

Vol.63 No 8 August 2023

Online Edition



800



ST PETER'S



“Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley”



Revd. Rob Wood writes.....



Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes

How do you cope with change?

It is an important question because the reality of change is unavoidable.

I have experienced a lot of change recently. I was ordained on 25th June and have loved my start to life as a curate (assistant minister). There has been the joy of forming new relationships. There have also been interesting interactions. For example, while wearing a clergy collar, a member of the great British public asked me to pray for Lewis Hamilton. That never happened before I was ordained! I hope the F1 results didn't cause any crisis of faith.

Whatever your situation, you know that life is in a continual state of flux. Change can be especially painful, of course. Perhaps you're mourning the death of a loved one and living with that new reality. Or perhaps you are experiencing a joyful new season of life, such as starting a family. Maybe you're settling into a new job, or a new house, or a new relationship.

It is no surprise that different artists, from David Bowie to Phil Ochs, have sung about the brute fact of change.

Is anything sure, secure, and dependable?

Well, I think the Christian faith offers a wonderful truth to that can help us navigate the ground that shifts under our feet.

It is this: God does not change.

Let that radical claim sink in for a moment.

God's unchangeable nature is affirmed throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God reveals his name as 'I am' (Exodus 3:14). The implication is that God has life in himself. This is what the theologians call *aseity*. It means that God need not look around for something to supplement his nature. God is who he is. Nothing can be added to

him or taken away from him. There are no degrees of perfection above him. Put another way, God does not change.

The Christian claim, of course, is that God truly reveals himself in Jesus Christ. If we know Jesus, we truly know God. If we know what Jesus is like, we truly know what God is like. The New Testament conveys the important truth that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8).

I hope all of this does not sound academic and abstract. Trust me, it carries real world value. This is shown in my favorite line from the Holy Communion liturgy, *'you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.'*

Don't you love those words? It tells us that God's nature remains the same. God is a God of unbounded love and mercy. When we fail and fall, God remains the same. You need not worry that God will be different tomorrow from who he is today. You can depend on him!

The foundation of all things, therefore, is not matter, or chance, or anything created. No, the foundation under all things is love. That is because God is love (1 John 4:8). What a wonderful truth that God is the God who does not change! Let us rest on that truth and draw comfort from it as we navigate life's changing scenes.

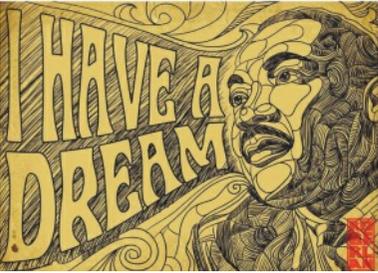
What are you drinking?



Cold drinks in hot weather are great, but if you head for the high-sugar fizzy drinks, you are putting yourself at risk of heart disease and type-2 diabetes. Fizzy drinks are full of sugar, but no vitamins, minerals or antioxidants. Instead, try serving water with ice and pieces of fresh orange, lemon or lime to add flavour. Or dilute a pure fruit juice with sparkling mineral water. Or go for herbal tea or fruit tea. For more

ideas visit <https://heartresearch.org.uk/eating-better/>

60 years since "I Have a Dream"



Sixty years ago, on 28th August 1963, Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The civil rights rally was attended by about 200,000 supporters, including many A-list film celebrities released temporarily by their studios.

His words influenced the Federal government to take more direct action to create racial equality, in for instance the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

King had been advised not to use the Dream format at Washington. He had used the idea before, and his adviser, the Revd Wyatt Tee Walker, described it as "hackneyed and trite". The idea was to use a new speech with the theme "normalcy never again". But King was prompted by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson to re-use the Dream idea, and he went ahead with it, much to Walker's dismay. But it had a huge impact and is now regarded as perhaps one of the most influential speeches in American history.

Martin Luther King Jr, born in 1929, was an American Baptist minister who became one of the most prominent leaders in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination, apparently by James Earl Ray, on 4th April 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The autopsy revealed that although he was only 39 years old, King "had the heart of a 60-year-old". He had said shortly before being shot that he was not afraid of dying.

On 14th October 1964, King had won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through non-violent resistance.

St Peter's Church Holiday Club

The King's Quest



21st-24th August 2023

800 Appeal progress



For every £10,000 raised for the 800 Appeal, another pane of glass is coloured in.

Thanks to those who have already contributed. We look forward to watching the colour spread and hope that by the end of the year we have a full window!

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 Fundraising Events update

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Brides and Blooms festival, it was outstanding.

As we are going to print the History Talk, Band Concert and Medieval banquet planned for July have yet to take place, so full details in the September magazine.

