

St Mary's Church, Bromley

Parish Magazine

July/August 2021

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p



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craft, games, worship and food.

Cancelled until further notice due to Coronavirus

from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Warwick Hall

This is an all age event aimed mainly at families with primary school age children. So as long as you have not grown up too much you will enjoy it along with everyone else!

facebook – Messy Church! St. Mary’s Bromley

Please note: we do ask that as a family event, all children are accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them.

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Holding Crosses from Knit & Knatter (See page 15 for full article)

Welcome to the July/August edition of the Parish Magazine.

Earlier this week I had doubts as to whether the magazine would happen . There was only one contribution from Peter Boyden (Thank You Peter). As I write this on 18 June (well past closing date for submissions) I now have a few other items for publication – Thank You to Peter Fall, Nina , Trine and Alison . Each month I could name on the fingers of one hand who the contributors will be!

If you are reading this magazine on the Internet or on paper please think about the September issue of the Magazine could you contribute an article or a photograph? The Magazine is an important Outreach Tool for the Parish. Some Parish Magazines are full of advertisements, there will be a Vicar's letter and nothing much else . St Mary's Parish Magazine has always endeavoured to have interesting articles about people and what is going on in the Parish plus photographs when available.

If you think our productions are not interesting and could be improved, then come on board and join the editors or put pen to paper and contribute to the Magazine!

Jo Clark

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This month's editor : Jo Clark

Editor for September: Jill Atkinson

Copy date: Tuesday 10th August 2021

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



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CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Monday	Grace Café/Drop-in Via Zoom
Wednesday	Cancelled due to Coronavirus outbreak
Thursday	Cancelled due to Coronavirus outbreak

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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.

Vicar's Article

BECOMING HOUSE PROUD



I find that more and more I am using satnav. I have always had a good sense of direction and I really enjoy pouring over maps. But even for fairly short journeys I have been using satnav for one great advantage. It will tell you where the traffic is heavy.

From time to time I get stuck in a traffic jam and it is very frustrating. There are times and places which I know to avoid. But the ease and immediate presence of satnav on a smartphone makes it worth checking most journeys now.

A while ago I discovered a distinction that we all too frequently do not want to make, 'you are not in traffic, you are traffic.' The jam is not a problem out there. We are part of contributing to the volume of vehicles that get snarled up.

In the same sort of way the human race has felt a sense of privilege in being above its environment. Our species has a way to plan and construct its world to house and feed itself. Humans have the ability to reflect on their experience and make art in a variety of ways. There is industrial activity that exploits resources and pollutes the world around. No other life on our planet does these things.

In terms of our faith we can point to passages that describe us as made in God's image and having an authority over what surrounds us. We celebrate harvest as God supplying our needs. There are times when these ideas have given humans a great sense of entitlement. But this does not mean that we are gods and may do as we please. It does not give us permission to treat animals with cruelty or to take what we have grown with no responsibility to the wider world. Faith is to live with God in a broad and wise way. Taking a few ideas to justify our activities is not good enough.

The human population has increased greatly in the last couple of centuries. This has been accompanied by an immense increase of industry. Humans are no longer just a feature of the world we now powerfully transform the fortunes of the planet. All of this demands a deeper and more humble outlook where we realise that our current ways are rapacious and damaging

to planet earth.

I looked up the origin of the word 'ecology'. It comes in two parts; eco from the Greek oikos meaning house and logos from the Greek meaning studies about. I like the way ecology is not just looking at the environment but is about where life takes place. Our ecology is our home where we are supported and called to live alongside all who live with us.

It is a huge undertaking to see that our 'house' in which we live includes the atmosphere suffering too much carbon dioxide, the glaciers that are melting, the deserts that are growing and species that are being driven to extinction. With the move away from faith in God our modern world has seen humans as the meaning of all things. This can be good as proper attention is given to what makes human life flourish. It is also a call to justice to enable all people to be given rights. In the past our house included God who was our creator and the life around us are creatures, those who are created. Without God there is talk of nature with its own character that surrounds us and natural history which explains how it all arose. At its worst there is a belief that nature is red in tooth and claw and humans will behave in similar ways. There is shame about the turn of science one hundred years or so ago that turned to eugenics which hugely devalued many people and sought to control reproduction and who should thrive.

We live in a time where there is a strong interest in the environment and ecological issues. There is the tough task of stopping global warming. As a society we will need to change our industrial activity. As citizens it will affect products we consume, how we travel, use energy and many other things. These cannot just be sorted out by a set of instructions because we must save the planet. I think it will mean changing what we mean by living a good life, recognising who has a right to share it with us and facing many choices that make for a simpler way to live. It will be materially simpler and as we recognise who in our household but there will be opportunities for new relationships which will be richness of a different sort.

Best wishes

Alan Keeler



The Vicar's Day off is Friday

Revd Alison Tyler

LIFE IS ...



always unexpected. I know I have told you before that I went to a Church for many years which had as a final message at the bottom of the weekly notices “ Expect good things”. When I asked why, I was told that it might encourage optimism, and cause us to recognise God’s blessings and positive actions - and other positive things when they happened - more easily, because we were expecting them and were on the lookout for them. It has had a permanent impact on my thinking. Sometimes it can be a challenge to spot good things but is always worth looking.

I was reminded of this recently when someone sent me a motivational picture of an old-fashioned camera on WhatsApp, with the caption:

Life is Like a Camera

just focus on what’s important
develop from the negatives
and if things don’t turn out
Take another Shot!!

It’s one of the best (of the very many I have been sent during lockdown, because it tells us in a very short form all we need to know about living the Christian life.

So: focus on what’s important – focus on God’s love for us and ours for him, and our love for ourselves and for our neighbours. Remember God loves us unconditionally and sent his Son to bring us new life by his death and resurrection. God in Christ comes to us and invites us into a loving, growing and transforming relationship. This is the most important truth of all time; God is with us, and will illuminate all of our life if we open ourselves up to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Develop from the negatives – use our mistakes, failures, and disappointments as best we can as learning opportunities, so that we might do better next time. Ask God to help us so that, if things don’t turn, out we can...

Take another shot – repent, ask forgiveness, turn around and try again.

It is a great encouragement to fully realise that God comes to us just where we are, and just as we are, and loves us anyway. God is not waiting for us to become perfect first, but is offering himself and a loving relationship with us,

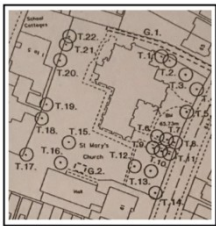
as a reminder that it is really OK to make mistakes and start again – just try and learn from them a little more each time.

To end with a joke: God did not give us the Ten Commandments because he loves us, but because he loves our neighbours and wants to protect them from us.

As we live in hopes of an eventual end to lockdown, and some kind of summer treats if not a holiday, may I say to you once more: “Expect good things”.

CHURCHYARD NATURE COUNT

Saturday 3rd July 2021, 2:30 – 5:30pm



Be part of a national study into churchyards across England!

Come and **explore our churchyard** and share some refreshments together.

An afternoon of exploring high and low, above, below and behind!

We will be

identifying,

counting and

celebrating the ‘life’ in St Mary’s churchyard.

Please bring your own cup for refreshments – all part of **supporting St Mary’s growing responsibility for environmental and ecological awareness.**



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Sunday Clubs' Garden Church



Following the success of the monthly Sunday Clubs' Zoom events at the beginning of the year, and the easing of Covid restrictions, Sunday Clubs are back meeting face-to-face! We are meeting every Sunday, in term time in the church's garden!

This decision instigated planning meetings by the Sunday Clubs' Committee to arrange what sort of social distancing activities we could do and to write up a rather long risk assessment to allow us to have Garden Church 'Rules'.

Once all this was done, we were ready to go! Just had to hope (and pray) for no rain!

We have had two Garden Church sessions so far, which have been enjoyed by both children and parents. The families are invited to attend Garden Church after the Collect in church, where they sit in their own bubble on a blanket. Each session starts with a welcome from the Sunday Club Leader and a family is asked to select objects (e.g. a red bus) from the song bag and Michael kindly leads the singing, such as 'The Wheels on the Bus!' with the final verse singing 'Jesus says, come on in!'. A Bible story is then read to the children, which is then followed by games and activities. The session ends with a final song and prayers and the families then go back into church in time to share the peace.

The next dates planned for Garden Church are:

13/06/2021

20/06/2021

27/06/2021

04/07/2021

11/07/2021

18/07/2021

And we hope to start in the Autumn, on 05/09/2021



Cont. on next page



Thank
You!

Huge thanks to all the people involved in setting up and contributing to these events:

Frances Boyden

Michael Clements

Jacqui Harney

Anne Yolland

Christian Aid Week 2021 Many thanks to the eight members of the congregation who donated a total of £205 to this year's Christian Aid Week via Bromley Christian Aid Group. Those who donated direct to Christian Aid are also thanked for their contributions to this worthwhile cause.

Peter Boyden



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

GARDEN CHURCH

13th June 2021

The young people (and their parents) took part in a nationwide wildlife spotting event called 'Churches Count on Nature 2021'. After a short worships time, we went on a hunt for trees, plants, flowers and wildlife. Great fun was had by all, we counted 36 species in the churchyard!





CHOIR NOTES 🎵 🎵

Guidance issued by the Government on 18 May that amateur choirs can only rehearse and perform in groups of six indoors was greeted with dismay by singers, choirs and musical organisations across the country.

Singing together with other people has been an invaluable lifeline for many. It is entirely possible to sing safely indoors when COVID-secure measures such as social distancing, good hand hygiene, and ventilation are put in place. St Mary's Church Choir has been pleased to provide musical support for services during the past year, using all singers who are available and prepared to sing. Full precautions have been routinely taken to minimise transmission of bugs, following the guidelines developed by RSCM and the Church of England.

This sudden, unheralded, guidance that non-professional singers can only sing indoors in groups of six is hugely disappointing and will be damaging to mental health. It may prove to do more harm than good.

There is a petition available to sign online, which already has 40,000 signatures, to which the Government must now respond.

If it reaches 100,000 the petition will be considered for debate in Parliament. The petition says:

I would like the government to retract the guidance issued on 18 May that says amateur choirs can only rehearse indoors in groups of six. Step 3 of the roadmap should allow choirs of any size to rehearse indoors providing social distancing is maintained and COVID-secure measures are in place.

This is the link to the petition:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/586559>

It is also worth letting your MP know what you think. For many of us this is Bob Neill. Do drop him a line.

Meanwhile, rightly or wrongly*, our Church Choir will only have six singers each week until this decision is reversed. A rota has therefore been drawn up to ensure that all singers who wish to sing get the opportunity as often as possible. As a group, we remain committed to maintaining a live music presence in church worship and will continue to sing while permitted to do so.

Peter Fall

*Some church choirs have decided to ignore the Guidance and are continuing with more than six singers.



Letter to the Editor

A view from the pew



As you know, there is nothing I like more than a good story.

And this is nothing like a good story. In fact, it is even told incorrectly, as you will discover.

However, you may find more in it than meets the eye, or a moral may appear to be signalled. Or perhaps it is a parable? However, I warn you not to expect too much.

Though only a pedestrian, Jen travelled far and wide – from the Callodonian Mountains to the Wastes of Westfield. One day, as she walked some nameless road in some nameless region, she came across a number of the locals who were huddled at the edge of a field, seemingly afraid. Jen asked what troubled them.

"There's a melon in the middle of our field, lass – we don't know why, but we're all frightened of it," said the locals.

"Don't worry – I know about these things. I'll sneak up on this melon and see what's the matter with it," said Jen. She sneaked up on the fear-inspiring fruit, and when she got close, she saw it was just an ordinary melon – indeed, there was nothing about it that might be a cause of fear. She returned to the locals and said "You've got good reason to be afraid of this melon, for it's actually a ferocious man-eating monster."

As you can imagine, the locals were relieved to hear this news. A man, who had been observing all this from the roadside, then said, "No, no, this won't do – you've all got this story wrong."

"How so?" asked Jen and the locals.

The man took a deep breath, then said "Well, first of all, you villagers at the beginning were supposed to say 'We're afraid because there's a monster in our field,' and you traveller, should have then eaten it, so reassuring them it's only a harmless melon."

While the locals attacked the man, Jen continued on her way along the road.

"I don't even like melons," she sighed to herself.

Peter Fall

P.S. Don't blame the messenger!

Mothers' Union Matters

The movement started and sustained by the strength of Mary Sumner's vision of women



supporting one another, continues to thrive. 2021 marks its 145th anniversary of its founding, and also the centenary of the passing of its founder. Mary Sumner led a true breakthrough for women, who in her time were mainly seen to play supporting roles in the Church, work and society. She made sure that women's voices were heard, and their own rights and needs recognised.



