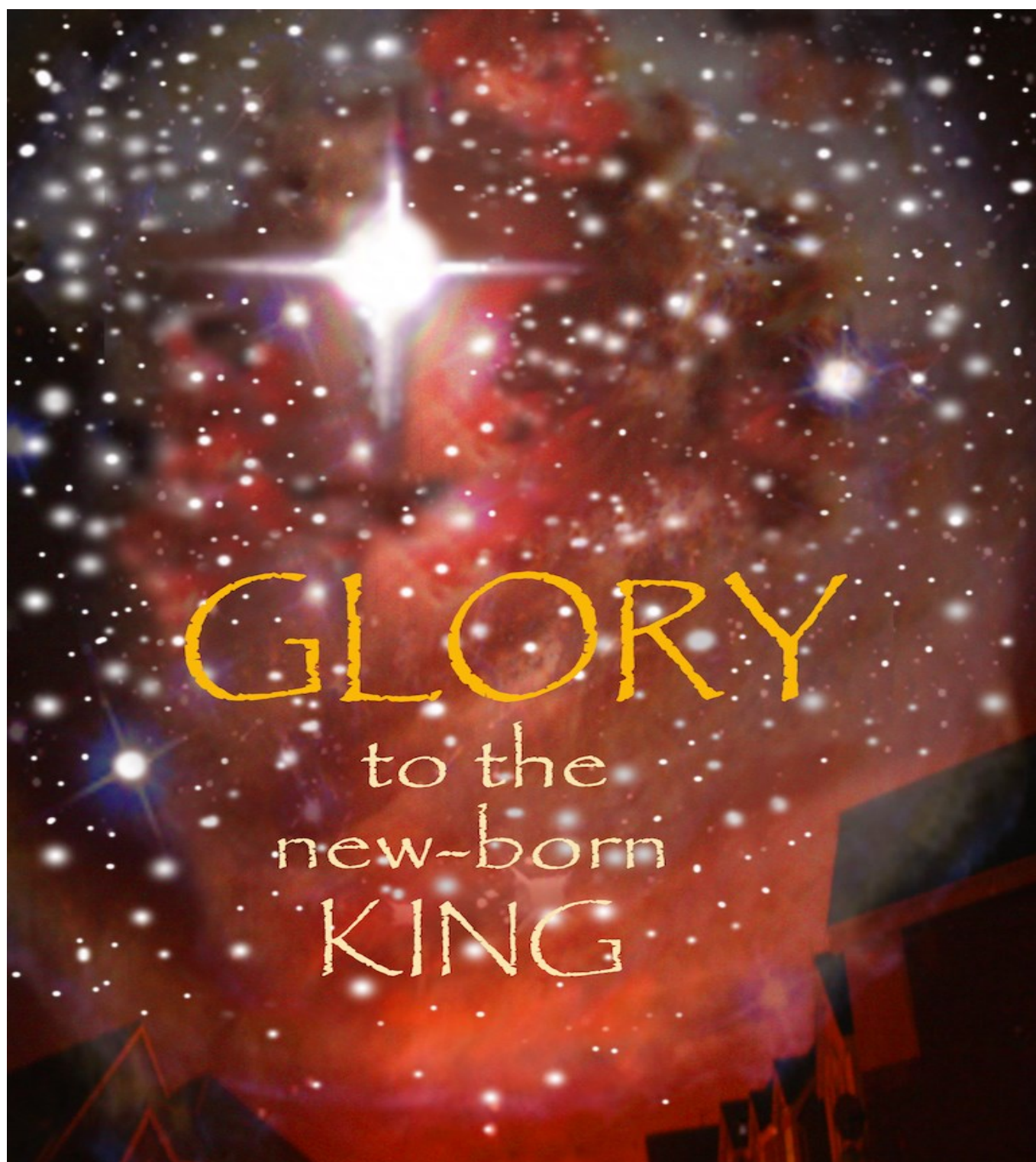


St Mary's Church, Bromley
Parish Magazine

December 2022/January 2023

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Welcome to the December 22 and January 23 edition of the Parish Magazine.

Welcome to the last magazine of 2022 – and the first of 2023, as you will have to wait until February for the next issue. All your favourites are here, along with a few extra surprises – thanks again to everyone who has contributed this year. There are plenty of references to the Christmas Season, and former Curate Lionel Kevis, now newly retired, has written about his memories of St Mary's back in the '80s. Do any other readers have memories to share of times past? Or experiences as a relatively new member of the church community?

With January, comes the opportunity to look forward as well as back – does anyone intend to start the year with a resolution they are prepared to share? Or an ambition for St Mary's in the future? The deadline for the next magazine is January 15th, which both gives everyone plenty of time to write, and also not too much opportunity to break those resolutions. I look forward to hearing Atlanta – the next editor – has been inundated with material to include!

Happy Christmas, and Happy New Year,

Jill Atkinson

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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.

