

St Mary's Church, Bromley

Parish Magazine

OCTOBER 2024

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



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Welcome to the October 2024 edition of the Parish Magazine.

Nearly October already, and I have “safely gathered in” a wide selection of articles from people connected to St Mary’s – many thanks again to them, not only for writing, but also for submitting everything in plenty of time. As well as the regular favourites, and reports on recent events, this month you can read about going fishing and swimming, and the results of recent research into local history. What will Atlanta receive next month, I wonder? Keeeep writing!

Jill Atkinson



If you wish to make payment for the magazine online the bank details are:

Sort Code 09 01 51

Account 27769404 (St Marys Plaistow Parish Magazine)

Monthly cost 75p

Annual cost (10 months) £7.50

Postal service (10 months plus 2nd class postage cost) £14.10

A free pdf copy is available from the website at admin@stmarys-

This month’s editor: Jill Atkinson

Editor for November: Atlanta Topham

Copy date: 18th October 2024

Please support the editors by giving articles and notices to them by the copy date.

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Memorial Book



St. Mary's Church has a memorial book in which may be inscribed names of people associated with the parish. If you would like to know more details please contact Alan or Jean Read on 020 8402 0886.

Disclaimer

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various participants in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Editors.

Harvest



I remember writing excitedly earlier in the year about the lush, lavish, fresh green and wet spring, and the beautiful road journey through the green, pink and white hedgerows awash with the bridal blossoms of sprays of wild roses hawthorn and elder flower, the daisies and the almost open cow parsley, and thinking ahead to the beauty, fruitfulness and richness of autumn. Remembering as I did so, John Donne, and his recognition that ‘in heaven it is always autumn because God’s mercies are always in their maturity’.

If you know me already, you know how much I love that image of God forever sharing the richness of harvest blessings with us, because we are loved beyond our understanding.

There is another common image, much less beautiful which is the warning of disasters that follow if we don’t take care. The example of ‘he who sows the wind reaping the whirlwind’, an image of disaster, possibly due to warfare or recklessness, leading to more disaster and yet more loss and destruction. Or as Paul told the Galatians, ‘a man reaps what he sows’

This is because every decision has consequences; a person's actions, or even a nation’s actions will most probably come back to them; a warning

that if one starts trouble or takes actions in spite of the dangers, or the discontent they may cause, negative consequences are the likely outcomes.

Yet in Leviticus 22 there is another satisfying image of harvest and an invitation to generosity at harvest time, as the people are encouraged to think of the poor, when they gather in the harvest, leaving enough to share. So are we also invited to generosity and to sharing, not least because Jesus said that the poor would be always with us, and so need our care and concern.

‘When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you.’

There is a book of prayers and poems and readings for funerals which I have had and used for a long time and it’s called ‘All in the end is harvest’ and it alludes to us and to all our life experiences as another form of harvest, our legacy of memories shared, gifts given and also tasks shared and endeavours undertaken together, all that we have put into our lives and into our relationships, seen as an offering to God. Because God gives our lives as a gift, and what we make of them is the gift we give back to God and to our sisters and brothers.

We ourselves are part of God’s harvest of believers who will enter the kingdom, which is why it is so important to share the good news of the gospel and to tell others about how much God loves both them and us.

In Matthew’s gospel Jesus spells out the need for labourers in God’s world in the fields and vineyards, wherever people are found, and there all possible hands and voices will be needed, because he says, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” It sounds urgent and it is, because we do not know the timing of God’s final harvest at the end of time, it could be very soon or far ahead in time.

But John the Divine suggests in the book of Revelation that when it does come, the end of time will be like a harvest, and the angels will be sent to gather us all in 'because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' It sounds exciting if also somewhat scary. It sounds rather like the story of the wheat and the tares,(weeds) when the good seed and the weeds grew together until the harvest, after which the good seed went for food and weeds were burned on the fire.

So harvest is not an unmixed event or happening of complete richness and blessings, for harvests can fail and things can and do go wrong, so it calls us to focus and to share, it calls us to real generosity and paying attention, but in particular to generosity, for as Luke's gospel, tells us "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

As we prepare to give thanks and to celebrate the harvest at this time of year we discover again God's gifts to us. The consequence of our own generosity is to become partners in God's profligate generosity, seen in all the beauty, the fruits, flowers, seeds and berries of the Autumn landscape, and the wonderfully ordered fields after the harvesting, striped and golden with rows of straw and stubble. As the seasons move on and change, we give thanks for the natural world, for its beauty and fruitfulness, and for the fact that its fruitfulness sustains our life.

