St Mary's Church, Bromley Parish Magazine July/August2022 61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk | Minimum donation 75p

Peter Henwood

As many of you are aware Peter Henwood celebrated his 90th Birthday in June.

The following message was received from his daughter Sarah Henwood.

Dear Alan

I thought I would send you a couple of photo of Dad's celebrations the first shows him with his cards (thank you very much for arranging) the second his birthday lunch with the family – including his great grandson Freddie <u>Peter.</u>

He had a lovely time, thank you once again for helping.

Kind Regards Sarah



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

The hottest day of the year so far, to hot to go out and about so I resolved on starting to pull Parish Magazine together, however I have only received one article and it is already over half way through the month,. I will use various sources to obtain articles for the Parish Magazine, but as previously (and I sound like a broken record) it is really essential to have items of interest to and about the Parish.

This magazine is for July and August, next magazine is the September issue so you have plenty of time to think about YOUR contribution to the next magazine. We are all interested in what is going on in other peoples' lives -news- etc so let us know about your holiday, your new school,, new interest or career. Even send a poem.

The Editors welcome new contributors , BUT we also value those who have contributed over the years. For any advice on what we would like please contact any of the editors or the Vicar.

Please read Chris Soper's "Marvellous May" for information about raising money to save the St Mary's Murals.

Jo Clark

If you wish to make payment for the magazine online the bank details are: Sort Code 09 01 51 Account 27769404 (St Marys Plaistow Parish Magazine) Monthly cost 75p

This month's editor: Jo Cox Editor for September: Jill Atkinson Copy date: 10th August 2022 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.

Something to shout about



I remember being in a book shop and happened to be in the section with the Bibles. there were two lads next to me and one of them chuckled and said 'look there is a Good News Bible, I wonder if there's a bad news Bible?' I did wonder if given the choice which one he would have wanted to buy?

Christianity has gone by many names. Jesus would frequently say that he had come to proclaim the 'Good News of the Kingdom of God'. In the Acts of the Apostles the Christian Faith is frequently called The Way. We live in a time of many Christian denominations each title proclaiming something special. Catholic means universal, Orthodox means right belief, reformed means getting back to an original truth. Baptist emphasizes adult decisions and Pentecostal the work of the Holy Spirit.

It is a good question to ask ourselves what is important to our faith? It might be that we would want to pick one of the features I have touched on above. It might be there are other dimensions that you would say are important to you. For instance it could be the fellowship of the church. You might value being part of a tradition. There may be the people in society who speak out from a Christian point of view on issues in our society.

It might also be an interesting thing to look over our life and see how some of these things have changed for us over the years. There might have been a youth club that meant a lot. There may have been challenges to our life that needed guidance and the Bible was helpful. Maybe with the changing values in society there was a time when we had to re-evaluate our faith and it needed something more thought through than what we had been used to.

It is evident that Western society has been doing this for a long time and has been finding answers about life that have left the church at the margins. Our understanding of the material nature of the universe has grown immensely. For many people faith is now a private matter and maybe something difficult to talk about however precious it still is. But many of the big issues in the Bible such as war, slavery, good governance or finding a good and happy life are far from settled. The voice of faith still has much too offer and is still required.

For all of the variety it can be found within Christianity, for me the heart of it is the person of Jesus. I recently spoke with a colleague who rather wistfully asked what he now believed about God? My reply was that I did not first begin to believe in God. I read the New Testament and was transformed by the person of Jesus. Perhaps that is always a good place to start. Jesus moved amongst many ordinary people, he told stories that they could relate to, he was both full of compassion and courage. Through Jesus I found the life of God in the here and now.

I've often thought about those two lads in the book shop and imagine how many other people are weighing up good news and bad news. Perhaps our challenge is to be clear about the good things we have found. To find ways to know and celebrate our own faith. If we can do this we will be well equipped to share with others the treasure we have been given by God.

Best wishes

W. Keeler

St Swithun's Day—July 15th

St Swithun's day, if thou dost rain, For forty days it will remain; St Swithun's day, if thou be fair, For forty days 'twill rain na mair.

Ancient rhyme

It Was a Marvellous May at St Mary's

Hopefully many of you were able to enjoy the wide variety of events in May that saw St Mary's welcoming in the local community. Perhaps it was you enjoying a fabulous cream tea, appreciating concerts of all kinds, art, buying plants or even knitting? Others came to stroll around our beautiful Church to enjoy serene, cool surroundings and admire the splendid high Victorian stained glass windows and richly decorated chancel. Of course much time, work and generosity made all this possible. A warm "Thank You" to all who contributed in a variety of ways.