Are you having a laugh?



Christmas is coming which for many people is a season of great joy. It is a time for people to gather together with those who are dearest to them. There is the opportunity for wonderful familiar activities and feasting. One of the things we will do is laugh together.

It is well said that 'you need a sense of humour'. It might even be at difficult times we say 'in the future we will look back at this and laugh'. It is a very positive attitude of seeking to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Now life cannot always easily be turned around. But it is surprising how simply choosing to smile and going through the events of the day makes things work out better.

Laughter comes in many forms. It might be a light-hearted entertainment. Or it might be a necessary way to come to terms with what is hard about life. Perhaps one expression of the latter is the political cartoon. People in power wish to be respected and for misdeeds to be hidden. The cartoon pulls the mask off and speaks truth to power.

Having passed through Christmas there are the twelve days of Christmas with a famous song about the gifts a true love wishes to give. Some of these are a bit bizarre. Would you really want to be given ten lords-a-leaping?

But the twelfth night has a tradition of misrule. Some of humour is about stepping out of the ordinary and routine and expressing a somewhat wild freedom. Shakespeare took this aspect of twelfth night and built upon in his play unsurprisingly called 'Twelfth Night'. There are misunderstandings, cross dressing, wily women, plots, tricks and revels. There are times to take down the people who tell us how life should be, not least because they might not be doing it themselves. There is a lot of newsprint to be sold about the scandals of the high and mighty.

There is a way to look at the purposes of God and see him wanting to upset the cruel rulers and part of his attitude is to mock. For instance Psalm 59.8 'But you laugh at them, O Lord; you hold all the nations in derision.'

' I certainly think that you can look at the Christmas story and see God having a laugh.

There is a long history of the Jewish people looking for the great act of the creator to transform the brokenness of the world. In the birth of Jesus this great new beginning unfolds. The people who are called to witness it are humble shepherds. Their itinerant work meant that they could not fulfil the religious obligations and so we're not really accepted by the authorities for the Jewish people. This isn't a joke in the conventional sense but it is turning the world upside down. There is a criticism of religion that is tidy, exclusive and misses what God is wanting to do.

Twelfth Night is the feast of the Epiphany when Wise Men from the east came looking for the mighty new ruler. Actually they were Maji, astrologers, which the church thought rather too pagan and so had to rebrand them as Wise Men or Kings. Their great learning led them to a baby, not a fully established leader. They had to enter a stable and not a palace. Expectations are again reversed and the unexpected has to be engaged with. How much of our world's wisdom found in say scientific explorations still leaves the deep questions of life unanswered?

Somewhere between Christmas Day and the feast of the Epiphany there is an often ignored commemoration called The Holy Innocents. It marks how King Herod was so disturbed by the Maji that he ordered the death of many babies in Bethlehem. What sort of King is threatened by babies? He is shown to be frightened and paranoid. He is not secure or admirable but an object to be mocked and derided. In recent months there are leaders in Russia who have been found to be inhuman and politicians in our own country who had very flawed notions about leadership.

I am sure that God does not only laugh. There are tears. There is anger. There are depths that as humans we may never understand. But God is full of hope with a desire to rescue and express love. The birth of a baby excites in us the best of these reactions. Birth is an invitation to embrace new life being possible and to laugh at the troubles that have made us think otherwise.

Best wishes and Happy Christmas

Alan Keeler

"All things come from you, and of your own do we give you."

As we move closer to Christmas our thoughts are increasingly with those who do not have the resources to celebrate. The Foodbank have suggested that those of us who are fortunate and do have resources might like to add a few more luxurious items to our gifts going forward for the next few weeks.



Dear Father Christmas,

We want to bring some Yuletide cheer to families in need in Bromley by sending them a festive hamper. To help us do this, all we want for Christmas is...

1. Tinned Ham & Tinned Salmon
2. Cranberry Sauce
3. Pickled Onions
4. Carnation Extra Thick Cream (canned)
5. Large Cracker Selection for Cheeses
6. Christmas Puddings
7. Luxury Sponge Puddings
8. Large & Small Boxes of Chocolates
9. Luxury Biscuits
10. Savoury snacks & Pringles
11. Yule Logs
12. Christmas Cakes

With love, from

Bromley Borough Foodbank xx

Looking Backwards and also Looking Forwards



One article but two parts to reflect the time of year.

Looking backwards.....

It's that time of year again when we start to prepare for Advent and Christmas, as we move from Remembrance Sunday to Christ the King, the last Sunday in the Church's year.

I really value the annual nature of our activities and our remembering. The cycle of the seasons, the detailed cycle of the Church's yearly recollection of the life of Jesus, each a source of pleasure both new and remembered, each a learning opportunity, a chance for growth and development - and different each time.

