

NEWS LETTER

of St. Mary Bromley

13th February 2025

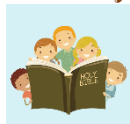
3rd Sunday before Lent - 16th February

**Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall
not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is
not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.**

Jeremiah 17

Prophets usually have warnings or bad news to share, Jeremiah is no exception, and so this quotation is a rare positive statement from him, unsurprisingly then it's about the amazing experience of trust in the Lord. Those who trust shall be blessed, the Lord will be the source of their strength, like a tree rooted by a stream, they will not be afraid of anything. Trees if they fear, will fear drought and heat above all. The one who trusts the Lord, like such a tree, will fear nothing. It's a really good message with which to prepare for Lent when we may seek or stumble into wilderness experiences and hope to experience God's presence with us there.

Sunday Club



It's half term holiday this Sunday. Please make use of the toys, books, pens and paper in the Family Zone.

Canon Richard Handforth

Sadly, we learned last Sunday morning that Canon Richard who has been such a strong supporter of St Mary's and friend to many, died at his home in Bromley College at the weekend. We do not yet have any details of his funeral. We pray for his family and friends in their grief. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Jewellery Sale – Sunday, 16th February



Still available!! Sunday, 16th February. St Mary's has been given some jewellery items to sell to raise money so this will be on display at the back of church after church on 16th February. If you would like to offer a donation for any of the items, please feel free to leave it in the collection box on the table.

If you have any jewellery you would like to add to the collection, please do bring it along on Sunday 16th February.

John Edmonds – Committal Service and Memorial Service – Monday 17th February

John Edmonds short committal service will be held at Hither Green Crematorium by Rev Alan Keeler at 13.30pm. Family and friends are welcome. A Memorial Service will take place in St Mary's Church at 2.15pm conducted by Rev Alan Keeler. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments after the church service. Both services will take place on Monday 17th February 2025.

Evening Study Group – Tuesday 18th February, 8pm – 9pm



Evening Study Group will continue its discussions of poems from The heart's time, a poem a day for Lent and Easter, by Janet Morley on Tuesday 18 February, 8-9pm. This will be a face-to-face meeting, for further details please contact Peter Boyden.

Burnt Ash Library Re-opening – Saturday 22nd February, 11am

Burnt Ash Library re-opens on Saturday 22nd February at 11am. The Mayor of Bromley will be re-opening the library at 11am, and all are invited to come and see the new-look library after the recent repair and refurbishment works. There will be refreshments and activities for everyone. For any further information, contact Sally Adcock.

Mothers' Union.



Our next meeting is our Annual Review which is on Thursday 27th February at 10.00am when we will present our reports for 2024. There will again be a Bring and Buy sale, any contributions please give to Mary, Margaret, your Committee contact member or bring on the day. The meeting will be held in the Front Room of Church House – please do join us – all welcome.

Mural Restoration Thanksgiving Service – Sunday 2nd March, 10.30am - 2.30pm



Preacher Alan Keeler

Celebrate the finished mural restoration, with worship, refreshments and demonstrations/exhibition of the work in progress. **To help plan the catering Please** reply to the invitations or sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Lent Study Group – Thursday 6th March – 10th April, 10.30am – 12 pm

There will be a Lent study group on Thursday mornings: March: 6th - April 10th

We will be using a book called 'At Home in Lent' by Gordon Giles and published by the Bible Reading Fellowship. Gordon is a Canon at Rochester Cathedral and he will be coming to lead an introduction to the book. Meetings from 1030-12.00 in the Buchan Hall.

Advance Notice - St John's Lent Lecture – Sunday 9th March, 7.30pm

It's entitled 'God and AI', and will be held this year on Sunday 9th March at 7.30pm.

Our annual Lent Lecture sees leading professionals in their field address tough questions of how biblical theology responds to the challenges of life in the 21st century. For our 2025 Lent Lecture we look forward to welcoming Graham Budd, who is the Executive Director of The Faraday Institute, which improves public understanding of religious beliefs in relation to sciences. His research interests are at the intersection of AI ethics and faith. Graham will be speaking on the topic **God and AI: Being human in a world of superintelligent machines**. All welcome. Admission free.

Lent Quiet Day – Tuesday 25th March, Feast of the Annunciation, 9.30am to 3.00pm

Please save the date for our Lent Quiet Day. This will take place on Tuesday, March 25th in Church. Time: from 9.30 am ending with a Communion service at 3.00 pm.

All are welcome but we need to know how many people will attend for morning, afternoon, or just for Communion, for catering purposes. Please let Eucharis, Alison or Maria know if you would like to attend or sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Churches Together in Central Bromley Lent Course 2025 – Tuesday 11th March – 8th April



Six reflections on the Women in Jesus' Family Tree. Tuesdays 7.45pm – 9.30 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Bromley, BR2 0EG. Admission free. All are welcome.

Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine is now available and we all look eagerly for the new one when it is due. Maybe you might be helping it along by writing something for it, or by proof reading the copy before it is printed. The present team is small and dedicated and urgently needs reinforcements. If you are interested, please let Atlanta know.

Food Bank



Please remember that Bromley Food Bank and the Starter Packs Project at St Peter and St Paul (the Parish Church) are always in need of supplies. As Easter is coming try and include chocolate or Easter eggs into your donations.

Easter Eggs



The new 2025 edition is available, and the 'Real Easter Egg' is the only fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box. The milk chocolate and dark chocolate eggs are also plastic and palm oil free. The milk chocolate egg is available at £6.20, and the dark chocolate egg is £7. These eggs are no longer available in supermarkets. To obtain one of these eggs, please sign the sheet at the back of church or contact Anne Yolland. Please order early as supplies may be limited due to a climate-related global cocoa shortage.

Grace Café



We meet in the church building on Wednesdays between 10am to 12 noon for coffee, cake and fellowship. You will be most welcome to join the volunteers who host the Grace Cafe. There is a sign up sheet in the church if you would like to help.

Prayer

A Prayer for the week

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Requests for Prayer Weekly

The family and friends
of Richard H
The family and friends
of John E
John C
Olive
Richard
(Barbara B cousin)
Andrew
Patricia
Bridget
(friend of Lynda)
Tony
John S
Luci
Stuart (Sylvia's family
member)
The family and friends
of Tom
Pam

Monthly Week 3

Merle
Julian and Kerrie
Gary
Gemma
(relative of Anthia)
Geoff
Nigel
(Lisa M brother)



If you have a need for prayer for things, please contact the Pastoral Team via Anthia Page email anthiapage@gmail.com.

Worship, Prayer and Fellowship

We will be delighted to welcome our Guest preacher, Mandy Holloway, Diocesan Warden of Lay Ministers to St Mary's this Sunday, 16th February 2025.

She'll be preaching on the theme: 'Using the gifts God has given to us'

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

At our 10.30am – Family Communion – 16th February 2025 - 3rd Sunday before Lent

Readings 1 Samuel 3:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-13; Luke 10:1-9

Hymns

188	Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
313	Lord of All Hopefulness
106	Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
30	And Can It Be that I Should Gain

Hymns and Readings Rota

Please give your availability to Atlanta for reading and leading Intercessions, so we can fill in the Rota with confidence.

Please can contributions for the Newsletter now be given to Atlanta Topham by 5pm on a Tuesday