By Alison Tyler

Sundays of the Month

6 th October	19 th Sunday after Trinity
13 th October	20 th Sunday after Trinity
20 th October	21 st Sunday after Trinity
27 th October	22 nd Sunday after Trinity / Bible Sunday
3 rd November	4 th Sunday before Advent

A view from the pew



We drive everywhere these days; using scarce resources, emitting noxious gases, reducing our opportunity for exercise...

But it has been such a boon. Where would we be now without our means of private transport? If we were reliant on buses, it would limit our destination options, and reduce our carrying capacity. Think about the monthly supermarket shop without a car. Or the holiday trip to the seaside if the crabbing net had to be carried onto the train!

Of course, all these things used to be normal, before cars were widespread. So they **can** be managed – but we feel that we have moved on since those days, and that we shouldn't have to mix it with everyone else.

Mind you, if you travel to the south-west for a break, be prepared for the jams that are caused by everyone else also thinking it a good idea. We are a bit like lemmings.

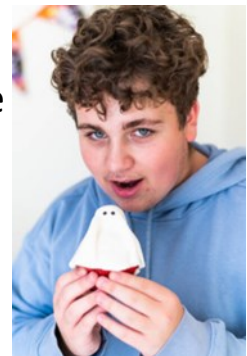
We have our holiday season when everyone else does.

We go to the same places everyone else does.

And we travel the same roads everyone else does:

At the same time of day!

However, we have survived this year's traumas, and will soon be happily planning our 2025 summer holiday. Where to next time? Not abroad, too much foreign language. Not flying, too much hanging around and landing miles from your destination. Not in the UK – just can't rely on the weather. Not driving, everyone else does that!



Think it may be a staycation; days out from home. Going up to central London when the office staff are on holiday. A quiet ramble in the home Counties along deserted footpaths. A day out on a train excursion to the seaside, for the annual donkey ride and a melting ice cream cone. Pottering in the garden, or in the deserted suburban shops. And, best of all, **not** doing all those things you said you would do when you had time. After all, holiday is when you can ignore routine, do what you want and be unavailable.

I can't wait for my next holiday! I am already not planning it.

Choir Notes

“A Church Choir (notice the capital letters!) is “a group of singers who perform in church”. St Mary’s is fortunate to have a thriving choir that aims to unite the whole congregation in musical worship. When the choir sings, they are not just performing for themselves but helping to lead the congregation in worship.

Having a practised choir fulfils the advice of St Paul: “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:19). And in his letter to the Colossians (3:16) “Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness to God”. Psalm 96 expresses it as “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day”.

Music has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul, that assists in our expression and response to God. The Gospel unites believers to one another. However, music is a tool that allows us to do so.

This is not a new idea. We read in the Old Testament (2 Chronicles 29) that “The whole assembly worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded.... And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshipped.”

Vocal music is the special gift whereby the Spirit enables Christians to praise God through song, with a choir enhancing the worship experience of other believers. It is also a means of embedding the words of Christ into our hearts and of encouraging each other. We also read that “He will exult over you with loud singing.” (Zephaniah 3.17). Singing is a ministry that belongs to all the people of God. The congregation remains the primary choir, with musicians and choir aiding the whole people of God in their worship.

It has been found (published in The Lancet) that choir singing decreases depression and dementia symptoms. And the group social dynamics of a choir lead to an emphasis on “fun” and less focus on the individual, feeding into positive outcomes for mental health. Choirs generally exhibit strong social bonding and improve mutual understanding, while maintaining distinctive identities. Singing can also help people manage trauma, grief and loss including illness and disaster, providing emotional sharing and resilience.



While St Mary’s Church Choir would not claim to be in the top rank of vocal groups, its members have a strong team ethos. Everyone works for each other and aims for the good of the group. We are not perfect – either musically or socially – but members of the church choir do try and support each other both musically and emotionally. Which also means that new singers are very welcome to come and try us out. We meet on Thursday evenings in the church from 7.30 p.m. for an hour or so, preparing music for upcoming services, and trying out new (to us) pieces of music to assess their suitability. Do come along and see if it is right for you. This would be a good time to start, with Christmas on the horizon. This season brings more festive (and jolly) music into our singing, making it even more even more rewarding to take part. If you are interested, do have a chat with a choir member – to hear what it is really like!

Peter Fall

Mothers' Union Matters



In 1876 Mary Sumner, a clergyman's wife living in Hampshire, became concerned about how local mothers related their Christian faith to family life.