In our house, amongst all the other joys of Advent we make the cake and start to think about and write our Christmas letter with which to complete our year, sharing news of the past year, our hopes for the year ahead and new things or lessons we have learned. We try to update and entertain our friends judiciously, aiming neither to make anyone else feel undermined or unvalued, nor to inflict too many miseries on our loved ones.

There are, however, one or two things I want to share more widely because, in every year spent trying to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, I find I really do learn new things. It's worth remembering just that: we really will learn new things because we can never know everything we need to know, and in so many unexpected ways it always pays to be open to seeing things differently. For first time ever we burnt the cake but found a measure of joy in the successful shared task of doing it again. Although it cost us time, effort and extra ingredients, nothing was wasted; it was simple and it was indeed joyful, as we shared out the edible bits of our first effort with friends.

You may know from an earlier article that this year I have spent a lot of time watching our toddler granddaughter learning new things. I find fresh understanding of what Jesus must surely have meant by encouraging us to become like little children, full of joy and wonder at every new thing, and determinedly living in the present.

My daughter has noticed it too. After a bad day at work in the NHS recently, she rang me for a rant on her way home, and said it was to protect her daughter from her irritation. But she also said she would not be able to hold on to her own anxiety once she got home, because her two-year-old always pulls her straight into the present, living - as she does, most of the time - unself-consciously and joyfully in the present moment. She does not yet brood on the past or worry about the future.

From watching her this year I have re-learned the wholehearted joy in simple things and have started to explore again the discipline of finding joy in enough – so much harder than I would have thought. But I remind myself of one of the key questions we ask ourselves in Lent. What is it that I really want when I pick up yet another book, another cake or another sweater? What am I really looking for, and where *is* my heart's desire? Sometimes it is a major achievement to put something back, but other times it's a liberation.

....and also looking forwards....

towards Advent and Christmas, a time of waiting, strangely it seems sometimes, waiting for the Messiah to come again, the God with us, who has already arrived once before as a child.

It can be a difficult time, watching and waiting, hard for us to keep an austere and reflective Advent waiting for God to come again into our lives. He comes as saviour and liberator, as ruler, healer and judge, setting us free into new life. When he comes he turns us around and changes us so we become more like Jesus, preparing us for the feast ahead when, all around us, others are already celebrating Christmas. Their time of austerity and self-discipline may well come in January, after the feast, when people keep dry January and Veganuary in order to recover from it.

I quite like the idea of being inwardly austere in the middle of that celebration; it makes the feast more enjoyable when it comes. And if it should be this year when Christ comes again, it will be exciting (and probably terrifying) to be preparing for our redemption as he arrives.

The message of Advent is one of peace and of hope that our salvation is near, that justice will be restored. The Advent message is a recognition of the light that has come into the world again and again over the centuries, and that the darkness has not overcome it. It is the realisation that God is coming to be with us; God loves us so much that in Jesus God is always coming to us, to be with us.

‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.’ By the time we reach Christmas Eve we will have heard again all the joyful messages of scripture, and be ready for the new year ahead. When it comes, may you have a creative and reflective Advent and a very joyful and generous Christmas celebration.

Alison Tyler



Safe driving this winter

The temperatures are dropping now, and if you are going away for Christmas, it is a good idea to nurture your car battery. Cold, damp weather can cause problems for it. The RAC recommends the following to take best care of your battery:

Before you switch off your engine at the end of a journey, turn off the lights, wipers, and heaters. This prevents any unnecessary drain on the battery next time you start the car.

Check that everything is switched off before you turn on the ignition.

Avoid using the heater longer than necessary, as it puts high demands on the vehicle’s battery. Check that you don’t leave interior lights, satnavs or phone chargers connected. If possible, park in a garage.



Post those cards on time!

Final posting dates for the UK this Christmas are as follows:

- Friday 16th December: Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy
- Monday 19th December: 2nd Class
- Wednesday 21st December: 1st Class
- Thursday 22nd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed & Royal Mail Tracked 24
- Friday 23rd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed with Saturday Guarantee

BLESS O LORD

We had grace before our harvest supper which led me to wonder how many people do say grace these days.

Within the Guiding community there has been a tradition of singing grace, often in parts, before a main meal. In many Guide Units this still happens. However, all over the UK and beyond there are adult Guiding Singing Groups where the tradition continues and we have a large repertoire to draw on.

All occasions and seasons are catered for and many people who were in Guiding as children will still remember them. One lady in her 80's told me she says each morning **'God has created a new day, silver and green and gold, Live that the sunset may find us, worthy his gifts to hold'** which she sang as a Guide.

Especially appropriate at present is **'The World Hunger Grace'** -

'For food in a world where many walk in hunger, For faith in a world where many walk in fear, For friends in a world where many walk alone, We give you humble thanks O Lord'.

A grace with a story is **Johnny Appleseed**. He was an American and whenever he ate an apple he would keep the seeds and scatter them on his travels. He became famous for the trees that transformed a previously barren countryside and the apples that anyone could share.

