

# NEWS LETTER

## of St. Mary Bromley

1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*John 1:5*

When we are looking for signs of hope this verse from John's gospel is one of the shortest and best encouragements that we have. Reassurance that there have been many dark times and dark places through the generations, but the light still shines and has not been overcome. Tiny green shoots in the spring are like pinpricks of light and hope to come, the lengthening of the days reminds us that if need be 'God can bring our summer out of winter, even though we have no spring' (John Donne).

### Sunday Club



All children and parents are welcome to join us for the Sunday Club session on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February. We start in church at 10.30 a.m.

### Evening Study Group – Tuesday 6th February, 8pm



Evening Study Group meets on Tuesday 6 February at Peter and Frances Boyden's home to discuss the readings for the Family Service on the 11th: 2 Kings 2, 1-12, and Mark 9, 2-9. This will be an in person meeting with refreshments from 7.30pm. Further information from the hosts.



Artform, a local amateur dramatics group held an evening at the musicals in the church hall in January, this was a very enjoyable event. They have kindly donated £550 towards the church mural restoration fund from their evenings takings. We are hoping that they will be able to return soon for further performances and we will keep you posted!

### Weekend garden opening - Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th February



A lovely garden in Beckenham will be open between 11 am - 2 pm. Lots of winter interest, notably a variety of snowdrops, hellebores and winter flowering fragrant shrubs. Light refreshments available. 47 Brabourne Rise, Beckenham BR3 6SD. In spring, the garden is open on other days, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March for Narcissus, Crocuses and Iris Reticulata and 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April for a vast array of Tulips. Entrance by donation, all proceeds to St Christopher's Hospice.

### A Day of Pottery, Reflection and Practice - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am until 3.30pm

A clay-based encounter day that includes Bible reflections, demonstration, opportunities for hands – on activity, laughter and times for silent reflection. We may be handling clay, so please wear something you don't mind getting a bit dirty and bring an apron (the clay washes off). Please bring your own lunch – drinks provided. Suggested donation to cover expenses £8.00 Some of Gordon's pottery will be available for sale. To book please email the Parish Administrator Atlanta Topham [admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk) please put Shaped with Love in the Potters Hands as the subject.

### 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 2024

Just to remind us all that Easter is early this year, and that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February (also Valentine's Day!). We will have a service of Holy Communion at 8pm with Imposition of Ashes.

## Lent Group – Thursdays 10am and 8pm – 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March.

During Lent we will have a Lent Group in person on Thursdays in the Buchan Hall, at 10am and again at 8pm each week, from Thursday 15th February to Thursday 21st March. ***Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of Church if you would like to attend.***

## Churches Together in Central Bromley Lent Course - 20<sup>th</sup> February - 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Peter Richard Henwood



Sadly, we have had the news that Peter Henwood passed away on Tuesday 22nd January 2024.

Peter was vicar at St Mary's from 1971—1997 and the drive behind the design and build of the Church porch which was completed in 1997.

Many will remember Peter fondly and may wish to attend his funeral to which we are all warmly invited.

### Funeral Arrangements—Friday 16th February

10.30 am Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford. DA1 1DE- Light refreshments, after the service, will be served in Church.

11.45 am Depart for the Committal, Saltwood, Kent.

1.00 pm Graveside Committal at St Peter and St Paul Saltwood

Friends of Peter Henwood, from Saltwood, are invited to join family and friends at the Graveside, and afterwards at 1.30 pm for refreshments at the Castle Pub, Saltwood Green.

If you are planning to attend, please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church so that we can confirm numbers with the family.

## Prayer

### **A Prayer for the week**

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
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

#### **Monthly Week 1**

Roger and Grace Charsley  
Sarah Evans' parents  
Daisy Batt  
Friend of Alison Tyler  
David Collins  
Eileen White's brother  
John Cox

## Worship, Prayer and Fellowship

Our service on Sundays are Live Streamed. See <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>  
At our 10.30am Family Communion on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Readings** Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31, Col 1:15-20, John 1:1-14

**Hymns** 148 From heav'n you came  
428 Purify my heart  
242 Immortal, Invisible  
532 We have a gospel to proclaim

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](mailto:admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk)*