

**Vol.62 No 7 July 2022 Online Edition**

**ST PETER'S CHURCH  
BRACKLEY**

**"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"**



## July 2022 – Songs for the Summer



In July and August at St Peter's, we will be working our way through a series called 'Songs for the Summer'. That may make you think of Bob Marley or The Beach Boys, George Ezra or Glastonbury Festival. I mean something different. The Book of Psalms is the songbook of the Bible, and on Sunday mornings over the next couple of months I'm hoping we can learn the lyrics to some of its greatest hits. But why bother tuning in to our Sunday summer psalm playlist?

### **The Psalms teach us to pray**

How is your prayer life? My guess is it's not as rich or active as you would like it to be. In Luke 11, Jesus' disciples say, "Lord, teach us to pray." Every Christian knows we should pray and may even have known seasons of enjoying prayer. But we also realise it doesn't come easily or instinctively to us. We need help.

Well, how gracious of God to give us 150 ready-made prayers for us to use! Dietrich Bonhoeffer called the Psalter (the Book of Psalms) 'the Prayer Book of the Bible'. So when our mind is either too blank or too full to know where to begin and what to pray for, why not repeat back to God his very own words that he has given for us to say? We know for a fact he'll want to hear prayer like that.

### **The Psalms tap into our emotions**

We don't just want to learn to *say* a psalm but to *feel* it – to sing it, if you like. We want to pay attention to the tone and key (would it be major or minor?) and do justice to the poetry and passion of the words. It has been said that the psalms are like a cardiogram: they indicate the health of our hearts, as we compare our desires and emotions to those of the psalmists. The Book of Psalms is more emotionally vulnerable than any other part of Scripture and covers the whole range of human experience. They help us put into words not only our joy or wonder or gratitude, but also our grief and our anger, our confusion, anxiety, fear and lament.

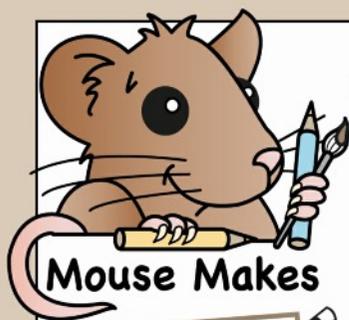
But it doesn't stop there. Psalms not only help us to *express* our current emotions. They also serve to *shape, inform* and *enrich* our emotions. We teach young children to say 'thank you' and 'sorry' even when they may not fully mean the sentiment, in the hope it may encourage the feelings to follow. In the same way, I may not feel like praising the Lord every morning, but if I say something like, "Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised," (Psalm 113) it gives my heart a chance to warm to the task and, before long, my feelings may start to catch up with my words.

### **The Psalms help us to know and love Jesus**

Jesus quoted Psalms more than any other book of the Bible. He was constantly fulfilling and recapitulating its emotions and events. In fact, in Luke 24:44, Jesus explained to his disciples that the Psalms were "written about me." Once we see these songs through that lens, they take on a whole new level of meaning and provide a window into the lived experience of Christ on earth, even into his heart, his desires, his feelings.

Perhaps it is no wonder that Psalms is thought to be the most read book of the Bible. Given that it is two years since we looked at them together as a church, it's about time we learned once more not only to say the psalms but also to sing and savour them. I hope you can come along on Sundays (or catch up using the Talks page of our website, or the 'Dial-a-Sermon' service: 01280 734373) as we seek to turn a few psalms into our summer anthems!





## Mouse Makes

Cross out all the X  
to find the bible verse:

NXOXWXTXHXERXEXA  
 XRREXMXAXNXYOXT  
 XHXEXRXTXHXIXNXGX  
 SXTXHXAXTXJEXXSXU  
 XSXDIXDX.WXEXRXEXE  
 XVVEXRXYXONXEXOXFX  
 TXHXEXMXTXOXBEXEW  
 XRXIXTXTEXNX,IXSXU  
 XPXPXOXSXETHXAXTX  
 TXHXEXWXOXRXLXDXI  
 TXSXEXLXFXCXOXUXLD  
 XNXOXTXCXOXNXTXAI  
 XNXTXHXEXBOXOXKXS  
 XTXXAXTXWXOXULX  
 DBXEXWXRXTXTEXEN  
 X..XOXHXNX2X1X:2X5X

What did Jesus turn  
water into?



John 2:1-11

Who's mother-in-law  
did Jesus heal?

Matthew 8:14-15

How did Jesus get out  
to the disciples  
in the boat?



Matthew 14:22-27

Who did Jesus raise  
from the dead?

John 11:38-44

How long had the  
woman at the synagogue  
been disabled?

years

What did she do after  
she was healed?

Luke 13:10-13

Who did Jesus  
heal when his ear  
was cut off?

Luke 22:47-51

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus fed thousands  
of people from a  
few loaves and fish,  
... not once but twice!

READ

Matthew 14:13-21

AND

Matthew 15:32-39

In each story...  
How many loaves  
and how many fish  
did Jesus have?

How many people  
were fed?

How many baskets of  
broken pieces were  
left over?



DID YOU KNOW?

