

St Mary's Church, Bromley
Parish Magazine

February 2024

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG

FEBRUARY



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p



Travel Safely Alan and Gill

We had a wonderful celebration on Sunday last week for Alan and Gill's retirement. Alan wrote to us saying:

“Thank you for all that you all did for the service and lunch we had yesterday. It was all great The atmosphere was all so positive and people we spoke to said they had a wonderful time. As we did .”

They flew to Berlin on Monday to be with Rachel after her surgery.

So Thank You and Congratulations to everyone who was involved for beautiful music, singing, prayers, meeting and greeting the deputy mayor, wonderful photographs, fantastic cooking, cleaning and decorating and for wonderful company all at the same time.



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Welcome to the February 2024 edition of the Parish Magazine.

A thought this is the first interregnum that St Mary's has had for 17 years and it may last for some time. Meanwhile St Mary's needs to be supported by the congregation. Could you help by volunteering to read lessons, undertake an intercession, help at the Grace cafe? Think about what you could do to help our team of Church wardens led at the moment by Clem Sutton and Maria Staines.

So the congregation can get to know the Church warden team we are hoping to introduce the team by producing a pen picture of each member and a photo. Meanwhile just to remind you who are in the team in addition to Clem and Maria :- Paul Knight, Sylvia Chance, John Beale and Anthia Page.

Lastly as always we welcome contributions from you all whether it be reminisces, photos, stories of travel, poems etc.

Jo Clark

Editor

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This month's editor: Jo Clark

Editor for March 2024: Jill Atkinson

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



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Memorial Book

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

Disclaimer

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

All Change



It is likely that by time this goes to print Alan and Gill will be catching their breath, working out in practice how they will live day to day in retirement now that it has actually happened.

My recollected experience is that the reality was nothing like the way I had imagined it would be, not least because I took myself on a textile tour of Japan which was better than I could possibly have imagined, and so different from the Ministry of Justice where I had been working. Then we moved house. I could not initially find a local Church to go to, so I continued to commute to Southwark Cathedral as I had done when I was working in prison and had wanted to go somewhere to worship. Then we had Covid so soon after we had moved to Bromley that I only just managed to sneak into the Diocese and get PTO in time for lockdown, and came to work with Alan.

So all did change, but not as I had expected it to.

It is often said that after 'this' nothing will ever be the same. 'This' can mean, or can be, any sudden or transformative change. The frequency of the saying demonstrates that change is a fundamental and frequent part of our human experience. We do need to be able to deal with it, and people will often describe themselves as ready for change and challenge, or not good at change, afraid of change or as change managers. Training is often provided in workplaces to help us deal with change, because it is known to be difficult and unsettling.

We fail to realise sometimes that our faith journey, on one level, is all about change. If we accept God's call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and to grow daily more like Jesus, then we will change or be changed. Perhaps sometimes, sadly, like the rich young man who did not want to sell all he had and give it away to the poor, we may think it is too difficult, decide against it and give up trying.

Since that first Christmas, celebrated again so recently, nothing remains unchanged; Emmanuel, God-with-us, has seen to that.

When God wrote himself into our human story, God became knowable and accessible to us in the birth, life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. As the theology tells us, Jesus is God incarnate, both fully human and fully divine. Since then our human lives have been transformed, because God is now revealed in new ways, as God with us and within both us and our neighbours, living a human life as we do and modelling how we could live ours.

So we live our Christian lives against a backdrop of change on the one hand, but also of God's changelessness on the other, beautifully summed up in the Compline prayer:

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, by contrast, is described by the writer to the Hebrews as 'the same yesterday and today and forever', always ready to welcome and receive us, always calling us to repent, and offering healing, forgiveness, grace and mercy.

Already, though the year is only a few weeks old, it is splattered with war and disaster, subjected to the unremitting diet of human destructiveness, cruelty and evil which needs us more than ever to learn to be peacemakers in difficult times.

I was struck by an article in the Times recently (6/01/24) by our local Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner (a member of our local Three Faiths forum). This spoke of small acts of kindness, for example taking flowers anonymously to a synagogue, as acts of 'collateral healing' in contrast to the many violent deaths, known as 'collateral damage', of those caught up in the wars currently being fought between Israel/Palestine but also Russia/Ukraine to name but two. Such acts are wonderful evidence of human concern and generosity, and recognition of kinship and relatedness. So too, I think, are all the gifts given by St Mary's at Christmas to the Starter Packs project at St Peter and St Paul's Church locally, and many other gifts of generous

collateral healing' in our communities. However it is not yet enough to be confident that collectively, as human beings, we have a real shared mutual concern for the common good – we always need to do more.

