

ST JAMES' CHURCH
Brownhills



Following Jesus

THE MUSTARD SEED

www.stjameschurchbrownhills.co.uk



*Our mission is to worship God
and to serve the community by sharing the love of Jesus*

June 2022 **50P**

Place of Welcome

Place of Welcome is an open invitation to come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a friendly chat. You are equally welcome if you just want to spend a few moments of quiet in church alone.

We also have our Knit & Natter group at the same time – 10-12 noon every Tuesday.

Grace, Truth & Life Groups

There are now five GTL Groups which are now meeting on a regular basis. It would be good to think we could increase the number meeting, so if you would like to be involved, please speak to Revd Gayle in the first instance.

Telephone Prayer

If you would like any prayer ministry via the telephone, please contact Gayle on 07545 657 636, or Liz Corbett on 01543 370162.

Magazine Articles

If, in your reading, you find an article that you think bears repeating in the parish magazine, please let us know and we will try our best to include it in a future issue.

Do more, learn more and be more.

Girls & boys aged 6 to 18.

Based at Group HQ, Barnetts Lane, WS8 6HZ

For info: www.brownhills-scouts.org.uk

Call: Sue 01543 276953 or Mary 01543 453293



Resurrection Power & A Month to Celebrate & be Inspired by Our Queen



We start this wonderful summer month of June with a four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022. During this time, we'll mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All over the country churches have made plans to bring their communities together for the celebrations, that fall on the weekend of Pentecost Sunday – a major festival in the church calendar.

At St James' we start this time of celebrating and honouring our Queen for 70 years of service on the Throne with a Community Fun Day for Brownhills, on Sat 4th June (10.30 am till 3.30 pm). It's worth us knowing that the Christian organisation HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica, Thy Kingdom Come and other key partners have been key in planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book (which we're giving away 100 copies of between Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th in the morning), a new anthem to sing, a '70 Acts of Service' community challenge, and lots of resources for children and schools.

I'd like to highlight for us that Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf, who is HOPE's executive director said, '**Churches are in an ideal place to bring**

communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!’ It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost Sunday (5th), the day when the church celebrates the gift of God’s Holy Spirit.

The anointing of God’s Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, the Queen prayed: **‘Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever. Amen.’**

Please do take time to reflect prayerfully on the special edition book that you’ll receive. Not only is it a beautifully illustrated souvenir, but it also uses rarely seen prayers, **which the Queen prayed in preparation for the Coronation, and highlights how God has answered those prayers over the past seven decades.**

At the start of June, and also on Pentecost Sunday, we have the huge blessing of being able to have a **Confirmation Service** at St James’ at 6.30 pm. During this service we have the chance to support some of our young people and adults who are making the most amazing commitment that they could ever make to follow Jesus in their lives. Please join me in praying that they will receive and then go on receiving the person of the Holy Spirit for themselves, personally.

May this weekend at the start of June be a gift to each of us, filling us with greater passion for the Lord through us allowing ourselves to be affected by our Queen’s service, faithfulness and determination, and even more so than that, by the transcendent joy, excitement, peace and power that God’s Holy Spirit brings to us as He fills us.

With love, prayers and all blessings in our Saviour Jesus,

Gayle



What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

As we celebrate Pentecost this month, it's appropriate to ask the question: what does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? Everybody who has committed their life to Christ possesses the Holy Spirit, *'if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.'* (Romans 8:9). It is the Spirit who brings us new birth into the family of God.

The Spirit assures us of God's love and acceptance, despite our fears, doubts or failures. As adopted children we can address God as our father: *"God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"* (Galatians 4: 6). By using the same word used by Jesus, we can grow in intimacy with our Father and pray to Him, especially when we struggle to find the right words.

The Holy Spirit is committed to producing a family likeness in those who follow Christ. This Jesus likeness enables us to live as Jesus would in our place, ie: work, family, time, interests etc. Paul describes this as the fruit of the Spirit: *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22,23). He talks about fruit not fruits! We can't pick and choose, as they come as a total package to be developed over a lifetime!

The Spirit is committed to producing new desires for God: reading the Bible and praying, forgiving others, meeting with other Christians and sharing our faith. He will also give us the motivation to overcome wrong habits, attitudes or lifestyle in our lives.

'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).

*The ability to speak several languages is an asset,
but to be able to hold your tongue in one language is
priceless. - Anon*

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



This month we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history. Up until recently she attended church every week and still did a full week's work at the age of 96!