'The Lord is good to me, And so I thank the Lord, For giving me the things I need, the sun and the rain and the apple seed. The Lord is good to me'

The Sailors' Grace ' O God the Giver, take the thanks we give. For life and for the food by which we live, Thinking of those who carry it by sea, On all thy sailors may thy blessing be'.

'For all the sunshine, for nourishing rain, Dear Lord for Thy goodness we thank thee.

For food and Thy care, rich blessings we share, The proof of Thy love and we thank thee'

And so on I shall be with my brother and family over Christmas and we will certainly have grace before our feast!

Mary Mills

MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS

There is a definite trend developing.

As with fashion of all kinds, it has a little to do with personal preference and a lot to do with what is considered “in”, “on trend”, or “topical”. I am talking about the Environment. In fact, *everyone* seems to be talking about the Environment! It deserves its capital “E” because it is everywhere just now.



Remember the time when David Bellamy was a lone voice rabbiting on about ecology? Now he is drowned out by a multitude of environmentalists, doom-saying the destruction of our planet Earth. And the perpetrators of the coming disaster are materialistic consumers – you and me!

Mothers' Union is finding itself propelled into the discussion firstly by God's injunction to humans on this planet to care for his original creation, and more recently by the growing impact of global warming on the earth. A further insight was provided by Alan Aylward, the speaker on 10th

November, when he told us about the immense and irreplaceable benefit of trees to the ecosystem. His talk about the Woodland Trust, and how it acquires land in England to plant trees, which grow into woods, and eventually become forests, offered a bright ray of hope in what is so often a



depressing story of land clearance. One doesn't have to be a tree-hugger to understand how vital trees are to the continuation of all life. They absorb carbon (as carbon dioxide into their leaves) and transform it into wood, while releasing fresh oxygen into the atmosphere. The carbon is then locked away for as long as the tree lives, and can even stay dormant as it returns to the soil after the tree's death.

Although there are few woods managed by Woodland Trust in our area, he was optimistic about the future, as the Trust continues to look out for land for sale on which they may be able to plant more trees. MU members were unanimous in their support of this project, and were delighted to be updated on its progress.

Members of MU again this year knitted or crocheted poppies for Remembrance and raised the record amount of £136 for the Royal British Legion. This was achieved with the help of Avondale Road WhatsApp, which in turn led to a neighbour selling the poppies at Parish School and Christchurch, Highland Road.

During November, the fruits of recent Knit 'n' Natter sessions were taken to Knit for Peace, the charity based in Hampstead that distributes warm clothing and other essentials to refugees, and people displaced and affected by war. The delivery included eight blankets and six scarves made recently by members of our group.



December brings seasonal excitement, to which MU responds with the Christmas (Buffet) Lunch on Thursday 8th December. With a ticket at only £5, it is expected that most members will come along for fine food and friendship from 12 noon in the Buchan Hall. Although this would be a wonderful way to bring 2022 to a close, there will still be an opportunity to meet again while making the orange-based Christingles on Saturday morning (10th) from 9.30 a.m. These are presented at the Sunday afternoon service (on 11th). with sweets and raisins, representing the fruits of the earth, attached to four sticks on each orange. A candle on top represents the “Light of the World”, Jesus, and is lit during the service as the children (and adults) hold them, standing in a great circle around the inside of the church.

Mothers' Union involvement in this service, through the preparation of the Christingles, makes it a fitting lead into the joy of Christmas. Seeing the children take their Christingles home (having eaten the sweets!) is a great reward for members who assembled them. It is anticipated that the Knit and Natter session on 15th December will be a jolly affair, with appropriate refreshments, and a nod to thank the woolly sheep who provide their raw material.



We wish them, and all of you, a “Happy Christmas”!

Peter Fall

LIONEL KEVIS was Curate at St. Mary's from 1986 – 1989 following a career in the City.

Since then he has been Rector of Ash with Ridley, Kent, Rural Dean of Tonbridge and for the last years Rector of St. Mary's Leigh.

He retired last month and has remembered his time with us

'I arrived in Bromley after the Michaelmas Ordination at Rochester Cathedral in 1986 post 3 years at Wycliffe Hall.

Clare, my wife, little Edward (4 months) and I settled well into 31 Fairfield Road with easy access to the church via the gate at the bottom of the garden. Peter Henwood was a warm and encouraging Vicar with whom my Curacy and Diaconate began. Monday mornings from 9-11 we met in Peter's study to plan and discuss the week ahead. 1pm on Mondays was reserved for our weekly game of squash (I was about the only curate who could beat Peter on the squash court. He was very determined and handy)

Life at St. Mary's was good, the congregation friendly and welcoming. Visiting parishioners in their homes was a big part of the work. Writing sermons and preparation in the mornings and then visits.

My day off was Saturday when Clare was not working. After 1 year I was able to baptise, take weddings and funerals. At Beckenham Crematorium (which was privately owned then) I learned to conduct a funeral service plus one hymn in 15 minutes, a skill retained in all my time as a Vicar, except later it was lengthened to 25 minutes.