Amongst several really sharp observations Rabbi Laura makes the point that how we respond in such difficult times, both nationally and internationally, and especially to possible enemies or to those who are not like us, helps to define us in the context of our shared humanity and community. In Britain currently, both Jews and Muslims are terrified of either antisemitism or Islamophobia, either from each other or from other members of our shared communities. If we care only about ourselves, she observes, and 'not about the plight of others we are nothing'.

It is a stark warning. Though confronted by many and varied dangers and challenges, we must resist the temptation to become isolationist and fearful, short term in our thinking, and so fail to recognise the humanity of others - our common humanity. It is precisely in such difficult times that I believe we need to take risks and look for new ways to engage with others who are not like us, to respect and include them and learn and explore together new ways of being a community.

It is vital that we are all, and always, open and willing to continually engage with new things, new ideas, new people and fresh ways of living together. As Alan and Gill move on in their life journeys to a new place we have opportunities, just like them, to refresh our thinking, revisit our visions, and think again about our calling to be Christians at this time and in this place, and in our wider community. So may God bless them on their journeying, and us on ours through this new year.

Alison Tyler

Lent Groups

Please book with Atlanta if you would like to come to Lent groups on Thursdays either 10.30 -1200 am or 8.00 -9.00pm from 15th February for 6 weeks

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY BROMLEY
Shaped with Love in the Potters Hands

A Day of Pottery, Reflection and Practice
with

Canon Gordon Oliver
Saturday February 24 2024
9.30am until 3.30pm



A clay-based encounter day that includes Bible reflections, demonstration, opportunities for hands – on activity, laughter and times for silent reflection, during which we will be opened to experience ourselves being held, healed, formed, and re-formed in the loving hands of God.

We may be handling clay, so please wear something you don't mind getting a bit dirty and bring an apron (the clay washes off). Please bring your own lunch – drinks provided.

Suggested donation to cover expenses £8.00

Some of Gordon's pottery will be available for sale

Gordon Oliver is a member of the Franciscan Third Order. He has served in council estate, suburban, industrial and rururban parishes; as a practical theology lecturer and as a diocesan training officer. In retirement he offers ministry in spiritual direction, retreats, and quiet days. Gordon enjoys family, friendship, making pots and fly-fishing/

To book please email the Parish Administrator Atlanta Topham
admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk
please put Shaped with Love in the Potters Hands as the subject.

A view from the pew



When I walk along a pavement, I try to avoid treading on the cracks between paving stones. “How sensible”, you think. “That should reduce the risk of tripping up on projecting paving.” I wish I was that careful. But the truth is more sinister. “Lions lurk under the pavements,” the big boys said. “They’ll bite your feet between the cracks.” I believed them. I seem to have believed most things I was told as a youngster. I still try and stamp on my shadow to stop it following me. And I never step onto a manhole cover of any description in case it opens and deposits me into the depths (of what I had no idea, and still haven’t – but I don’t like the sound of it).

Now puddles are a different matter. Although, to be fair, it may be true that there is an open manhole out of view under the water. But I have seldom allowed these thoughts to stop me splashing happily through them. Not that there isn’t a downside to these activities. You don’t get through splashing a puddle without some collateral dampening of the trousers. It was alright when I wore shorts going to school (as we all did up to age eleven). The legs dried out (often leaving a coating of damp dirt), and the socks could be squeezed – sometimes even *after* taking off my shoes!

Walking can be a treacherous business



Trip hazards, paving stones, puddles, tree branches, dogs.

Did I mention dogs? One day I was late to primary school because I had to “deal” with a fierce dog on the way. “Deal” is another way of saying “find a safer route”. I had to retreat (after helping to rescue another scared kid – by grabbing him and running!) and walk around the block to avoid the dog. My story went down well with the head teacher, who labelled me a hero in assembly next day. I have never been known to refuse an honour, even when it was (usually) undeserved.

My other claim to fame (infamy?) at primary school was during the only occasion I played for the school football team and was not goalkeeper. I was a full back – and had little idea what to do, as goalkeeping was all I ever did in the playground (you don't have to run around so much!). So when the opposition forward shot and hit the bar of our goal, what did I do but catch the ball when it ballooned back towards me? "Penalty!" went up the cry. And for "penalty", read "Goal!", which it was a few moments later. I was not the most popular member of the team. And, when the whole incident was recounted at assembly next morning by the Head Teacher, I was not the most popular *pupil*!

