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Online Edition

***ST PETER'S CHURCH
BRACKLEY***

"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"

Spring



*the music of open
windows...*



The season of Lent brings with it many associations. The Church has historically encouraged Christians to use this time, starting with Ash Wednesday (this year on 2nd March), to reflect upon our waywardness from God: that “we all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us turned to our own way” (Isaiah 53:6).

A verse from the 12th century described Lent in this way:

Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.

This focus at Lent upon our failings, our rejection of God, makes sense. Before we can truly celebrate salvation at Easter, we must recognise our need for salvation in the first place.

However, all this self-examination should be combined with Christ-examination. As the old saying goes, “For every one look within, take ten looks at Him.” We will only be willing to plumb the depths of our fallenness, once we know it can be dealt with.

So what does God offer to do with our sin if we repent (meaning ‘turn’: turn away from our sin and turn back to God for forgiveness)? Let’s take ten ‘looks at Him’, or ten images the Bible uses to describe God’s complete pardon – his solution to our greatest problem (with credit to an online blogpost by Tim Challies in Sept 2016):

1. *God **submerges** our sin in the sea* (Micah 7:19). This a great picture of getting rid of something for good so that it’s never to be seen again.
2. *God **treads** our sin underfoot* (Micah 7:19). God doesn’t only drown our sins in the sea, but he stomps them under his feet, grinding them into the dust.

3. *God **throws** our sin behind his back* (Isaiah 38:17). God drowns it, he stomps on it, and he also tosses it away.
4. *God **blots** out our sin* (Isaiah 43:25). To blot out is to destroy something so that it's as if it never existed.
5. *God **forgets** our sin* (Hebrews 8:12). God chooses to forget in the sense of never again bringing it to mind or making us face its consequences (judgment).
6. *God **removes** our sin* (Psalm 103:12). David proclaims: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" – infinitely far!
7. *God **covers** our sin* (Psalm 32:1). David says, "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."
8. *God **cancel**s our sin* (Colossians 2:14). The legal charge sheet that stood against us was nailed to the cross, meaning we our verdict is now 'not guilty'!
9. *God **washes** our sin* (Psalm 51:7). It's hard to think of something whiter than pure snow. Yet, according to this Psalm, that is how clean God washes us.

So why not spend half an hour looking up the verses above in a Bible (or online), dwelling on your sins of commission and omission, before letting the sweet balm of God's full forgiveness sink in?

But, before we finish, one more image is needed. For a just God can't act like nothing's happened. Sin always has consequences. A price must be paid. A sentence must be served. The punishment for sin is capital, and if it doesn't fall on us, who takes it?

10. *God **takes on** our sin*. To quote more fully from Isaiah 53, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all... he was led like a lamb to the slaughter."

The wonder of the Christian message is that God the Son, Jesus Christ, takes the full punishment for our sin upon himself. To swap places with us wayward sheep comes the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

The technical term for this swap is 'penal substitution' (a substitute taking the penalty). At the key moment of Euro 2020 football final, a substitute was sent on the take a penalty. And Christians believe the key moment of human history was when a substitute was sent to the world to take their penalty.

So, this Lent, let's repent and rejoice in what God does to our sin: he drowns it, stamps on it, tosses it, blots it out, forgets it, removes it, covers it, cancels it, washes it – all because he took it on himself. Hallelujah!



ASH WEDNESDAY

2ND MARCH

10.00AM HOLY COMMUNION

7.30PM HOLY COMMUNION

ALL WELCOME



LENT LUNCHES

12.30pm Brackley Methodist Church

Fridays during Lent Commencing 4th March

EMBRACING JUSTICE

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book

 *Brackley
And District
Band*

and St Peter's Church

Present

"Songs of Praise"

A concert including Hymns

Sunday 27th March 3 - 5 pm

Tickets cost £5.00

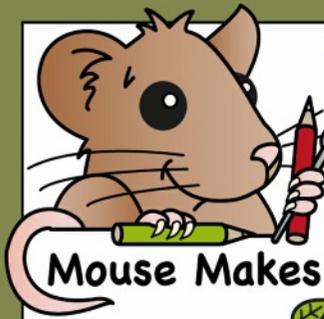
to include

afternoon tea in the interval

Tickets in advance

From Jacky on

07970 583342



GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good things stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31

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

to everyone who asks you
Luke 6:30

to those that hate you
Luke 6:27

for those who are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

those who curse you
Luke 6:28

and you will be forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

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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.

St Peter's Church Maintenance Day

Saturday 23rd April
Starts at 9.30am

There are jobs to be done
in the Church & Churchyard

We would like



your HELP



Please bring your own
Gloves and Tools .



We will provide refreshments
Including a light lunch