After there was the hard work of bringing together all the strands of income, donations, and Gift Aid for Marvellous May. As usual our Treasurer Jill Atkinson rose to the challenge and produced a figure of £4,175.69 from these events. It's a great result and this will increase the Murals Restoration fund to a current figure of £12,250.

Of course there is a very long way to go to achieve the target of £52000. Grant applications are in progress and we should welcome anyone who feels they have the skills to help in this area. Donations are very gratefully received and there are a number of ways this can be done. Please see the Church website under "Happening Now' then 'Murals Restoration Fund' for ways to give and please don't forget Gift Aid if you can. It makes a 25% difference. If in Church, have a word with Allan Keeler, Clem, Chris or John Beale we would-be delighted to help.

Chris Soper

Pay for what you get

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip, miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it

was passed. As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key."

Finally the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for 10p."

"Messy but delicious"



I was talking to the vicar on the phone about cake making, having just made some more for Marvellous May, lamenting the fact that they were "messy, but delicious – rather like life really" I said. I have continued thinking about life generally as messy but delicious, for a few weeks ever since, because it reflects reality as I often experience it.

I was reminded again recently of life as messy but delicious when re-reading Mark 10:15 after spending time with my 18 month old granddaughter. "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Watching her during just one day provided fresh insights into what that verse might mean.

Receiving the kingdom God becomes the desire of all those of us who take their faith seriously. To be able to receive the kingdom, it seems we are being advised to learn how to do it from watching very young children. The child comes helpless, and 'empty handed' into the world, without any previous experience, completely dependent on those who care for her and with no information with which to have formed any desires or intentions. A bundle of basic drives for food warmth and comfort, but full of such potential for both good and evil.

Initially then, no fixed ideas about life or about God, without arrogance or pretension. As she grows, looking at the positive possibilities, she is revealed to be open, accepting, curious and joyful in exploration, which inevitably becomes messy, wet or sticky, dropped or lost, and often welcomed with joy, laughter and enthusiasm.

We had a very positive and good day together, but it could easily have been a bad day and provided us with a different set of insights into forgiveness, punishment and new beginnings.

Watching a small child explore during an animal handling session at a farm park as she was transfixed and amazed by just a few simple animals, like rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, cats and lambs that are completely familiar to me, was a joy for both of us. It was also a revelation to me of just how long it had been since I had looked carefully at and marvelled at, the existence and nature of another of God's creatures and been quite delighted by their difference. I had forgotten how to do it, how uncluttered I needed to become.

We shared smiles of delight as she ate one of her first sandwiches, deconstructed it, ate the contents first and then licked off the butter and finally ate the bread, she sneezed and was surprised, as she smelled her one of her first scented flowers and I loved her mother's account of her amazement at the taste of chocolate, and I had first-hand experience of her delight at picking and eating a strawberry, once she had started she kept wanting more.

It is quite delicious to receive the trust of a small child who leaps into your arms confident that she will be caught, or who holds out a hand to be helped down a big step, knowing that her hand will be held and that she won't fall.

It is invariably messy to share food with her, as it has to be so thoroughly explored, squished and pulled apart. Her giggles and her expression tell us that it is delicious, even if messy. She laughs at mistakes, ours and her own and she gets better and better at doing practical things.

There are some more theologically dense interpretations of this teaching than mine outlined here. They are based on some of the harsh facts of children's lives in Jesus's time, children were often seen as property, as pawns in adult dealings, and disposable due to high infant mortality rates, weak and powerless. All of these are alien to our modern understandings of what life should be for children, but the call to humility and to Christian solidarity with the poor and powerless has some of its roots in this understanding.

Whilst it is true that Jesus identifies with the poor and the powerless, Jesus also has high expectations for us that we will become God's valued and beloved children. I am reminded of the joy St Francis found in all things, especially his joy in Creation, and his relational approach to all God's creatures, seeing them as brothers and sisters, made by the same heavenly father. He taught the importance of living simply and without waste, to his brothers, and begged for his food trusting that God would provide. He, like my granddaughter, reminds us of what we need to know to receive the kingdom, the qualities of mind required for God to act in us and through us.