Starting nearly at the same time in Church House was Mary Mills who was setting up a Community Work Project. We would often compare notes about life at St. Mary's. Rev. Elizabeth Davis was ordained during my time and Cyril Belsham, our Lay Reader was a constantly cheerful and delightful colleague.

I remain grateful for all that I learnt St. Mary's and am still in contact with some in the congregation. I enjoy reading the Parish Mag. '

My blessings always to St. Mary's College Road.

Rev'd Lionel Kevis

CHOIR NOTES AND MUSIC

It is always with a slight feeling of apprehension that the choir approaches the business end of each year. However, spirits quickly lifts as we begin to prepare the wonderful music we have been gifted to sing – carols for Advent and Christmas! How can you be down when you are singing “O come Emmanuel” in Advent, and “Hark the herald angels sing” at Christmas?

And this year the church choir has been honoured to be asked to sing at a few extra events. At the Mince Pie party on Saturday 10th December the choir has been asked to provide carol sheets and will bring their voices to support the singing of carols. On the following Wednesday (14th), the choir has been asked to sing carols at the Grace Café to encourage that seasonal feeling.

And then there is carol singing in The Glades. On Monday 19th December the choir has been asked to join other singers and raise money for Welcare in Bromley. This involves singing carols over lunchtime on the upper floor of The Glades shopping centre in Bromley. If the choir survive that, they will be out again on Wednesday 21st in Mooreland Road to sing carols with John Cox and his neighbours. There is even a choir planned for the Christmas Eve Midnight service in church, starting at 11.30 pm on 24th December (choir warm up from 11.00).



But the peak of the season for the church choir has to be the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, held this year exactly one week before Christmas Day. There will be a large choir (everyone wants to be part of it) on Sunday 18th December at 6.30 pm. Familiar songs and some exquisite descants will fill the church, which will be candlelit for the occasion, with harmonious melody. This is truly a service that can appeal to young and old, regulars and occasionals, believers and agnostics.

We can all be transported nearer to heaven by the carols of the nativity, especially when sung by committed amateurs, all putting their heart into everything they do. Along with the bible readings, the music tells the simple, but profound, story of the birth of our Saviour. And we engage with it through the familiar words and the comforting music, so that it again means much to everyone involved.



The choir does not preach, but it can sometimes tell a story in music which affects the heart and soul of the listener. At least, we can continue to hope so, and in the meantime sing our carols until asked to go into the next street!

Peter Fall

WHERE DID CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COME FROM?



No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

PP

POETRY TO DELIGHT US FOR ADVENT 2022

I want to recommend to you a poem with a somewhat scary title, not the kind of thing we might expect to choose, it's 'When death Comes' by Mary Oliver (1935-2019). Sadly she died in 2019, and so the last line of her poem can be seen to sum all that she had hoped for in life

"I don't" she said, " want to end up simply having visited this world."

I think, if you know me you know much I love poetry, and Mary Oliver, is one of my favourites. This poem about her own death is very suitable for Advent as the themes of Advent are Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell.

This is a very grown up poem. It acknowledges that we will die and suggests throughout an attitude of wholehearted living, a joyful embracing of life and of our relationships with the earth and with all creation, an openness to experience and creativity that makes it all rich and worthwhile. Life will not be wasted, if we live fully until we die, proclaiming that we believe in life before death, as well as after. When we die having lived such a life, life to the full and running over, then we will know that "I have" indeed "made of my life something particular, and real". May this be true for me and for each one of us. I know it was true for her.

Thank God .Amen.

For more Mary Oliver poems and to find The 11 Best Mary Oliver Poems visit <https://www.hookedtobooks.com/mary-oliver-poems/>

Alison Tyler



Mary Oliver

(September 10, 1935 – January 17, 2019)

National Book Award—1992

Pulitzer Prize—1984

Grand Christmas Fair

St Andrews Church Hall
Burnt Ash Lane, Bromley

Saturday 3rd December

10 am - 2 pm



Raffle



Plants

Hot and Cold Snacks..

Delicious Cakes



Teas &
Coffees



Hand Massage



CDs/DVDs

Books

Crafts



Gifts



Bric A Brac



Live Music

Miniature Bottle
Tombola



IN FULFILLMENT

The journey ends
and so begins
a dawning,
breaking over
the House of Bread.

The Guiding Star
of Ancient Origin
from 'out of this world'
- and visible within
Shines Light on the Way.

In Holy Sacred
Splendour
the Glory of the Lord
Shines round,
and in the Light,
an angel gives news
of Dazzling Magnitude
to the 'last' - and
first to learn of the
Messiah's birth.

The magi pay homage
to the Christ-Child,
the Wisdom from on High-
lying in a manger
- built of wood and nails—
and offer symbolic gifts,
in fulfillment.