Wanting to encourage them she founded a small group called the Mothers' Union. Interest in this group quickly spread, and it is now a worldwide organisation with more than 4 million members. In the diocese of Rochester, there are currently 34 MU groups, with about 500 full members. One third of these groups are in the Bromley/Orpington area. The branch at St Mary's is one of these. Members of the branch work with local community-based projects to meet the spiritual and physical needs of families. "Blessed is the person who sees the need, recognises the responsibility, and actively becomes the answer." (William Arthur Ward).

Current projects include knitting of blankets for babies, hats for seafarers and novelties for presents. The group also runs the Grace Café in church on the first Wednesday morning of each month, providing home-made cake with a cheering cup of tea or coffee for all comers.

At the meeting on Thursday 10th October there will be a Quiz morning to help keep the "little grey cells" active. Later in the month comes the autumn Diocesan Members meeting at St Martin's, Barnehurst, when we are all encouraged by getting together with members from other branches. We look forward to hearing about projects such as prison work at HMP Rochester, and the Away from It All (AFIA) scheme, that provides holiday breaks for folk who need it. Modern-day slavery has also come onto the

MU agenda, now being seen in many parts of this region. And the support for Victims of Domestic Abuse continues, sadly being only too necessary.

Finally, the Literacy project continues, being one of the most cost-effective literacy programmes in the world. Community volunteers are trained as literacy facilitators, who are then equipped to run literacy circles in their own community. St Mary's helps to raise funds for this project, which is very close to the hearts of our members.

Peter Fall

Mothers' Union run the Grace Café on the first Wednesday of the month. This is a photo with our visitor Sumi and some of the 24 members and friends who attended a recent café.



Margaret Eames



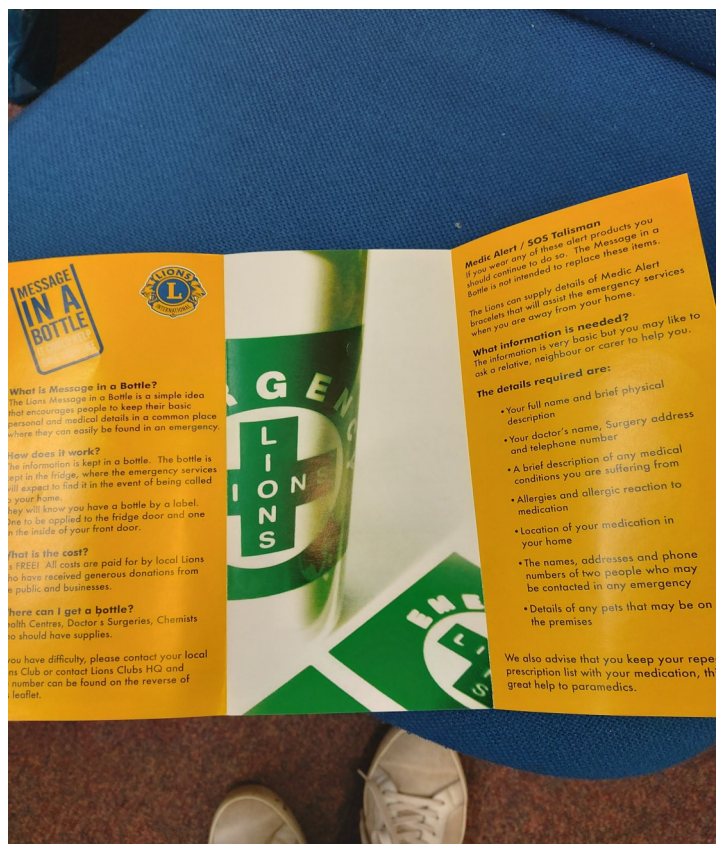
Our Mothers' Union Coffee morning was held on Wednesday 7th August. It was very sociable with plenty of chat and plenty of cake and the sun shone. Generous donations provided £173.50 for the project Summer of Hope. Literacy and numeracy are vital life-skills for all of us. In the Democratic Republic of Congo our support is already empowering women to release themselves from the cycle of poverty. Funds are now urgently needed to reach more women, families and communities and share these crucial skills more widely.

Margaret Eames



Message in a Bottle

Have you heard about 'message in the bottle'? I'm not talking about the pop song by Police. This is a small plastic container that you place in your fridge with all your medical details, GP, next of kin etc on a form inside. You secure the green cross sticker by the door and the emergency services know to look in the fridge to access all the information about you if you are too unwell to let them know yourself. I've given them to friends and family. I think it's a great idea and wanted to share it with you.



