

St Mary's Church, Bromley
Parish Magazine

December 2021 to January 2022

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

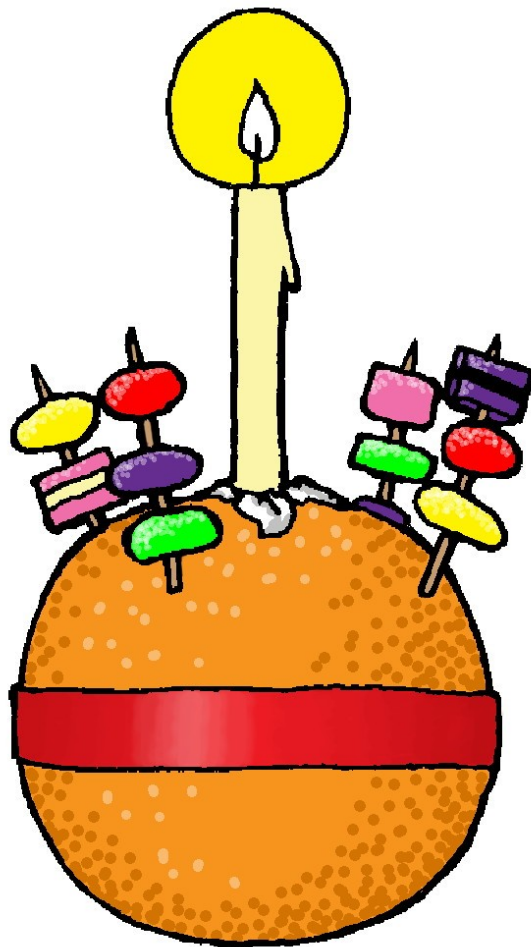
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Christingle

Join us for our Christingle Service

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A delightful and atmospheric service
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Welcome to the December/January edition of the Parish Magazine.

Welcome to our special December/January magazine, which unsurprisingly has quite a “Christmas” feel about it. However, as well as wishing you a Happy Christmas, may I also be one of the first to wish you a Happy New Year, too.

I hope that you will agree that, once again, the magazine is an interesting read, thanks to everyone who sent me contributions. Please keep them coming in! Giving a later copy date was very successful, as everything reached me in time, so please note (and abide by) the similar later date for the February issue below.

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This month's editor : Jill Atkinson

Editor for February: Alan Keeler

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



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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.

No cancel culture



When last year our country was put into lockdown many people had a hope we could quickly return to normal life. I think a lot of other people also thought it was going to be more complicated than that. I can remember the day when it was announced that not one, but two vaccines had been discovered. There was a great wave of gratitude and optimism. But we have still not had a clean break from Covid in the community. There has not been a return to the old freedoms that we enjoyed.

When last year's lockdown ended there were many months where Covid seemed to have gone away. But as the autumn approached and the numbers of infections began to rise there was a question whether Christmas would be cancelled. Government, particularly in our kind of society, is very much by consent. There were serious issues to balance between the wisdom of locking down again and the practicalities of whether people would do it at Christmas.

The first lockdown was demanding in many ways. Having to stay at home, restrictions on travel and loneliness were difficult to endure. But the situation was addressed creatively. There was a furlough scheme for employed people, the homeless were given accommodation and the NHS was hugely supported; not least with people going out onto the street and clapping.

It was almost as if cancelling Christmas was another level of hardship. The loss of familiar celebrations and not being able to see family was a deeper sort of hardship. It was almost as if Covid was playing Scrooge and crying to us "bah humbug".

In the end there was a lockdown at Christmas but not as restrictive as the previous one. St Mary's had a Nine Lessons and Carols service which was live streamed and received our greatest viewing figures. We had a crib service where apart from the Vicar and his helpers there was a congregation of just one! Personally, I had a wonderful Christmas lunch with just my wife; which was delightful. I imagine many people made the most of it and Christmas wasn't cancelled even if very different from previous years.

For Christians there is a clear content to be celebrated at Christmas and it is that Jesus Christ, the saviour of the world has been born. This can be taken on in the direction of God sharing our flesh and blood, living a humble life like ours, knowing poverty and enjoying family life. It can also be taken in another direction as an opportunity to connect with the world around. The timing of Christmas was to displace the Roman festival of Saturnalia and its pagan understanding of divinity. Many societies in Europe had a midwinter festival looking for the turning point where winter would be giving way to spring; Christmas is about hope. There is also the introduction of the fir tree which being evergreen is a symbol of eternal life. These mixed expressions weave together sometimes supporting one another and sometimes seeking to go it alone.

