king's edicts.

Prime Ministers even these days have to give their agreement to the appointment of Archbishops, to the name of the one put forward by the selection committee. The Prime Minister then informs the monarch. I often wonder when an appointment of a new Archbishop is awaited if there is ever reticence on the part of the Prime Minister at the name put forward - will he, now she, ever challenge me, question my proposals, decisions? Do you remember the sermon given by the Bishop of Washington following President Trump's inauguration as President of the United States one year ago. I have obtained a copy of the sermon which throughout has the theme of Unity. Thankfully in the US the political authorities have no involvement in the appointment of bishops, but probably not surprisingly this did not inhibit President Trump, and also a Baptist Minister castigating the Bishop who had pleaded with the President to

work for the unity of all the populace rather than imposing and encouraging division. I often wonder if the Bishop has had subsequent meetings with the President either at his invitation or hers. I rather doubt if he has taken the initiative, but who knows!

So immediately following the Church's and society's celebration of Christmas we have 3 days of commemoration of horrific events. What, do you think, is the message being conveyed, and is it one we/the Church should heed today? I am always moved by the words in the first chapter of St John's Gospel: 'The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness despite its proportionately greater size, was unable to extinguish it' This is real hope isn't it? A solid foundation on which to build? At the heart of Christian Faith is both the plea to love, and a cross! Loving is rarely easy and its success seems extremely limited, but is it not the only hope for humankind? A cross nearly always shadows loving; but we await anyone to inform us of a different way forward for the benefit of the whole of humankind. I have been waiting a long time and do not expect an alternative any time soon! What about you?

Canon John Brown

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.



Hymn of the Month

Lord of our life and God of our salvation

We sang this hymn in church recently and the words, although maybe slightly old fashioned, really spoke to me in the light of the conflicts in our world. This hymn was originally written in German by M.A. von Lowenstern in 1644. The well known English version was translated and adapted in 1840 by Philip Pusey who was a reforming agriculturalist and an M.P. The music was written by Sir Joseph Barnby. At an early age he was a chorister at York Minster, then later studied at the Royal Academy of Music, becoming a composer and conductor.

Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
star of our night and hope of every nation.
Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,
Lord God almighty.

Thou who canst help when earthly amour faileth;
Lord Thou canst save when deadly sin assaileth.
Christ, o'er thy rock nor death nor hell prevaileth,
grant us thy peace, Lord.

Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts assuaging,
peace in thy Church, where people are engaging;
peace, when the world its busy war is waging,
calm all our raging.

Grant us thy grace through trial and temptation,
grant us thy truth, thy promise of salvation.
Grant us thy peace in every heart and nation,
and in thy heaven.

(Philip Pusey 1799-1855) (Joseph Barnby 1838-1896)

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Val Vicary

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS: GREED

'How much money is enough? Just a little bit more.' (John D Rockefeller).

In the second of our series on the Seven Deadly Sins, we are looking at greed. It is the overwhelming desire for *more and more* in our lives. In our consumer culture it can be hard to tell the difference between needs and wants - e.g. buying a new laptop or shoes for different occasions? We need to ask the question: *How much is enough?*

Jesus was approached by a man who wanted Him to settle a dispute about family inheritance. He said, *'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'* (Luke 12:15). Jesus goes on to tell the story of a rich farmer who builds bigger and bigger barns, but whose life is unexpectedly cut short by death. He concludes: *'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'* (21).

How do we overcome greed and become *'rich towards God'*? Paul writes: *'I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.'* (Philippians 4:13). Overcoming greed involves learning to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves, in need or plenty. Paul is not saying that there is anything wrong with having food, money or possessions, but these cannot be the primary source of our contentment. The secret of contentment is found in a transforming relationship with Jesus: *'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* (13). He is the one who enables us to overcome greed and know riches.

'Contentment makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.' (Benjamin Franklin).

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



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Shopping List Winter 2025/6



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Thank you for continuing to support us
These items are most needed at present:

- Small jars instant coffee and hot chocolate
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- Tinned meat meals
- Tinned fish
- Instant mashed potato sachets
- Tinned vegetables, potatoes and tomatoes
- Tinned pulses, tinned spaghetti, tinned soup
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Ketchup and mayo
- Cooking oil
- UHT milk
- Tinned fruit
- Sponge puddings and tinned rice pudding
- Instant custard sachets and tinned custard
- Jam and spreads
- Packets of biscuits
- Chocolate biscuit bars/cereal bars/sweets/savoury crackers
- All toiletries inc: washing up liquid, toilet rolls, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, shaving foam, laundry tabs/pods Nappies sizes 5 to 7

Items can be delivered to our warehouse at
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www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk
See also weekly Top 5 most needed items updates on Facebook



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Chelmsford Foodbank is overseen by The River Church Chelmsford Ltd, a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England number: 7685257. Registered charity number: 1144804.