Isn't it interesting the things you remember from your childhood? Not so much the happy times, the holidays, the minor successes, the great friendships, the only time you hit a boundary in your entire cricketing career. No, it is the little niggles, the things that went wrong - sometimes spectacularly, though, fortunately, mostly lower key. And the embarrassment, the fear of "not fitting in", of "being different".

And yet we want to be successful. We want to achieve. We want to be popular. Maybe these are the things people learn with maturity. I am determined to grow up – sometime!

Peter (Pan) Fall



Careplus aims to provide free local volunteer support for older people locally. Their needs are met for befriending, social support and practical assistance. This is undertaken by volunteers who give support in the form of befriending, shopping and transport.

Please consider helping Careplus. It will also be wonderful if there could be a representative of St. Mary's Church to be on the organizing committee which meets three times a year. To know more please speak visit <http://www.careplusbromley.org.uk>

John the Baptist preaching

The absence of two thirds of the stained glass from the most westerly window on the south side of the nave at St Mary's is a frequent talking point. The photograph of the complete window reproduced here is from a collection of papers assembled by the late Robert Eames. When complete the window illustrated St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 3, verse 2 'Repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand' by depicting St John the Baptist standing in the shallows of the Jordon preaching to seven people. It was designed by Thomas Curtis of Ward and Hughes and is one of fourteen stained glass windows Murray Richardson donated to St Mary's between 1884 and 1908.

It is presumed the loss of the outer lights was the result of enemy action during the Second World War, as on the back of the photograph it is noted that this window was damaged in 1941. However, there is no mention of this in the booklet published in 1943 to mark the eightieth birthday of St Mary's, although it does record major damage in 1941 to the East Window. Other evidence of war damage in the church is to be found on the bowl of the font where what look like three holes left by 15mm. machine gun bullets have been refilled with stone. The worst air raid on Bromley during 1939-45 occurred on the night of 16 - 17 April 1941 during which St Peter and St Paul's, St Mark's, the Congregational Church, Methodist Central Hall, and Robert Whyte Memorial Hall all suffered extensive structural damage that St Mary's escaped.



MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS

You would never have thought that beetles could provide so much enjoyment and laughter! And this among the usually calm and collected, sensible members of the Mothers' Union. But shout they did! And shake the dice till its spots came loose! And as for their depictions of beetles – well, the house flies and the ants were jealous! But the MU Beetle Drive proved yet again that the best ice-breakers are the silly ones, and the way to bring people together is to share laughter. Joining different people for each game also increased the sociability of the morning. The winner and loser both received prizes, which added to the “through the looking glass” feel of the morning.



Mothers' Union members have also been in evidence at the Grace Café, held in church each Wednesday morning. Once a month, on the first Wednesday, members serve the coffee and cake, act as welcomers and clear up afterwards. This proves to be a valuable time for catching up with each other in an informal atmosphere and sharing members' news.

Knit 'n' Natter continues to produce a wealth of knitted garments for babies, seafarers and making blankets. From little bonnets to large bobble hats, and matinee jackets to jumpers, the knitters continue to purl and plain, clickety-clack, while imparting valuable personal news for prayer and meditation. The group retains its cohesive strength from the faith and loyalty of its members, and adds a valuable practical dimension to church life.

Mothers' Union CEO, Bev Jullien, thanked members and looked forward:

“Whether your calling is as a prayer warrior, officer, or giving service to fellow members and your community – thank you so much for all you have done in 2023, and I look forward to journeying together through 2024, as we begin the countdown to the 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union in 2026.”

Peter Fall

Mothers' Union Programme for February 2024

Wednesday 7th 10.00 Grace café

Thursday 15 h 10.00 Knit and Natter

Thursday 22nd 10.00 Annual Review

Friday 1st March 10.30 World Day of Prayer: venue St Mary's Church



10.30 a.m.
St Mary's Church

61 College Road, Bromley
BR1 3QG

All welcome



Choir and Music

“A choir is made up of many voices, including yours and mine. If one by one all go silent then all that will be left are the soloists. Don't let a loud few determine the nature of the sound. It makes for poor harmony and diminishes the song.”

St Mary's Church Choir continues to prove that:

“Music speaks what cannot be expressed;
Soothes the mind and gives it rest;
Heals the heart and makes it whole,
Flows from heaven to the soul.”