I did wonder about not wanting to cancel Christmas into these hopes and celebrations. Perhaps they weren't about rejoicing in winter departing but were about not wanting to give into Covid and hoping for its demise. Perhaps they weren't about the saviour's birth, but they were about the need for love and expressing this to those dearest to us. Each of these are important and it will be fair to say the Christian faith is very strong about hope in adversity because sin and death are defeated by Christ. The life we find in God is warm, social and caring.

One of the great titles of Jesus at Christmas is Emmanuel, meaning God with us. The celebrations of Christmas are about the joys and hopes that we have. Our faith is that in our lives we have a taste for something and are then invited to the fullness which Jesus shows us.

As this Christmas approaches, we may be apprehensive about new restrictions. But our celebrations will not be cancelled, the message of God with us is just as true. Indeed, it is often in adversity that we find new truths and fresh depths to our faith.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Keeler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Vicar's Day off is Friday

Saving Christmas 2021?



My Pentecostal colleague often used say that since the first Christmas, the first Easter and the first Pentecost, every day was a celebration of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, and I think I must have caught it from her, because I know that I have said it lots of times in sermons. Even so, Christmas is a celebration like no other; it is no less a thing than God becoming a human being, more amazing and wonderful than we can begin to know or to imagine. Love came down to us at Christmas, 'love incarnate, love divine' as Christina Rossetti put it. We still have not fully understood or taken on board the wonder and the possibilities of joy this gift from God involves. It is though why I have no patience with the politicians and the news media of all kinds who keep going on about 'saving Christmas', which is really very odd as Christmas itself, in its essence and true meaning, is in no danger of getting lost.

Last Christmas was very simple, pared down to just the essentials really, in all the reduced ways in which we could meet up and celebrate together, so what they appear to be trying to save for us this year are the opportunities for big parties, over-consumption and self-indulgence. Last year we still joyfully celebrated God's love for us, unconditional and total, just more simply.

The other thing to remember is that key dates and events are so often over-hyped that we can develop some really strange and unrealistic expectations. We seem to want or even expect fantastic experiences all the time, and so are frequently disappointed. When I was younger it took me quite a long time to realise that fewer expectations make for more enjoyable events and reduce disappointment. I always expect good things but try to be non-specific, so that surprises are possible and unexpected joys become highly likely, and disappointments much less so. The child Jesus was born to very ordinary parents, in a really low-key location, in a not very grand stable or outhouse. But he was proclaimed and greeted by angels, God declared that he was His son, and later still he was crucified and rose again from the dead, all in all a real mixture of joy and sorrow.

Last year my daughter Hannah quarantined in the loft and did not share Christmas lunch with us - she did have all the food, but only at some distance; we had no visitors, and my other daughter Naomi, son-in-law and new granddaughter could not be visited until later. BUT thankfully we were still able to speak and email and phone, to read again the scriptures and to praise God, albeit in a rather more subdued way than we would usually do for Christ's birth all those 2000+ years ago – but it all happened. Survival itself was a great joy for us last year, the pre-Christmas arrival of our grandchild was another and we have had many other meetings and joys since.

Christmas itself, though, has only needed to happen once in all of history for it to be real and valid and present for all of us for all time, Emmanuel 'God with us' is with us all for ever. It is fortunately entirely possible that this year we shall all be able to meet one another, share meals and worship carefully and safely, and praise God for the blessing of Christ's birth, and for God's continuing presence with us in him, which is really all we need to be able to do.

We learnt from last year that probably we should resist self-indulgent overkill at Christmas, not least because so many of our activities can further damage our fragile earth. This year then, let us hope that the pandemic is genuinely less threatening, that we can all meet, pray and sing and that we are able to take what we discovered last year and gradually, day by day, unpack the gift of God's love in all the years ahead. After all, we will never exhaust the possibilities of God's love for us, nor the possibilities for loving our neighbours and building compassionate and inclusive communities together. As we prepare for Christmas this year let us try to remember that every day really is a day to celebrate Christmas, and that we carry that spirit of joy, generosity and profligate love with us into the year ahead.