How do I get one?

You should be able to get one from your local pharmacy or your GP surgery. Or contact [Lions Clubs British Isles](http://www.lionsclubs.org) for more information and they can send a bottle through the post.

Email: enquiries@lionsclubs.co

Telephone: 0121 441 4544

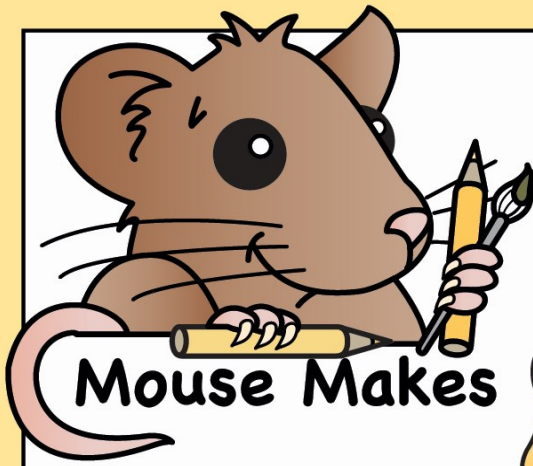
The Message in a Bottle scheme is free.

Colour-in



TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A

SEASON Ecclesiastes 3:1



Mouse Makes

WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,
O Lord, that I would
walk in your _____."
Psalm 86:11

"For we **walk** by

not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7

"**Walk** by the

"
Galatians 5:16



Jesus said:
"I am the light
of the world.
If you

me you won't
have to **walk**
in darkness
because
you have
the light
that leads
to life."
John 8:12



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"**Walk** in

as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"**Walk** in
a manner
worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to him, bearing

in every good work
and increasing in
the knowledge
of God"
John 8:12

"_____
is everyone who
fears the Lord,
who **walks** in
his ways."
Psalm 128:1

- GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!

Going Fishing?.....Careful what you catch!

In 1966 I was on holiday, with my parents, in Swanage. One day, instead of going on the beach, we went to Weymouth: Mum chose to go round the town, I decided to go fishing with Dad.

En route to the pier we stopped off at a tackle shop, bought some squid for bait, then set ourselves up on the pier. Dad put plenty of bait on the hook, and cast it over the side, I held the rod. Before long there was a strong tug on the line, the rod bent over at quite an acute angle, I knew it wouldn't break -it was an excellent quality fibre-glass rod, but still I was very concerned , so I gave it back to Dad, who reeled it in. On the end - just a few clumps of seaweed. (I wondered if it had briefly been caught under a rock but that would not have explained the obvious 'tug' on the line). So we tried 3 or 4 times more, and with each occasion, the same result. (By then we were nearly out of squid).

We tried yet again and, up off the sea bed – a massive crab. This crafty, clever crustacean was holding on to the hook with its large pincer and picking bits off with its small one ! Everyone around stared in astonishment, those passing by stopped still. Realising that it had been 'rumbled' it plunged back into the sea.

I am not an expert in marine biology but this very large crab looked old and very crusty. I presumed it had been down there a long time and learnt survival techniques . It must have seen fish happening by, espy a tasty morsel dangling in front, swallow it, then get pulled up out of the water. It, therefore, demonstrates that animals – even crustaceans – have more intelligence and reasoning ability than, perhaps, we might imagine.

It did occur to me , a small 13 year old, that if the crab had got on the deck it might have chased me off!

So, after all the excitement, all that remained to do was to sit, relaxing, on the pier and wait for Mum to come.

Barbara Buckingham

[Footnote: If anyone is dubious, I wish to point out that it did really happen].

1 mile Swim Serpentine swim

It's been a busy few months since my last update about the Great North Swim, as I've been training in the Lake District to swim 1 mile at Swim Serpentine on Saturday 14 September. In preparation for the swim, Luke and I did three open water swims with the wonderful [Swim the Lakes](#). Due to having done less pool training than anticipated, I have not yet reached my goal of swimming 3,000m+ in one session, which I aim to complete before my birthday in October.

Thanks to your generosity and support, I have absolutely smashed my fundraising target for Bromley Little Theatre. As of the time of writing (17 September) I have raised £1,311 towards their [£85,000](#) target for this year to support the ongoing re-development of the theatre. If you have not previously sponsored me, but would like to, the [JustGiving](#) page will remain live until 31st October 2024.

