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Online edition

800

ST PETER'S BRACKLEY

“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”



© JANET ZEH

Revd. Rich Duncan writes.....

Are you enjoying your freedom? A famous Danish philosopher was fond of telling the following fable:



One balmy Sunday morning in the land of ducks, all the ducks waddled to church. When they found their pews, their duck preacher waddled to the pulpit. Opening the duck Bible, he preached a spellbinding sermon about God's great gift to ducks—wings! "God has given you wings to rise above the confinement of pens and soar to the heavens," the duck preacher exclaimed. All the ducks in the congregation uproariously shouted, "Amen, praise God for the gift of wings!" Then they all waddled home.

How often we Christians settle for waddling! Jesus said, "the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). Yet, how often we pass up the opportunity to walk in the truth and enjoy the freedom He offers: freedom from slavery to sin, freedom to soar.

Christianity seems, to many people (and often to us), more restrictive than freeing at first glance. Surely freedom is being able to do whatever you feel like, whenever you feel like, unrestrained and unconfined? But try telling that to the fish that jumps out of its bowl in a bid for freedom! In reality, freedom comes from being able to be who we were made to be, living for God "whose service is perfect freedom" (as the Prayer Book puts it), rather than held captive by our own self-destructive desires. Counter-intuitively, that means freedom often requires restraint and self-discipline.

Eliud Kipchoge is the only person to have run a marathon in under 2 hours. He needed extraordinary natural talent and a brilliant team around him, but also incredible self-discipline. Kipchoge once said in a speech, "Only the disciplined ones are free in life. If you are undisciplined, you are a slave to your moods. You are a slave to your passions. That's a fact." The writer David Foster Wallace once said something similar, "That feeling of having to obey every impulse and gratify every desire seems to me to be a strange kind of slavery."

Lent has often been used by Christians as a time for self-examination and renewed self-discipline. That can sound pretty uninspiring. Yet it's actually the gateway to unparalleled joy. It's a chance to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" (Hebrews 12:1) so we can run our marathon flat out. It's a chance to stop waddling in the mud so we can spread our wings and reach heights we've never known. Whereas, all too often we suffer from Stockholm Syndrome, harbouring a strange affection for our former captor and viewing the life of captivity through rose-tinted spectacles (see Exodus 14:12).

So then, Christian brothers and sisters, are you enjoying your freedom? Quit waddling! The Jesus movement is a one of liberation and emancipation: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1). That first Easter, Jesus willingly endured captivity and imprisonment for you, in order that you the prisoner may go free (just like Barabbas). So throw off the shackles this Lent and sing with Wesley, "My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee!"

Church Electoral Roll

**The APCM is on the 23rd April,
therefore the electoral roll needs to be correct by**

26th March.

**Do You need to amend your details
i.e. name, address, email address.**

Not on the Roll

**get a form from me to complete and return,
either in person or popped in to the "G" section
of the pigeon holes.**

**Please remember you need to be on the roll
to vote at the APCM and or stand for office.**

Thank you.

Karen Gees 01280 702837 karen.gees@talktalk.net

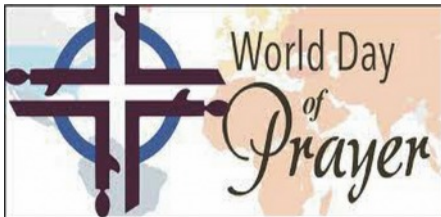


MOTHERING SUNDAY

19TH MARCH

9.30am HOLY COMMUNION

ALL WELCOME



FRIDAY 3RD MARCH 2.30PM

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The service this year, written by
the ladies of Taiwan is entitled

'I have heard about your faith'

All welcome

Would you like to hear more from St Peter's?

If you are online and would like to receive the weekly Vicar's Update, just send an email to brackleyvicar@gmail.com and ask to receive the church's email bulletin

800 Celebration Events

We are inviting everyone in Brackley to join us in celebrating 800 years of St Peter's Church. Throughout 2023 we are hosting a variety of events for all the community to enjoy and to raise vital funds for our 800 appeal. Discover what's on below.