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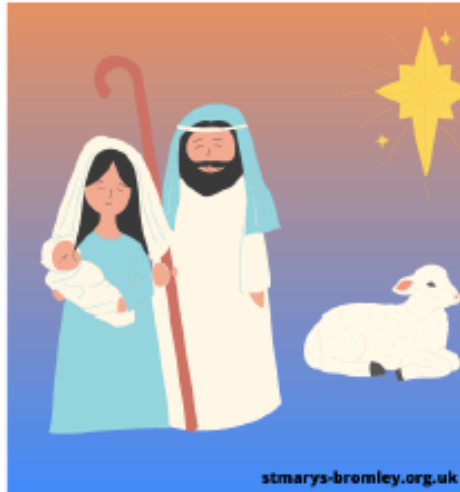
NATIVITY PLAY

Sunday 19th December 2021

10.30 am

All are welcome!

*Rehearsal for families on Saturday 18th December
2.15 pm in church*



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Joseph, Stars,
Angels,
Shepherds,
Sheep,
Wisemen...
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available*

**Further details on the St. Mary's Facebook,
newsletter or website**

Christmas at Wormwood Scrubs

Christmas in prison is always a very pared down celebration; we used to have a Carol service the week before Christmas, as a thank you to our volunteers and a chance to invite others in from outside. It was a large Chapel, so we had a very tall Christmas tree on one side, next to the altar. We always had lots of candles and I made paper stars with the prisoners to hang along the walls and round the very tall pulpit, and an angel banner to hang from the lectern.

Sometimes we had a visiting choir, sometimes one of my daughters came to sing the first verse of Once in Royal David's city. Simon, our organist, who was a BBC sound recordist in his day job, made a CD one year when Hannah was singing. I still have it; it is a lovely souvenir. We always finished off with a warm mince pie for each prisoner, so it was very popular.

Christmas Day on the other hand was very hard for the prisoners, because it was a Bank Holiday so there were few staff on duty, no visits from family or friends, very limited phone calls, and it was all very quiet so the staff tried hard to lay on some festivity.

We had a joyful morning Eucharist, and our volunteers - all from outside churches - would provide a Mars bar for every prisoner (they also provided a crème egg at Easter). I loved celebrating the festivals of the Church's year in prison because there were no distractions, like parties and shopping, over-eating or over consumption, just prayers, carols or hymns and a few joyful conversations. After Christmas lunch it was very different, quiet and subdued. One year, after lunch in the prison kitchen, because there was no canteen, an officer asked me to visit someone newly in from a Young Offenders prison after 6 months there. He was young, had never been away from home before going to prison, had just had a birthday so was now old enough for an adult jail and he had been crying ever since he had arrived on Christmas Eve, because he wanted to go home, and he was afraid of all the adults he was now 'living' with. So, I went onto the landing and opened the cell door onto a kaleidoscope of colour from all the Christmas cards. Also in the cell was a small skinny person curled up in a ball on his bed weeping. I sat on the far end of the bed, said hello and waited. He turned round saw me and flung his arms round me, still weeping. Unable to move, I patted him on the back and offered him tissues – eventually he subsided into sniffs and ultimately into conversation and finally into chocolate.

I managed to persuade him that this was the worst it would be for him: Christmas Day away from home he could get no lower, but he was still sur-

rounded by the Christmas cards from all his family who loved him and who visited him faithfully whenever they could. They would still love him when he got home, and from tomorrow he would start to feel better because the prospect of going home was one day nearer.

I carried on seeing him at least once a week until he was released and went home, just before Easter. Fortunately, I was right, he did indeed start to feel better on Boxing Day and went home to his mum full of plans for staying out of trouble. He sent me a postcard a few months later to tell me about his job. He would be over 40 by now so I do hope that he never came back to prison...
Alison Tyler

St Mary's Bromley Quiz Night with Sally Adcock



To be held on **Saturday 4 December** by Zoom. Join from **7.15pm** start promptly at 7.30pm. You will only need pen and paper, plus drinks and snacks of own choice. 5 rounds of questions, with interval break of 10 minutes after round 3, to replenish drinks etc. and comfort break. This is aimed as a fun way for people to get together socially but virtually and all are welcome. Minimum donation please of £5 to boost our

charitable giving, St Mary's Plaistow PCC account number: 42417198, and sort code: 60-04-02. Please include "Quiz" in the reference field. Keep quizzing!! Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81088275699?pwd=dExmbEtwVWJDUctxT2gybEo0Z1NXdz09>

Meeting ID: 810 8827 5699 Passcode: 618884

World Day of Prayer (A Women Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement)

"I know the plans I have for you"

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as the World Day of Prayer service has been prepared here. Services begin in Samoa, move on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe, North America and South America before finishing in American Samoa.