Church Calendar February 2026

Morning Prayer will be said in Church on occasion in February. Please check on the weekly notes for dates ~ 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		Candlemas/Presentation of Christ in the Temple
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with Lego Church followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
	3.00 pm	Pastoral Afternoon Tea in t. Leonard's Hall
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer in Church
Tuesday 3 rd	9.00 am	Working Party in 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* (not at Broomfield, contact Chris)
Thursday 5 th	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 6 th	4.15 pm	Choir practice in St. Leonard's Hall
Sunday 8 th		The Second Sunday before Lent
	9.30 am	Morning Prayer 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 the Churchyard
	5.30 pm	Light Group Meeting in St. Leonard's Hall
Wednesday 11 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 12 th	10.00 am	Little Lambs in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 13 th	9.30 am	Thanksgiving on a Friday in the Lady Chapel
	4.15 pm	Choir practice in St. Leonard's Hall

Sunday 15 th		The Sunday next before Lent
	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		Ash Wednesday
	10.00 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 19 th	2.00 pm	Beetle Drive in St. Leonard's Hall
Friday 20 th	9.30 am	Thanksgiving on a Friday in the Lady Chapel
	4.15 pm	Choir practice in St. Leonard's Hall
Sunday 22 nd		The First Sunday of Lent
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
Tuesday 24 th	9.00 am	Working Party in Churchyard
	2.00 pm	Rosemary Rutherford Tour for The Art Appreciation Group of Chelmsford U3A in Church
Wednesday 25 th	10.30 am	Lent Course begins at 2A Hearsall Avenue, to be followed by a Soup Lunch in support of Christian Aid.
	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	9.30 am	Thanksgiving on a Friday in the Lady Chapel
	12.30 pm	Wedding of Steven Ambrose and Sarah Massey in Church
	4.15 pm	Choir Practice in St. Leonard's Hall
March 2026		
Sunday 1 st		The Second Sunday of Lent
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist with Lego Church followed by refreshments in St. Leonard's Hall
	5.30 pm	Evensong in Church

Tuesday 3 rd	9.00 am	Working Party in Churchyard
Wednesday 4 th	10.30 am	Lent Course begins at 2A Hearsall Avenue, to be followed by a Soup Lunch in support of Christian Aid.
	7.45 pm	Bell ringing practice* (not at Broomfield, contact Chris)

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

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

Bible Quiz No.4

Orders are Orders. (level 2)
Answers on page 43

1. Who was told to build a great ark?
2. Who was told to bathe in the River Jordan?
3. Who was told to go to Nineveh?
4. Who were told to leave the Garden of Eden?
5. Who was told to leave the city of Ur?
6. Who was told to leave Sodom?
7. Who was told to march round Jerico?
8. Who was told to come out of his tomb?
9. Who was told he must be born again?
10. Who was told to come down from a sycamore tree.

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament:

Isaiah

Isaiah is often regarded as the greatest of the prophets. His name means *'The Lord saves'* and he began his 50-year ministry in 740 BC when King Uzziah died (6:1). Many scholars challenge the claim that Isaiah wrote the entire book, however there are striking verbal parallels between chapters 1–39 and 40–66.

Isaiah spoke during the stormy period marking the expansion of the Assyrian empire and the decline of Israel. The Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom in 721. Judah was left to decide whether they would make alliances with other kingdoms or rely on God to protect them. Isaiah warns Judah that her sin would bring captivity in Babylon, which eventually took place in 586.

Isaiah sees the Messiah coming from the line of David. He speaks of a new temple being established (ch2); a child born with a new kingdom (ch9) and judging differently to other kings (ch11) as well as the nature of His suffering (ch53). The *'suffering servant'* (chapters 42–53) also applies to Israel as a nation, who are called to be a *'light for the Gentiles'* (42:6). Not surprisingly Jesus applies Isaiah's words to His own life and ministry. e.g. Is 61:1 quoted in Luke 4:18. Throughout his book Isaiah presents the full dimensions of God's judgment and salvation as *'the Holy One of Israel'* (6:1), as well as the *'Sovereign Lord'* far above all nations (40:15–24).