Over the past 18 months, some have suffered great loss, yet the comfort provided by members, family, friends and strangers has been a powerful reminder of the goodness of God at work in the world.

Whilst things may not be entirely back to normal for some time, it is hoped that meeting in gardens and arranging socially distanced doorstep cream teas will enable members and friends to come together. There are plenty of great ideas, not to mention recipes, on the "Summer of Hope Activities" page on the MU website. This includes innovative plans for online cream teas, and a "boxed tea" that can be delivered.

We are also invited to get involved with [MU On The Move](#) - a fundraising initiative taking place across Britain and Ireland which aims to assist us in being active. We are encouraged to get our friends and family involved, and to run, jog or walk up to 5Km in support of Mothers' Union, sponsored, and either alone or in a group.



During the summer months MU will introduce 31 Days of Inspiration, hearing daily from members all around the world about how the movement inspires them today. Towards Mary Sumner day itself, and particularly in the month of August, there will be exciting updates to share. Check the MU website regularly for

more information: <https://www.mothersunion.org>

WATER



Water, the third ingredient on our Communion table.

Water is a miraculous substance which we cannot live without. It appears from the very beginning of the Bible, when God created the depths as well as the Earth and Heavens and water has had a starring role throughout the Bible – The Flood, Moses and the parting of the Red Sea; Rivers of Babylon; water into wine; Baptisms in the Jordan; walking on water and so on.

Thinking of that, our neighbours had a little pond, with goldfish, waterlilies and a nice covering of duckweed. They also had a Yorkshire terrier, Scamp, who knew his place in the hierarchy – right at the top. One day Scamp went for a walk in the garden. Everything was lovely. The sun was shining, the flowers were blooming, the grass was a lovely smooth green swath; until he stepped on it. Poor Scamp had tried to walk on the duckweed covered pond and discovered that he could not walk on water after all.

It not surprising that it has such a big role as its value is even more obvious to those who live in the dry climate of the middle East. Coming into a lush oasis with palms, vegetables, water channels and so on in the middle of the desert is an unforgettable experience. Damascus itself is basically a desert town. It is fed by the river Barada, which was divided into seven channels, starting in pre-history, so that they could separate the water, keeping one stream for drinking, one for washing and others for less salubrious functions. Improvements continued to be made by the Nabateans, Romans and even the Turks. The river rises in the Mountains of Lebanon and flows parallel to the old main road from Beirut to Damascus from which you can see the channels, which still are maintained regularly, although the water it is not used as originally planned anymore.

However, back to the wonders of water, H₂O. Very simple and small, it should be a gas, like all the other little molecules. Instead, it is one of the few common substance which are liquid at room temperature. Apart from alcohol, some the lighter oils and that very odd substance, mercury, water is

uniquely fluid. Ammonia, very similar to water, both structurally and weightwise, is almost a liquid, but it boils well below room temperature at -33C, so you hardly ever see the liquid version. It does form a liquid and there is the question of whether the colder planets like Jupiter and its moons have seas of ammonia, complete with ammonia icebergs and frozen ammonia cliffs. Always good for another Dr Who adventure.

Not only is water a liquid, but it keeps itself to itself, forming drops and having almost a layer on its surface, upon which you can float unexpectedly heavy objects which ought to sink, such as steel needles. We used to do this using cigarette papers – very useful items, but not so easy to find nowadays. All you have to do, is to first float the paper on the water and then lay the needle on the paper. The paper should get soggy and collapse leaving the needle floating on the water. Good luck.

Water is also much heavier than you would expect. One cubic meter of it weighs a tonne. Another of our friends, this time with a bigger house, a bigger dog and not just a pond, but an actual swimming pool. The dog was a St Bernard, a breed designed for alpine rescue in the snow. It was a hot day and the dog fancied a swim. All went well until it was time to get out. There were shallow steps to get in and out of the pool, so this should have been easy, but the dog had got thoroughly wet and had a thick coat. He could not get out. His wet fur was too heavy. In the end, they had to call the fire service to lift him out with a crane.

You no doubt were taught in school that water is the measure of neutrality, neither acid nor alkaline. In fact you hardly ever see neutral water as the carbon dioxide from the air dissolves in it to give a weak acid, which is why it is able to eat away at rocks and buildings, especially limestone. This has grown worse recently with the sulphuric gasses from burning coal and oil making the rain even more acid – the acid rain which was the big story in the 1970s.