So, the qualities we are seeking in order to receive the kingdom are that same unconditional unselfconscious trust of the beloved child, that God will hold us, and that we will not fall. We need that same delight and amazement in God's creation, the compelling interest and curiosity that leads us to continually explore God's generosity, and to find uncomplicated joy in its beauty and diversity. For my granddaughter as for the poet Gerald Manley Hopkins "The world is charged with the grandeur of God."

There is a rich simplicity at the heart of such a way of living and seeing that leads us to the kingdom. It is certainly not all about grandeur in the traditional sense, but it is about changing how we see things, recognise what we see, or give value to the things that we see.

In the 17th Century a Carmelite lay brother, Br Lawrence, who worked in the kitchen washing up and preparing vegetables taught many how to discern God's presence and goodness in the completely ordinary things of life, thus charging them up with God's grandeur!

"Let us think often that our only business in this life is to please God. Perhaps all besides is but folly and vanity" he said.

We are seeking to build relationships made up of the mutuality of loving give and take, without demands or exploitation, loving God, and our neighbour, being born again to new life, and as young children being open to all of God's gifts.

Francis and Lawrence are amongst those who have remained in touch with and true to their inner child. So, as we prepare for holidays, rest, relaxation perhaps, let us make some time to revisit that inner child and those simple but essential gifts of openness, delight and amazement, learning to build trust and to give thanks that God will hold us and that we will not fall. Learning again that life, on its good days at least, really is messy – but delicious!

Alison Tyler



Mary Sumner (31 December 1828—11 August 1921 was the founder of the Mothers' Union, a world-wide Anglican women's organisation.

She is commemorated in a number of provinces of the Anglican Communion on 9 August.



Christian Aid Week 2022

when we helped Jessica, and other Zimbabwean farmers

This year Christian Aid's annual fundraising week fell in the middle of St Mary's 'Marvellous May' events, but it is gratifying to report that members of our congregation gave £450, £305 of it Gift Aided, to help supply Zimbabwe's farmers with special seeds that thrive in droughts which - thanks to global warming – are increasingly affecting the country. Very many thanks to those who gave so generously.

Beyond the confines of the church family we experimented with posting through letter boxes in selected streets around the church 500+ 'delivery only' envelopes which asked recipients to return their gifts to a local address – in our case Church House. Unfortunately, despite considerable success elsewhere this style of collecting did not appeal to our neighbours and only £15, £5 of it Gift Aided, was received in the envelopes returned.

Given the apparent unsuitability of this new mode of charity collecting it was good that a limited amount of door-to-door collecting was possible in four roads which yielded £174.94, £99 Gift Aided; and one Euro. This exercise demonstrated door-to-door collecting is still a viable way of fundraising for Christian Aid, although for various reasons it is difficult to encourage volunteers to help with it.

It remains to thank everyone who donated during Christian Aid Week 2022, and those who helped in other ways to make the total raised at and through St Mary's a creditable £639.94. Having reads this far, if you feel moved to help this worthwhile charity which has been well-supported over many decades by St Mary's, please contact the undersigned. 2023's Christian Aid Week runs between 14 and 20 May!

Peter Boyden

Sea Sunday – 10th July

Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you?

It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We all of us depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well -being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and it is always physically demanding work.

So this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible.

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Choir Notes

The church choir enjoy singing.

That may sound obvious, but it was suitably demonstrated during Marvellous May, when we discovered that some of the choir were present in church on Friday afternoon – as stewards, and that sort of thing. So we started singing round the piano - without a pianist. We pulled out anthems we had recently practised, then became more ambitious, and tackled ones we had almost forgotten. Starting at 3 o'clock, we were gasping by 3.30, so had a tea break, thanks to the refreshment station provided for Marvellous May. Suitably refreshed, we resumed warbling merrily, managing to finish by 4.00 without



damaging anyone's vocal cords too severely (or listeners' ears, we hope). There were few visitors in the church – whether because it was Friday afternoon, or because of our singing, we couldn't determine.

However, it demonstrated the joy to be had from singing together, and we repeated the experience on three of the Fridays in May. To our own satisfaction, if to no-one else's!

What a contrast to the preparation required and the formality of a Choral Evensong service, yet the buzz we all experienced was similar. The positive rewards of singing together as a team, making live music and contributing to an all-embracing programme cannot be over-stated. That is part of the reason that our wonderful choir members keep turning up to practice, to prepare and to perform, week after week.