Isaiah looks forward to the promise of a new city of Zion (chs 60–66), in which the people offer praise to the Holy One of Israel. *'Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.'* (65:17).

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

A PERFECT ENDING

A massive thank you needs to be given to Hilary from the Broomfield Methodist Church for taking delivery of a vast quantity of tools and a workbench, which will be donated to TWAM – Tools with a Mission (see advert on page 27).

My dad sadly passed away in October 2021, but it wasn't until my Mum decided in 2024 to move from the family home, that the onerous task of clearing my Dad's fully equipped and well-stocked garage began. An Aladdin's cave of every tool, screw and nail you could ever need! After making toolboxes for all the grandsons, there was still a lot left to sort, which I said to Mum I would do. Sadly Mum passed away in July last year, with the tools still resident in my garage. Shortly after that I saw Hilary's advert in the Round Tower magazine.

TWAM is a UK charity based in Ipswich, with centres across the country. They have a mission to empower people in Africa living in extreme poverty to create their own livelihoods. They do this by sending trade kits full of tools that are used in skills training centres, offering the trainees a way to put poverty in the past for good and begin their own sustainable careers.

Hilary told me that she and her husband John had visited the centre in Ipswich, which is a hive of activity, with a group of enthusiastic volunteers refurbishing and repurposing the tools that have been donated. This seems like a fitting place for my Dad's tools to start a new life, and certainly better than ending in landfill! If anyone has anything that they would like to donate, I know Hilary will be grateful to receive this. I have left a couple of leaflets and information on the Bier.

Virginia Buckley

TWAM - Tools With A Mission (www.twam.uk)



- Do you have any tools you no longer need or use?
- Have you got an old Sewing machine tucked away in a cupboard?



If so, please let us know. This year Broomfield Methodist Church is supporting the wonderful work of this amazing charity. Recycling your unwanted tools could help us to transform the lives of families in Africa.



Hilary Jackson
(hilary.jackson@hotmail.com)

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Alun Powell





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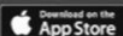
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Saint Lleurwg's Church, Hirwaun



With St. David's Day coming soon, I started to think of my old parish church in Hirwaun, a small mining village in the Aberdare Valley. My father was an active Welsh Congregationalist in his youth, my mother was probably Anglican by default. Not speaking Welsh there was absolutely no point in me joining the Welsh Congregationalists so at the age of seven I was packed off to the Anglican Sunday School in St. Lleurwg's, ending up in the choir, a server for many years and a regular attendee until I left the village for university twelve years later in 1968.

Incidentally, my parents and my older brother eventually joined me at St. Lleurwg's, and they were all confirmed there with my father ending up as Churchwarden for many years. Margaret and I were married there in 1973.

Something I'd not paid much attention to before was the name Lleurwg. Little is known about him but one theory is that it is the Welsh name for Lucius who was a 2nd Century English king living in southern England. It also turns out that the

dedication of this church to St. Lleurwg, is unique. There is no other such dedication in the whole of the province of the Church in Wales and, therefore, by extension in the whole of the UK. His Feast Day falls on December 13th.

Interestingly, the Church in the nearest town, Aberdare, is dedicated to St. Elvan, also known as Eluan or Elvanus. Born in Brittany, Elvan is thought to have had a significant impact on the spread of Christianity in Britain earning him a prominent place in the history of the early Christian church. His involvement in Christian missionary work began when he was selected by King Lucius (almost certainly the same Lucius who re-appears in St. Lleurwg's) to be part of a delegation sent to Pope Eleuterus. Alongside Saint Mydwyn, he was tasked with petitioning the Pope for missionaries to be sent to Britain.