Swim Serpentine marked an open water personal record when I completed the 1 mile (1,600m) swim in 00:45:44 (for those of you who enjoy stats, this means my pace was 2:51/100m). This is what I was aiming for as I'd had previously completed the Great North Swim in 00:46:29 (2023) and 00:47:32 (2024).

The swim took place in the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park, London. As predicted, the conditions in the Serpentine were a lot better than Windermere and I would've seen an even greater improvement in my finish time if it wasn't for my leaky goggles. As you may recall, we were blessed with warm weather on Saturday, and I am glad I remembered to pack suncream. I'm not sure what the exact water temperature was – the day before it was 15.9° (warmer than what I have been training in) – but I'm sure the glorious sunshine helped warm it by the time I was in the water around 2pm. Although the water temperature was not as high as two weeks ago (21.5°).

I'm sad my open water swimming adventures are almost at an end for 2024, with just one more on the horizon on 25 October for a spooky wild swim. I've already signed up for another 1 mile in the Great North Swim in June 2025 and am excited to see what other events I can take part in next year.

Finally, thank you again for all your support!

Here I am with my medal next to a "No Swimming" sign and a double thumbs up having just got out of the water



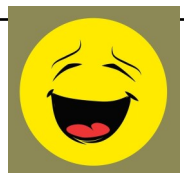
Emily Yolland

Halloween costumes

My six-year-old son was excited about choosing his Halloween costume. "I'm going to be the Pope," he announced proudly.

"But Ian, you can't be the Pope. You're not Catholic," I explained. "You're Church of England."

My son was silent for a few moments, while he considered his alternatives. "Well, is Dracula Church of England?"



WW1 brothers in arms

I am the head sidesperson at St Andrew's and sit by our War Memorial. 26 of the 42 names on that, are also among the 109 men remembered on the one in St Mary's. Andrew Martin in his 2012 edition of his book about St Andrew's - "Not a Mile from Milk Street" researched these men, but not all could be found. The interest in the centenary of the Great War has meant lot more information is available now online, especially on the Bromley War Memorial website.

Sadly, a number of the soldiers were brothers. **BERTRAM BAGWELL** died in July 1918 while serving in the machine gun section of the Queen's Own Royal West Kents (QORWK) and is buried in France. Brother **WILLIAM** was wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme and developed heart trouble. He was discharged from the Rifle Brigade, dying a month after Betram, following an operation. He is buried in Plaistow Cemetery.

Little is known about the **BRICKSTOCKS**. **ARTHUR** was a professional soldier, serving with the Welsh Regiment in Egypt in 1911. **FREDERICK** served with Buffs. Both are buried in France.

The **EASTWOODS**, **SIDNEY** and **WALTER** served with the Queen's Own Royal Sussex Regiment. Sidney died aged 19 in April 1916 when trenches were attacked. Older brother Walter died 3 months later at a casualty clearing station. Their parents, Police Constable Henry and Ellen chose the same inscription for their graves in France, **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**.

The **MUNCEY** family lost 4 members, three of whom appear on both memorials. **HENRY** joined the Territorials at the start of the war aged 50, anticipating serving a year at home. However, this courageous man was sent to India where he died of heart failure, due to the extreme heat, in May 1915.

His nephew WILLIAM, a postman, married with a daughter, served with the Royal Sussex Regiment dying in September 1916, after only being in France for 3 weeks. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. William's younger brother Corporal HERBERT HENRY who served with the QORWK was wounded during the Battle of the Somme, treated in England and returned to France. He was reported missing in May 1917 and presumed to have died. Like his brother he has no known grave, being commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Henry's nephew, William and Henry's cousin HARRY is not on St Andrew's memorial, but is on St Mary's. He served with the Royal Fusiliers. A trained surveyor, he was very useful to the army, and was quickly promoted. He died in hospital after a piece of shell pieced his helmet.

Both **RICHARDS**, GEORGE and ARTHUR are on St Andrew's memorial but only George on St Mary's. Arthur was a bandsman with QORWK. He died on 1st June 1916 and is buried in Karachi War Cemetery, which was then in India, now Pakistan. George had emigrated to Canada and was working as an electrician when he enlisted in the Canadian Infantry in September 1914. He died of wounds in May 1915 and is buried in France.

The **WINFIELDS**, CECIL and JAMES PERCY worked with their father in his dairy business. James served with QORWK dying in July 1916. His name appears on a headstone in Plaistow Cemetery saying he died of wounds received in France. Cecil's name also appears on the headstone, but according to the CWGC he died in April 1917, and is commemorated on the Arras memorial. Cecil served with the Royal Fusiliers.