Everyone is most welcome to take part in the Bromley service, which will be held at The Salvation Army, Ethelbert Road on Friday 4th March at 10.30 a.m. Please put the date in your diary. Frances Boyden

New Parish Administrator



We are pleased to announce that Atlanta Topham has been appointed as the new Parish Administrator for St. Mary's. Atlanta has been the Church House Bookings Secretary for the last ten years and will be known to many of the congregation.

Christmas Carols

One night Freda went carol singing. She knocked on the door of a house and began to sing. A man with a violin in his hand came to the door. Within half a minute, tears were streaming down his face. Touched, Freda sang every carol she knew - and some she didn't. The man continued to weep gently throughout her performance. "I understand," she said softly at last. "You are remembering your happy childhood Christmas days."



Brian had found a Nice Little Earner

Murals Restoration Appeal

The paintings on the walls and ceiling of St Mary's chancel were attributed to Ward and Hughes and designed by Thomas Curtis. The North wall paintings were completed by Easter 1893.

Sadly they have recently suffered grave damage. Water had seeped in, causing material in the roof to deteriorate and salts in the wall to expand to displace pigments. This problem was first noticed in 2016.

The cause of the water damage took some time to determine, but was eventually traced to poor guttering. This was rectified in 2018 but it has taken a long time for the walls to fully dry. We obtained advice and a quotation from restoration experts recommended by the Diocesan architects but much work is needed. Two phases are involved. A grant of £4,000 from the Church of England Church Care Council plus £2,500 from church reserves allowed us to stabilise the remaining paint and wall surface (phase 1). We plan to ask them for a second grant, to actually restore the paintings (phase 2), but that would only be for up to their maximum of £10,000. We are also looking for other potential grants. Unfortunately, we will need about £55,000 (including VAT and scaffolding) to complete the work. Please feel free to look at the damage yourself after one of the services.

This is one of the wall panels in 2017, soon after damage became apparent



© John Salmon

This is part of the same panel in 2020



The damage is across most of the North wall of the chancel and also affects some of the ceiling panels above that wall. We are making an initial appeal to the congregation towards paying for the restoration of these once beautiful parts of our shared heritage. We hope to apply for further grants and organise fundraising events but would be very grateful for any donation you feel able to make. If you would like to know more or become involved in helping with fundraising events contact Alan Keeler, Clem Sutton or John Beale.

How to donate:

By Bank Transfer to the church account – i.e., St Marys Plaistow PCC, 60-04 -02 42417198, using the reference “Murals Fund”.

By cash or cheque – put in a retiring collection or sent to the Treasurer, Jill Atkinson, 8 Sandringham Rd, Bromley, BR1 5AS.

Cheques should be made to “St Marys Plaistow PCC.”

Please indicate that the money is for the “Murals Fund”.

By using the SumUp machine at the back of church during & after services – this takes a payment from your credit card. However, in this case, please also send a message to the treasurer - jilleatk@aol.com saying that your gift is for the murals rather than for general church funds.

By using the Donate link on the church website, again saying that you wish your donation to be used for the Murals.

If you are a taxpayer, then please also consider gift aiding your donation, as this makes a big difference to its value. For example, a “tax efficient” donation of £20 results in the church receiving £25. If you have already completed a gift aid declaration, we shall assume this applies to your Murals donation too, unless you tell us otherwise. If not, you could put your donation in a gift aid envelope, or complete a gift aid declaration form – they can be downloaded from the website. If your gift isn’t eligible for gift aid, charities can now claim for any individual gift up to £30, so if you wish to donate more than that, it would be worth doing so spread over several occasions!

Mothers' Union Matters

Members of St Mary's branch of MU are now planning their programme for a "return to normality".