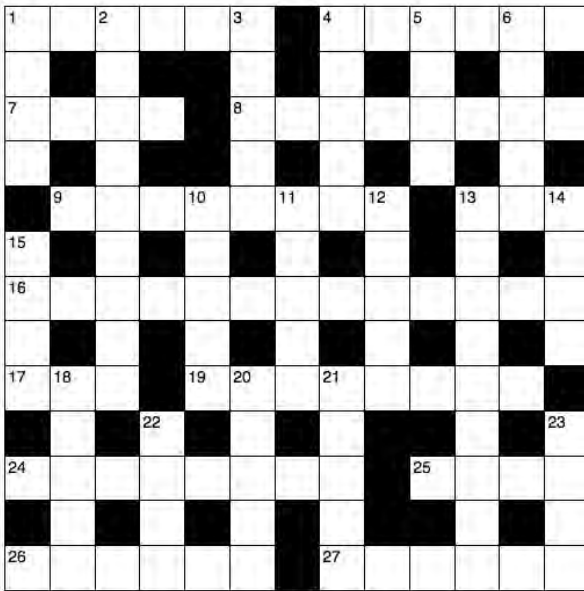
As an aside, the Church in Wales was separated from the Church of England by the Welsh Church Act 1914 which also disestablished the former, i.e. separated it from the state. The Act had long been demanded by Welsh Non-Conformists who made up the majority of the population of Wales and who resented paying taxes to the Church of England. The legislation was introduced by the Liberal Party. Unsurprisingly, given his Welsh non-conformist background, one of its main supporters was David Lloyd George.

St. Lleurwg's was built in 1858 in the perpendicular Gothic style at a cost of £1,199 and dedicated in that year by the Bishop of Llandaff. The church appears to be the gift of the Trustees of the Scottish Marquis of Bute, whose family owned many coalmines, developed Cardiff docks and built the modern Cardiff Castle. One unusual feature is that it has a gallery which is untypical of an Anglican church and more in keeping with the local chapels, of which there were many. There were Congregationalists, Baptists, Independents and Methodists in the village, often with both a Welsh and an English version. We also had an Evangelical church and a Roman Catholic church. In nearby Merthyr there was a Mormon church and in Aberdare there was a Unitarian Church, so everybody's tastes were provided for. Even so the number of religious establishments was more than matched by the number of public houses! Well it was a mining village.

Alun Powell

PS The Tour de France is due to go through Hirwaun in 2027!

Crossword (answers on page 43)



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Try our February Sudokus (solutions on page 43)

Easy

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

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Intermediate

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

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- Saturday - 5pm-11pm*
- Sunday - 12noon-3pm
& 7pm-10.30pm*

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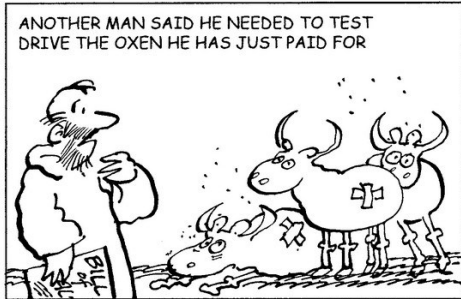
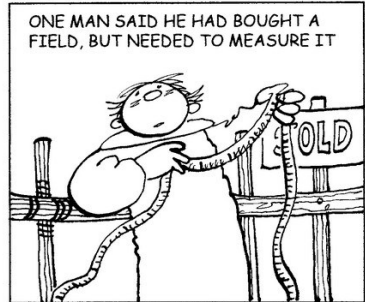
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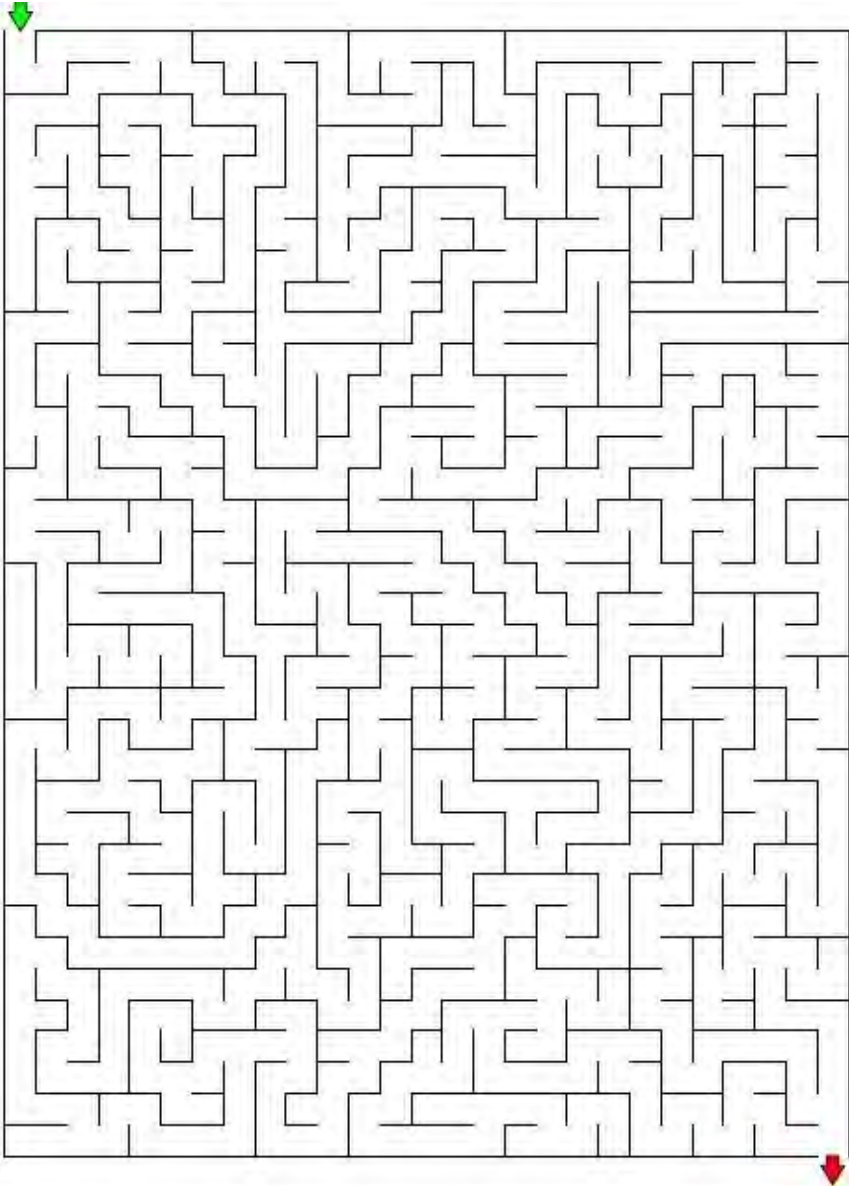
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Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society