It is her commitment to serving God and the nation

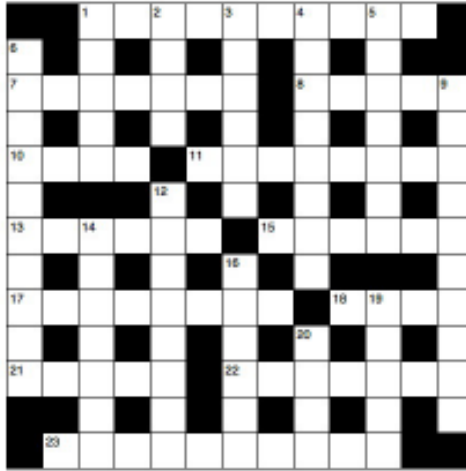
which stands out in her life. Even before she became Queen, she made a promise, which she has kept for over 75 years: *'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'* (21st birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

What is the secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service? In 2002 she said this: *"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."* These are wise words from somebody who draws her strength from the Christian Faith and can inspire all of us who want to make our lives count!

The Queen has been an example of joyful, wise, and generous service on behalf of others all her life. Six months before her coronation she asked the nation and Commonwealth to *"pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life."* Paul urges us to pray for all in authority, *"that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* (1 Timothy 2:2).

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.

- Anon



Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, – us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
 10 'We are hard pressed on every –' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (4)
 11 Fraud (2 Corinthians 6:8) (8)
 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and – around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be –' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
 18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)
 21 'As for man, his days are like –, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
 22 Or I live (anag.) (7)
 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the – that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
 2 'Away in a manger, no – for a bed' (4)
 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
 4 'Each – group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)
 14 Ace turn (anag.) (7)
 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
 19 'All these – come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and – him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)

Historically, the Church of England has had its share of eccentric clergy. Even nowadays, hiding away in remote parishes, there are still some colourful clergy about. Clergy such as the elderly, Anglo-Catholic Uncle Eustace, who is incumbent in the small parish of St James-the-Least-of All, somewhere in Very Rural England. Eustace despairs of his nephew, Darren, who has become an Evangelical curate in a busy urban parish... and so he writes letters, to try and properly 'educate' Darren in parish life.

Beware all donations!

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

This has been an unusual month: we have moved from hysterical excitement to deep disappointment within the space of days.

For many years, our vestry has displayed an oil painting generously donated by the Dowager Duchess of Stansby – given to us, I suspect, because her son, the tenth Duke, would not allow it in his house. It was supposed to depict Daniel in the lions' den, although I always thought it looked more like a prospective adopter visiting a dog rescue centre. The Dowager was less than pleased when it wasn't made the centrepiece in the sanctuary, but we managed to persuade her that her exceptional work of art would be safer from theft if locked away.

Then – our cleaner happened to knock it off the wall. If it had landed in her bucket of disinfectant and been totally destroyed, it would have been a sadness I suspect I could have learned to bear. But something more interesting happened. Some of the Dowager's oil was chipped off – to reveal a painting underneath of what looked like a cherub.

The cleaner told the churchwarden, who instructed her not to tell anyone about the find. This inevitably meant that, within the hour, the entire

parish knew of the discovery of what had already been transformed into a priceless pre-Raphaelite treasure. Our churchwarden has yet to learn the fact that if you tell someone something in complete confidence, they assume it means they can only tell one other person at a time.

By evening, mutually opposed camps had already formed. Miss Timmins wanted the treasure to be placed in a side chapel, as a shrine, preferably with candles permanently burning beside it. She envisaged St James the Least of All becoming a place of pilgrimage, and that this yet-to-be revealed cherub may work miracles of healing. She was already asking for opinions about where the car park should be built to cater for the thousands of tourists who would soon be flocking here. Another group wanted to sell it as soon as possible and use the money to repair our church tower. A third group insisted the fortune it would raise be given to African missionaries. Meanwhile, the tenth Duke was consulting his solicitors to see how he might get the canvas back to his castle.

We compromised by getting the thing X-rayed, to see what work of art lay underneath. It turned out to be by a local artist who had painted an advert for the village pharmacist to sell his own brand of gripe water.

Shrines, towers and good deeds were quietly forgotten and the last we heard of the tenth Duke was that he was consulting a second set of solicitors to see if he can get out of paying the first set for the work that they had done to retrieve the painting.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Always remember . . .

**There are no strangers in our church –
just friends you haven't met yet.**

Readings for June

The readings are the ones we will use in church and online.