Not blood brothers, but foster brothers were HENRY **PAGE** and WILLIAM GEORGE **NEWTON**. Both were in the Navy, Henry before the war. He served on HMS Llewellyn. He died in October 1916 and is buried in Shotley, Suffolk naval graveyard. His ship patrolled out of Harwich, and died when it was involved in a collision. Henry's parents fostered William who was about 10 years younger than Henry. William who was known as Joe,

served on HMS Caesar. He died of pneumonia following flu in October 1918, and is buried in a naval cemetery in Malta.

We remember those brave men especially in November, and think about them and their families My grandfather was killed in 1917 and has no known grave. My grandmother mourned him for the rest of her life, and his children suffered financially. The younger ones had no memories of him, only a photo.

Veronica Loh

Sources: Bromley War Memorial bromleywarmemorial.org.uk

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Find a Grave records for Plaistow Cemetery

Andrew Martin "Not a Mile from Milk Street" 2nd edition 2012



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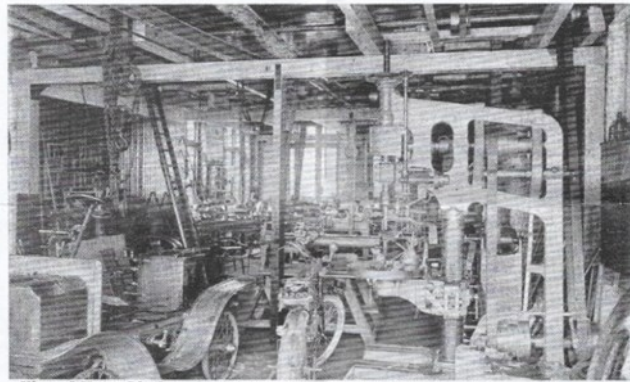
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The man behind Cycle and Car Manufacturing in Scotts Road, Bromley

Bromley & District Times
24 June 1898

MR. A. F. SHAKESPEAR'S CYCLE AND ENGINEERING SHOP.

Residents of Plaistow and Bromley generally, and especially those whose cycle will do well to note that Mr. A. F. Shakespear has just opened an excellently built and well-equipped cycle and engineering shop in Scott's-road, Plaistow, where all sorts of cycling repairs and other engineering work can be carried out. The proprietor, who has had a long and varied experience in German and English engineering factories, designed the premises himself, and the machinery, which constitutes a really complete and valuable plant, has been laid down under his own personal supervision. It includes a beautifully finished three-horse power Capel gas engine, a large 30-inch drill, a nine and a half and a four and a half inch drills, a Storer patent hack for cutting steel rods, a plating machine and other appliances, which will enable him to carry out all kinds of repairs. He is also a practical cycle maker, and will be pleased to quote terms for ladies' and gentlemen's machines.



View of Motor Works. A. F. SHAKESPEAR, Motor Car Manufacturer & Engineer. Scotts Rd. Engine Works, Plaistow, Bromley, Kent. Repairs to all makes undertaken. (Photo CLARK & MANN.) Accumulators charged from own dynamo. (6, York Bridge, Duke St, Strand.)

Light industry and housing in Scotts Road, Bromley was being built in the late 19th century. The Sundridge Laundry at the far end of the road and A. F. Shakespear's Cycle and Engineering Shop at No. 1 Scotts Road (Advertisement), were both opened during 1898, together with 5 houses built and occupied. A.F. Shakespear's works were located in the 2-storey detached building on the right as viewed from College Road, beyond the present Grillery Fish bar and now occupied by A.J. Rogers & Sons warehouse for floor coverings. House building in Scotts Road was completed by 1900.

A.F Shakespear was initially involved in cycle manufacturing at the premises but soon became involved in the early automotive industry around 1902 (View of Motor Works). Around this period saw a lot of innovation and development in motor car manufacturing, with many small companies and engineers contributing to the development of motor vehicles. A.F. Shakespear's work possibly involved designing, manufacturing and testing various components for motor cars.

Arthur Franklin Charles Shakespear was his full name but he didn't use his third Christian name, Charles. Some more key dates in his life follow:

1864 5 June, born in Richmond, Surrey.

1864 19 Aug, baptised in Anglican St Matthias Church, Richmond, Surrey.

1894 A.F. Shakespear, listed in Strong's Bromley Directory in Private Addresses at 50 Tweedy Road.

1899 A.F. Shakespear, Cycle Manufacturer 1 Scotts Road listed in Bush's Bromley Directory for 1st time in Commercial section.

