

NEWS LETTER

13th December 2023

of St. Mary Bromley

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1.1



Above is one of the great passages that is read at a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Written words have been a very powerful way for Christians to pass on the accounts of God's work. But it is so much more than just words as Jesus is The Word. He is God's person, action, love, salvation and so much more. What is in a word? We look at Jesus and discover for ourselves.

Sunday Club Nativity - Sunday 17th December,



Calling all shepherds, star watchers/wise men/kings, angels, Marys and Josephs - you are all invited to the Sunday Club Nativity Service on Sunday 17th December at 10.30 a.m. Costumes available or bring your own.

Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm



Our choir accompanies our journey through familiar passages that herald Jesus' birth and the wonder of his presence with us now.

Carol Service Refreshments



It would be lovely if you all stay for mulled wine and mince pies after the Carol service on the 17th of December. If you would like to contribute mince pies to this event, please let Trine or Alison know. Trine will be there this Sunday, or you can contact her at khevezi@gmail.com.

Evening Study Group – on Tuesday 19 December, 8pm



The last Evening Study Group meeting of 2023 will be a face to face meeting at 8pm on Tuesday 19 December. Further information from Peter Boyden

~~Cancelled~~ Carol Singing – Tuesday 19th December, 6.00pm



Carol Singing in Mooreland Road on Tuesday 19th December has sadly had to be cancelled due to lack of available singers.

Welcare in Bromley Carols – Wednesday 20th December, 11.00am and 1.00pm



PLEASE NOTE SLIGHT CHANGE OF VENUE

Come and join us in The Glades to raise money for local families. Meet at the lower level of the Glades, outside Superdrug. We hope to continue our reputation of being well represented by members and friends of St Mary's church. Drop in as convenient.

Christmas Flowers – 23rd December, 9.30am



The St Mary's flower team will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 23rd December from 9.30 am. Any offers of additional help would be welcome for this important festival. If you are interested in being involved, please speak to Anne Yolland. Coffee available.

Christmas Leaflets



With a wide range of Christmas services coming up it is good to invite residents of our parish to share with us. There will be bundles of leaflets in church from this Sunday. Please do take one (or more!) and invite our neighbours to celebrate with us the Good News of Jesus birth.

Glad Tidings of great joy!

Together with promised grants, pledges and tax recovered from Gift Aid.... we have now received enough to pay for restoration of the murals. The firm undertaking the work hopes to commence in 'the summer'. Many thanks to all who have so generously contributed.

Fairtrade



Thank you to those who have supported Fairtrade by purchasing a Meaningful Advent calendar this year. Supplies have now run out. The next Fairtrade event will be Easter eggs! In the meantime, we continue to support Fairtrade through using Fairtrade ethically sourced tea and coffee products for Sunday morning refreshments, Grace Café and at other events that take place.

Follow the Star



This is a series of reflections from the Church of England about Christmas. There are a number of booklets containing reflections in the church. You are welcome to take a copy.

A Charity Night at the Theatre



JusB youth charity have tickets available for the charity preview of Steel Magnolias at Bromley Little Theatre. A classic and heart-warming comedy masterpiece based on a popular play and film in 1980's America. Date: Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7.45 pm. Tickets: £10. We currently have a good choice of seats on offer! To reserve seats for this event, please email anne@jusb.co.uk or speak to Anne Yolland. All ticket sales will support the work of JusB.

A Night at the Musicals – 13th January, doors open 7.15pm



Songs from the West End and Broadway performed caberet style by Artform. Held in the Warwick Hall. Tickets £13.50 www.ticketsource.co.uk/artform in advance or on the door. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Starter Packs

Many thanks for everyone who has taken the bags to collect toiletries for Anne Horner-Tree of St. Peter and St Paul's church. There is now only one left. Please return them to the table at the back of the church.

Live Stream Operators



You may notice some new faces on the Livestream desk in the next few weeks. When Gill and Alan retire we will be relying on just a few (3) volunteers and we do need a few more to be confident that we can continue to prove a reliable Livestream option. Take advantage of training available and help to learn a new skill. Let Alan or a Churchwarden know if you are ready for the challenge.

Refreshments Rota



Many thanks to all who willingly and regularly serve refreshments on a Sunday morning after the service. If you would like to volunteer to help, please have a word with Anne Yolland.

Church Security

As part of enhanced security there is now a chain around the handles of the outer porch door. If you need to know the combination code please contact Atlanta Topham.

Prayer

A Prayer for the week

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the
way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Requests for Prayer

Weekly

Julian, Geoffrey and
Philip Dodds,
Denis' sons

Monthly Week 2

John Edmonds
Shelagh Frankham
Richard Handforth
Peter Henwood

Worship, Prayer and Fellowship

Our service on Sundays are Live Streamed. See <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>

At our 10.30am Family Service on 17th December

This will be the Sunday Club Nativity Service.

Since there will be children very prominent in this service it will not be Live Streamed.

At our 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols, this service will be Live Streamed

Readings

Genesis 3.8-15, Genesis 22.15-18, Isaiah 9.2,6-7
Micah 5.2-4, Isaiah 60.1-6,19, Luke 2.1-7
Luke.8-16, Matthew 2.1-11, John 1.1-14

Carols

Once in Royal David's City
Of the Father's heart begotten
O little Town of Bethlehem
While shepherds watched
Hark the Herald Angels sing

The Order of Service: <https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/lockdown/st-marys-worship>

*Please can contributions for the Newsletter now be given to Atlanta Topham by noon on Wednesdays
Atlanta's email is admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk*