

St Mary's Church, Bromley

Parish Magazine

March 2023

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG

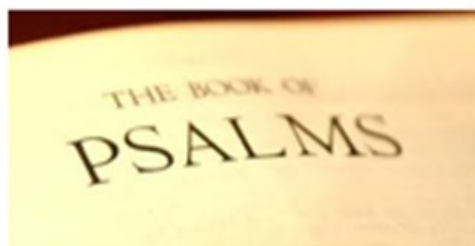


www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p

Opening up the Psalms

A Lent Course at St. Mary's Church Bromley



Lent is a time to deepen our faith in preparation for Easter. This year there will be an opportunity to use and reflect on the Book of Psalms. There will be five Thursdays in Lent beginning on 2nd March. There will be a morning and an evening session. Each will cover the same ground. Two sessions will give a greater opportunity for people to attend. The scheme is as follows:

1. The fullness of life
2. Praising God
3. Lamenting experience
4. Citizens of the Kingdom
5. People of worship

The sessions will be held in the Buchan Hall of Church House.

The morning session will be 10.30am - 11.30am.

The evening session will be 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

There are leaflets available in the church and on the website with full details.

also

Churches Together Lent Course

This will run on Tuesdays at 8pm from 28th February to 4th April inclusive at St Peter & St Paul's Church. The course is entitled 'Teach Us To Pray' and the sessions will be based on the Lord's Prayer.



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*Warwick Hall - £40.00 per hour
Buchan Hall - £28.00 per hour
Front Room - £17.00 per hour*



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Welcome to the March 2023 edition of the Parish Magazine.

The whole of the month of March is part of lent so hopefully when you read this you are some way through a period of giving up something for Lent or perhaps mor e exciting – doing something different for Lent rather than giving up chocolate or alcohol.

Sunday the 19 March is Mother's day or more correctly Mothering Sunday so do not forget to do something special for Mum or if Mum is no longer with you perhaps think of something special about her for this Particular Sunday something that makes you smile and was special to her.

You have the rest of the month to think about whether you could spare time to help at St Mary's as Churchwarden, PCC member , member of the Deanery Synod etc all roles available for election at the APCM in April. If you do not fancy having an official job why not volunteer for something else such as helping at the Grace Cafe, flower arranging , or even contributing to the Parish magazine ?

All contributions including photographs welcome.

Jo Clark

If you wish to make payment for the magazine online the bank details are:

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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.

Wishing you a successful Lent



Like many people I organise my life with To Do Lists. My mind fills up with many activities I have to do. I find it useful to write these down rather than try and remember them all at once. I then work my way through them, crossing off the tasks as they are completed. There can be a lot of satisfaction in keeping track of what needs to happen and being pleased when they are achieved.

At the end of a day or week I can look back through my To Do Lists and see a gratifying number of activities crossed through. It can be a very visual sign of what might be successes. So is that what I'm trying to achieve, being a success?

There is an old saying that 'nothing succeeds like success'. The idea is that our experiences build on themselves so life just gets better and better. I'm actually rather wary of this not least because we live in an age of twenty four hour news. There is a constant stream of reports about what is happening around us. It is sad to say a lot of this is about failure, tragedy and sadness. The idea of inexorable success looks like something of a mirage. Fortunately, the events of my life haven't ended up with this sort of reporting! But it is nevertheless sobering.

This month of March is within the season of Lent which might seem a strange sort of observance. We are persuaded that life is about success and enjoyment. Lent is about the shadow side of life where things do not work, This is where we get it wrong and there can be suffering. When these features are part of our life it can be hard to talk about them; we might find people do not want to listen. But having a season to express the difficulties we find can be very healing.

I can remember someone giving another point of view about success. They said 'nothing fails like success and nothing succeeds like failure'.

The idea is that success is something of a mirage. We forget the many contributions that make something happen. It isn't just down to ourselves. We don't want to think some of it is just luck. The feeling of success can emboldens us to take risks. We might persuade ourselves that life is just going to be okay and we are full of false confidence.

In terms of our economy, this works out in cycles of boom and bust. A particular market might begin to take off, prices rise, too many people get involved and it all falls apart. But it isn't a complete disaster the success has led to failure. The bust wakes us up and we think hard about what has truly been going on. It is the experience of failure that sobers us up and leads to more cautionary activity and a hopefully more lasting type of success.

In all sorts of ways life brings us challenges. They may lead to experiences of pain or shame. There are many ways in which we seek to ignore these. But they might not go away and they can continue to harm us and distort our engagement with life. The season of Lent is a call to examine ourselves. We can ask ourselves questions like 'are we doing wrong things?' This might sound very moralistic. It might even sound like we're supposed to berate ourselves. From time to time that might be the case! But self examination is more likely to open ourselves up to life. We become more healthy and become free of patterns and assumptions that have restricted our lives from flourishing.

We can have an image of what a successful life will look like. It can be about wealth, fame and gaining trophies. It sounds very self centred if not the wrong sort of pride. I've always liked the quotes of G.K. Chesterton. He said 'there is a great person who makes other people feel small. But the real great person is the one who makes everyone else feel great.'

There can be a searching for success which is more about the anxiety of a person and their feeling of little worth. It is this very experience that God wishes to deal with. God seeks to give us true value. This is something that is not our achievement or a possession. We are assured within ourselves that we are loved and that it has come to us as a gift. Growing in this is the stuff of Lent.

Best wishes

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

Unimaginable



As I finished writing this month's piece I caught the late news which said that over 37,000 people were now known to have died in the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and the numbers were expected to keep on rising – each one of them, child, woman or man made in God's image, infinitely loved and precious.

So far the Disasters Emergency Committee has raised over £65 million from public donations, and this too is expected to keep rising, despite a worldwide decline in humanitarian giving.

It is an unimaginable scene of devastation and destruction on every side on the TV news, with cities reduced to matchsticks and to rubble. People already displaced, distressed and believing themselves abandoned by 13 years of civil war in Syria have now run out of language to even begin to describe their misery. They have a brief and shocking return to notoriety, but not for very long, only until the next disaster. They are stunned and shocked, homeless, hungry and very cold.

These are all images familiar from history, of war and natural disaster as an almost inevitable prelude to disease, and we have to confront again the awfulness of human behaviour and the unpredictability of life on a faultline in the earth's surface, and to consider again our own possible responses. It's not enough to blame God or each other. It is a reminder, if we needed one of John Donne's observation that "any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for you"

Choosing to build safely and to plan carefully may reduce the possibility of earthquake deaths; avoiding fault lines altogether may not be possible, but taking care and being responsible in decision making would be a help. Keeping alive the memory of those who have died might just help focus minds and efforts to improve what is rebuilt, and how it is done.

Such horrors can neither be ignored nor made 'better' by us as acting as individuals, but where we put our energies, our prayers and our resources collectively can make some difference in some situations. Working to prevent war, as peacemakers and reconcilers, even as the world becomes yet more warlike, seeking to influence policy makers, may reduce the chances of more individuals ending as doubly the victims of dreadful things, like the Syrian refugees from war, now also earthquake victims.

Recognising others as our brothers and sisters made in God's image might stimulate us to encourage each other to take more care, to build more sustainably, to give more generously of time talents and money. We who are still warm and well fed can assume nothing; it may not last, one day it might be us, or our children, in need of help and in danger from disaster. Generous donations towards reconstruction may reduce the increases in those who die of cold or hunger.

We can, as well, always give thanks for our lives and for our own good fortune. We can grieve with our brothers and sisters in their losses and help them as they try to rebuild. We can learn how to live simply and take joy in having just enough to share, and we can learn to take pleasure in every day and in every good gift, for life is always short and often unexpectedly precarious.

As we are moving towards Lent following in the footsteps of Jesus, we can take time to learn again from Jesus just how much God loves us, to learn from Jesus how to live the lives of love and service we are called to as he did. The recent catastrophe is yet another reminder of our connectedness across the world made possible by excellent communications networks.

Jesus offered himself, his whole life, he accepted suffering and shameful death, we know we have a risky calling to follow him. But it carries within it the possibility of redemption and of Resurrection life, and the promise that God's Kingdom is coming. I wish you joy in living and learning through Lent and beyond.

Alison Tyler

Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us. – *St David*

Planning ahead for 2023

This is a year crowded with possibilities for spiritual growth, social action and building up our communities, planning for the future and celebrating in the present.

So with all that in mind some of us have begun to think, and hope to plan for Easter and Holy Week, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday events ,and for a once in most of our lifetimes event, a Coronation.