1901 Census 31st March, single, living at 1 Scotts Road above the workshop with a housekeeper.

1903 Arthur Franklin Shakespear, engineer & motor maker in Scotts Road listed in Strong's Bromley Directory for 1st time as motor maker.

1909 Arthur Franklin Shakespear, engineer & motor maker in Scotts Road listed in Kelley's Bromley Directory for last time.

1910 Bush's Bromley Directory lists 1 Scotts Road as vacant.

1911 Census (2nd April), living at 4 Bexley Road, Whitstable, Kent. He was a lodger in the house of Alfred W. Shilling (jobbing labourer) and family. Arthur was 46, single, Mechanical Engineer and was an employer.

1939 Register (29 Sep), Arthur living at 6 Golden Close, Brixham, Devon. He was still single and an old age pensioner. He was living with 3 other people, two of whom were OAPs and one, a female, younger and presumably a housekeeper.

1940 Arthur died in Brixham, Devon aged 75.

Cycling was hugely popular during the time of Arthur's business in Scotts Road. Also, the motor car industry was rapidly expanding during its infancy in which Arthur was involved. So why did he close his well-equipped workshop when business should have been thriving in Scotts Road and also leave his accommodation above it and move to Whitstable? Maybe a clue lies at the very end!

Arthur's parents were John Davenport Shakespear (1825 to 1893) and Louisa Caroline Sayer (1828 to 1897). His parents were married 27 Sep 1855 in Richmond, Surrey. Louisa Caroline was from an affluent family living at Shibdon Hall, near Halifax, W. Yorkshire. John Davenport was from a military family and worked his way up the army ladder and was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel. As soon as Louisa and John were married, they went abroad with the army. Their first child, Ida Nea was born in 1856 in Corfu, Ionian Islands a year after their marriage, while Arthur Franklin Charles was born back in Richmond, Surrey in 1864. Ida and Arthur seem to have spent their early years abroad with their parents, since there is no trace of them in the 1871 and 1881 censuses.

Around 1880, Louisa Caroline divorced John Davenport, due to his violence and assault. Louisa Caroline, with her children Arthur and Ida moved to Dresden after the divorce. Arthur's sister, Ida returned from Dresden and married Charles James Layton in Westminster during 1885, giving her current address as Dresden. They had two children, both born in London during 1886 and 1887. There is no trace of Louisa Caroline, Arthur, Ida and Charles with their children in the 1891 census, so they were all probably living back in Dresden. By 1892, Ida and Charles Layton came and lived at No.2 Tweedy Road with a relation, Edward Layton. In 1894, they were living at 18 Tweedy Road. Arthur came back from Dresden, maybe with his mother and was living at 50 Tweedy Road during 1894, possibly to be near his sister. In 1902, Ida and Charles were living at 159 Widmore Road.

Louisa Caroline died on the 28th July 1897 at 57 Tweedy Road. Charles Layton retired early from the Civil Service Commission in 1898 due to ill health and died in 1905 at 159 Widmore Road but Ida continued living there until at least 1916. Arthur couldn't be traced in the 1921 census. In 1924, Ida's address was St Mary Church Priory, Torquay and she went into a Torquay Nursing Home and died in 1944 aged 87. In 1939, Arthur was retired and living in Brixham, Devon, presumably to be close to his sister, Ida again.

He died there at 6 Upton Manor Road on the 13th January 1940 aged 75 and the death certificate gives his profession as retired Garage Proprietor.

Acknowledgements

To Terry Powling (cousin and past chorister of St Mary's Church, married there on 27th July 1968 and formerly living in Howard Road) who gave me the picture of View of Motor Works.

To Ann Edet (sister) who toiled through censuses, registers, birth and death certificates to research and piece together Arthur Franklin's family background, abridged above.

Roger Benoy

Floral happenings in October

Bromley and District Floral Society: Tuesday 1st October, doors open from 1.15 pm. Stephen McDonnell-Daly will be demonstrating 'In the Moment' from 2 pm. Visitors welcome £5, first visit free.

Guild of Church Flower Arrangers: Monday 7th October, AGM at 7.30 pm followed by a demonstration by Cecilia Willatt at 8 pm at **St Mary's, Kingswood Road, Shortlands BR2 OHG**. Visitors welcome £5.

Flower Show: Bromley and District Floral Society will be presenting their annual flower show entitled '**Our Beautiful World**' on Saturday 26th October at the URC in Widmore Road. Doors open at 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm. Entry £2. Tea and cakes from 2 pm. Variety of stalls and raffle. All welcome.