The members of St Mary's Church Choir come early before the church service to warm up and practice. They turn up on Thursday evenings to prepare for future Sunday worship, with hymns, descants and anthems all practised and rehearsed as necessary. And yet, they are contented, friendly people just like you and me.

Great singers have started in their local church choir, such as Katherine Jenkins:

I have such happy memories of performing in a choir and I don't think I'd have got where I am today without all that experience. So my advice to young singers is to either join your school or church's choir or find one in your local area. Choral music at any level teaches you so much about musicianship and blending your voice.

While not promising that a great soloist will emerge from our church choir ranks, we do have people who can hold a tune while others sing something different. We have singers who can count – even up to eight on occasions - and singers who can read words as well as music. We have team-players, versatile singers, rich voices, thin voices, fruity voices, solid voices, high tones and low tones. But mostly we have folk with adaptable accurate voices, who can learn the notes and make a good sound. And while God may not always be entirely thrilled by what He hears, He must be pleased that we make the effort to sing his praise.



For as long as we are able, we will continue to “sing to the Lord a joyful song” with “hearts and minds and voices”. Amen.

Peter Fall

Hedgehogs (part 3)

Since the last time I wrote part 2, a lot has happened to the hedgehogs in my garden. At the end of the summer it was very hot and dry; hedgehogs find it hard to forage in such conditions. In September, the hot spell continued. Whilst weeding one day in the garden, I found a very young, underweight hedgehog wandering around in the middle of the day. I contacted the rescue centre immediately, as this is a sign that they are unwell and took the little hedgehog in a box with holes and protected by a towel to the local centre in Chislehurst. If left to its own devices, it would probably not have survived the winter. I'm hoping to collect it in the spring to enjoy the garden and local area once again.

One day I found an adult hedgehog had decided to reside in our hedgehog feeding station using it as a nest, so I moved the food out (otherwise it could attract other visitors), continuing to put food out in our other feeding station and made a B&B for about a month before it took itself off to another nesting site.

This autumn then became incredibly wet and the hedgehogs stopped visiting while the weather was still mild. I fear that they have been washed out of their nests like so many across the country, denied access to the garden because of newly erected fences or road kill. I will let you know what 2024 brings.

Now on with some facts.... How do you know a hedgehog is visiting your garden? It is very hard to know as they are night visitors. You may spot their faeces, which actually look a bit like a slug. They're often black and shiny. The snail and slug population reduces.

Hedgehogs can roam a lot on their nightly foraging and looking for a mate. A female travels about one mile and males up to three miles!

Historically, it's not been an easy time for hedgehogs. The Destruction of Crows etc Act passed by Henry VIII in 1532 and preservation of Grain Act 1566 were drawn up because of poor harvests. Basically everyone was paid to kill as much wildlife as possible, which included kites, foxes, kingfishers, adders, crows, badgers, woodpeckers, weasels, sparrows, wildcats and of course hedgehogs! Killing of wildlife carried on for the next two hundred years, which had a huge impact.

Hedgehogs have been on menus for many years, including during the war when food sources were scarce. Thankfully they are now protected since 1981. However, despite their protected status they continue to be treated cruelly by some; sprayed with deodorant and then set alight, painted bright colours so they become very vulnerable prey etc.

What can you do to encourage a hedgehog into your gardens and keep it a safe place for them to roam?

- Link your gardens with a 13cmx 13cm hole in the fence.
- Make your pond safe. Hedgehogs can swim but they need to be able to get in and out safely.
- Create a wild corner
- Avoid netting and clear litter as they can get trapped.
- Put food and most importantly water bowl.
- Stop using chemicals, nature will look after your garden.
- Be careful with bonfires that hedgehogs are not residing inside.
- Check before mowing and strimming, looking under shrubs and grasses.
- Make a hedgehog home.
- Become a hedgehog champion, joining is free via Hedgehog Street.

I really hope you have enjoyed a small insight into hedgehogs by reading my articles and really hope a hedgehog visits your garden. The rewards are boundless.

Lynda Zissell

On 14th February - National Nestbox Week begins.

Now an established part of the ornithological calendar, it aims to encourage people to help out the birds in their gardens each Spring. Everyone is invited to put up more nestboxes in their local area, and a very helpful website gives full instructions on how to do this. More details at: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

Christmas Greetings Mary Mills letter from The Bensons

Hello Mary,

It was lovely, as always, to receive your news and Christmas greetings. Your mention of all your singing engagements brought back wonderful memories for me of Christmas Eve carol-singing at Bromley Hospital all those years ago – led by a lantern and the nurses in their red capes. It was very atmospheric and beautiful, and just one of so many memorable occasions during that Christmas time.

We have just had a busy couple of weeks with Christmas parties on the agenda for most people. I drove into Taree for a Christmas Eucharist and fancy luncheon with the Mothers Union branch I attend, and our Quota Club members, with husbands in tow, celebrated with a barbecue on the banks of the Gloucester River at twilight – on the grazing property of one of our members, a really lovely spot. All our Christmas parties occur before Christmas with the actual Christmas season dedicated to summer holidays, Boxing Day sales and the lead-up to New Years Eve.

Until two days ago, for two and a half weeks, the temperature climbed into the high thirties every day. Thankfully a cool rainy change arrived at last and now we are searching our wardrobes again for the long-sleeved clothing abandoned in the heat. Most of us have air-cons, as do all the public places, but the cooler weather is such a relief just the same. It is depressing seeing lovely roses burnt off as soon as they bloom.

On the other hand the crepe myrtle trees which line many of Gloucester's streets have put on an amazing display with the trees just laden with thick blossom – the most spectacular I have ever seen, and a talking point around town. A bright pink is the most common colour but there are pale and deep pinks, lilac and a few whites as well. The trees obviously enjoyed the hot spell and the welcome rain which fell back in October.

Sarah and Pip arrive tomorrow, Saturday, with their aged cat Polly, and will stay for about a week. We are hoping this cooler weather remains with us for the next few days as many of us still enjoy a hot baked dinner (lunch) on Christmas Day. The media tell us that more and more folk prefer seafood these days, but in the country traditions die hard, and it's not always easy to access seafood anyway. Son Nick will ride his bike the few kilometres

to the Sydney Fish Market for some oysters and prawns, but will also cook some meat for his table-load which always includes Zoe's sister and her two sons as well as Nick's own family. Sarah is our family pork expert, so there is a piece of pork on which she can work her magic, I will glaze a ham portion and season and cook a couple of chickens. With a load of baked veg, beans from a friend and corn from our neighbour's garden, the kitchen is then closed for several days while we live off the 'fat of the land'. A friend from the care home Mirrabooka is joining us for church, morning tea and lunch.

Mary, I wish you and Pat a wonderful Christmas filled with great fun and joy. Please pass on my very best wishes to 'the old hands' at St Mary's too.

With fondest love, Leonie

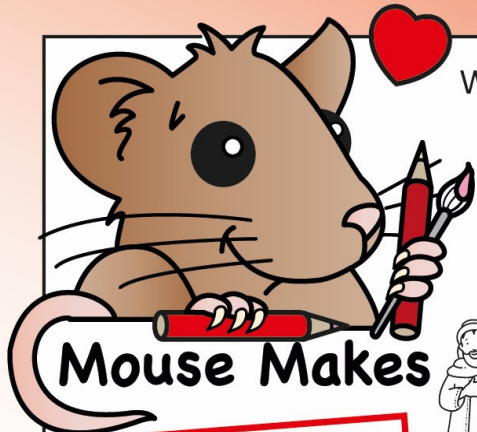


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Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

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- ZECHARIAH RUTH
- ELKANAH REBEKAH
- AQUILA RACHEL
- JOSEPH SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E E Z R E E L I Z A B E T H R
S V Q S L R Z J I B O A D A M
R E B E K A H O J R A O Q N O
U I S A A C A S A A Z P R N S
T H A Q N H Z E C H A R I A H
H R U T A E V P O A I E B H I
S A R A H L T H B M A R Y S D
P R I S C I L L A Q U I L A

- ABRAHAM
- ADAM • AQUILA
- BOAZ • ELKANAH
- ELIZABETH
- EVE • HANNAH
- ISAAC • JACOB
- JOSEPH • MARY
- PRISCILLA
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH • RUTH
- SARAH
- ZECHARIAH

Colour-in





Change of Name

The Sunday Club Committee have deliberated for some time to change the name of the Twinkles area as we feel it doesn't reflect the current activities that are taking place in that area. We consulted a number of families and have finally come up with the following:

South transept to be called the '**Family Zone**'
and
Narthex to be called the '**Kids' Zone**'

A Sunday Club session consists of an all-age worship and activities for young people, accompanied with their parents, led by a Sunday Club Leader and Helper in different areas within the church facility, depending on the time of the year:

Narthex (Kids' Zone) – area in the church during school term times
Church House - for special occasions e.g. Easter
Garden Church - weather permitting!

The Sunday Club Committee plans to update the Family Zone to make it more family friendly in the New Year.

We hope the congregation welcomes this name change and the update of the Family Zone.

Sunday Club Committee:

Nina Arcuri (Co-Chair)
Frances Boyden (Co-Chair)
Anne Yolland
Jacqui Harney
Patricia Finnis

The Rectory
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close *your* car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Lent Study Courses and Easter dates 2024



1. The Eucharist Study course

We will be using the Pilgrim study Guide on the Eucharist for our Lent Course at St Mary's this year on Thursdays from 1030 am and again from 8.00pm starting on 15th February – finishing on 21st March. If

enough people would enjoy this we can use the course as revision for our existing faith and/or as part of the study and preparation for Confirmation later in the year. Alison Tyler has copies of the course if you would like to see one and there is a website for further information

<http://www.pilgrimcourse.org>

2. Churches Together in Central Bromley Lent course *keep the dates 20th February -26th March*

Looking ahead slightly, I am happy to confirm that the **CTCB Lent Course for 2024** will run on Tuesdays at 8pm from 20th February to 26th March inclusive at St Peter & St Paul's Church. The course will consist of six sessions and will be based on **Paul's letter to the Romans**. Usually run by Rev'd Andrew McClellan from St John the Evangelist more information coming soon in Church.

3. Easter

Just to remind us all that Easter is early this year, and that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February (also Valentine's Day!). We will have a service of Holy Communion at 8pm with Imposition of Ashes.

During Lent we will have a Lent Group (See above) in person on Thursdays in the Buchan Hall, at 10am and again at 8pm, each week, from Thursday 15th February to Thursday 21st March.

Holy Week Begins with Palm Sunday on 24th March. Easter Sunday is 31st March. We will produce a leaflet for Easter worship as we get closer to Holy Week.



Do come and get to know some of us a bit better. We have a weekly café on a Wednesday between 10am and noon. The refreshments are delightful, and we will be pleased to see.



The life of St. Mary's has much going on. Our weekly Newsletter is full of useful information. There are copies in the church, we are happy to email a copy to you or alternatively post you one. Ask our administrator Atlanta if you are interested. Or it can be obtained though the home page of our website.

Please let Atlanta Topham know about notices you would like to be included by noon on a Wednesday.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March A Women Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement



“

I beg you, bear with one another in love” is the theme of this year's service, which has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. 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 at the Bromley service, which will be held here at St Mary's on Friday 1st March at 10.30 a.m.

Further details from Frances Boyden



Peter Richard Henwood

Sadly we have had the news that Peter Henwood passed away on Tuesday 22nd January 2024.

Peter was vicar at St Mary's from 1971—1997 and the drive behind the design and build of the Church porch which was completed in 1997.

Many will remember Peter fondly and may wish to attend his funeral to which we are all warmly invited.

Funeral Arrangements—Friday 16th February

10.30 am Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford. DA1 1DE.
Light refreshments, after the service, will be served in Church.

11.45 am Depart for the Committal, Saltwood, Kent.

1.00 pm Graveside Committal at St Peter and St Paul Saltwood

Friends of Peter Henwood, from Saltwood, are invited to join family and friends at the Graveside, and afterwards at 1.30 pm for refreshments at the Castle Pub, Saltwood Green.

If you are planning to attend **please use the sign-up sheet** at the back of Church so that we can confirm numbers with the family.

Further details can also be found at the back of Church.

Worship Diary

We offer a variety of services through the year. They are mostly on a Sunday at 10.30am and are mostly Family Communion. Most months we also have a Family Service which does not include Holy Communion. We hope you will find us a warm and friendly congregation. If you have questions about what we do, why we do it or how you might like to be more involved please do speak with the Vicar Alan Keeler, a sidesman... or anyone really!

Our Sunday Club is a valued provision for your youngest members. They do not meet when we have a Family Service or during school holidays.

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

The words of the service can be found on our website

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

Services for February

Sunday February 4th—Second Sunday before Lent
10.30am Family Communion , with Sunday Club

Sunday February 11th—Sunday next before Lent
10.30am Family Service

Wednesday February 14th—Ash Wednesday
8.00pm Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes 8

Sunday February 18th— The first Sunday of Lent
10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Club

Sunday February 25th—The second Sunday of Lent
10.30am Family Communion



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