

NEWS LETTER

of St. Mary Bromley

25th January 2024

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him

Luke 2.40

This verse sums up beautifully Jesus's early life with his family. It is what every parent hopes for their child, healthy and strong, full of wisdom, and so in a real sense favoured by God. It shows us two things firstly, a lifestyle that is clearly a relatively uneventful nurturing situation, which has a very calm feel to it. But secondly, it is such a contrast to the lives of so many children today, which provoke in us both shock and horror, the violence, poverty, and abuse experienced by so many of the world's children. Not to mention all those killed in war and street violence each one like your child or mine loved by God and made in God's image 'so unsafe' for so many of God's children.

We know who Jesus is, Son of God and of Mary and of Joseph, who prepared him so well for his mission and ministry. We lament the world that we have made for so many of God's children.

Sunday Club



All children and parents are welcome to join us for the Sunday Club session on Sunday 28th January. We start in church at 10.30 a.m.

Evening Study Group – Tuesday 30th January, 8pm



Evening Study Group meets via Zoom at 8pm on Tuesday 30 January to consider the readings for 4 February. For further details please contact Peter Boyden.

Thanks from Alan and Gill

Alan and Gill thank everyone for the hard work, wonderful service, tremendous lunch and very kind words of appreciation on Sunday 21st January on the occasion of Alan's retirement. We greatly appreciate the many gifts and amazingly generous cheque that were given to us. The book of memories was a particular joy that means we will have something with which to look back over our the many years we have spent with you and previous parishes. You will be in our thoughts and prayers as you move forward in the next stage of St.Mary's life.



**Following Alan's retirement,
Gill and Alan will be moving to the Midlands.
From the 1st March their contact details will be:**

4 Curtis Close
Collingham
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG23 7QW

Landline 01636 361971

Alan 07792 847489

alankeeler58@gmail.com

Gill 07783 108101

gillkeeler@gmail.com

Our email address of agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk will be discontinued

*We will be delighted to receive visitors,
but do contact us beforehand
to ensure we are available.*



Travel Safely Alan and Gill

We had a wonderful celebration on Sunday last week for Alan and Gill's retirement. Alan wrote to us saying "Thank you for all that you all did for the service and lunch we had yesterday. It was all great. The atmosphere was all so positive and people we spoke to said they had a wonderful time. As we did." They flew to Berlin on Monday to be with Rachel after her surgery.

So, Thank You and Congratulations to everyone who was involved for beautiful music, singing, prayers, meeting and greeting the deputy mayor, wonderful photographs, fantastic cooking, cleaning and decorating and for wonderful company all at the same time.

If you have photos to share, please let Atlanta have them for the Parish magazine.

Grace Café – Change of Venue



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

Parish Profile Consultation - Sunday 28th January



The Parish Profile writing group are inviting us to comment and help. On arriving in Church, we will give you a couple of post-it notes and ask for a one line answer (1 line only!!!) to each of 2 questions which are:

- What do you most value or enjoy about St Mary's?
- What would you like to add to or to change about the mission of St Mary's?

Then stick the answers in two columns at the Back of Church on a big piece of paper either during the service or before you leave.

A Day of Pottery, Reflection and Practice - Saturday 24th 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 please put Shaped with Love in the Potters Hands as the subject.

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.

February Magazine

The latest edition of the parish magazine will be available in church and on the website this weekend.

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. 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. Easter Sunday is 31st March.

Prayer

A Prayer for the week

God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Requests for Prayer

Weekly

Peter Passmore
Lynda, Andrew, Jack &
Paul Zissell
Sylvia Passmore
Lynda Zissell's mother

Monthly Week 4

Toni Ruston
friend of Suzanne Spooner
Betty Thompson
Keith Nye and Beryl Nye
Eileen White

Worship, Prayer and Fellowship

Our service on Sundays are Live Streamed. See <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>
At our 10.30am Family Communion on 28th January 2024

Readings Malachi 3.1-5, Hebrews 2.14-18, Luke 2.22-40

Hymns 393 O worship the King
118 Faithful vigil ended
483 The King is among us
545 When God almighty came to earth

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*