Barbara Buckingham

A view from the pew



Do you have problems communicating with your fellow human being? Do you think that too many of us are more like zombies, going about our mindless tasks automatically? Processing our day with heads bowed, to avoid catching someone's eye? Metaphorically doffing our caps to those we meet, to avoid conversation? Never talking to neighbours except in pleasantries?

And if we do have to strike up a conversation, we are safe with **the weather**. If there is one thing we are all good at talking about, it's **the weather**. You can relax when someone says "Fresh today, isn't it?" or "I hear it's going to rain." We are all well trained in **the weather** talk. We can keep it up for hours – just like the rain – or the wind – or the heat - You know what I mean.

But is there something special about **OUR weather** that has made the British the way we are?

"You've just got to soldier on" is a good expression of our normal response to bad luck, hardship or tragedy. And it describes well how most folk deal with wind damage, flood or lightning strike. We are stoical in the face of **adverse weather**: "Wrap up warm!", "Don't forget your umbrella!", "You'll need boots today!" We have an answer for whatever the meteorologists say we have in store. Though we don't always believe that what they predict will come to pass.

Which is why so many of us are caught out. "I didn't think it would rain today." "Where has that wind come from?" We were probably warned last night, and again this morning, but we look out the window and form our own, more optimistic, view. "He can't know what it is going to be like in **my** road." And we get drenched going to the shop.

Has it made us more resilient than people from countries with more predictable weather (or climate)? Who knows. Maybe we would have been grumpy, resigned, patient and pessimistic whatever the weather. 'Cos that is the way we are.

GLASS

For now we see through a glass, darkly

We all know that quote and glass is wonderful stuff. It has been used to make sharp cutting edges; light, airy windows, magnificently coloured stained glasses; flexible in fibre optics; clear lenses for telescopes and microscopes; hard-core for roads.... The list is endless



Glass has been around for a long time. It can take many forms – clear sheets for windows; coloured for ornamentation, it can be moulded into any shape - solid object or flat plate glass; it is brittle and shatters to give a sharp cutting edge, but can be bent; it can be clear, opaque or coloured.

With all of that, what is glass? Glasses are almost a class of their own. Structurally they are a mess.

Often called a supercooled liquid because they are a jumble of atoms or molecules, like a snap-shot of a liquid. However, they do not flow at room temperature, do not have a distinct freezing point where they become a distinct solid, nor do they boil into a gas. Glasses just get gradually softer as they heat up until they flow like a viscous liquid, when they can be shaped or moulded, but are still coherent enough to be blown into bubbles. Glasses can occur naturally, mainly in volcanoes or after meteorite landings, or they can be manufactured by us humans.

The first use of glass for tools seems to have been about two million years ago when naturally occurring obsidian glass was used for arrow heads and other bladed tools. This was cutting edge technology and within half a million years, obsidian artifacts were traded from Armenia to as far as Ukraine. Later, by the neolithic era, obsidian glass axes were being traded from as far as India to northern Europe.

Manmade glass had to wait a bit longer, but by five and a half thousand years ago it was being manufactured, first in Mesopotamia and then in Egypt. Glass making continued, with the first known manual for glass production being written two and a half thousand years ago in Assyria.

The Romans also contributed to the progress of glass. The first evidence of glass blowing was in about 1 AD and by 100 AD Romans were building with glass windows.

By the 14th century glass windows were becoming common. The window glass was made by blowing a big bubble and then flattening it to a sheet a couple of metres across. The edges were thinner and more clear and so that was used by the rich for their windows, while the poor had to make do with the bull's eye glass that was left in the centre – the glass that we now associate with quaint old fashioned windows.

By then, glass makers were adding all sorts of things to the basic mixture to make the glass coloured, more clear, heat resistant and so on. The Romans even started to make gold sandwiches, sandwiching gold leaf between two layers of glass. This was then used in precious vessels some of which were found in the catacombs. Gold was also used from Greek times onwards to make ruby red glass, which is still used today.

Stained glass was started to be common in medieval times. It is called “stained” because that is how the first coloured panels of glass were made. Coloured metallic paints, often silver based, were painted onto the glass and then fired in a kiln so that it penetrated into the outer layers of the glass, staining it. Later, they started to add the metal compounds to the molten glass so that the whole thickness of the glass was coloured. Different metals were used to give all the colours that we see today. Staining techniques are still used to give shading and detail to the glasses, painting them onto the coloured glass and then firing the panes in a kiln.

An unexpected addition to glass is uranium. Adding uranium gives a clear yellow or green glass which glows in UV light. It became very popular in the 1930 and is still collectable, but it is less popular today, as Uranium does not have a very good reputation.

You may remember Bessemer from school as the inventor of the Bessemer converter, which is still used in the industrial production of iron. This is his most famous invention, but it was a loss maker for him. He really made his money from the invention and manufacture of Dutch Gold.