More information about each event - including how to buy tickets - is available at stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800events

Quiz Night with Fish & Chips: Sat 18 March, 7pm

Book Swap & Sale with Cake Sale: Fri 24 March, 10-11.30am

Local History Talk: Fri 24th March, 7pm

Art Exhibition: Fri 28th – Sun 30th April

Coronation Livestream & Afternoon Tea: Sat 6th May

800 Celebration Service: Sun 11th June, 9.30am

Brides and Bloom Flower Festival: Fri 23rd – Sun 25th June

Family Fun Day: Sun 9th July

Cheese and Wine Evening: Sat 15th July

Brackley Band Mid-Summer Concert: Sun 16th July

Medieval Banquet at Winchester House: Sat 22nd July, 6.30-11pm

Holiday Club: 21st – 25th August, Mornings

Ride & Stride: Sat 9th September

Book Swap & sale and cake sale: Fri 6th October, 10-11.30am

Local History Talk: Fri 6th October, 7pm

Soup and Sing: Sat 14th October

Murder Mystery Evening: Sat 18th November

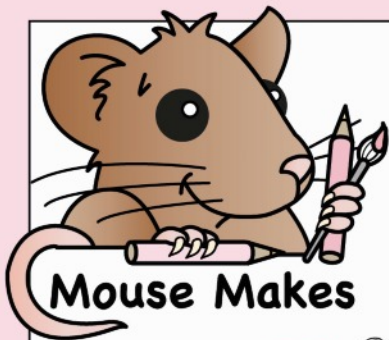
Wreath Making: Sat 25 November & Weds 29 November

Jubilee Choir Christmas Concert: Sat 25th November

Celebration Ball: Sat 9th December

800 Butterflies Project: January – December 2023





BIBLE MOTHERS

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

— — — —
Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

— — — —
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

— — — —
1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

— — — —
Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

— — — —
2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

— — — —
Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.



M — — — —
Matt 1:16

O — — — —
2 Tim 1:5

T — — — —
1 Kings 1:11

H — — — —
1 Sam 1:20

E — — — —
Gen 34:1

R — — — —
Gen 30:22

WHO IS MY MOTHER?



CAIN	ELIZABETH
ISAAC	HANNAH
JESUS	RACHEL
JACOB	REBEKAH
TIMOTHY	EVE
JOSEPH	MARY
SAMUEL	SARAH
JOHN	EUNICE



How many other words can you make from:
MOTHERING SUNDAY



Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search

REBEKAH
ELIZABETH
EUNICE
RUTH
MARY
RACHEL
LEAH
ZIPLAH
MOTHER
MUM

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



*The Ven John Barton considers some findings from the 2021 Census.
An Article from Parish Pump*

The 'Nones'

Do you know any? 'Nones' are people who, when asked what religion they belong to, say 'None'. At the last Census in 2021, just over 50% of adults in England and Wales said they were 'Nones'.

Not all are atheists. More detailed delving by the research organisation Theos, revealed that 16% of Nones believe in reincarnation, 14% in the healing power of crystals and 14% in the supernatural power of ancestors. The author G K Chesterton (1874-1936) wrote, "When people choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything." He had himself dabbled in the occult and a variety of alternatives, before becoming a committed Roman Catholic.

Recent research by historian Tom Holland convinced him that, "to live in a western country is to live in a society still utterly saturated by Christian concepts and assumptions." You'll find all this in his book, *"Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World"*.

Even the Guardian's resident atheist admits, "I feel culturally Christian, so deeply imbued with its myths, paintings, hymns and parables". Many others who also claim atheism, often turn out to be less certain than her, and are actually agnostic, meaning 'don't know'. Many of us seem to have lost touch with our roots and contented to live our lives on the surface without asking questions, until we have to.

Actor Amanda Abbington and stuntman Jonathan Goodwin tell of how their love for each other deepened after an accident left him paralysed from the waist down. He says, "I've always been a very cynical person but since meeting Amanda I've shifted my opinion about the power of the universe. I just had this really powerful feeling that we were supposed to be together."

Does that mean 'none', or something more?

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

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If you would ever like to make a donation to
St Peter's Church,
your gift would be hugely appreciated.
Our bank details are as follows:
sort code 30-11-08,
account number 00060124.
Thank you.



at St Peter's Church

3-5pm

Sunday 26th March 2023

CONCERT

featuring

Songs of Praise

Tickets £5 include
Afternoon Tea

Available from Jacky
07970-583342