However, no-one has been idle. Knitting has continued to supply hats, scarves and mittens for seafarers. The most recent tranche – four large bagsful – was collected by a representative from Mission to Seafarers who actually visits the men at their ports around the country. He described their delight when they see the items, and that their eyes light up when they get to choose the colour of scarf/hat/mitts that they will own. It gave great encouragement to the group to keep on knitting, after hearing how the men prize our woolly objects.



King's College Hospital has also featured, as we continue to knit angels for them. The angels are presented at a service held in their chapel to parents of babies who have sadly died. We are aware how much this means both to the bereaved parents and to the hospital staff. This is a one-off project working in conjunction with Crofton Baptist church, who were asked to make 200 angels. We have contributed about 80.

Christingles are produced by members of the branch for the Christingle service at 4.00 p.m. on 12th December. A team of MU members transforms a plain orange to one decorated by a red ribbon, candle and sweets/fruits on cocktail sticks. Making a large number of these is the task undertaken by them on the Saturday before the service. Always a very popular service, the "Christingles" are given to the children (and some adults) who attend the service, during which there is a collection for The Children's Society.

With a Quiz session this month, and a flower arranging meeting in January, members are being encouraged gradually to open-up the group to members and non-members alike by again meeting in person.

Always thinking of those in need, MU has recently linked with the Bromley Food Bank and has now provided a box at the back of St Mary's church for donations of food and toiletries.

Mary Fall

Knit & Knatter

The Mothers' Union held a K&K gathering on Thursday 18 November in the front room of Church House. Since the meeting restarted after the lockdown, the numbers attending have increased and today there were 15 people at the session, all knitting, knattering or just drinking coffee.

Mary Fall announced that the Mission to Seafarers had collected two boxes of knitwear (balaclavas, gloves, and socks) and that they would be taken to various docks for distribution. Johnnie who collected the boxes said the gifts were especially appreciated by seamen who arrived from warm weather climates wearing summer clothes and who could not wait to get warm weather gear when they came to the UK.



This meeting was the final call for the "Angels" being knitted ready for the Kings College Hospital service for parents who had lost young children.

St Mary's had produced 89 angels, but at the last-minute Lesley Spellar produced one more finished Angel so we had a round figure of 90. The Angels were produced to the same pattern, but Julia Ash knitted decorative wings for some of the Angels so there are some differences (See Pictures)

K&K meetings are held at 10a.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Church House, anyone is welcome to come along to chat or knit (or both). You do not have to be a member of the MU to attend, I can testify to that.



Jo Clark



What does your family do at Christmas? One of our family traditions, drilled into us from a very young age, is that presents are never opened until after watching the Queen's broadcast at 3pm. With the dawn of recorded TV, it became easier to be flexible about the time Her Majesty appeared on the TV – but until watched, the gifts remained wrapped under the tree. Even last Christmas, when I was “home alone” (with the cat) I kept the rule!

As a child, we were of course, allowed to open our stockings from Father Christmas (not before 7am), and I do remember one year when we were allowed to open just one present to keep us entertained while the washing up was completed. I remember it well, as I picked the most intriguing parcel under the tree, which turned out to be a pair of bedroom slippers – not the most entertaining gift I must admit.

From my memory, we spent one Christmas with Dad's parents & sister; the next with Mum's father & sisters and so on. Both lived near enough for a day visit, although when we were small we stayed for longer – my sisters were both travel-sick. I now have much more sympathy for an aunt who, through hosting our family of five, was still wrapping her presents on Christmas Eve! It was at my maternal grandfather's that I stayed awake very late and managed to see Father Christmas' delivery by watching in the mirror. I still remember listening to the chimes of my grandfather's clock, now in my possession, and which may be familiar to some of you with whom I have shared Zoom meetings.

As I grew up, my parents started to host the family Christmas, inviting the unmarried aunts to join us; and then as my sisters left home and married, some years my parents and I became the ones to be invited in our turn, which I confess I enjoyed rather more than the years I was the “token young person” celebrating with older relations. It is interesting to see the customs of “our” family being blended with those of my in-laws, and now also of the partners of the next generation.

Going to church has always been part of my Christmas, too. As a child,

Christingle services hadn't been introduced and the only time I was ever in a Nativity play was as a teenage guide – when I was a myrrh-bearing Wise Man. I remember both my mother and my father reading lessons at Carol services, but in those days I wasn't in the choir so we sang enthusiastically in the congregation. I think some of the “grown-ups” probably went to Midnight or early morning services, but someone (probably Dad, but quite possibly Mum too) always took us along to church – Mattins, I imagine – on Christmas morning. Once I reached confirmation age at 14, I graduated to Midnight services myself, and have attended this in various places ever since. God willing, I will be there again this year.