Another of water's strong points is that it can dissolve so many things. Some only a little, but some a lot. Sugar, for example dissolves in water – or is it water dissolving in the sugar? You can boil off the water from a sugar solution almost indefinitely, so that it becomes more sugar than water. That is part of what you are doing when you make jam – the boiling point goes up

as the sugar solution becomes concentrated until you reach the jamming point, when the jam will set on cooling.

Unfortunately, water, the source of life, is now a major source of conflict and wars. The six day war was largely fought to regain control over the water from the Golan Heights and sources of the river Jordan. The rivers Tigris and Euphrates are also being disputed. Even within Europe there are disputes over water, with the dams on the river Danube causing international issues further down stream. We in the UK may think that we have too much of it, but there are areas in Essex and East Anglia that have less rainfall than parts of the Sahara, so we also need to take care of what might be one of our greatest assets.

Still, so far so good. I am going to go and enjoy the water on the beach in front of me and maybe have a swim.

Trine Hevezi

*There is a way of winning by losing,
a way of victory in defeat which we are
going to discover.*

– Laurens van der Post

Paul Tomlin.

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Anna Chaplaincy

Anna Chaplaincy at The Bible Reading Fellowship aims to equip churches to support older people wherever they may be. Anna Chaplaincy is an ecumenical, community-based chaplaincy to older people. It is named after the faithful older woman, Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's Gospel. The Diocese of Rochester is affiliated to The Bible Reading Fellowship to establish Anna Chaplaincy in Kent, Medway, Bromley and Bexley, with a special focus on the needs of those living with dementia and their families. The Diocese has created two new ministry roles – Anna Chaplain and Anna Friend – rooted in local parishes and commissioned to work alongside others in pastoral ministry to ensure that older people of strong, little or no faith (including those with dementia) have their spiritual needs met.

The St Marys Knit and Knatter group at the behest of the Rochester Anna Chaplaincy have been knitting small holding crosses to be distributed to local nursing/care homes. If you would like to knit or crochet a cross(es) the pattern follows. Any completed crosses please pass on to Mary Fall or Margaret Eames.

Knitted or Crochet crosses for Care Homes

Using double knitting yarn and 4mm needles cast on 10 stitches

Knit 28 rows (also known as garter stitch)

Cast on 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows

Knit 10 rows

Cast off 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows

Knit 22 rows

Cast on 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows

Knit 10 rows

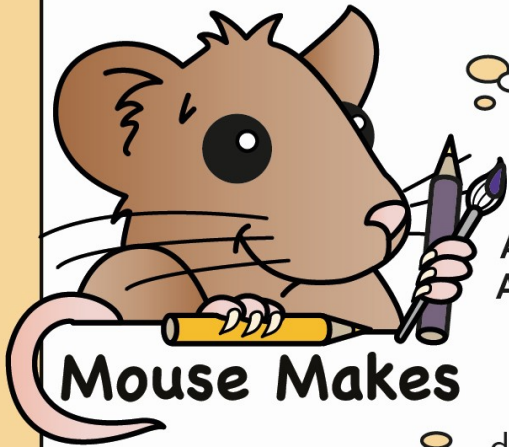
Cast off 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows

Knit 28 rows on remaining 10 stitches

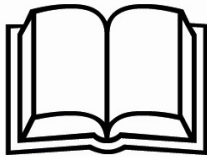
Cast off leaving tail for sewing up.

Fold in half and sew up putting a little stuffing between the two crosses being sewn together.

(For Crochet version use the above instructions but replace knit (garner stitch) with double stitch.



