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Edition



ST PETER'S CHURCH. BRACKLEY



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



The Vicar writes



Shoe-shining for the Lord

Successful businessman, Jerry Singleton, grew attached to a little boy who was his regular shoe shiner at the train station. The boy was always meticulous in his work, which impressed Jerry. One day, Jerry asked him why he was so conscientious about his work. The boy replied, "Sir, I'm a follower of Jesus, and I try to shine every pair of shoes as if he himself were wearing them." Years later, Jerry reflected on how he'd seen something so deeply genuine in that shoeshine boy that it proved to be the catalyst to his decision to begin reading his Bible, and then deciding to become a follower of Christ himself.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." (Colossians 3:24)

Whatever you do... whether that's shoe-shining, or the washing up, or caring for a family member, or going to work in an office, or volunteering at church, or doing the school run, or juggling all sorts of commitments during retirement. Whatever you do, do it for the Lord.

One of the consequences of the Reformation was a renewed emphasis on the importance of the ordinary and everyday. Martin Luther and others were keen to reclaim the truth that God doesn't just care about the time we spend at church but the other 95% of our lives as well, and that discipleship involves the whole of our lives, removing the sacred-secular divide. A few years after his Ninety-Five Theses, Luther gave a sermon on marriage in which he described how changing nappies in love for one's family and in service of Christ pleases the Lord enormously and makes the angels sing in heaven!

It is wrong to think that God mattering more than everything else means nothing else matters. On the contrary: since God matters infinitely, everything else matters much more in the light of him. The environ-

ment matters (God made his world, loves it and will ultimately redeem it), art matters (God cares about beauty), justice matters (as an intrinsic component of God's character) and on it goes. Every time we bring order from chaos, or we're creative, or productive, or relating to others, we are bearing the image of our Maker (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:15).

All this brings much dignity to the repetitive or mundane tasks of life. Since God sees the heart, even the most menial task done for him can bring him glory. Brother Lawrence, who engaged in largely unskilled community tasks such as sweeping the kitchen and peeling potatoes, wrote, 'Our sanctification doesn't depend upon changing our works, but in doing that for God's sake which we commonly do for our own.'

Therefore, whatever season of life we go through – whether its childhood or adolescence, motherhood or fatherhood, as students or pensioners, in times of employment and unemployment – they all provide different opportunities and settings in which to glorify God. As a pastor called Ray Ortlund says, 'Whatever the Lord calls you to do for him, yours is a noble, high and holy calling.'

One last example that I like: Charles Spurgeon once asked a cleaner who was a recent convert to Christianity what difference choosing to follow Jesus had made in her life. Rather timidly she replied, 'Well sir, I now sweep under the doormats.'

Therefore friends, this month of May, 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.'

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Join Chris Bazeley to hear a story of how local men secured the success of the D-Day landings. Without their heroism, fortitude and simple good luck D-Day may have ended very differently.

EASTER FLOWERS



Thank you for your kind and generous donations towards the cost of Easter flowers.

I hope you enjoyed the displays in St Peters church over the past three weeks.



Sally Hughes – flower team co-ordinator

The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

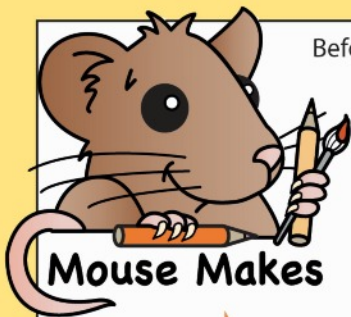
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true
That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.



Mouse Makes



READ the story of Pentecost in Acts 1-2
Look up the Bible verses to find the answers to the crossword clues.

How many words can you make from the letters of:
DAY OF PENTECOST



Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...
...When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*

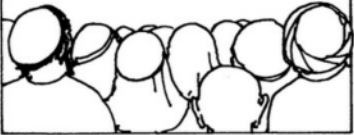
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Ex.19:3-9,20:1-21,24:7,12-18,32:1-25,34:1-9

God rescued the Hebrew people from
Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain.
There He offered them a contract....

Keep My rules, and you will
be My people and I will be
your God and protect you.



We promise to do
what You tell us
and worship only You.

Moses climbed the mountain.
God gave him two stone
slabs with the contract on them.



Then God and
Moses talked ... for
40 days and nights

Meanwhile...



Aaron, that Moses isn't coming back. We
can't worship something we can't see.



Make us
something we
can worship

So Aaron made a gold bull
and the people went wild.

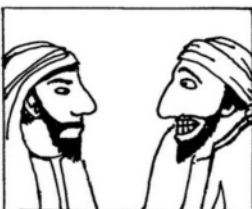


God told Moses....

Your people are already
worshipping a statue.



Moses was so angry he
smashed the contract
slabs



It's not my fault,
they made me do it.

God, please, please
forgive Your people.



So God forgave His people and gave
Moses two more contract slabs.



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Annual Parochial Church Meeting 21 April

The results of the elections held at the meeting are:

Church Wardens Bev Lazenby and Les Edge – 1 year

Deanery Synod Representative Tony Holden – 3 years

PCC Members

Ben Stopher - 3 years

Louise Jordan - 3 years

Denise Johnson – 3 years

Uli Ashley - 1 year

****Full PCC minutes can always be found in the pink folder on top of the pigeonholes in the extension, although please do not take these away.***

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

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