Jill Atkinson

Christmas Journey revisited

If you are reading this, the chances are that at some point you, or someone in your family, was involved in the Christmas Journey at St Mary's between 2009 and 2019. Possibly uniquely, I was a “Customer”, bringing my Year 2 pupils from 2011 to 2017; and after retirement a “Volunteer” in 2018 and 2019. So, I had the privilege of experiencing the journey on both sides. (“Ay”).

Last week I happened to be back in school with the same children I brought to the Journey in 2017 – but now in Year 6. In the R.E. lesson they were discussing Creation stories – and I recalled the Storyteller, sitting on the floor putting visual aids to the story along the line of tiles. Rather to my surprise, the children also clearly remembered this. After all, unlike them, I had visited several times and knew most of the helpers taking part.

So, on behalf of the 3,000 plus children who visited over the years, thank you so much for providing such a memorable event. And as Peter Fall wrote in the December 2019 magazine “and who knows where that might lead?”

Jill Atkinson



Choir Notes

The choir has resumed regular practice on Thursday evenings, and is very grateful to Anne Clements, who continues to accompany and encourage the choir each week. However, the pandemic has introduced a degree of caution to singing, as to so many aspects of life. This is shown by some as a reluctance to sing together, either on Thursday or at a Sunday service. However, a core of faithful members has kept the choir afloat, with Anne's support throughout this difficult period.

What it has meant, though, is that it is more difficult to learn new music quickly for performance. Small numbers, uncertain attendance and hesitation about singing have all contributed to the choir mostly sticking to "what they know" during this past year.

Music for our 2021 Christmas season will continue in this vein, with the pieces being familiar to most of our singers. Hopefully this will overcome the risk of under-rehearsal, and will also allow those, who have been unable to join us regularly, to come and sing, with minimum commitment, at the festive services during December. In addition to the Sunday morning service each week, on 12th and 19th December there will be afternoon services in which the choir will play a part. At 4.00 p.m. on 12th is the annual Christingle service (with oranges provided by our Mothers' Union branch) and on 19th it will be the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service at 6.30 p.m. There is also a choir at the Christmas Eve late-night service, which starts at 11.30 p.m.

The choir will brave the weather to sing carols in the parish on Tuesday 21st December, meeting at 6.00 p.m. in Moorland Road. Families, friends (and you) are welcome to join us. Wrap up warm and bring a torch (unless you know all the words!).

"We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!" 🎵🎵

Peter Fall

Easy come, easy go

Father Christmas enters through a hole in the chimney and leaves through a hole in your pocket.

A view from the pew



From 25th October 2021, it may have cost you £12.50 a day to drive your car across the South and North Circular roads into inner London. This charge is now levied on most petrol cars registered before 2005 and most diesel cars registered before September 2015 when you enter the Ultra-Low emission Zone (or ULEZ for short).

The objective is to keep polluting vehicles out of London. The initial impact is mainly on those who live there. Of course, they get the benefit of reduced pollution on their streets, but they also have to pay the charge every day if they have a vehicle that does not meet the emission standards. Generally speaking, more affluent folk move out of the inner city to the suburbs, leaving those least able to pay locked into poorer housing and more congested areas that are now hit by this charge. Wealthier people can trade in their car for a newer model that is exempt from the charge. Poorer folk generally have older cars and cannot afford to upgrade. If you don't pay the charge, there is a penalty of £120.

It is a marvellous ambition, to clean up the air for everyone in London, but it is fraught with difficult implications for the people whose lives it impacts. It's not as if this hasn't happened before.

In 2003 motor traffic was charged to enter the City and parts of the West End at certain times of day. These are now 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, and the charge to access the Congestion Charge Zone is £15 a day (for a car). It has reduced congestion, speeded up traffic – especially buses – and encouraged cycling. However, it has increased the cost of deliveries into this area, a cost that has made some businesses unviable. This has reduced the range of services available to people who live or work in the City.

