

NEWS LETTER

of St. Mary Bromley

6th December 2023

*A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

Isaiah 40.3



The words of Isaiah have a distinctly civil engineering feel about them. Do you think he had a tarmac layer in mind? If not what? Perhaps in keeping with Isaiah's understanding of God's righteousness being present it is more about peace, justice and joy. So perhaps when we are engaged in ending discord, treating people fairly and having a party we are laying the tarmac of God's kingdom. Our Sunday worship should be resourcing us for such activities.

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

Service Assistants

There will be an introduction to the role of Service Assistant following this Sunday's 10.30am service. All are welcome. It will take about 10 minutes.

Christingle Service – Sunday 10th December, 4pm



Plenty of oranges with candles and the wonder of the lights being turned off to make a truly emotive experience.

Evening Study Group – on Tuesday 12 December, 8pm



Evening Study Group meets next via Zoom when we will be thinking about some of the lessons for the Carol Service on the 17th. For further details, including Zoom like details, please contact Peter Boyden.

Christmas Leaflets



With a wide range of Christmas services coming up it is good to invite residents of our parish to share with us. There will be bundles of leaflets in church from this Sunday. Please do take one (or more!) and invite our neighbours to celebrate with us the Good News of Jesus birth.

Live Stream Operators



You may notice some new faces on the Livestream desk in the next few weeks. When Gill and Alan retire we will be relying on just a few (3) volunteers and we do need a few more to be confident that we can continue to prove a reliable Livestream option. Take advantage of training available and help to learn a new skill. Let Alan or a Churchwarden know if you are ready for the challenge.

Together Magazine



The latest edition of our Diocese's magazine is available in church and electronic copies online <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/for-parishes/communication/together-magazine/>

Sunday Club Nativity - Sunday 17th December,



Calling all shepherds, star watchers/wise men/kings, angels, Marys and Josephs - you are all invited to the Sunday Club Nativity Service on Sunday 17th December at 10.30 a.m. Costumes available or bring your own.

Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm



Our choir accompanies our journey through familiar passages that herald Jesus' birth and the wonder of his presence with us now.

Carol Service Refreshments



It would be lovely if you all stay for mulled wine and mince pies after the Carol service on the 17th of December. If you would like to contribute mince pies to this event, please let Trine or Alison know. Trine will be there this Sunday, or you can contact her at khevezi@gmail.com.

Carol Singing – Tuesday 19th December, 6.00pm

Come and join the choir singing in Mooreland Road. We will meet outside John Cox's house (47), with refreshments following the singing

Welcare in Bromley Carols – Wednesday 20th December, 11.00am and 1.00pm

Come and join us in The Glades between to raise money for local families. Meet at the higher level of the Glades, outside Zara. We hope to continue our reputation of being well represented by members and friends of St Mary's church. Drop in as convenient.

Christmas Flowers – 23rd December, 9.30am



The St Mary's flower team will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 23rd December from 9.30 am. Any offers of additional help would be welcome for this important festival. If you are interested in being involved, please speak to Anne Yolland. Coffee available.

Follow the Star



This is a series of reflections from the Church of England about Christmas. There are a number of booklets containing reflections in the church. You are welcome to take a copy.

Starter Packs

Anne Horner-Tree of St. Peter and St Paul's church produces packs of utensils and domestic goods to support people who are beginning independent living. She is asking for help with toiletries. In St. Mary's church there will be some bags with tags to identify the goods to be supplied. There are three kinds, one for men, one for ladies and one for cleaning. Please think about taking one of these, supplying the items and returning the bag to St. Mary's. It will be wonderful if in December we can have filled all of the bags we have been given. For more about Starter Packs see <https://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/starterpacks>

.Fairtrade



Thank you to those who have supported Fairtrade by purchasing a Meaningful Advent calendar this year. Supplies have now run out. The next Fairtrade event will be Easter eggs! In the meantime, we continue to support Fairtrade through using Fairtrade ethically sourced tea and coffee products for Sunday morning refreshments, Grace Café and at other events that take place.

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.

Church Security

As part of enhanced security there is now a chain around the handles of the outer porch door. If you need to know the combination code please contact Atlanta Topham.

Newsletter Editor

Alan will be handing this task over to Atlanta Topham, St. Mary's Parish Administrator. Please can material for the editions from December onwards be given to her by noon on a Wednesday.

Prayer

A Prayer for the week

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. Amen

Requests for Prayer

Weekly

Julian, Geoffrey and
Philip Dodds,
Denis' sons
Mike Eames

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 10th December:

Readings	Isaiah 40.1-11, 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8
Hymns	17 All people that on earth do dwell
	209 Hills of the North rejoice
	26 Alleluia sing to Jesus
	169 God is love, his the care

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*