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Online edition

# ST PETER'S CHURCH. BRACKLEY



**“LOVING GOD,  
LOVING EACH OTHER,  
LOVING BRACKLEY”**





***Revd. Rob Wood writes .....***

## **Enjoying Fellowship with the Holy Spirit**

I accidentally gate-crashed a pilgrimage.

There's a sentence I never thought I would say.

I helped a friend out with a talk he gave at a church in Cromer. When driving from the speaking engagement, I saw a sign to Walsingham. I remembered High-Church friends talking about that place of pilgrimage. I thought we should explore.

Not knowing where to go, we ended up in the Roman Catholic site first. There was a great sense of peace throughout the whole place. After that we explored the Anglican site and went to the centre of the village. There seemed to be a big queue for the ruins. We joined it, but something didn't seem right. It turned out we missed the entrance time and had joined a Roman Catholic pilgrimage (a big banner in the crowd should have been a giveaway). It was interesting to listen in on their service amidst the beauty of God's creation and on the site of the ancient abbey where a single lonely arch remained.

I assume the pilgrims were seeking a space away from the frantic nature of life to be still and reflect. They were looking to encounter God, to feel his presence, and to experience his Spirit at work. Perhaps being in a place of such beauty makes one more open to what the Holy Spirit may be doing.

However, it also got me thinking, whatever the merits of pilgrimage, we are blessed that we can experience God's presence and his Spirit's work anywhere. Isn't that incredible? The Holy Spirit indwells everyone who truly affirms that Jesus is Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3). Therefore, right now, wherever you are, if you trust in Jesus, God's Spirit is working in you.

Perhaps it doesn't seem like that at times. So, it's worth taking a step back and dwelling on three ways the Holy Spirit is continually at work.

- He applies God's Word

The Holy Spirit applies God's Word to our hearts. This is vitally important because the Christian faith is built on historical and objective truth claims. For example, Jesus died. He is risen. He is Lord and makes us children of God. But it doesn't stop there. There is also a subjective side to those truths. As it is written, 'The Spirit himself testifies with our Spirit that we are God's children' (Rom 8:16). The truths in Scripture, authored by the Spirit, don't stay external to us. They are also internally illuminated in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Like spiritual scissors, we need both the blades of the Scriptures and the Spirit to work together to shape and fashion our hearts. It is worth praying that the objective truths we read in the Bible are experienced as subjectively real in our hearts.

- He makes us more like Jesus

When the Church was born that first Pentecost, he transformed the ragtag disciples from a fearful bunch to those with the boldness to proclaim Jesus. Throughout the book of Acts, the Spirit empowered Jesus' followers to act more like Jesus.

This empowerment is also seen in how the Spirit gives gifts to the Church so she can be built up and strengthened. A wide range of spiritual gifts are described in the Bible, such as tongues, healing, faith, wisdom, prophecy, administration, serving, and many others. We are encouraged to desire spiritual gifts for the common good (1 Corinthians 14:1). Whatever our understanding and experience of this part of the Christian life, why not ask God to help you bless others by discerning the spiritual gifts he has for you to share?

The Spirit also makes us more like Christ in our hearts. Of course, Jesus exemplified the fruit of the Spirit, 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.' (Galatians 5:22–23). It is daunting for anyone to compare their heart against that list. But more and more we can desire that fruit that the Spirit cultivates in us.

Simply put, we need to be more like Jesus, and we only become more like Jesus through the Spirit's work. This knowledge helps grow our awareness of, and dependence on, him.

- He lives with us

At Growth Group we often pray the grace: 'may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen' (cf. 2 Corinthians 13:14).

This verse shows us we are not called to live the Christian life alone. We live it with the Creator who hovered over the waters at creation (Genesis 1:2). We are so privileged to share our life with God himself, who is so good and loving.

The Holy Spirit does so much more than these three things, of course. That is why, although some may find a pilgrimage helpful, we do not need to be in a special place to experience the Spirit's work in our lives. As author John Bunyan pointed to, there is a sense that the whole Christian life is a pilgrimage. What could aid our pilgrim's progress towards being with Christ and knowing him fully? To reach our destination, we are called to rest on and trust in the wonderful work of the Spirit in our lives.

# PRAISE EVENING

**TUESDAY 18 JUNE, 7.30 PM**

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## **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](mailto:brackleyvicar@gmail.com) and ask to receive the church's email bulletin

## Children and Families Update June 2024

In May we ran our **Communion Club** for older children. Each week we read the Bible and did some fun activities to find out more about why we take communion. We learnt about Jesus saying he is the bread of life, and we baked our own bread (the children were better at it than Rob and I!). We heard about how Jesus' blood washes our sins away, and made some grape juice. We also thought about how communion is a sign of remembering what Jesus did, and a sign of belonging to our church family. We've really enjoyed the 4 weeks, and we're thinking about whether we might set up a club for older children to run more long-term.

