

NEWS LETTER

of St. Mary Bromley

15th February 2024

'And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.'

Mark 9: 13

It is almost invariably the case that after a great experience, in Jesus's case His baptism and His affirmation by God, there comes a great let down, or an attack by temptation or the devil, which is what happens here. Jesus was driven into the wilderness, where He was tested but was not defeated, because not only were there wild beasts in the wilderness, but also angels who took care of Him. There is too the promise of growth and understanding in the wilderness experience.

Sunday Club



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

Do you want to be confirmed?



There is still time to attend classes and be ready for the Deanery Confirmation with Bishop Jonathon Pentecost Sunday 19th May at St Mary's Hayes at 10.30am. Please sign up or let Alison know.

Living in Love and Faith Meeting - Sunday 25th February after Morning Service - All Welcome

(LLF) has been an 8 year process of learning and thinking together about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage within the Church of England. The Prayers of Love and Faith are one outcome of this process. They give churches permission to pray for God's blessing on gay and lesbian couples. Revd Joel Love is LLF chaplain for Rochester diocese. He will give a presentation on LLF and the Prayers of Love and Faith as we continue to think and pray about them as a congregation.

Mothers' Union Annual Review - Thursday 22nd February, 10.00am



Our next meeting is our Annual Review when we will present our reports for 2023. There will 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.

Shaped in the potters Loving Hands - Saturday 24th February, 9.30am until 3.30pm

Take the chance to sign up for this peaceful reflective day whilst it is still available, as a good way of preparing for Lent, for self-discipline and the learning of new things. Saturday 24th February 9.30am -3.30 pm, bring your own lunch, hot drinks, tea and coffee provided. Sign and leave an email address so we can send you the programme.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March, 10.30am



Everyone is welcome at the World Day of Prayer service here at St Mary's on Friday 1st March at 10.30 a.m. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine on the theme 'I beg you, bear one another in love'. As this was decided several years ago it is purely by coincidence that we are able to pray with them in their hour of need.

Concert in aid of Careplus – Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm

BOeS Choir (Bromley Oecumenical Singers) is holding a concert at St. Mary's on Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm, they will sing "Crucifixion" by Stainer, and some other pieces. The proceeds will go to Careplus, the local Charity which recruits volunteers to help older people stay in their own homes longer. Tickets are £10 and will be available soon. Please put this date in your diary - St. Mary's supports Careplus in its work, and this will be a very enjoyable evening.

Easter Flowers and Church Cleaning – Saturday 30th March.



The flower arranging team have booked Easter Saturday to decorate the Church, between 10-12 in the morning. But we can all help by turning up to clean the Church, ready for Easter Sunday and some of us might like to decorate a window sill ourselves or help by making tea and coffee. Speak to Anne Yolland and discuss the options with her.

Bromley Borough Foodbank



On behalf of Bromley Borough Foodbank, I would like to thank everyone at St Mary's Church for donating an amazing 68.35 kg of food to the Foodbank in 2023 and for your continuing support. Your donations helped us provide food parcels to many vulnerable people in our community, over 14,000 last year in Bromley, and support those most in need. Many thanks once again to you all for showing such kindness and generosity.

Meaningful Easter Eggs



The Egg that shares the Easter story will be available to order again this year. Fairtrade chocolate is available in milk £4.90 or dark chocolate £5.50. These eggs are not available to buy in supermarkets. Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of church. Easter is early this year, so please do order in good time.

Grace Café – Change of Venue



Please note that Grace Café will move to the Buchan Hall in Church House until the weather warms up. Please enter via the side doors. More volunteers are very welcome.

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.

Lent Group – Thursday 15th – 21st March, 10.00am – 11.30am and 8.00pm.

During Lent we will have a Lent Group Studying Holy Communion on Thursdays in the Buchan 10am and again at 8pm each week. **Please leave your email address on the sign-up sheet at the back of Church so you can be sent the programme.**



Lent

Churches Together in Central Bromley Lent Course – 20th February – 26th March

Looking ahead slightly, I am happy to confirm that the **CTCB Lent Course for 2024** will run on Tuesdays at 8pm from 20th February to 26th March inclusive at St Peter & St Paul's Church. The course will consist of six sessions and will be based on **Paul's letter to the Romans**. Usually run by Rev'd Andrew McClellan from St John the Evangelist more information coming soon in Church.

Save the date – Sunday 24th March, 7.30pm

Lent lecture at St John's Church, Park Road BR1 3HY, details to follow.

Prayer

A Prayer for the week

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of
darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom
and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Requests for Prayer

Weekly

Lynda, Andrew, Jack and
Paul Zissell
Sylvia Passmore
Lynda Zissell's mother
Martin, Julian and Sarah
Peter Henwood's Children
Merle Jones

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 18th February 2024 – 1st Sunday of Lent

Readings Genesis 9: 8-17, 1 Peter 3: 18-end, Mark 1: 9-15

Hymns

560	Will you come and follow me
243	Immortal love for ever full
145	Forty days and forty nights verses 1,2,5, 6
255	It is a thing most wonderful verses 1,2,3,6,7

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*