

Happy 1st Birthday to the LEXICON

Amazing to think it is only a year since it opened and how much the dynamic of the town centre has changed. The 2nd proms night in Bond Square (Waitrose) featured a great performance by VADE, a 5 piece acapella group with faith roots (<http://www.vadesings.com/>) and the evening once again showed possibilities of performance space in the town. Maybe we could get VADE back to headline a music of faith and love special! In the meantime we are looking for a new venue for our occasional music evenings.

Alpha Update

Thanks be to God's gracious providence – and the kindness of the owner of the Brown Bag. Having already printed our publicity for the joint Alpha we were shocked when the venue, Coffee Republic, suddenly closed. But we prayed about it and resolved to press ahead, trusting in God that we would find another venue. This was mentioned at Mosaic on a following Sunday and a member there who knows the owner of Brown Bag told him and he immediately offered to help. We had our first session there last night (25th) and it is a perfect venue. Do invite people to join us on Tuesdays 7-9pm. Another good news story – one young man came along having picked up a flyer. So remember, if you ever feel distributing flyers is a thankless task – it is worth it if just one person connects.

Returning & Rest, Quietness & Trust (Isa.30.15)

Jim is organising sessions at Holy Trinity for those who'd like to explore a more contemplative/meditative approach to prayer. These are on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month, from 3.30pm onwards.

Point for reflection – How can we offer the healing balm of stillness and silence in God's presence into the busy world of the town centre? Should we be flagging up St. Joseph's, Holy Trinity and the Kerith prayer room as places for people to go to at lunchtime, in search of peace and/or looking to offer something in a more neutral venue in the town centre? Please reflect and pray about this and let Jim know what you discern. Contact him: btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parish.org

WW1 Centenary Commemoration

On the 11th November 1918 the guns fell silent on the Western Front after four years of unprecedented carnage. November 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the Great War. It is always a challenge to Christians to know how to respond appropriately, especially to a war in which so many nominal Christian nations were busy killing one another and which had such a massive impact on faith and belief in western society. In this centenary year, as belligerence and nationalism seem to be the order of the day again in global affairs, we call on people to remember the scale of loss and to redouble their efforts for peace, both in prayer and action.

There will be an evening of music and poetry at Holy Trinity on Saturday 3rd November, 7pm, with a collection in aid of the charity 'Combat Stress' to support those suffering from PTSD. From 5th – 10th November the church will be open during daylight hours for people to visit the chapel which contains the memorial for those from Bracknell who died and to pray for peace. There will also be a commemorative exhibition at the church. On Armistice Day, Sunday 11th November, there will be wreath laying at the war memorial in the town centre from 10.40am, followed by a march through the town centre, towards Fenwicks, then turning right up to Holy Trinity, for the civic service at 11.30am.

A Real Living Wage

In the news recently, it was reported that workers at some McDonalds, TGI Fridays and Weatherspoons branches in London and Brighton were planning strike action over pay. The action is planned for October, with a joint rally in London on 4th October, organised by the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU). The workers want pay rates increased to £10 per hour and this comes on top of concerns about zero hours contracts and retention of tips across the hospitality sector.

Reading this you may be thinking, *“it doesn’t involve Bracknell”* or *“I don’t agree with people going on strike”* and *“isn’t this a Christian bulletin?”* There are two reasons to highlight this. The first is that we have McDonalds, TGI Fridays and Weatherspoons in the town centre but what do we actually know about the pay and conditions of the staff working in them, or in other town centre restaurants and shops? While lots of them may be students, doing short term work and often able to fall back on the *‘bank of mum and dad’*, for others this is their sole livelihood and it is low paid workers who feel the brunt of the rocketing costs of living, especially housing. **There have also been rumours about people working in conditions approaching modern slavery.**

Second, while the Bible is not against wealth creation and entrepreneurship, it is also very firmly in favour of economic justice. In London, many churches have come together, along with civic and community groups, under the banner ‘Citizens UK’ to organise communities to act together - at grass roots level - on social justice issues. Citizens UK began promoting the ‘living wage’ idea in 2001 and since then, has won over £500 million of additional wages, lifting over 150,000 people out of working poverty. In April 2016 the government introduced a higher minimum wage rate for all staff over 25 years of age inspired by the Living Wage campaign - even calling it the ‘national living wage’. However, the real Living Wage is currently £8.75 per hour (compared to the governments £7.83), while the London Living Wage, adjusted for cost of living, is currently £10.20 per hour.

A key thing about Citizens UK Living Wage is that it is a **voluntary** undertaking by employers. Citizens UK looks to acknowledge and celebrate employers who choose to pay above the statutory minimum (and to shame those who can afford to but don’t).

And so... **thought for prayer:** reflect on your own rate of pay (if you are in work). How does it compare? What would it be like for you and your family to live on £7.83 per hour? What is God saying to you about this?

Thought for action: wouldn’t it be great to acknowledge employers in the new town centre who pay above the statutory rate and to spread awareness of the real Living Wage? Do you feel inspired to join in with this?

For further info re. Citizens UK see: <https://www.citizensuk.org/>
And for their Living Wage Campaign see : https://www.citizensuk.org/living_wage

Halloween

We are very keen to address Halloween and it would be a real shame to miss the opportunity to do so. We are hoping to do something to reclaim the day, but welcome your thoughts and ideas. For updates keep checking our facebook page LOGOS-Bracknell for details.

www.facebook.com/groups/LOGOSbracknell

Town Centre Mission

Berkshire Credit Union

Plans are underway to set up the Bracknell Credit Union. Contact Points are being confirmed and it is planned to have a Contact Point open for a couple of hours every day except Sunday. There will be different venues on set days which should make access easy for everyone. Training will be given to those running the Contact Points by the Berkshire Credit Union. A series of leaflets are being produced which will give details of what a Credit Union is, how it works and what services are available. An update confirming where the Contact Points are and the opening times should be included with the next newsletter.

Prayer Walk Guide

Les Allen has been prayer walking around the town centre and has produced a prayer guide (an account of his experiences and insights). A wonderful prayer tool, it is well worth reading. It is available on the LOGOS-Bracknell facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/LOGOSbracknell
We are working on an edited version to make available as a double sided A4 leaflet for wider distribution.

Mission EAT

Mission EAT are meeting again in the autumn. Sign up for a fellowship meal and wander round the town centre one Friday this autumn by contacting btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parish.org
The dates are: 12th October; 9th November; 7th December

Looking Ahead

For Christmas 2018, we could repeat our giveaway and carol singing. Your thoughts are welcomed. Looking ahead to 2019 it has been suggested that we aim to do two joint events, so please pray about this and get it into your church planning.

- i) **Good Friday** - prayer walk no.2 and parent-toddler / children's Easter Story in the town centre on Good Friday morning. For the Easter Story part we will be looking for children's ministry leaders (primary age) to help plan and deliver this.
- ii) **A music event** - outdoors God willing - for around Pentecost time, provisionally 9th June weekend, engaging with youth and utilising combined talents of churches youth worship groups etc.

Regular Events

Please remember that our regular prayer meetings are held in the Upper Room at The Bull. Saturday mornings between 10.00am and 11.00am (bacon rolls and a hot drink provided) on the second Saturday of each month: **Saturday 13th October, 10th November and 8th December.** Wednesday lunchtime between 12.30 and 1.30pm (sandwich lunch provided) on the fourth Wednesday of each month: **Wednesday 24th October and 28th November.**

**Please note we now have a Town Centre Mission email address (tcm@bracknellchurches.org)
Let us know of any events or activities being run by your church. Please also use this email address to let us have your thoughts, comments or any information we could use.**