I have also started sending out a **monthly email update** to families. If you'd like to receive it, please email me at [brackleychurchkids@gmail.com](mailto:brackleychurchkids@gmail.com). Each email explains what we've been up to over the last month, highlights upcoming events, and shares a few resources that families might find useful, such as Christian books of children's music.

Plans for our **Holiday Club** are now well underway. This year we are having an Olympics-themed club called 'Champions!'. We will gather for four mornings in August to play lots of exciting games, make beautiful crafts, and hear about Jesus' victory over sin and death. We already have lots of children signed up, but it's not too late for more to join us. The club will be on 19th-22nd August, 10 am-12 noon, and it costs £10 per family for the week. It's open to anyone in Reception up to Year 6. If you would like to book or know more, please contact me at the email address above.

We also have a **Church BBQ** coming up on Sunday 7th July after our morning service. We will have activities for children (though everyone is welcome, it's not just for families!), including face painting, a game of rounders (which grown ups are very welcome to join), and some races. There will also be an ice cream van visiting!

Helen Price



## St Peter's Churchyard



I am sure you must have all noticed recently how untidy St Peter's church yard is looking.

This is because the Community Payback Lads (the naughty boys !!!) are without a supervisor. They do such an amazing job; we really are missing them.

So, I am asking if anyone is available to help mow, we have four mowers or especially strim, unfortunately these were stolen so you would need to bring your own on any day or time to suit you, if I'm free I will try and be there also.

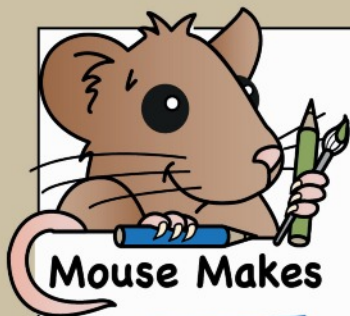
Have you wondered around our growing wildflower area, there is a twisting path for you to enjoy seeing the wildflowers, it just next to the path opposite the vicarage.

If you are able to help, please do contact me on 07970583342 or

**[jackycmortimer@yahoo.com](mailto:jackycmortimer@yahoo.com)**

I look forward to hearing from you all soon,  
Jacky





## Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG  
MPWF UIF GBUIFS  
IBT HJWFO UP VT  
UIBU XF TIPVME  
CF DBMMFE  
DIJMESFO PG HPE  
POF KPIO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates: "Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

R	O	T	A	S
O	P	E	R	A
T	E	N	E	T
A	R	E	P	O
S	A	T	O	R

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O

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

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD  
SON • DAUGHTER  
JOSEPH • ISAAC  
MOSES • JOB  
SOLOMON  
ZECHARIAH  
ZEBEDEE

## Summer Thanksgivings

As we approach the 80th anniversary of D-Day, I visited the lovely Church of St James, just off the main street in Grafton Underwood near Kettering, to see the memorial window for members of the United States Air Force who flew from Northamptonshire to take part in supporting the Normandy landings and helped free Europe from evil tyranny in World War II.



The very striking window, entitled "Coming Home", shows a plane returning to base from a mission, but is primarily in honour to those who never made it home. On this most recent anniversary, it's good to remember with thanksgiving those who gave their lives for others.

Since 2022, the Church has also been beautified by the installation of three new sets of remarkable windows by the leading stained-glass artist of our time, Thomas Denny. A gift by the former Lord Lieutenant David Laing who died this year and his wife Mary, their family motto is "Let your light shine". The light truly shines through the glass, warming the chancel with a rich depth of colour. Their themes are sun and moon, darkness and light, pilgrimage, the Sower, the walk to Emmaus, and Jesus the light of the world. They feature butterflies and planets! I think they are absolutely stunning. It is a beautiful witness to Christ and his transforming light.

St James's is open every day and well worth a visit for a few hours of reflection. I cannot recommend it highly enough. And as a bonus, the story of the windows' creation is told in a fascinating 30 minute film available at

[www.thomasdenny.co.uk](http://www.thomasdenny.co.uk)

With my love, thanks and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'J' followed by a cursive 'H'. A small plus sign is written to the left of the signature.

Bishop John Holbrook The Bishop of Brixworth

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Numbers chapters 13 and 14

God had rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to the border of the land He had promised them - Canaan. But it was not empty..

12 young leaders were chosen to check Canaan out.



They went north to where Abraham had been buried..



and they returned 40 days later with fruit, and their report...



10 said  
The people there are like giants! We can't beat them.



Caleb and Joshua said..



But our God is bigger than they are. We can win!

But the people said

No! We should have died in the desert!



We'll choose a new leader to take us back to Egypt.



But God said..

I have had enough of you not trusting Me. You will wander in the desert for 40 years before your children return here.



We were wrong to complain. Let's go into Canaan!



Don't attack! God will not help you win.



Not listening!

And the Canaanites chased them out of the country.



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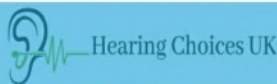


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