Please consider joining us to sing. It doesn't have to be every week. You don't have to have an exceptional voice. It does help if you can understand music, but most of the choir have acquired the skill of reading music by doing it. To an extent we are all apprentices, still learning our trade. You would be very welcome to come along and accompany us on this journey. Along the road are musical delights and a sociable team. It isn't all hard work – sometimes, as around the piano on Fridays in May, it is just good fun.

Peter Fall

Mothers' Union Matters

The Mothers' Union Plant Sale was highly successful, with a Warwick Hall full of plants nurtured by members, a further selection of plants outside, and the Buchan Hall a smart tea-room. No wonder it was very well-attended and raised £1309 for the MU Literacy & amp; Development Project in Africa and the "Away From It All" holiday scheme in this country.



Throughout the pandemic, members of St Mary's Mothers' Union have continued to knit at home. Wool was delivered to those who needed it. Patterns have been distributed as necessary, and needles of appropriate size have arrived and been used to make garments and knitted



squares. However, Marvellous May gave the opportunity to use the church as the knitting place and a project was born. "Knit 96 squares to make a Marvellous May blanket", and we did it!

Meeting every week at the back of church, with coffee to lubricate the fingers and the clicking of needles, the squares were knitted, and the blanket was sewn together. It is being taken to "Knit for Peace" and from there will be forwarded to a refugee centre for use by those who have fled with nothing.

In July St Mary's Mothers' Union will take part in the MU **"Wave of Prayer**", this year on **Friday 15th July** at **10.00 a.m.** in the **Front Room**. Every day of the year, MU members around the world pray for one another and for the work of the Mothers' Union. It is centrally organised so that there is



always someone praying throughout the year. St Mary's are delighted once again to be part of this continuous expression of MU commitment in prayer to each other. This year our prayers will be focussed on the dioceses of Toliara in Madagascar, Mbale in Uganda, Zaria & Ndokwa in Nigeria, and Chhattisgarh in India, as well as on our home diocese of Rochester. The Wave of Prayer runs continuously, around the globe, so that the work and members of each and every area in which Mothers' Union is active is prayed for at some point. No wonder MU is such a strong force for good in a difficult world, being so grounded in prayer.

On **Thursday 11th August between 10 am and 12 noon**. we will hold a **Coffee Morning in the Church Porch.** Please do come and enjoy a beverage, (just possibly with a cake!) and help to raise some money for the MU Jubilee "Summer of Hope" project. The Queen has been Patron of the Mothers' Union for 70 years. To honour her dedication and resilience as a strong and inspiring female role model, MU is supporting the next generation of female leaders from the grassroots up. MU will be focussing on women with skills, knowledge and confidence to shape the future and transform communities and families for the better.



Peter Fall

A view from the pew



A short homage to cricket:

Cinderella went to the ball and took a new cherry. The Prince was caught by her leg-before, as she danced in her crease, and he was bowled over. All in a spin, they enjoyed the long hop until they were undone by the bouncer. Too much dancing had tired her off-side. She felt as though she had a long leg and a short leg. Just as she was easing her square leg finer, she felt her leg slip. Now she was in the gulley and needed extra cover. He was a wide boy, not no -ball (noble!), yet he bowled a maiden over. Then he cleared the fence, which stumped her, and she saw him spin his way out of a sticky wicket. She would clean up her fine leg, pad it up and then proceed to hit him for six. "Better than relying on singles," she declared.

Peter Fall

MONEY – A Necessary Evil?

We all know that "the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10) but what is money and how did it start?

Money is a vital commodity in the world today, but it is a relatively new development as modern Humans have been around for about 100,000 years, but money only seems to have been developed in the last few thousand years of that time. Before that, either you were self-sufficient in everything, you stole from your neighbours, or you might be able to barter for those little extras you could not produce for yourselves.

It seems that the earliest recorded effort to formalise and start the process that was going to lead to the creation of money was when bartering was standardised in Mesopotamia about 5,000 years ago. At that point the priests started to receive grain into the temple storage and gave the growers small clay tables as receipts. And around this time one of the most enduring monetary units, the shekel, was first defined using barley as the measure. The use of the grain (now more commonly wheat) has continued up to current times. Very small weights are still measured in grains (0.065g or 1/7,000 lb) and grains are still used to express the weight of precious stones in Jewellery.

The clay receipts given by the temple for the barley could be regarded as money, but there were significant differences. On the one hand they actually represented a physical amount, not a nominal amount of a substance such as gold, but on the other hand, it was a perishable commodity, and so did not have the permanence of cash and the clay tablets were only valid within the administrative area of the temple.