Bessemer then became involved in glass, developing an early process to make float glass by floating the hot glass on molten tin. Nowadays it is floated on a bed of mercury metal and that is how the enormous sheets of glass used in modern buildings are made.

We have some lovely examples of glass in the Church, so you might like to take a good look next time you are there.

Trine Hevezi



AN EASY GOING QUIZ FOR CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

1. What is the Song of Mary otherwise called?
2. If Christmas Day is on a Monday, what date would Advent Sunday (1st in Advent) be?
3. The camels the magi rode have just one hump (and are native to the Middle East). Name that breed...
4. Who was Governor of Syria (at the time of Christ's birth)?
5. Who started the tradition of bringing indoors a fir tree and decorating it for Christmas?
6. What is the Liturgical colour for Advent (Lent)?
7. In which country was the Christmas Carol 'Silent Night' composed?
8. Give the singular form of 'magi'.
9. In which year was the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols?
10. Name the only Gospel Book which mentions the star, in the Christmas narrative?

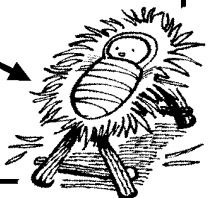
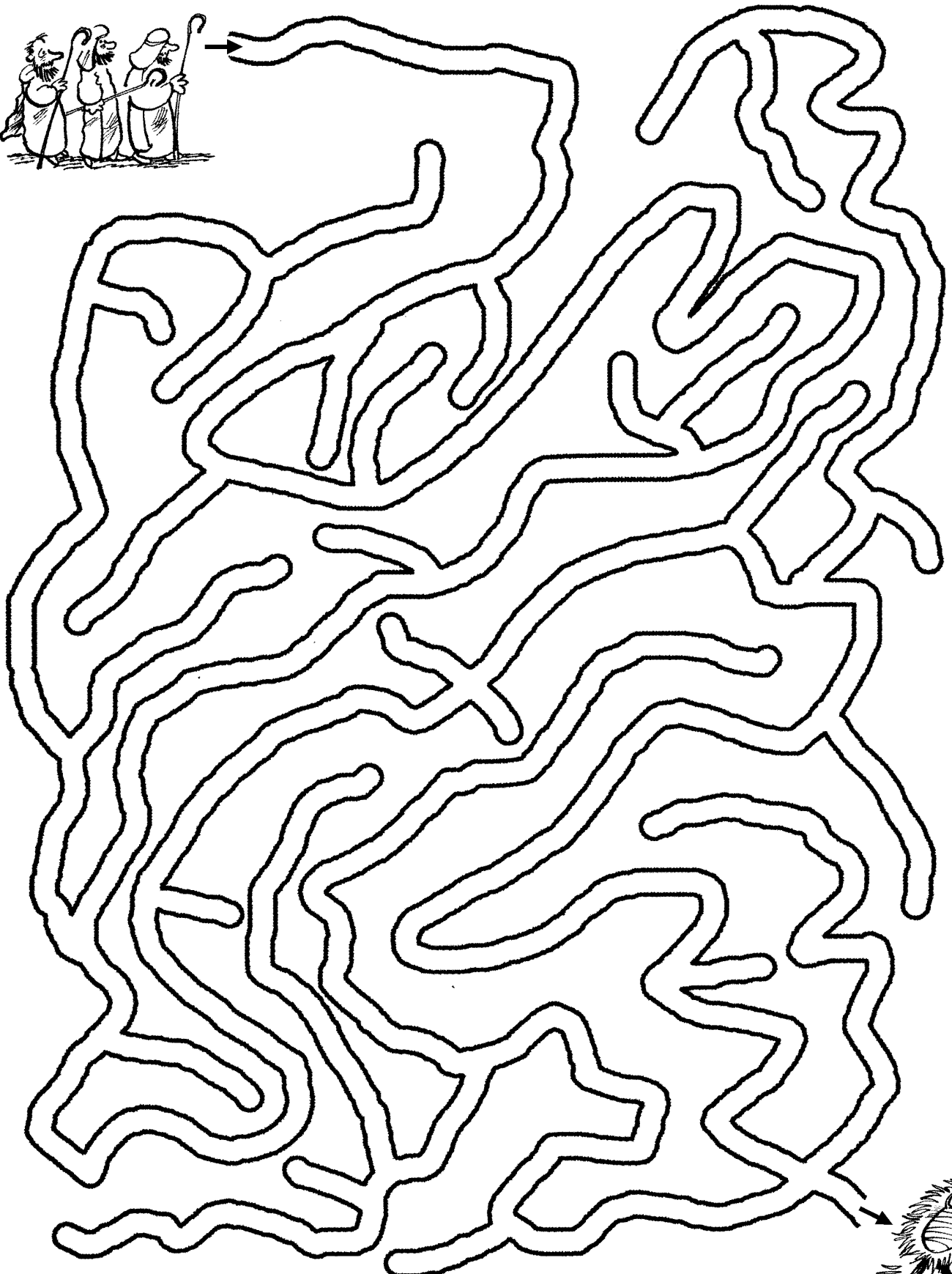
Barbara Buckingham

Please turn to page 29 for the Answers



The Christmas Journey

The most wonderful story of all time tells of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Some angels gave the good news of Jesus' arrival to shepherds in nearby fields. Can you help the shepherds find their way to the manger?



