

ST PETER'S CHURCH. BRACKLEY



“LOVING GOD,
LOVING EACH OTHER,
LOVING BRACKLEY”



Revd' Rob Wood writes.....

Bodybuilding



Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. (1 Corinthians 14:4)

I'm really into body building.

Before you laugh too hard, I mean in a spiritual sense.

The church is the body of Christ. Our verse gives us encouragement to edify, to build up, one another. This call to encourage one another is made by contrasting two spiritual practices: *tongues* and *prophecy*.

Now, much ink has been spilled debating what these two words mean. So, allow me to take a stab at summarizing them before turning to explore what this means for us. Stay with me because I think the payoff is worth it!

In the book of Acts, the miracle of tongues happened on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4–12). Various real languages, unknown to the speakers, were spoken and understood. That's not what Paul, writing to the Corinthian Church, is speaking about. Not least because, unlike in Acts, these tongues need interpreting (1 Corinthians 14:27). Paul speaks of tongues as a prayer language. I think we can all understand this. Sometimes the depth of spiritual feeling can be so great that we struggle to put that feeling into intelligible words. Haven't you felt that before? This prayer language is primarily a private one and not everyone speaks in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:30), so don't worry if you don't!

Prophecy, in this context, is different from Old Testament prophecy. Not least because we are told to weigh what's said (1 Corinthians 14:29). I can't imagine Moses encouraging people to weigh God's words that he spoke as a Prophet! For us, then, primarily, prophecy is when the Holy Spirit leads us to speak good words to help another. They are words that can reveal the state of a heart (1 Corinthians 14:24–25), and that apply God's authoritative word, the bible, into a particular situation. Simply put, they're words that encourage and build up.

Well done for getting through the weeds of those two paragraphs. Now we're left to think, what does this mean for us?

It means that we shouldn't be concerned with our own enjoyment or spiritual hit. Some in the Corinthian Church overly concerned themselves with speaking in tongues. This edified themselves. Perhaps today it could be a primary concern with a particular type of church music, or style of liturgy, or method of prayer. Those things may be personally edifying. However, our primary concern should be to edify others. That's what is most important.

I was reminded of this recently. A Few months ago, I went to a Church of England church that had been 'relaunched'. I don't remember hearing a prayer of confession. It was lacking in formal liturgy. However, what it lacked in structured liturgy, it made up for in noise! To me, the music before and during the service was ridiculously loud! I felt like I was in a club for the first time in fifteen years. I started to think, so this is what being old is like! If you can't tell, I wasn't too comfortable. However, despite my reservations, many young people were baptized by the bishop. My preferences didn't matter too much. God was honoured, and his Spirit was at work.

I remember being told how a key lady at the Church I served in as an ordinand—St John's Corby—said that an aspect of the Sunday service wasn't what she would want, but she knew it helped others. That's the heart we need to cultivate.

Of course, we need to find a church where we can grow in our love for Jesus. But we also need to remember that committing to the local church isn't about meeting our own spiritual preferences. Being at St Peter's is primarily about growing in our love for Jesus and having a family to love and be loved by.

Next month marks one year since I was ordained a priest (some prefer to say Presbyter). Thank you for making it such a great year! With that in mind, I love this verse about prophecy because it reminds me of the Priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9). All God's people, including you, can minister.

What's exciting is that we're all able to practice this gift of prophecy. Each of us can encourage others. So, are you able to say a word of encouragement to someone after each Sunday service? Are you able to draw words from the Bible and apply them to their situation?

It's amazing the power that one word of encouragement can have. Tragically, some go many years thinking that nobody has noticed their efforts, or that their service can't be important. I'm sorry if that's you.

As we pray that St Peter's continues to grow numerically, naturally, our spiritual preferences may not be satisfied in order to serve others. If that's the case, let us endeavour to become a healthier church that is edified and built up by practicing this bodybuilding habit. Let's bulk up and practice prophesying.



The poster is for a 'Secret Agents Holiday Club' at St Peter's Church, Brackley. It features a dark blue background with yellow circular accents. On the left, there is a cartoon illustration of a detective wearing a hat and a lifebuoy. On the right, there is a cartoon illustration of a bomb with a lit fuse and a pair of handcuffs. The text is centered on a white rectangular area. At the top, there is a red logo of a church with the text 'ST PETER'S BRACKLEY' below it. The main title 'Secret Agents Holiday Club' is in a large, bold, black, distressed font. Below the title, the dates 'Monday 18th - Thursday 21st August' and the time '10am - 12 noon' are listed. The target audience is 'For children in Reception up to Year 6'. The location is 'St Peter's Church, Brackley, NN13 7BB'. The cost is '£10 per family for the week'. For more information, the email 'brackleychurchkids@gmail.com' is provided. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text 'Book Here:'.

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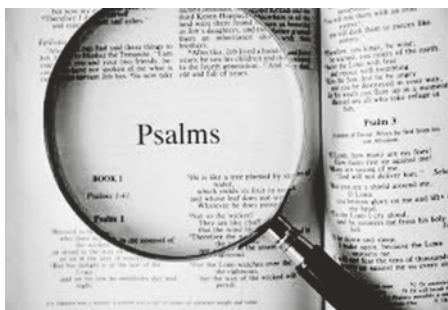
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An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Psalms

This month we continue our examination of a selection of books from the Old Testament.

‘The Psalms have a unique place in the Bible, because most of the Scripture speaks to us, while the Psalms speak for us’ (Athanasius of Alexandria).