We all make life decisions based on our hopes for improvement. But so often we do not understand the full implication of what we do. And we, or others, suffer as a result. The answer is not to hunker down, refuse to get involved or just to keep out of trouble. The best response is to stay grounded, with your eyes open, maintaining the long view seen from eternity, and to remain light on your feet, ready to adjust your direction of travel. We could all learn from the story of Ruth in the Old Testament. Peter Fall

Christmas Past

It must have been the very early 1960s, when we had moved into a new, larger house which backed on to the golf course (Solihull, West Midlands). I was about 9 or 10 at the time. There were two things which made it special 3 - if you count the heavy snow. We had a memorable Christmas Day very similar to all our other Christmases, but it just seemed to work extra well that year.

Firstly, our dalmatian dog, Clematis of Whidington, Clemmie for short, had puppies in the week before Christmas. They were delightful, replacing the car in the garage, attracting lots of visitors. Seemed very appropriate just before Christmas to have 7 pups.

Secondly, there was my father's Christmas present to himself. He had bought a radiogram, which was delivered on Christmas Eve, along with assorted grandparents, an aunt and my cousin who came for Christmas. We could be as many as 12 for Christmas lunch, depending on who needed company that year.

My parents always had friends round after Church on Christmas Day for drinks and snacks – everyone it seemed had late lunch at Christmas. They didn't go to Church themselves, but their friends did and so 20 or 30 people, including children arrived for drinks, nuts, crisps and canapes at about 12 noon for a couple of hours.

The radiogram was much admired, so were the dalmatian puppies, there was only one snag we had no records, and only 1 free sample came with the radiogram. It was an LP of military brass bands playing marches by Sousa. I had never heard music played so loudly in the house before, and I have an abiding memory of my brother, all the other children present, my cousin and me, marching round the sitting room many times. Sensibly, the adults took refuge in the hall and the kitchen to escape the amazing sound.

My joy was complete when about half an hour before guests started to leave the snow began to fall. By the time we had finished our late lunch it was quite deep and almost dark, so we climbed the back fence and went for an illicit snowball fight on the golf course. Coming back afterwards we were very wet and cold just ready for Christmas cake, presents and tea in front of an open fire.

Alison Tyler

Quiz Page

Try your hand at a couple of brain teasers, answers overleaf.

Word Search

s	e	c	r	e	t	l	y	n	e	w	j
u	h	e	r	o	d	i	o	c	a	e	e
p	t	j	e	r	u	s	a	l	e	m	s
s	s	b	e	t	h	l	e	h	e	m	u
e	j	e	w	s	p	r	i	e	s	t	s
t	e	a	c	h	e	r	s	g	e	c	t
p	l	o	t	t	i	n	g	u	l	h	a
w	o	r	s	h	i	p	y	i	a	i	r
k	i	l	l	e	d	h	b	d	t	l	w
b	a	f	r	a	i	d	o	i	e	d	i
l	i	t	t	l	e	n	r	n	d	z	s
h	a	t	e	d	k	i	n	g	c	b	e

upset	Jerusalem	birthplace
hated	Jews	worship
King	teachers	Herod
star	guiding	secretly
priests	little	Jesus
new	born	child
plotting	Bethlehem	wise
killed	elated	afraid

Sudoku

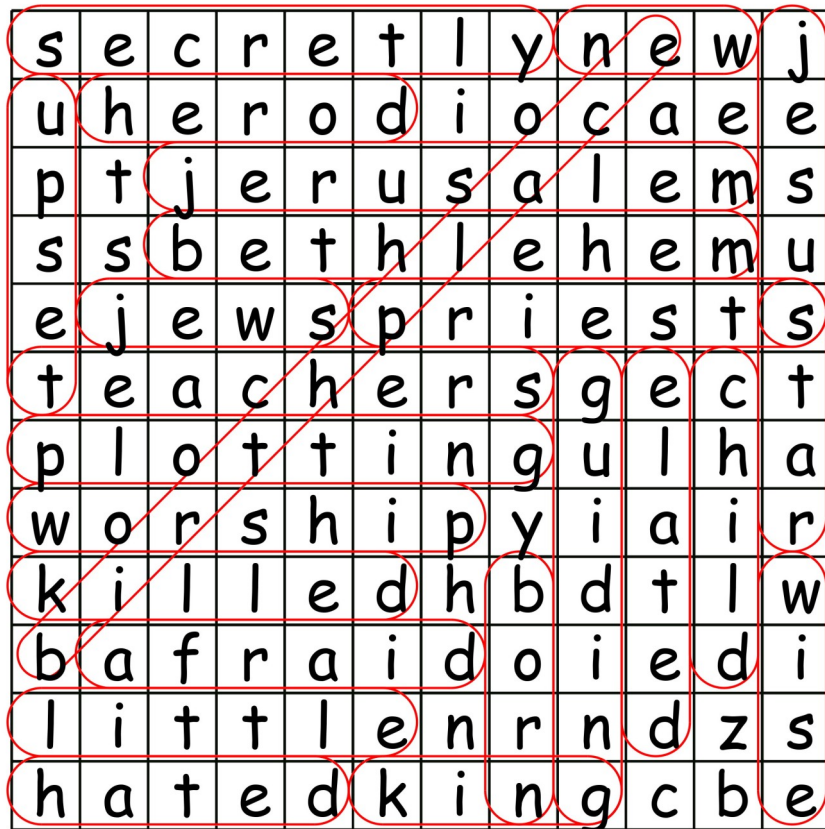
			8	2				
						3		7
	4				3	8	5	
		6	3	5		7		2
5				1				3
1		3		7	9	5		
	2	9	5				6	
6		5						
				9	2			

