

Reaching the heart of

BRACKNELL

Spring 2020

Every day, a new Adventure.



Are you in a Time of Transition?

Interviews • Easter and Town Events • Interesting Articles





Welcome!



Welcome to the first issue of a new decade! 2020 feels like a momentous year. To reflect that, we've chosen the theme of 'transition'.

This magazine goes out to people living in and around the growing town centre of Bracknell. It aims to encourage community and put you in contact with what local churches are doing, in and around the centre.

New building in the centre continues, with the ground works starting for the planned flats in Market Street. The first phase is tucked in behind the Council Offices at Times Square, the site of the old bus station. An 11 storey block is going up to provide 240 flats, plus some commercial space. The adjacent site, where Amber House and Northgate House used to be has planning consent for a further two hundred flats.

We are also waiting to see, with interest, the completion of the renovation of Princess Square and the transformation of the Bental's site into 'The Deck'. It is certainly a very different town centre to when I first arrived five years ago.

With more and more people in the South East living in flats and apartments, how does that change our sense of community and our culture?

I wonder what community is for you? Is it neighbours, work colleagues, other parents, people at the gym, or on-line and social media communities? Or maybe none of these? No one needs to be alone (unless you want to be). As you flick through these pages, if you are looking for a community to belong to, why not get in touch or just turn up. I pray you will be met with a warm smile and an open heart. That is what Jesus would want.

Blessings,

Jim Barlow (Priest-in-Charge, Bracknell Team Ministry)



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Does life seem the same day after day, or do you sense things are changing?

I am getting older. We all are. Life moves in one direction, never stopping. Yet, even after 55 years, it feels like the same person experiencing all this. Parts of my body change constantly, sadly not always for the best! Yet who am I in the midst of it? I both am and am not my body, or not, at least, any single part of it, with the possible exception of the brain. For those who have to cope with dementia it is like the opposite is true, the body endures but the mind fades. I wonder what would happen if brain transplants were possible? Would I still be the same person afterwards?

Change is inevitable. It cannot be stopped. Even if the world looks the same today as yesterday, it is not. As creatures we are too small to see the immense scale of things, though it is there to be glimpsed in the rock formations of Earth and its fossilised remains. The Earth is vast and ancient but itself a speck of dust in the cosmos, which is always moving in one direction of change.

Change is inevitable yet, much of the time, we fear it. This is because we fear loss. However, change can also bring joy and a deep sense of satisfaction. We are so blessed in England to have four seasons (more or less these days). Spring and Autumn are the times of most change. In Spring we see the fresh green leaves appear and new buds form.



The sun grows brighter and laughter is heard in the streets. This could not happen without change. Life must make way for life. The death of autumn prepares the ground for the new life of spring. On a deeper level, we know that nothing is lost, everything is preserved, albeit in new forms. Death and life form an endless round.

Resistance to change is also natural. If skin did not resist water, my body would dissolve. Wisdom lies in understanding when to resist and when to go with the movement. A classic example of this is if you get caught in a current, carrying you out to sea. If you try to swim against the current, you will become exhausted and it will take you. Yet you can't let it take you out to sea. Instead two things are needed. First – do not panic! Second, swim in the direction of the current - but diagonally. You will come out the side of it at an angle.

Sometimes going with the flow does not mean letting go but adapting wisely.

All of the above is good practical life wisdom, natural wisdom if you like. Yet there is also a supernatural wisdom.

Reason tells us that all bodies have to dissolve in the end, it is just part of the natural process.

So, the claim that Jesus rose from the dead can't be credible. Life and death come together; one presupposes the other. However, maybe the resurrection of Jesus is of a different order to the permanent reanimation of a corpse. Maybe, it is the impossible possibility, a quantum super-position of states so extraordinary that it has only happened once. But once is enough to give us a glimpse of a different kind of universe. It means that there is something greater than both life and death, indeed than anything we can imagine. No one can fathom it out, but the very idea of it puts a spring in the step.



In the midst of the flow of change, don't be afraid. Embrace it, swim with it, even in the direction of death - but on a different bearing. You will emerge on the other side, in a strangely familiar place, illuminated by a new sun and a different order of light.

