

NEWS LETTER

of St. Mary Bromley

15 November 2023

Jesus said 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.'

Matthew 13.44



Whenever I think of treasure I think of pirates, probably in the book Treasure Island. Pirates are rough and tough and take hold of riches that someone else owns. Jesus is offering us the true value of life. So often this seems out of our reach as if someone else had power to keep it from us. Jesus is celebrated as the victor who frees us from whatever falsely holds us so we can enjoy his abundant life.

Archdeacon Allie Kerr

You may have heard that Allie recently had some surgery. She is making good progress and will be with us at our 10.30am service on Sunday 26th November to preside at the Family Communion and preach. Please do join us and give her a warm St. Mary's welcome.

Sunday Clubs



All children and parents are welcome to join us on Sunday. There will not be Sunday Clubs as it will be a Family Service. The Twinkles area is available and the children will have an activity to do as part of the service. There will be Sunday Clubs again next Sunday the 26 November.

Jigsaw Sale With Books – Saturday November 18th, 10.00am to 12noon



This will be in the Church Porch, with paperback books outside. There will be refreshments inside the church with Homemade Cake. Offers of cake will be appreciated. Please contact Mary Fall (0208 464 1239) or mary@fallfamily.co.uk
Free entry and prices from 50p to £3 All proceeds will go to the Mural Fund.

Church Boiler

We are pleased to say that the boiler is now working well. Many thanks to John Beale, Clem Sutton, Mike Eames and all who have helped in the repair and nursing its operation along in recent months.

The Meaningful Advent Calendars



Last week to order Advent Calendars: Please sign the form at the back of church or contact Anne Yolland on anne.yolland@outlook.com The Meaningful Advent calendar comes with a free Christmas Story book. Cost: £4.50. These Fairtrade chocolate advent calendars are not available in supermarkets. Please place an order by the 19th November.

Table Sale News.



A huge thank you to everybody who played a part in the Table Sale, by hiring a table, donating cakes or helping and selling in the refreshment area and even donating their takings. There seemed to be good feedback and many happy customers. The total raised overall was £712 plus some extra gift aid recovery. This will go towards the Mural Restoration Fund

Children's Society Christmas Cards



Many thanks to everyone who purchased Children's Society Christmas Cards over the last few weeks and Georgia Collins who made them available.
A handsome £270 was raised for the work of this valuable charity.

Sale of poppies



Thank you for your support. Mothers' Union have been able to send a donation of £62 to the Royal British Legion as a result of your purchases.



Careplus aims to provide free local volunteer support for older people locally. Their needs are met for befriending, social support and practical assistance. This is undertaken by volunteers who give support in the form of befriending, shopping and transport. Please consider helping Careplus. It will also be wonderful if there could be a representative of St. Mary's Church to be on the organising committee which meets three times a year. To know more please speak with Alan Keeler. Or visit <http://www.careplusbromley.org.uk>

Murals Fundraising update



**SOCIETY OF
ANTIQUARIES
OF LONDON**

We are delighted to learn that the William Morris fund under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries has awarded St Mary's £4,500 payable straight away. This is a significant boost to our fund raising efforts and brings us closer to our target of approximately £64,000

Candlelit Compline – Saturdays in Advent, 6pm



Watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord at Christmas with a focus each week on one of the following: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Please bring with you a sentence to add to the prayers on the topic for the week either of thanksgiving or of intercession. In church and online for half an hour in December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

Bromley Eccumenical singers – Saturday 25th November, 7.30pm



A performance of 'Stella Natalis' by Sir Karl Jenkins will be given in aid of Bromley Homeless.

Admission £10, under 16s free

Guild of Church Flower Arrangers – Monday 4th December, 2 pm



Siân Trine will be giving a demonstration of Christmas arrangements at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church, Wickham Road, Shirley CRO 8EH. All welcome, visitors £5.

Christingle Service preparation – Saturday 9th December, 9.30 am approx



As many of you will know members of our Mothers Union always make the "Christingles" which are handed out during the service to all the children and many of the congregation also. We make them up the day before on the Saturday morning in Church House at 9.30 am approx. Any offers of help would be much appreciated. Friendly company and refreshments are provided We look forward to seeing you.

Murals Fundraising Update – Good news continues.

Members of the congregation continue to donate generously. We hope to raise as much as possible before the end of December to benefit from a match funding offer.

Contact Alan Keeler or John Beale if you want to know more.

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.

Grace Café



We meet in the church building on Wednesdays between 10am to 12noon 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

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Requests for prayer

Weekly

Denis Dodds

Monthly Week 3

Julian and Kerrie Henwood
Gary Hughes
Gemma Johnson
relative of Anthia Page
Geoff Lloyd

Worship, Prayer and Fellowship

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

At our 10.30am Family Service on 19th November:

Reading	Matthew 13.44-46, 51-53
Hymns	380 O Lord my God
	327 Majesty
Sheet	It's me, it's me, it's me O Lord
	328 Make me a channel of your peace
	494 The Spirit lives to set us free

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

Please can contributions for the Newsletter be given to Alan Keeler by noon on Wednesdays