The deposits were mainly barley and so they started to use barley as the standard measure and an exchange rate for barley to silver was established. Thus began book-keeping. The annotations needed in book-keeping may well have been the precursor to the development of writing, so perhaps accountancy is the earliest written profession.

The next step for money was taken at about 700BC in a number of places, when metal coins were introduced. The first actual evidence that we have was of coins being struck is from Hunan province, China in 640BC, but there is evidence that coins were in use from about 770BC and there was a local paper currency there from about 700BC. Coins were also minted at about the same time in India and Lydia (Southwest Turkey). Coins made trading so much easier that these areas became immensely rich, so much so that we still remember the last king of Lydia – Croesus (Rich as Croesus) who introduced the first gold coins.

The Romans knew a good idea when they saw it and they also took up minting coins. Roman coins were initially struck in the temple of the goddess Moneta. The goddess did come before the coins. It was a long time before the Romans would allow coins to be made anywhere else, but the Jews broke that rule. Roman coins had images of people on them, and therefore were unclean and definitely not to be used to pay temple dues with. So, a mint was set up in Tyre, where coins with no images were struck. The Tyrian mint also kept a higher silver standard than other coin manufacturers and for some reason the temple authorities in Jerusalem preferred these higher quality Trian silver coins over the regular Roman ones. That is what the money changers were doing in the temple – changing ordinary Roman coins into Tyrian clean (and higher value) coins. Many of our units of currency are very old. As said, the shekel is about 5000 years old, the penny, dinar, dirham and drachma all came from the Roman Denarius, which was the standard day's pay for a labourer for centuries, until the Middle Ages.

The current Pound/Penny system was reinvigorated by Charles the Great of France (Charlemagne) He kept the penny as the standard, but it was now 1/240 of a pound and that pound was a pound of silver. This eventually spread over all of Europe and lasted in the UK until 1972. This is also why GBP is expressed as Pounds Stirling. Stirling silver has one of the highest silver contents of any of the silver alloys approved to be called silver in jewellery and so on.

It is a long time since money has really been backed by a physical commodity. The Shekel was originally backed by grain, Gold and silver were tried at various times, but none of them really made it. Paper money took off in the American colonies, as IOU's promising to pay the bearer, when coins were scarce. Now, we pay using our plastic cards, or even contactless via our smartphones. They are trying to give currency real value with bitcoins, but will that work? The energy used to create the coins cannot be realised and it is definitely not ecologically sound.

Altogether the history of money is still ongoing and we do not know where it will go next. One thing I can predict is that we will not be going back to the grain-shekel any time soon.

Trine Hevezi

Royal International Air Tattoo – 15th to 17th July

If you enjoy airplanes, why not consider attending The Royal International Air Tattoo this month? It is the world's largest military air show, held each year over the third weekend in July, usually at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. The show usually attracts between 150,000 to 160,000 spectators over the weekend, and it is run in support of The Royal Air Force Charitable Trust.



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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. The following will be our practice for the immediate future:

- Wearing a mask will now be optional. Masks and hand gel will still be made available.
- All pews may now be used and the one-way system discontinued
- At the peace, non-contact greeting is still respected.
- At Holy Communion small individual cups are used for the wine. The clergy and Communion Assistants will continue to wear masks and gloves for the distribution.

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 July:

Sunday 3rd – 3 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 10th – 4 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Service, Parish Primary Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 17th – 5 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs and their end of term breakfast

Sunday 24th – 6 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion
Sunday 31st – 7 Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Family Communion

Services for August:

Sunday 7th 8 Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Family Communion Sunday 14th – 9 Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Family Communion Sunday 21st – Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Family Communion Sunday 28th – 11 Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Family Communion

Churchyard Summer Work Parties



You will be welcome to join us as we work on the churchyard in July. There are a variety of tasks to achieve. Some of them about planting up and developing some areas. Some of them are about trimming growth that has happened. Some of them are tidying up and making us look neat and tidy. Both events will end with some refreshments and fellowship.

Below are some planned times and dates. If you are keen but cannot make these you are welcome to ask what is necessary and come at another time.

10am to 12 noon Saturday 9 July 10am to 12 noon Saturday 23 July

A few suggestions:

- Please bring tools such as secateurs, shears, hand forks and trowels.
- Do dress with stout shoes and gardening gloves.
- If you work outside of the supervised time please do not do so alone. It is always good to have a buddy in case an injury happens of there is a person in the grounds who is of concern.

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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