Our next evening talk will be on February 25th when Steven Green will be talking to us about the benefits of organic farming. Steven and his family are organic farmers at Tillingham. Some of you might be familiar with their organic vegetable box delivery business (Sarah Green Organics).

The meeting is at 7.15 for a 7.30 pm start at Broomfield Village Hall. Entry is £3.50 for members, £4.50 for non-members which includes refreshments.

If you would like further information on membership, are interested in joining our committee or anything else garden related, please contact us either by email (bcgsshowsecretary@gmail.com) or in person at the barn.

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Answers to crossword on page 32

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

Answers to Bible Quiz 4 on page 24

1. Noah (Genesis 6:13-14) . 2. Naaman (2 Kings 5:9-10) 3. Jonah (Jonah 1:1-2)
4. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:23) 5. Abraham (Genesis 11:31- 12:3.) 6. Lot (Genesis 19:1, 12-15)
7. Joshua (Joshua 6:2-3). 8. Lazarus (John 11:43)
9. Nicodemus (John 3:1-7) 10. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5).

Solution to Sudokus on page 34

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

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

Index of Advertisers

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Andy Barnes Electrical Services</i>	30
<i>B P Window & Sons</i>	38
<i>Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society</i>	42
<i>Chelmsford Foot Clinic</i>	36
<i>Coop Funeral Directors</i>	38
<i>Local Handyman</i>	42
<i>MT Electrical Contractors</i>	39
<i>The Royal British Legion</i>	37
<i>Steve (electrician)</i>	35
<i>Tower Upholstery</i>	42
<i>Tracey's Mobile Hairdressing</i>	36
<i>Treble 8 Cabs</i>	38
<i>WindowTech</i>	27

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
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CONTACTS

Hon Secretary	Virginia Buckley	07729 117221
Hon Treasurer	Alun Powell 14 Butlers Close CM1 7BE alun21@btinternet.com	442842
Safeguarding Officer	Lisbeth Hardy	440443
Free Will Offering Sec.	Margaret Powell	442842
Organist	Jill Parkin parkinjill58@gmail.com	07778 772126
Little Lambs	Virginia Buckley	07729 117221
Ladies Group	Sue Cole	441157
Bible Reading Fellowship	Margaret Ginn	440688
Bellringers	Linda Clements	422013
Flowers	Margaret Pinkerton	440226
Choir	Jill Parkin	07778 772126
Churchyard Working Party & Tree Officer	David Marcus marcus02@ic24.net	441125
Magazine Committee		
Editor	Alun Powell	442842
Committee	Margaret Ginn Margaret Clarke Trudy Stevens	

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



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