If the ideas touched on in this piece interest or even excite you, perhaps you might like to connect with others who ask similar questions? The pilgrim company of sacred cosmologists is always open to new members.

Jim Barlow

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and a piece of cake, either at our home or yours.*



When I was 18 I left home in Manchester and moved most of the way down the country to Reading. It was one of the greatest transitions I have ever had, and although it was an amazing thing to do, it was also very hard. I had only looked ahead to what would be new and exciting and positive. What I didn't know back then was that every transition also comes with loss – and if you're not expecting it, loss can be a hard emotion to deal with. When I felt like I should have been excited and happy, I was sad and struggling.

Twenty-something years, and lots more transitions, later, I now help other people to make changes.

This is what I tell them:

- 1) Be excited about what can only be found in the new thing.
- 2) Be aware of what you must leave behind in the old thing.
- 3) Know what you carry over from the old to the new.
- 4) Be grateful for all of the above.

Honestly, number 4 is the game changer. Gratitude is the key to good transitions. When I was 18 I knew how to be grateful for the new, but I never thought to be grateful for what I was leaving behind and what I got to bring with me.

Helen Cottee

www.helencottee.com

Founder of The IDENTITY Framework & The Reformation Framework



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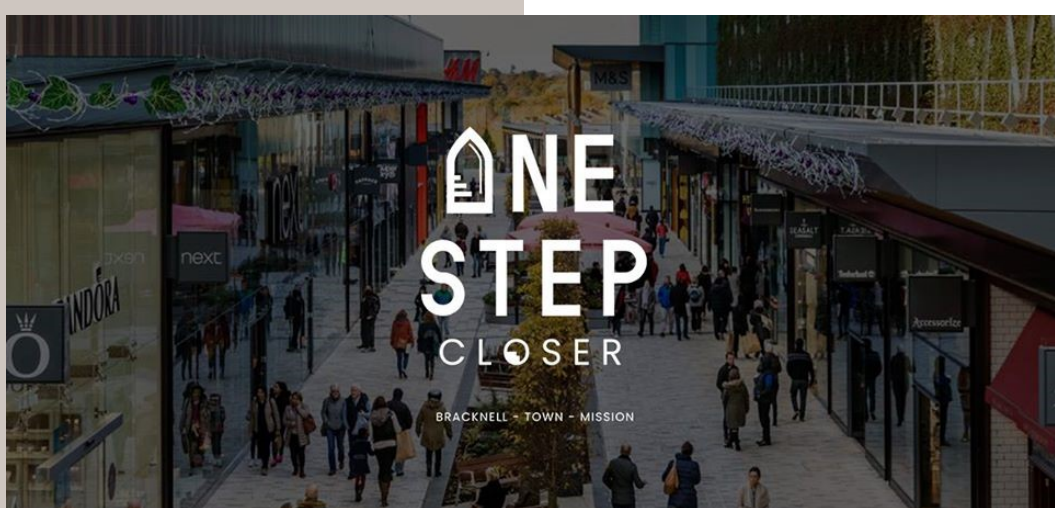
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Valentines Special Outreach

On Valentines weekend we extended our monthly prayer meeting and went out on the streets of Bracknell sharing letters of love to talk about where hope and love can be found.

Coffee Barker Music Night

Continuing with our coffee barker nights, we hosted local artist Sam Jackson on our last event for 2019. Why not come along and experience one of our events this year? On the third Thursday of each month.

Quiz Challenge

Everyone loves a quiz, especially when you win. Once a month a group of us from the local area get together to have dinner and do a quiz together. We encourage those who live locally to join us! You'll be challenged on our knowledge about pop songs, history, culture and more @ the Bull.

Dates for the Diary

Daughter of Davis - Special Music night.

19th March 7.30-9.45pm

Location - Coffee Barker, Bracknell.

The 19th is a special night with the Daughters of Davis, their songs, energy and stories make a great evening in our local coffee house. We'd love to see you there!

