

of St. Mary Bromley

*People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might bless them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.*

Mark 10.13



We live in an age where the word 'inclusion' had become very important. Perhaps a fundamental inclusion is of children. Jesus' disciples had to learn this. Why would a child draw a picture of flowers that are nearly as tall as a house? Is the child to be corrected or discovered for who they are? A good question is to ask 'please tell me about your picture'. The Bible verse above begins a passage where Jesus welcomes and blesses children. Jesus inclusion was treasured by some and rejected by others. Inclusion is just as divisive today.

Church Wardens



Please will you join us for a Special Parochial Church Meeting after the morning service on the 17th September. This is to elect Church Wardens. This is now very important as a church without Church Wardens does not look viable. Alan Keeler has written to all of the members of the Electoral Roll. The letter explains a way to make the job of Church Warden less onerous with a team of six people. Our Archdeacon Allie Kerr will be present to provide a wider point of view. Please do speak with Alan if you are thinking about stepping forward. A copy of the letter can be found here <https://d3hgrrlg6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f1a79d215fe0/content/pages/documents/church-warden-letter.pdf>

September Family Service and Picnic – Sunday 3rd September at 10.30 a.m.



The Family Service led by the Sunday Club Committee. This will be followed by a Teddy Bears' and Friends' Picnic in the church garden if dry or in Church House if wet. Please bring your own picnic and drinks, blankets or chairs. There will be games and a parade of teddy bears and other cuddly toys - biggest, smallest, best dressed, oldest, most colourful. And it's for EVERYONE 0 to 100!

160 in September – Celebrations 6th to 17th September



Please do come and join us for our celebratory events. In particular the service on the 10th of September which will be followed by a splendid lunch in the church building. No set charge but donations welcome to cover costs. Soft drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring a bottle of something more celebratory if you wish.

There are some remaining bundles of leaflets to distribute, please do help if you can. There are a few stewards needed to enable the church to be open between 10am and noon. For website information <https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/happening-now/celebrating-160-years/>

Ride and Stride



On Saturday 9th September Peter & Frances Boyden and Chris Soper will be out Riding & Striding for Kent Churches. Your sponsorship will help raise funds for St Mary's and other churches in much need of repairs and improvements. This is the annual main fundraising event for the Friends of Kent Churches. As a member we have benefitted from a generous grant. Please support our team and gift aid if you can. Thanks also to the Welcomers opening the church with refreshments on Saturday 9th. Queries to Chris Soper 020 8464 3544 or cmsoper10@gmail.com

An Evening to Gather and Reminice – 7.30pm, Saturday 9th September in the church



Join us for an informal social, bring a bottle, some nibbles and memories of St. Mary's. Sadly the people who were to provide an event on this evening have had to withdraw. But it will be good to spend some time together and share what has been valuable, fun and touching.

160 Cream Tea – 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm, Saturday 16th September in church



Join us on for a delicious Cream Tea as part of the 160 year celebrations. There will be the option of savoury scones for those who prefer something less sweet. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church to confirm numbers attending and to notify of any food allergies.

Or to reserve a place, please contact Anne Yolland on 0208 466 1939 anne.yolland@outlook.com
Donations are invited for the St Mary's murals restoration fund.

Small Jam Jars Wanted



Mary Fall is making seedless blackberry jam to sell in aid of our Church Murals. She needs more small jars, the size that you get sauces in. Mary will be grateful for what you can supply.

Mothers' Union



Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th September at 10.00am in the Front Room of Church House. This will be a quiz morning, as in previous years, this will be organised and run by Chris and John Soper. All are welcome to come and join us for a fun morning.

Free Books



Since mid-June, our "Free Books on the Wall" outside 104 Avondale Road has raised another £100 for St Mary's Murals Fund. People have been very generous with their donations – both of money and books. So we still have plenty of books to ensure a different selection is available each day, and we have been blessed with (mainly) dry weather! While the books still arrive and while some still get picked up, we will continue to ensure that they are available daily – weather-permitting! Come and have a look. Peter Fall

JusB – Project Manager required for a leadership position



The role involves project management, line management and strategic development. Location: Bromley. Hours: 16 – 20 per week. Pension contribution and opportunity to access training and development. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact David, chair of trustees, david@jusb.co.uk for an application pack or visit our website www.jusb.co.uk
Closing date: Monday 11th September 2023. Post subject to enhanced DBS and references.

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.

Live Streaming church services

Our Live Streamed services continue to be viewed by many people and is a significant way for people to connect with us. This is currently done by Alan and Gill. Alan would like to know if you are interested in joining a team to take this on as it will be important to continue streaming services after January.

Grace Café



We have broken up for August and will recommence on the 6 September. You will be most welcome to join the volunteers who host the Grace Cafe on Wednesdays. There is a sign up sheet in the church if you would like to help run the café.

Al-Emaan Centre Open Day – 11am to 4pm Saturday 23rd September



The Mosque at Keston is a beautiful building with a very welcoming community. It will be part of the national 'Visit My Mosque' initiative at Al-Emaan Centre, Croydon Road, BR2 8HF. There will be plenty in store throughout the day for all members of the family, and not least refreshments & delicacies for all! For more information see <https://al-emaan.org.uk/>

Table Top Sale on November 4th, 2-4pm in Church House.



If you would like to book a Table space at £10 or have a query, please contact Carole on 0208 460 9330 or email carole.beale@yahoo.com. The booking fee will be towards the church mural restoration fund. Offers of help in other ways, especially on the day will be gratefully accepted.

Jigsaw Sale – 10.00am to noon on Saturday 18th November, in the church porch



With refreshments in the back of church and paperback books outside of the porch All proceeds to the mural fund. Mary already has many jigsaws; more will be welcomed.

Thanks for your interest. Mary Fall (020 8464 1239) mary@fallfamily.co.uk

Save the date – Alan's last service as Vicar of St. Mary's

Come and join us at 10.30am on 21st January 2024

Prayer

A Prayer for the week

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Requests for prayer

Weekly

Peter Boyden
David Collins
Eileen White's brother
Sheila and Paul Knight
Geoff Lloyd
Penny Smith, Trine Hevezi and
Martin Cardwell's friend

Monthly Week 5

This is the fifth Wednesday of August and our monthly list of people is only four weeks long. Please remember the most pressing person to pray for in your life.

Worship, Prayer and Fellowship

Our service on Sunday will be Live Streamed. See <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>

At our 10.30am Family Service this Sunday:

Reading Mark 10: 13-14, 16

Hymns sheet We are marching in the light of God
557 Who put the colours in the rainbow?
sheet Hallelu! hallelu! hallelu! hallelujah
405 One more step along the world I go

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

Since Easter the practice of distributing Holy Communion has changed. For details see here: <https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/worship/distribution-of-holy-communion/>

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