Anne Yolland

Cream Tea September 2024

It was decided to hold another Cream Tea on 7th September, as this has now become an annual event since Revd Ruth Peet's curacy at St Mary's and the last one was during the 160th celebrations in September 2023. Interestingly, the numbers of people signing-up to attend appeared to be rather down less than a week before the event, but during the course of the week leading up numbers gath-



ered momentum and picked up and we ended up catering for around 43 guests, plus the support team of helpers! There is always a dilemma on whether there will be enough scones to go around, happily all was well!

Setting up for the 'pop-up' tea room could not take place until after the Baptism service at 12 noon. As soon as this had finished, the Cream Tea team started to assemble and sprang into action to get everything ready for a 2.30 pm start. Time goes quickly, but tables were set-up with linen and lace cloths and the vintage china cups, saucers and plates, napkins, floral table decorations. Before long the first of the guests started to arrive, eager to get a table!

This year the weather on the day did not really lend itself to sitting outdoors, but additional tables were installed in the porch to give maximum capacity, as often there are 'walk-ins' on these occasions. On the menu there were sweet scones (fruit or plain) with strawberry or raspberry jam and clotted cream or cheese scones served with cream cheese and spiced carrot or tomato chutney. The eats were accompanied by a plentiful supply of pots of tea and cups of coffee or fruit juice.

It was a pleasure to welcome our regulars and some new faces during the afternoon and also those from the wider community. Special thanks go to the support team of servers and helpers; Sylvia and Debi on hot drinks, Margaret and Ellen on food preparation, Jill, Patricia, Carole and Sarah serving food and drinks, Liz, Alison and Janet on general duties. All did a sterling job and worked hard throughout the afternoon. Thanks to the scone bakers; Mary and Alison. Thanks to the lifters and shifters of tables and chairs; Mike and Peter Y. Thanks to Chris and John for arranging transport. All in all, it was another great team effort!

The afternoon went quickly and 5 pm soon arrived and it was then time for the clearing up operation to commence, this happened very efficiently, and the church was soon put back to its normal arrangement. The generous donations received for church funds amounted to £349.20 (+ Gift Aid)
Thank you!

Anne Yolland



The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I was interested to hear that from this academic year, your vicar has asked you to take his place as a school governor. A whole new world of exciting meetings is about to open up to you. Naturally, you will have been told that the governors only meet three times a year. You will probably not have been told that you will also be expected to be on at least two sub-committees, where you will be immediately asked to become secretary, as a way of getting to know the job. Add on training days, parents' evenings, sports days, school socials, end of term services, charity events and accompanying classes on days out and you will begin to realise that your vicar's suggestion was not as innocent as you may have thought.

Remember, too, that all meetings require you sit on chairs designed for five-year-olds. You will then spend countless hours going through a 40-item agenda, trying to look dignified with your knees somewhere round your ears while drawing up school plans as if they were the Normandy landing. Be prepared to receive paperwork measured by the hundredweight; entire rainforests have been obliterated by your education authority sending what they seem to think is vital information; it does, however, make good cat litter.

Most meetings will be so full of acronyms that for the first few years you will have the feeling that conversation is taking place in a language that may bear a passing resemblance to English, but isn't. There is little point in trying to learn what they all mean because before too long, they will all be replaced by another set anyway, which will be equally incomprehensible.

Your computer abilities will be expected to be far beyond what anyone over the age of 30 could ever be expected to achieve; if you sink without trace, ask a seven-year-old, who will soon put you right.

You will also be encouraged to attend training days; I strongly suggest you select all-day events, as at least you will get a lunch out of it. You needn't bother to arrive on time, since the first hour will be spent with everyone introducing themselves and you can leave early, as the final hour will go on filling in evaluation forms.

Just keep reminding yourself that your term of office is a mere five years; you may even get remission for good behaviour.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Worship Diary

We offer a variety of services through the year. They are mostly on a Sunday at 10.30am and are mostly Family Communion. Most months we also have an All Age Communion. We hope you will find us a warm and friendly congregation. If you have questions about what we do, why we do it or how you might like to be more involved please do speak with a Church Warden, a sidesman... or anyone really!

Our Sunday Club is a valued provision for our youngest members. They do not meet during school holidays.

Services for October

Sunday 6th October—19th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club

Sunday 13th October —20th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am All Age Communion (Harvest)

Sunday 20th October—21st Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club

Sunday 27th October—Last Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club



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