Quiz Challenge at the Bull

25th March, 22th April, 27th May

4th Wednesday of the Month

Location - The bull, Bracknell 7-10pm

Quiz (continued)

starts at 8, some of us eat dinner at 7. Feel free to join!

Babies and Bumps group

Dates: 5th, 12th and 19th of March

Location - Coffee Barker, Bracknell

Thursday Afternoons - 2.30pm

Our babies and bumps has been full of surprises, we weren't sure whether there would be an interest for the event, however week after week we've plenty of new faces, with Jackie's puppet shows, songs and entertainment for the little ones.

EASTER

Good Friday: 10th April

Get the date in the diary now. April 10th, prayer walk starting at 11am sharp from Holy Trinity into town centre, followed by a dramatic telling of the passion.

VE Day Bank Holiday: May 8th/9th/10th

A weekend for the VE day 75th Anniversary.

May 8th is the **May Day Bank Holiday** this year. On Saturday there will be a Lexicon Prom events at Bond square in the afternoon and the town centre mission team will be out and about.

On Saturday 10th May, it is the **Bracknell Half Marathon**, and we have been asked to have an encouraging presence, with other community groups, along the route. Much easier to cheer from the sidelines!



In Britain, we have a justice system that is the envy of the world. It proves the guilty and releases the innocent, all to great effect. You would never hear of a trial that took place at night in the judge's house on a bank holiday without a jury; or asking the accused to testify against himself, then being taken to the high court where the judge finds no reason to kill him, but does so anyway. This sounds like a plot from a movie, doesn't it? But of course, this miscarriage of justice happened many years ago in Jerusalem: in Jesus' trials that led to his crucifixion.

In those days, the Jewish high council (the Sanhedrin) were allowed to govern by their own laws, but were not allowed to execute anyone. The Emperor, Augustus, in 6 CE gave the Roman Prefect in charge of Judea "Power of Attorney" in life or death cases.

The Sanhedrin would meet in the Hall of Hewn Stones and, to decide the sentence, the jury would deliberate overnight and only pass the sentence in the morning. So meeting in the High Priest's house and passing sentence on Jesus straightaway was illegal by their own standards. But it only gets worse.



Many witnesses came to testify against Jesus, but their testimonies did not agree. In modern law, they might be charged with perjury or obstruction of justice. In Jewish Law, you would suffer the same sentence as the person you falsely accused. Then the high priest (Caiaphas) tries to make Jesus testify against himself – and finds him guilty of blasphemy, which carries the death penalty under ...

False trials to execution

Jewish law. However, only the Romans could carry out such a penalty.

So the trial is repeated in the morning before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Prefect who was notorious for trying to pressurise the Jews into worshipping Caesar. Pilate was a brutal dictator, who was subsequently removed from his post because he repeatedly crossed the line. All the gospels say that Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent but had him killed anyway. It is a strange detail that Pilate at first offered to let Jesus go, under the terms of an agreement whereby a prisoner would be set free at the Passover festival, but the crowd chose Barabbas instead. Not the sort of thing a brutal Roman governor would do. But maybe he won either way. Either he released Jesus and made the Sanhedrin look weak and foolish. Or he had him killed and sent a message. John 19:15b may offer a clue, where Pilate says: "Shall I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered." So Pilate got what he wanted – acknowledgement that Caesar is king, not God or the Messiah.



So, Jesus was executed on the cross. In any just legal system, Jesus would never have been convicted, let alone killed. However, those responsible did not realise that, in choosing to kill Jesus, who was sinless and innocent, and letting a guilty man (Barabbas) go free, they would change the world forever. John explains this simply when he said:

"GOD so LOVED the world, that He GAVE His one and only SON, so that whoever BELIEVED in Him shall not perish, but have ETERNAL LIFE".

Daniel Ravenhill



Janet Urba currently lives in Bracknell. But is not originally from here

What brought you to Bracknell?

In 2016 I came over to the UK from Estonia to study a gap year on an Academy at Kerith Community Church.

What did you do in Estonia?