Most celebrations are best when they come into being in the context of a meal. Holy Communion is classic, just like any meal its essential for well being and can be both basic and brief, capturing just the essence of the celebration, or enriched with music, and flowers and colours, an overflowing celebration.

So for Maundy Thursday the context is a meal starting in Church House, on Good Friday we spend time at the Cross and after it we share hot cross buns. Then, for Easter Sunday we are thinking of planning beautiful flowers, a continental breakfast with fruit juice and coffee before the service, a wonderful service with music, and finishing with drinks and nibbles after the service.

The Coronation of King Charles III



This will be is on 6th May so on the 7th we are hoping for canapes and fizz, after Holy Communion, followed by a lunch in Church House of Coronation Chicken (what else), salads and a dessert.

Pleased do offer to help

To bring any or all of these events into being volunteers and donations are needed. Please Contact Alan, Alison, Anne or Trine with offers and ideas.

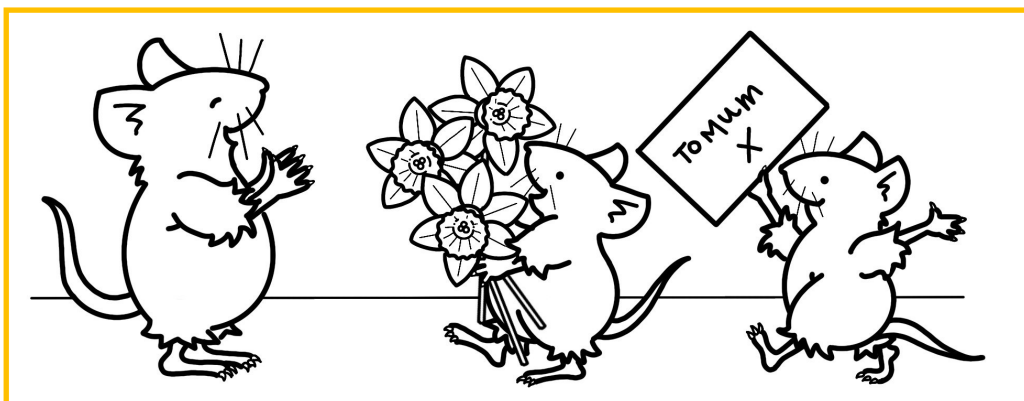
Let's make 19th March a Mothering Sunday

On 19th March most churches will celebrate their 'mothers'. Millions will be spent on Mother's Day gifts and cards, and children will give flowers to women in church. It's a joy to honour mothers for their love and caring, but our blessings are lessened when we forget the Day's original purpose.

The Mother's Day we know today began on 12th May, 1907, in America, when a woman called Anna Jarvis held a service in her late mother's church to honour her work of organising women's groups to promote friendship and health. The idea spread, and in 1914 Mother's Day was declared an official celebration.

But the European Mothering Sunday goes back to the 16th century, and was altogether more faith-based. On the fourth Sunday of Lent people went 'a-mothering', going to their 'mother' church, the main church in the region, for a special service. In those days domestic servants rarely had free days, but they were given a day off during Lent, so they could go along with their mothers and families. Times changed, and by the 1900s Mothering Sunday had largely changed into Mother's Day – a celebration of mothers more than mother churches.

Many Scriptures describe the mothering qualities of God, for example Isaiah 66:13 – 'As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.' We also see it in women without children. I remember a spinster head teacher in a poor district in Wales mothering and bringing the best out of 'her' children. We see it in our housing and care homes, in older women who have never been mothers as well as those who have, as they comfort a carer who has had a miscarriage, or who needs encouragement. We see it in pastors, and in men who nurture others. Let's thank God for His gift of 'mothering', wherever we find it.



I have just heard of the passing of Jean Dodds at the age of 90+. Jean (and Denis) have been regular supporters of St Mary's for many years. A couple of years ago Jean wanted to record her life story, and over several months she contributed to the Parish Magazine. I'm sure some of you will contribute your memories of Jean to the next Parish Magazine. However In memory of Jean we are reprinting the first of those articles telling us about growing up during World war II.

Jo Clark

Jean Dodds-Growing up as a child in World War II

The Battle of Britain started in September 1940. This was followed by the Blitz (shortened from the German Blitzkrieg meaning lightning war) so it was continuous air raids for 8 months.