Mouse Makes



Read the full story in
Luke 10:25-37

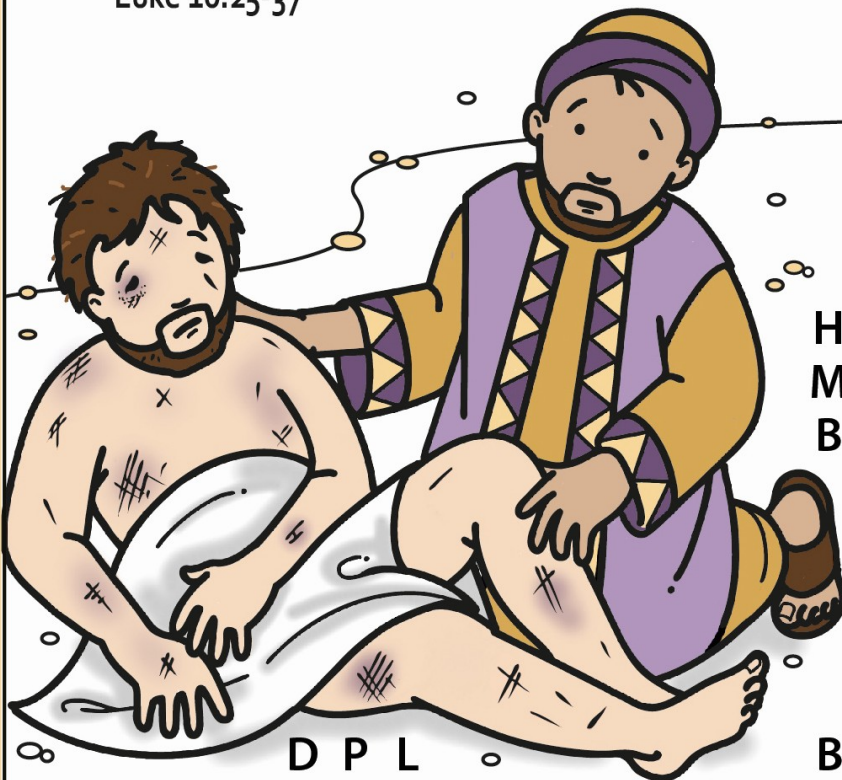
The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side. A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



W A S L O I L D S A M A R I T A N O O E E O A P
 P R I E S T A O A M A G O O D C N I N N T U L A
 G O D O I G C W W I N E A T A K W J O U R N E Y
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C L O T H E S P
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 CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
 GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL
 WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO

15th July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting:



Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

*Make the least ado about your greatest gifts.
Be content to act and leave the talking to others.*

– Baltasar Gracian

Worship Diary

We are delighted to have resumed public worship in St. Mary's church. We continue to have the hygiene practices put in place last July. These include wearing masks using gel, having a one way system and recording attendance for Track and Trace purposes. We are pleased to welcome people to our services at the stage they feel comfortable.

Our services will continued to be live streamed and can be viewed on our Facebook page unless otherwise stated:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>

The words of the service can be found on our website:

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

Our Sunday Clubs are now having Garden Church until their which takes place during our Sunday morning service. Please join the congregation in the church building. Sunday Clubs then go to the garden after the opening worship and return at The Peace.

The services of worship for June will be as follows:

July

Sunday 4th – 5 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs Garden Church

Sunday 11th –6th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs Garden Church

Sunday 18th – 7th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs Garden Church

Sunday 25th – 8th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

August

Sunday 1st – 9th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 8th – 10th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 15th – 11th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 22nd – 12th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 29th – 13th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

We also have a quite service of Compline at 8.00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday on our Facebook page.

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

Vicar	Revd ALAN KEELER	8460 1827
<i>Day off Friday</i>	74 London Lane BR1 4HE e.mail:agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk	
Associate Priest	Revd ALISON TYLER	8249 8843
	59 Bishops Avenue BR1 3ET ar.tyler@ntlworld.com	
Readers	Mr JOHN COX	8464 8269
	47 Mooreland Road, Bromley BR1 3RD	
	Mr MIKE EAMES	8851 5180
	4 Powster Road, Bromley BR1 5HF	
	Dr KEITH NYE	8464 9346
	61 Wharton Road, Bromley BR1 3LE	
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs ANTHIA PAGE	8460 1960
	21 Rodway Road Bromley BR1 3JJ	
Churchwardens	Position Vacant	
Parish Administrator	ELAINE WAKEFIELD	8466 6969
	e.mail:admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	
Church House	ATLANTA TOPHAM	07951 748155
Bookings	email:stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com	
Messy Church	ALAN KEELER	8460 1827
	e.mail:agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk	
Concerts & Choir	PETER FALL	8464 1239
Organist	ANNE CLEMENTS	8464 2355
CarePlus	Mrs MIRANDA SUIT	07930 955398
	e.mail:info@careplusbromley.org.uk	

Magazine Committee

Jo Clark	Editor email:joc1947@msn.com	8289 6535
Elaine Wakefield		8466 6969
	Editor, Postal distribution, Advertising email:admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	
Jill Atkinson	Editor email:jilleatk@aol.com	
Lesley Speller	Distribution Manager	8460 5569