I was a Barista in the city of Tallinn for about a year, before coming to England. I was also involved serving in my Church's youth ministry and helping to organise the biggest youth conference in Estonia called Bible Days.

What are the major differences between the UK and Estonia,

Apart from the obvious the language and the food are not the same as here. We also

have colder winters in Estonia with temperatures as low as -30C. But it is okay as we go to a hot sauna to fight it.

What was it like leaving your home town.

I was made to feel really welcome, Kerith is a large community and provide lots of support. I was working with the office team in the week and in their youth ministry. I was also part of a small group to help me connect.

What have you done since then?

After I completed Academy, I worked in the town Centre in Coffee Barker for two years as a Barista, hospitality can be quite demanding and long hours. I am currently seeking a new role, something more 9-5 office based. I also do some portrait photography to capture moments that are important in peoples lives.

How else has your life changed since you got to Bracknell?

I started dating a guy that I met in church in 2017 and it's going really well. Last year he proposed, so we are getting married in May in Estonia. Together we are part of a new church plant in Staines, called Flow Church, although I currently still live in Bracknell.

How have you experienced the Town Centre mission?

I have been along to a coffee barker music night, a quiz and even a babies and bumps. as it is a great way to do something fun in Bracknell and meet people. I have also loved the events at Christmas and Easter, they put so much work in them and the outcome is great. I recommend you come along to some of the events.

People we have met : lynn our Pioneer

As we dig a little deeper into Lynn Davidson's story, our town centre pioneer, we find out how her life was 'transformed'.

What brought you to Bracknell?

I moved here 17 years ago. Whilst I was going through a divorce, looking for a fresh start, a new place for me to discover. Where no one knew me.

How did that work out?

I quickly found a job and a home, which was great but not much love and community. Life settled for a while, it was a few years later when things got worse, family circumstances changed everything and I wasn't in the greatest of places.

What next?

A colleague invited me to church, something I had never thought about, he was kind and lovely, so I thought it can't be all bad. I was apprehensive but thought what have I got to lose? I started an Alpha course. Its runs for 10 weeks, but I was so curious about it that I kept going back, across the weeks I started to get to know a new community of people realised there was something bigger than us, worth finding out if this stuff is real or not.

Did it change you?

I honestly thought I was not a bad person, and I didn't need to change, but it was about 6 months in that I really encountered God, if you are not a Christian, you probably want to stop reading at this point, but it's true. I really felt it. Its so hard to explain, but once you have, there is no going back.

So then what?

So my life circumstances didn't change overnight, but I do live my life differently now, knowing there is hope and something more shapes the way I make long term decisions,



how I encounter people and the things I choose to do on a daily basis.

What are you doing now?

With a strong group of people around me, I chose to take the role as Pioneer for one year (part time) to work in ministry in my home town and reach others, as the role comes to an end this April. I am hoping someone else will fill the role and be as excited about it as I am. I am uncertain about the details of my future, but I know God has great plans for me.

ALPHA COURSES can be found in Bracknell at regular intervals, go to : Bracknellchurches.org

Alpha

If you are interested in being part of the town centre mission team. Working, volunteering or just supporting us, please email TCM@bracknellchurches.org

Community Group in the Town Centre:

STOREHOUSE

Storehouse is one of the Social Action ministries run by Easthampstead Baptist Church. The purpose is to try and help meet the needs of those who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives.

This can be something very simple like sending flowers, a card, or providing a meal. Or it can be something much bigger. Someone may be in real need of household items which has come about by a number of reasons.

Most of the work done by Storehouse is helping out

with household items. We collect good quality household items which are no longer needed and pass these on to someone in need of them. This can be furniture, kitchen equipment, curtains, bedding etc, but must be in reasonable condition. We have a Storehouse van which can be used for collection and delivery of larger items and four storage areas.

How furniture collection and delivery with Storehouse works:

People benefiting from Storehouse can be known to us, but most referrals

come to us through agencies such as Berkshire Womens Aid, Social Services and Silva Homes. We ask for a list of goods that are needed and if we have those in our store, we arrange to either deliver them or to have them available for collection. The only household items we don't deal with are white goods because we cannot guarantee their safety.