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Quiz Answer Page

How did you do?

Word Search



Sudoku

3	5	1	8	2	7	6	9	4
9	6	8	1	4	5	3	2	7
2	4	7	9	6	3	8	5	1
4	9	6	3	5	8	7	1	2
5	7	2	4	1	6	9	8	3
1	8	3	2	7	9	5	4	6
7	2	9	5	3	1	4	6	8
6	1	5	7	8	4	2	3	9
8	3	4	6	9	2	1	7	5

How colourful can you make this Christmas picture



Worship Diary

It has been good recently to continue to restore some aspects of our worship. We have reintroduced the congregation receiving wine at Holy Communion and singing.

Our Sunday Clubs continue to meet when we do not have a Family Service. But as the Autumn draws on there will not be Garden Church and Sunday Clubs will take place in the church hall.

Our services will continued to be Live Streamed and can be viewed on our Facebook page unless otherwise stated. In December some services will not be Live Streamed to comply with our safeguarding policies of not filming children:

<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/>

The services of worship for December and January will be as follows:

December

Sunday 5th – 2 Sunday of Advent

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 12th – 3 Sunday of Advent

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

4.00pm Christingle (not Live Streamed)

Sunday 19th– 4 Sunday of Advent

10.30am Sunday Clubs Nativity Service (not Live Streamed)

6.30pm Nine Lessons

Friday 24th – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service (not Live Streamed)

11.30pm Holy Communion

Saturday 25th – Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Service (not Live Streamed)

Sunday 26th – St. Stephen

10.30am Family Communion no Sunday Clubs

January

Sunday 2nd – 2 Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Family Communion no Sunday Clubs

Sunday 9 – 1 Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 16th – 2 Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 23rd – 3 Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 30th – 4 Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

We also have a quiet service of Compline at 8.00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday on our Facebook page. This will be suspended the week before and week after Christmas i.e., from 20th to 31st of January.

Daily Hope phone line receives more than 550,000 calls

Daily Hope, a free phone line which offers prayers and support for callers, receives nearly 20,000 calls every month. The service, which was launched during the Covid-19 lockdown, has spent more than 7.15 million minutes on more than 550,000 calls.

The phone line originally launched in April 2020, only to continue in response to ongoing demand once restrictions were eased.

Daily Hope set up by the Church of England nationally, has also been supported by Connections, a Missional Programme to older people based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Over the year and a half of service, Daily Hope has continued to encourage people across the country and beyond including Australia, Japan, and the United States.

Since the phone line launched, users have been able to listen to a range of audio, including the Church of England's national weekly service, hymns and daily prayer.

Many have messaged Lambeth Palace to express their thanks for the introduction of the phone line, particularly for elderly people.

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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	59 Bishops Avenue BR1 3ET ar.tyler@ntlworld.com	
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	Mr MIKE EAMES	020 8851 5180
	4 Powster Road, Bromley BR1 5HF	
	Dr KEITH NYE	020 8464 9346
	61 Wharton Road, Bromley BR1 3LE	
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	21 Rodway Road Bromley BR1 3JJ	
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	e.mail: admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	
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	e.mail:agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk	
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