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WHATS ON IN OUR HALLS

Monday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
1.30pm—2.30pm	Gentle Exercise	Buchan Hall
3.45pm—6.30pm	Ballet Belles	Warwick Hall
6.45pm—8.45pm	3rd Bromley Brownies	Warwick Hall

Tuesday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
4.00pm—3.30pm	Ballet Belles	Warwick Hall

Wednesday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
10.30am—11.30am	Sandra Shaw Exercise Therapy	Buchan Hall
2.00pm—4.30pm	Wednesday Club	Warwick Hall
5.15pm—6.45pm	Harlequins Theatre School	Warwick Hall
6.00pm—7.30pm	Bromley Boy Singers	Buchan Hall
7.00pm—9.00pm	Group Therapy	Front Room
7.30pm—8.30pm	Bromley Shotokan	Warwick Hall

Thursday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
4.00pm—7.00pm	Harlequins Theatre School	Warwick Hall
5.00pm—7.00pm	Harlequins Theatre School	Buchan Hall
6.15pm—7.45pm	13th Bromley Brownies	Warwick Hall

Friday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
6.45pm—8.15pm	18th Bromley Cub Group	Warwick Hall
6.45pm—8.45pm	1st Plaistow Rangers	Buchan Hall
8.15pm—9.45pm	18th Bromley Scout Group	Warwick Hall
7.30pm—9.30pm	Group Therapy	Front Room

Saturday

8.30am—12.00pm	Little Kickers	Warwick Hall
7.00pm—9.30pm	Group Therapy	Front Room

Grace Café



We are pleased to be able to continue with the weekly café in the church on a Wednesday between 10am and noon. There is always lovely coffee, delicious cake, a warm welcome and good conversation. Please do come and join us.



St. Mary's publishes a weekly newsletter with information about our worship, events and people to pray for. You are welcome to have your name added to the distribution list; if so please let Atlanta know your contact information. Copies are emailed at the end of the week. If you do not have email we are happy post.

There is also a copy on the website. Please let Alan know about notices you would like to be included.

The Church Boiler

You may have heard that our church boiler is giving problems. It is not responding to the programmer and has to be switched on manually. It also does not stay on as long as it is required and has to be manually restarted. There are spare parts on order and we hope these will sort the problem out. It maybe that the problems are deeper and a partial or complete replacement will be necessary. In the meantime we are grateful for the understanding members of the congregation have shown and suggest wrapping up warmly when attending the church in the near future.

Generosity from St. Mary's

Each October the Diocese of Rochester has its Poverty and Hope Appeal. There were details in the October magazine. We are pleased to announce that St. Mary's raised £222 including Gift Aid. This is a wonderful result and many thanks to everyone who made a contribution.

Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. The Magnificat | 6. Purple |
| 2. 3rd December | 7. Austria |
| 3. Dromedary | 8. Magus |
| 4. Quirinius | 9. 1918 |
| 5. Prince Albert (Consort to Queen Victoria) | 10. St. Matthew |

Worship Diary

Covid is in many ways in the background at present but the situation could well change. We are offering worship with less restrictions but conscious that a degree of caution is still both wise and appreciated.

Our Sunday Clubs meet when we do not have a Family Service or at times during school holidays.

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/>

Services for December

Sunday 4th – 2 Sunday of Advent

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 11th – 3 Sunday of Advent

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

4.00pm Christingle

Sunday 18th – 4 Sunday of Advent

10.30am Family Service, Sunday Clubs Nativity

6.30pm Nine Lessons

Sunday 24th – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Holy Communion

(Carols from 11.00pm)

Sunday 25th – Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Service



Services for January

Sunday 1st – 2 Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 8th 1 Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 15th – 2 Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 22nd – 3 Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

including a Pulpit swap with a local church

*In the evening, Joint Service for Churches Together in Central Bromley
time and venue to be confirmed*

Sunday 29th – 4 Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



St. Mary's is a member of Churches Together in Central Bromley.

It has been a tradition in Bromley to celebrate the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by holding a pulpit exchange at our main Sunday morning services and a united service on the evening of the same Sunday. This year these will take place on Sunday 22nd January. The united service will be a live in-person event held in one of the church buildings at a time to be confirmed.

All members of all the churches are warmly encouraged to attend.

Details of the churches can be found on the Bromley Chaplaincy website:

<https://bromleychaplaincy.org.uk/>

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	Mr MIKE EAMES	020 8851 5180
	4 Powster Road, Bromley BR1 5HF	
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