

Vol.65 No 8 August 2025 Online Edition

ST PETER'S CHURCH. BRACKLEY



“LOVING GOD,
LOVING EACH OTHER,
LOVING BRACKLEY”

*Happy
Summer Holidays*



Revd. Rich Duncan writes....



“This is not a fulfilling life.”

Those were the words last month of superstar American golfer, Scottie Scheffler. Journalists at The Open press conference were clearly shocked. Scheffler had been world number one for 112 consecutive weeks, earned more than £65m in prize money on the PGA Tour, and won this year's PGA Championship (to add to his two Masters titles and gold medal at the 2024 Olympics).

Scheffler explained, “It's fulfilling from the sense of accomplishment but it's not fulfilling from a sense of the deepest places of your heart. There are a lot of people that make it to what they thought was going to fulfil them in life, and you get there, you get to number one in the world, and they're like, 'what's the point?' The feeling of winning just doesn't last that long. It's hard to explain. It just doesn't satisfy.”

The same sentiment has been expressed by many successful people. Tom Brady holds at least 50 individual American football records, but after one of his 7 Super Bowl victories (more than any single team has won in NFL history) he said, “There's got to be more than this... this can't be what it's all cracked up to be.” Similarly, rugby player Jonny Wilkinson has commented about winning, “It's never enough.” And beyond the realm of sport, Cameron Diaz at one time admitted, “I had everything — fame, money, everything — but I wasn't fulfilled.” Jim Carrey famously observed, “I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer.”

So what *is* the answer?

How can we know true fulfilment? Jesus once spoke beside a well to a woman who had been trying to satisfy herself through endless romantic relationships, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst” (John 4:13).

Perhaps you recognise an unquenchable thirst in your own life. A deep-seated lack of satisfaction. Whatever you pour into your life, it's never enough. That is a God-shaped hole that nothing else and no one else can fill. You need to get to know your Maker. He offers to accept and love you like no one else in your life. His perfect, forgiving, unconditional love, proven in his Son's death, means we never need strive for validation again. Our worth is secure. Our thirst can be quenched.

Charlie Duke is one of only 4 people alive today who have walked on the moon. After he got back from space he said, "Apollo was over. And the thought occurred to me, 'You've climbed the top of the ladder. How are you gonna top this, buddy?' I began to look around trying to find what was satisfying. I took my eyes off the moon and put them on money, making a business and making a lot of money would satisfy this drive that I still had. But business didn't do it. It was only later on, about 6 years later, when I really found out the answer that I was searching for. You know, there's only one God, His name is Jesus, and if you put anything else above Him in your life, you're gonna be empty. Sooner or later, you're gonna end up disappointed."

To finish where we began, Scottie Scheffler shocked journalists last year after his Masters win by saying that golf was only the fourth most important thing in his life. The first, he said, was God. His faith, his wife and his soon-to-be-born child were all more important to him than winning golf tournaments. He summed it up like this, "My buddies told me this morning my victory was secure on the cross. And that's a pretty special feeling to know that I'm secure for forever and it doesn't matter if I win this tournament or lose this tournament. My identity is secure forever."

Is yours? Even as a Christian, I often still slip back into trying to prove myself and establish my own worth and identity by other means. This month, let's stop trying to quench our thirst in other ways, and instead remember Jesus' words, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst" (John 4:13).



We would love to (belatedly) thank the whole of St Peter's for all of your support and help with our wedding. We had a truly wonderful day, made all the more special by the sense of church family that filled it. Special thanks must go to Rob for taking the wedding, Kath Bell for altering the wedding dress, Sally Hughes and the flower team who made the church look so beautiful, our Growth Group for serving prosecco and cake, the many kind people who baked cakes and provided drinks, and Naomi Brown and Alison Scobie who washed up hundreds of glasses. There are probably many others who kindly and quietly helped without us even knowing, and we thank you all!



We have also been incredibly touched by all the prayers and kindness of the whole church family, by how many people came to the ceremony and by those who wished us well from afar. We hope we will have an opportunity to thank everyone individually for their generosity and kindness, but we wanted to take the chance to share our appreciation for all of you publicly too.

Much Love,
Dan and Helen

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs



The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings (*'mishle'*) that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32). The purpose of these oracles is *'for attaining wisdom and discipline'* (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand *'the sayings and riddles of the wise.'* (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.'* (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:

Knowing God: *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding'* (9:10).

Guarding Our Speech: *'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver'* (25:11).

Marital faithfulness: *'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth'* (5:15-20).

Our Work: *'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!'* (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: *'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise'* (20:1).

Justice and Honesty: *'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight'* (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, *'For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths'* (5:21); providence, *'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails'* (19:21) and goodness, *'The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous'* (15:29).

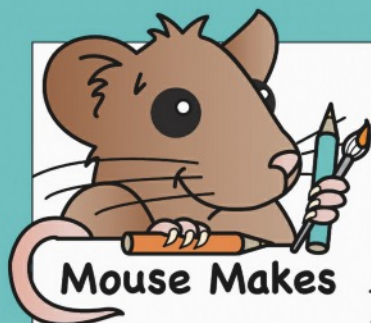
Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. *'Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves'* (Eugene Peterson).

The outdoor baptism a month ago of 3 of our congregation members



Our Sunday School leaders enjoying some well-earned cake and prosecco at the Vicarage recently





“ Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many...

...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it.”

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27



“Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body.”

from Romans 12:1-7



Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!

W H O L E

K N E E S

J O W H O L E

T E E T H H Q J V

E A F H E A D O E

Y C F M A N Y I R

H E B O D Y N Y

C E Y E S D E F

H T K C P M D I

R U Q U I O I N

I N F T R U F G

S I M O I T F E

T O G E T H E R

O N O S E A R S

N G D B Q I E N

G I W O U A N F

V U F A P A R T S M

K E T L R L M V Y D

B W S L E G S Q E B

Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

- GOD • **TOGETHER** • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
- HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
- TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
- LEGS • **KNEES** • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



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The year 2025 marks 80 years since the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Even now, however, there are still over 12,000 nuclear weapons in existence on the planet. As we approach the 80th year of the bombing, we invite you to reflect on peace.

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Brass United Joint concert



Brackley & District Band

Brackley & District Band is a dynamic, long-established brass band at the heart of its community. Renowned for diverse performances, the band is now preparing for the upcoming National Finals after regional success.



The GUS Band

The GUS Band is a world-famous brass band, based in Northampton. The band is well established as one of the leading bands, with a string of titles to its name and regular appearances at the National Brass Band Championships in the Royal Albert Hall.



28 September 2025, 3pm
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Exciting news from Brackley & District Band – their Autumn concert is scheduled to take place in St Peter's on Sunday 28 September, and we are thrilled to advise that this will be a joint concert with the GUS Band from Kettering (one of the top bands in the country). The concert will start at 3.00pm and tickets will cost £12 for adults, £6 for under-16s, under-5s go free. Tickets will be available from Jacky Mortimer (07970-583342) or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/brackley-district-band (there is a small booking fee if you book online). Refreshments and raffle tickets will be available to purchase, so please bring some cash. We anticipate lots of interest in the concert, and we are expecting a number of GUS band followers to want to come along and enjoy the music in this wonderful venue, so do book early – you won't be disappointed!

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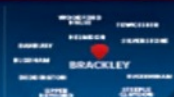


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