Look out for our next events in September – we have a Barn Dance on Friday, 8th September at The Venue, Brackley Town Football Club. Sleeping Moggy will be leading us in the dancing and we will be serving delicious sausages in rolls during the interval to keep our energy levels up. Tickets will be on sale from 24th July on the website, or from a member of the social committee, £10.00 per adult and £5.00 per child. Keekeep dancing!

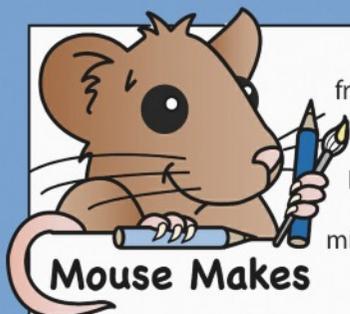
The Harvest Supper is on Saturday, 23rd September, tickets will be on sale from 12th August on the website, or from a member of the social committee.

The Brackley Band Autumn concert is Sunday 24th September. Tickets will be on sale from 12th August from Jacky Mortimer.

Don't miss the highlight of our fundraising year! The Christmas Ball is on Saturday, 9th December at Egerton Hall. Tickets are on sale now speak to Kath, Jacky or Yvette. Why not get a group of friends together and share a table for 10?

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and family at these events. For more details of what's planned for this year please visit [**www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800events**](http://www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800events)

Denise Johnson – events co-ordinator



Mouse Makes

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself. Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...

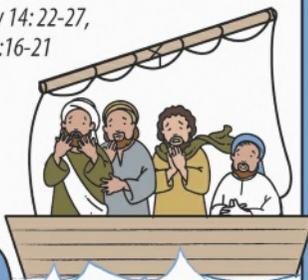
Read the story in: *Matthew 14:22-27,*
Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21

What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 14:23

What was the boat struggling against?

The ----- and
the -----
Matthew 14:24



What did Jesus say to his disciples?

Do not be

Matthew 14:27

What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?

A -----
Matthew 14:26

Who walked out on the water to Jesus?

Matthew 14:29

What did Jesus say to Peter?

Oh you of little -----
why do you -----
Matthew 14:31

W F W A F R A I D Y C K O C S
I N O T F E A R W A T E R M R B B O J
N N R L A L O N E K I N T O O O E M E
D I S C I P L E S A V E E U W A V E S
G G H E T E R R I F I E D N D T E S U
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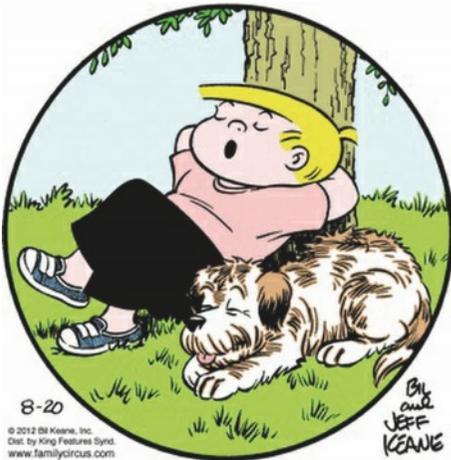
JESUS • DISCIPLES • BOAT • OTHER SIDE • CROWDS • MOUNTAIN • EVENING • ALONE • LAND • NIGHT • SEA
WALKING • TERRIFIED • FEAR • COME • WATER • SINK • SAVE • INTO • CEASED • WORSHIPED • SON OF GOD

Being bored is good for you

This will cheer you up this summer, when your children mope around the house saying that they are bored: apparently a bit of boredom is *good* for them.

So says a senior educationalist, Julia Robinson, who has encouraged parents NOT to force their children into too many activities. Instead, they must be allowed to become bored, so that they can have time to be reflective and calm. Too many pursuits such as music lessons, sport and online learning could result in a generation of manic, anxiety-ridden adults, she warns. She points out that happiness does not come from a "regime of unrealistic multitasking, running oneself ragged with an exhausting programme of endless...activities."

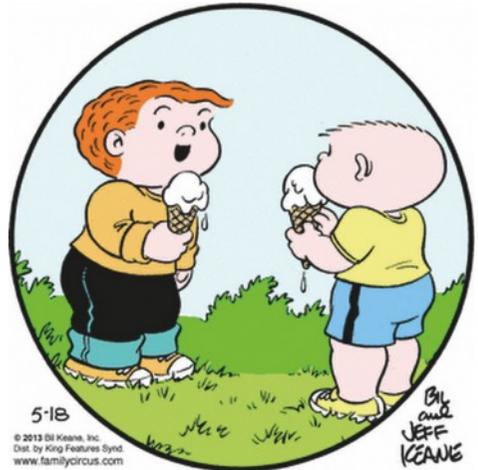
Another educationalist urged that children need "downtime.... They have the right to be bored, to give them the stimulus to be inventive, resourceful and self-reliant - all important life skills."



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"Summer vacation's almost over, Sam. We need to do as much of nothing as we can."



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"This is time well spent."