There  
are over

37

miracles of Jesus  
recorded in the Gospels.

How many of them  
do you know?

Find these words  
in the word search

JESUS • MIRACLE

DEAF • HEAR • BLIND • SEE

PARALYSED • WALK • SICK

HEALED • DEAD • RAISED

MUTE • SPEAK • DEMONS

CAST OUT • STORM

CALMED • WATER • WINE

FISH • MULTIPLIED

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

## God's Church for God's World The Lambeth Conference 2022

After a two-year postponement I'm looking forward to this summer's Lambeth Conference when hundreds of Anglican bishops from around the world will gather at Canterbury for prayer, bible study, conversation, fellowship and sharing (July 26th -August 7th). We are hoping to welcome our three link bishops from Korea. During the event, we will discuss various topics, including mission and evangelism, peace and reconciliation, the environment and sustainable development, discipleship and inter faith relations.

In preparation, over the past year I have been part of two online groups, meeting monthly with bishops from Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chad, the Congo, Egypt, India, Ireland, Mauritius, Melanesia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and the West Indies. It's been wonderful to begin some very rich new friendships and reconnect with old friends.



The overall theme is "God's Church for God's world" and the three major strands, which match the Archbishop of Canterbury's priorities are; reconciliation (walking together), evangelism (witnessing together) and prayer (listening together).

In our bible studies we will be reflecting on the First Letter of Peter. I'm very happy to recommend the excellent conference study guide co-written by scholars from around the world (1 Peter Commentary edited by Jenn Strawbridge).

Archbishop Justin has called us to pray: "The Conference theme of 'God's Church for God's World', reminds us that we are called upon as Christians to pray for the needs of the world. There are many calls upon our prayers at this time: World peace, the global climate crisis, the effects of the pandemic – to name but a few. I invite you to call all those in your care to pray for the Lambeth Conference. Please pray that as we meet and consider our shared mission and ministry, that we may hear the call from God. In turn, that we might add our voices to call others to make a difference for Christ in the world."

There is a really helpful prayer guide for those wanting to support the conference, easily downloadable from the Conference website.

*Pour down upon us, O God, the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that those who prepare for the Lambeth Conference may be filled with wisdom and understanding.*

*May they know at work within them that creative energy and vision which belong to our humanity, made in your image and redeemed by your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

+John  
Bishop Of Brixworth

# ST PETER'S CHURCH



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child for  
the week



## **HOLIDAY CLUB**

# **22-25 AUGUST 2022**

**Mon-Thurs  
10am - 12noon**

**Games, Craft,  
Bible Stories,  
Songs & more!**

To book or for more info  
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07840 206108

**For  
children  
age 4-11**

(end of yR to  
end of y6)

We welcome  
children of any  
faith or none

Limited spaces,  
book soon to avoid  
disappointment!

## St Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark's gospel describes him as having been 'waiting for the kingdom of God' for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.



When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid

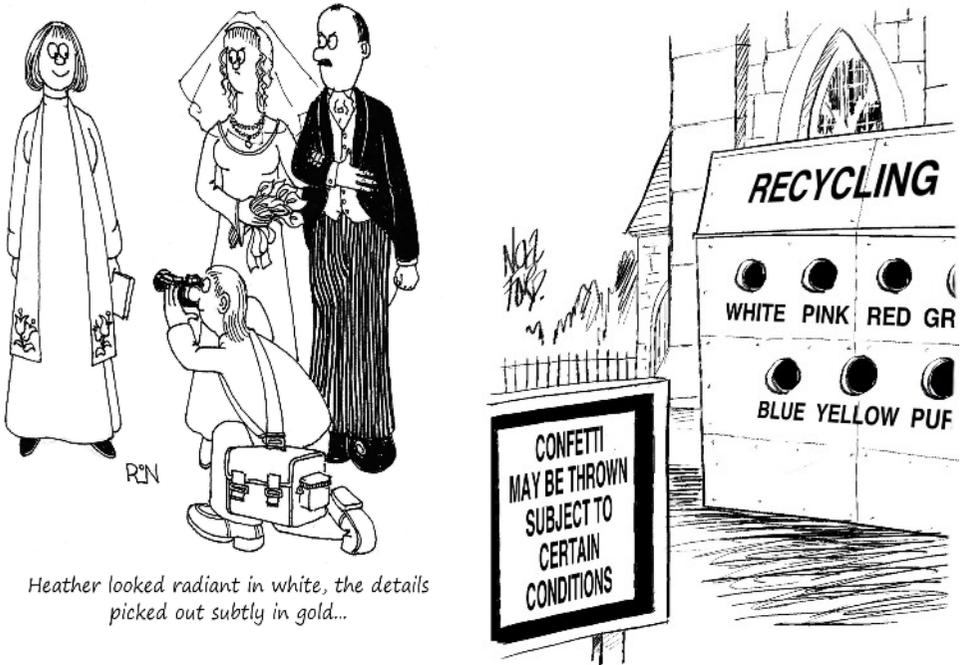
Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone - Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history - and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff

The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn't stay very long!

## 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



*Heather looked radiant in white, the details picked out subtly in gold...*

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