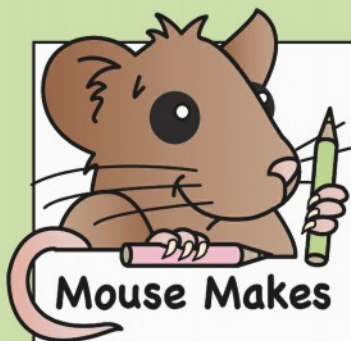
The Book of Psalms contains 150 prayers or songs of praise, the majority (73) attributed to David, although some were composed later. They were mostly composed for liturgical worship. There are songs of praise, in which people joyfully express praise for God's work of creation and sustaining (eg 135 & 136). In others, the psalmist recounts

a desperate situation and gives thanks for God's answer to his prayers (eg 30 & 116).

There are a significant number of psalms of lament, both individual (eg 3-7; 22) and communal (eg 44), which begin with a cry for help. Some express deliverance from sin (51 & 130), or point to the certainty that the Lord has heard their prayer (7, but contrast 88). The theme of trust is central in many psalms (23, 62 & 91).

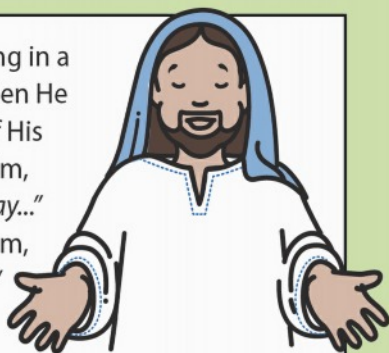
The 'royal psalms' (eg 20, 21 & 72) point to the promised Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus. There are also psalms teaching wisdom (eg 37, 49); 'torah' psalms, focussing on the law of the Lord (eg 1, 19 & 119), and psalms which celebrate the history of Israel and God's faithfulness (eg 78, 105 & 106).

The psalms can help us in our own prayers, by providing us with models to follow, as they express our own deepest feelings as we approach God: *‘The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul’* (Psalm 23:1-3).



Mouse Makes

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say...'"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.

_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen



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



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



The 'father' of modern British policing



It was 175 years ago, on 2nd July 1850, that Robert Peel, who was Prime Minister from 1834 to 35 and from 1841 to 46, died. He founded the Metropolitan Police Service and is seen as the father of modern British policing.

Peel, born in Bury, was one of 11 children of the first Sir Robert Peel, who as well as being a textile manufacturer was also an MP and moved his family down to London. He had his son educated at Harrow and Oxford, where he got a double first; he then entered Parliament and married Julia Floyd: they had seven children.

Home Secretary twice in the 1820s, Peel founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829, reforming criminal law to emphasise rehabilitation and creating a new kind of police officer, nicknamed a 'bobby' or a 'peeler' for obvious reasons.

A committed Christian and member of the Church of England, Peel became involved with the dispute about employment of Roman Catholics (and non-conformists) in public office – initially supporting the status quo but later changing his views and backing legislation such as the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, partly in order to avoid what he called “civil strife”.

He is also known for – in 1846 – repealing the Corn Laws, which had imposed high tariffs on imported grain; and for being one of the founders of the modern Conservative Party. He held old-fashioned views, however, on the function of ministers of the crown, who he regarded as primarily servants of the state.

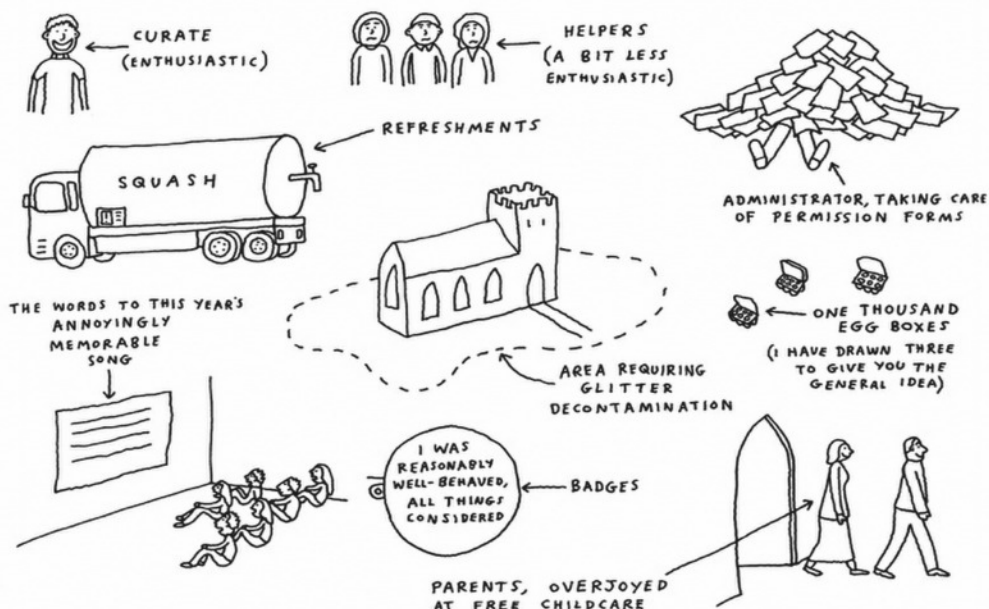
Peel was an outstanding debater, but rather shy and could be autocratic, which may have been why Queen Victoria allegedly found him difficult. Having survived a failed assassination attempt by a paranoid stalker in 1843 (his personal secretary was killed by mistake), Peel died at the age of 62 after injuring himself when falling from his horse.

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