5th June 2022 – Morning Service -
Galatians 3 v 23–29

5th June 2022 – Evening Service -
TBC

12th June 2022 – Morning Service -
1 Corinthians 6 v 12–20 & 1 Corinthians 13

12th June 2022 – Evening Service -
John 16 v 12–15 & Romans 5 v 1–5

19th June 2022 – Morning Service -
Romans 8 & Romans 12 v 1–8

19th June 2022 – Evening Service -
Psalm 42 & Acts 27 v 1–12

26th June 2022 – Morning Service -
Ephesians 1

26th June 2022 – Evening Service -
Psalm 77 & Galatians 5 v 1, 13–25

*People treat the Ten Commandments like a history
test - they attempt only three.- Anon*

Some simple tricks to save energy

The on-going rise in energy costs is eye-watering. Here are some well-proven ways to save money:

Always turn off the lights when you leave a room. Forget about maintaining an 'ambience' in your home.

Turn down your thermostat by at least a degree. Or two. Or three?

Get some LED bulbs – they are six times more efficient, last much longer, and use 90 per cent less energy than old-style bulbs.

Shower rather than bath. Don't worry about a bit of dirt on your children. It can strengthen their immune systems and help prevent them from becoming allergic to everything.

Don't boil the kettle all the time – it eats up about six percent of all your electricity per year. Why not consider making a pot rather than a mug, so that you drink as much overall, but less often?

Make a draught excluder - you know, the ones that look like sausage dogs. Don't turn up the heat to combat a draught, fix the draught.

Keep doors closed. If you don't need to heat your WHOLE house, don't.

Put some more clothes on. We all know people who like to wear only tee-shirts at home, even in winter. If they belong to your family, get them to put on a jumper, cuddle the dog, wrap up in a blanket, or run up and down the stairs, not turn up the heating.

Set your washing machine at 30. Washing at 30 rather than 40 degrees can reduce your energy consumption by 60 per cent per cycle, according to the energy experts.

Use your electric clothes dryer less. It can account for five per cent of all household electricity. Far cheaper to buy a washing line!

Use your oven only when you can fill it up. Never cook just one thing at a time. And when you are done, leave the oven door open to help heat the house.

All of these are small steps, but together they could make a big difference this year.

Father's Day

Fans of the popular *Star Wars* films were surprised when Darth Vader said to Luke Skywalker "I am your father." This unexpected disclosure paved the way for future surprises in the episodes that followed.

Many times, Jesus surprised His hearers with parables that had unexpected twists and turns. No doubt He astonished the disciples when He first called God 'Father' and went on to instruct them to pray saying "Our Father in heaven...". No one had called God 'Father' before!

Shortly before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus talked to His disciples about God the Father. He said: "In my Father's house are many rooms." This prompted Philip to ask: "Show us the Father, that is all we need." Jesus replied: "Whoever has seen Me *has* seen the Father."

Jesus knew this concept would be hard to grasp and so had to frequently speak about God as His Father. For three years the disciples had listened to profound teaching and witnessed miracles. They knew Jesus was different, but as His ministry drew to a close they were learning more about the special relationship that God had with Jesus.

On 19th June it will be Father's Day. This is an occasion to remember the role our dads are playing now or have played in our lives. Hopefully, we have good memories and recall times of loving care they showed to us.

Unfortunately, some people do not know their fathers, or they have been absent for long periods or may be neglectful, deceitful, or abusive. Sadly, some children and adults would rather not remember their fathers, having suffered some trauma or family breakdown.

It is good to know that God is not like this. Jesus came to reveal God as our Heavenly Father, who is loving, compassionate, merciful, forgiving, and caring. God is the model father who knows what is good for us and wants the best for us.

So, Father's Day can be a reminder that we are God's children, and that we can possess the blessings He has kept for us. In the story of our lives God has revealed Himself in a surprising way. He says to each one of us 'I am your Father'. Now that is something to celebrate!

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord. - Anon

Come and join us



Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

**COMMUNITY FUN DAY AT
ST JAMES', BROWNHILLS
SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022
10.30 AM - 3.30 PM,
FREE ENTRY**

**With juggling & circus
skills workshop & show**



Prayers & Poems

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.

Author unknown

John Short & Son

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THE PARISH OF BROWNHILLS WITH OGLEY HAY

Our mission is to worship God and to serve the community
by sharing the love of Jesus

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Liz Corbett 01543 370162

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Dennis Powell 01543 820513

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