Storehouse can be contacted by emailing:

storehouse@ebc-bracknell.org, or calling the church on 01344 487744 to speak to Fay Philp or Kevin McCarthy.

LANGLEY HALL FOR HIRE

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Easter at Holy Trinity

Traditional churches like Holy Trinity observe what is known as 'Holy Week' which runs from the Sunday before Easter to Easter Sunday (12th April this year). Over the course of the week the invitation is there to share in the journey of Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem (known as Palm Sunday), when the crowds acclaimed him; to Holy Thursday, the night where he shared a final meal with his friends and followers, before being arrested. Good or Holy Friday marks his trial and execution. Holy Saturday is a Day of Silence and prayer in anticipation of the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, which starts in the darkness before dawn.

Join the observance of Holy Week at Holy Trinity or at any of our sister churches (details on back page / Mosaic).



PROGRAMME AT HOLY TRINITY

PALM SUNDAY

9.30am mini-procession into church, with palms etc.

5.15pm Vespers (traditional chants and prayers)

HOLY THURSDAY

8pm Solemn commemoration of the Last Super, with washing of feet and the option of a silent vigil until midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am Children's activities (craft, stories etc. at Langley Hall)

11.00am prayer walk into town centre, followed by the Passion

(12-2pm church open for silent prayer)

2pm Commemoration of the death of Jesus (the crucifixion)

7pm Commemoration of the burial of Jesus

EASTER SUNDAY

5am Lighting of the Easter fire and sacred Liturgy of the Resurrection.

8am Communion Service

9.30am Parish Communion Service

For up to the minute details, check the web site: bracknellparish.org

I asked Jesus: "How much do you love me?" "This much." Then He stretched out His arms and died.



ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A FARMER WHOSE DONKEY FELL DOWN A DEEP PIT ON THE FARM. THE FARMER, MUCH AS HE TRIED COULD NOT MANAGE TO GET THE DONKEY OUT . WITH NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE, HE MADE A VERY HARD DECISION ... HE PICKED UP HIS SHOVEL AND BEGAN TO HEAP DIRT INTO THE PIT. HOWEVER, THE DONKEY, SEEING HIS PREDICAMENT, BEGAN TO SHAKE THE DIRT OFF OF HIS BACK AND STAMP IT DOWN WITH HIS HOOVES. SLOWLY A GROWING MOUND OF EARTH STARTED TO GROW BENEATH HIM AS HE CONTINUED TO STAMP THE EARTH DOWN UNTIL IT WAS HIGH ENOUGH FOR HIM TO STEP OUT OF THE PIT.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

WHATEVER LIFE THROWS , IT IS OUR CHOICE WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO ALLOW IT TO BURY AND DESTROY US; OR USE IT AS A STEPPING STONE TO GROW AND BE STRENGTHENED, FOR PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION.



MOSAIC

**SUNDAY
MORNINGS**

10.30 am- 11.30am

At the Parks Community Centre,
8-10 Nicholson Park, RG12 9QN

Mosaic Church is a place where everyone can belong - including those who have no previous church experience.

Known for its coffee, cake, great music and engaging talks MOSAIC is a place where we celebrate creativity.

Everyone is Welcome!



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- + the Middle East
- + under military occupation.
- + restless, rebellious.
- + the trial and execution of an innocent man.
- + witnessed by his mother and friends.

For the third year running Bracknell churches will mark Good Friday*, the annual commemoration of the death of Jesus of Nazareth, in Bracknell Town Centre.

Begins with a **prayer walk from Holy Trinity church at 11am**, stopping on the way to hear the story, before a **dramatic re-enactment of the scene at the foot of the cross at Union Square between midday and 1.45pm**.

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**Why is it called 'Good Friday'? Our word 'good' comes from the old English word for God. So, it really means 'God's Friday'. Likewise our word 'holiday' comes from 'holy day'.*



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Find the answer to the following question somewhere in this issue.

Q: If the Resurrection is not just the reanimation of a corpse what might it be? (5 words)

Answers by e-mail:
btm-missionpriestjim
@bracknell-parish.org
deadline 30th March
2020

One correct answer will be drawn for the winning prize.

An additional prize may be awarded, at Jim's discretion, for the best incorrect but fascinating answer!



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SUNDAY MORNINGS

Two opportunities on Sunday morning for worship, prayer and communion.

08.00: quiet reflective worship and communion, lasting 45mins.

09.30: our main morning worship begins, lasting around 1hr 10mins with music and singing.

1st and 2nd Sundays of the month slightly more formal, **3rd and 4th Sundays** with more families



Communion or a blessing is offered at every service. Check website or facebook for any variations. Everyone is Welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

For school years 0-4 meets in Langley Hall on 1st and 2nd Sundays in **term time** from 09.30am to 10.40am.

At the same time there is also a Brunch group, for years 5-8 (primary and secondary) with snacks, sharing and fun.

On the 3rd and 4th Sundays we are all in Church together and the first half hour is geared towards youngsters (but adults enjoy it too).

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Vespers (Evening Prayer) Every Sunday 5.15pm a traditional but intimate service with incense and beautiful chants, (on 3rd and 4th Sundays preceded by meditation teaching from 3.30pm - 5.00 pm).

Wednesdays: Mid - morning communion at St. Paul's URC Harman's Water.

Thursdays: Communion followed by coffee, Langley Hall 10.00am.

Morning Prayer: Monday and Tuesday 8am; Thursday 7.30pm.

For local meeting of the **Anglican Cursillo Network** (a monthly discipleship group), contact Harriet Barlow, harrietmontg@aol.com

SMALL GROUPS

LIFE GROUPS or home groups, usually meet on a weekday evening and are a great way to build relationships and explore faith and spirituality in a supportive and friendly environment. We have the following parish small groups meetings:

Mondays: Bible Study group, location town centre, contact David Foster davidmfooster@btinternet.com

Wednesdays: 8pm on the Parks contact: jamesfarrant750@gmail.com.

Thursdays: 8pm on the Parks, contact Louise lnaphine@gmail.com.

Monthly Groups: Life group meeting on Wednesday, once a month, contact Angela angelamevans1@gmail.com

Bracknell Team Ministry - Who We Are & How to Contact Us




Whoever you are, wherever you are from and whatever your background you are very welcome. We meet together at both Holy Trinity Church and Mosaic at the Parks, creating a space where everyone is valued and everyone can belong.

Whether you come along regularly, once or never, we want you to know that we are here for you. We love to discuss the big questions of life and death and their meaning and although we do not hold all the answers, we believe in a God who does and who is passionate to see lives transformed, healed and restored. We believe in the importance of building community and in living our faith out not only on Sundays but every day of the week in every area of life.



**HOLY
TRINITY**

MOSAIC
CHURCH BRACKNELL

MINISTERS		E-MAIL:	TEL:
	Rev'd Jim Barlow Priest in Charge	btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parish.org	07775356652
	Rev'd Malcolm Chalmers Associate Priest	N/A	07584680160
PARISH OFFICE Open 9am to 12noon (excluding weekends) ADDRESS: LANGLEY HALL, THE RING, BRACKNELL RG12 1HD EmailParish Admin. (Linda Edwads): btm-admin@bracknell-parish.org			01344 867383
Angela Evans, Parish Warden		btm-churchwarden2@bracknell-parish.org	07717390200
Russell Goodburn		btm-churchwarden@bracknell-parish.org	07896672036
Sally Evans, Financial Administrator		btm-finance@bracknell-parish.org	01344 867383
Neil Dove, Treasurer		btm-treasurer@bracknell-parish.org	07398790364
Lynn Davidson, Town Pioneer		btm-pioneer@bracknell-parish.org	
Mosaic Services, events ...		mosaicbracknell@gmail.com	 Find us on Facebook

Visit our website - for Holy Trinity and Mosaic - at www.bracknell-parish.org

THE GIFT OF LIFE

An invitation to explore the purpose of Easter and how
Christ came to give us life today.

Find a church near you
bracknellchurches.org