The heavy bombing raids were targeted on all major cities, towns, industrial areas, ports and railway networks. This was intended to 'bomb the country into submission'. 43,000 civilians were killed and 139,000 civilians were injured.

Local hospitals were crowded with the injured. A solution to this was to reduce the number of maternity beds for normal deliveries but keep open beds for obstetric problems and emergencies. This would free up some beds for the injured.

My mother was expecting her fourth child in March 1941. I was at home when the District Midwife called to register the details for a home delivery. She became very bossy when she said "I am not delivering a baby in the shelter with 3 children looking on" She went on to explain that a downstairs room had to be made as safe as possible for a home birth.

My Father and Grandfather moved all the dining room furniture upstairs. The empty room was reinforced with huge wooden beams propping up the ceiling and sand bags covered all the windows.

The 'new room' contained a double bed, a cradle and a 3 tier bunk bed. The latter did not have mattresses but just a hessian sling. I wanted the top bunk Colin had the middle and Brian the bottom bunk. Space was very limited we had to be careful when walking in the room to avoid the beams.

When we had slept upstairs our Mother would play the piano and sing after we were in bed. It was her relaxation time. Colin and I would creep, out to the landing and listen. When she started to sing Ava Maria we knew what would happen next. "Time to go to bed children". After the bedroom was moved downstairs she did not sing or play the piano very often so everything started to change.

On 22nd March at 4 am our Father woke Colin and me and told us to dress and go into the sitting room because the baby was coming. It was cold as there was no fire. We sat at either end of the sofa but did not talk. We listened to our Mother repeating "oh my back". Later Colin noticed the Midwife was at the front door carrying a black Gladstone bag. With great authority Colin announced that the baby was in that black bag! Sex education was not part of the school curriculum or spoken about at home. I could not understand why the midwife did not open the bag as we could still hear her complaining about her back. Eventually we heard a baby crying. She was named Heather.

A 'Home Help' came every day to cook, clean and wash for the family. On April 6th we celebrated our Father's 33rd and Brian's' 3rd birthday. It was very low key. I gave my Father a white linen handkerchief with the letter 'J' in the corner. It cost 6 pence=approx 2.5p which was my weekly pocket money.

On the penultimate weekend of the heavy bombing of London and suburbs our Father went on duty as Warden in the ARP post. I can remember the noise level of the bombs and gunfire were horrendous. That was the Saturday night our house received a direct hit from a bomb.

Eight days later I started to regain consciousness listening to the Staff Nurse telling me that all the family had died. I did not cry-I think I was too weak but I pictured my family getting into a car without me, then driving up to heaven. Much later I learnt that I had benefitted from another child's experience 6 months prior to my admission. The child's Father had implored the hospital staff not to tell his daughter that her Mother and brother had died.

The Father told his daughter that they had been taken to another hospital and lied about their welfare. Before she was discharged the Father asked the Ward Sister to tell the child the truth. She then had a screaming fit that went on for a long time.

About a year later I found out that our Father had disobeyed the rule of remaining in the shelter whilst the raid was in progress he went to check on the family. He was walking towards the front door when the bomb dropped hence he was dismembered. My mother and Heather were dug out of the debris 36 hours later. Colin had a broken leg which was not considered a priority so was taken to a friend's house and died probably from shock on a sofa. Brian was put to bed in the ARP shelter where he was well known as the beautiful baby boy with blonde curly hair. Later that night the wardens noticed that his breathing had changed and was diagnosed in hospital later that he had crushing injuries from which he died.

The Wardens had informed my paternal grandparents of the night's events. As no one in the family had a telephone my Grandfather and maiden aunt set off on the Sunday to inform key family members who would inform other members. My great Uncle Charlie was an elder of a Pentecostal church in Plumstead. He arranged a night vigil for me with members of the Church. The next morning the participants went off to work most of them worked at Woolwich Arsenal. Uncle Charlie lived to the age of 99 years. At his funeral I met many of the congregation who had attended the vigil. They were delighted to see me.

Eventually I was moved from a cubicle to the adult female ward where I was the only child, placed next to the ward Sister's desk. Visiting times were restricted to Wednesday and Sunday 2- 4 pm and 6-8 pm.

I never saw anyone visit in the evenings. My only visitors were an Aunt and Uncle who did not have any children but were also my Godparents.

The Blitz finished at the end of April 1941 when the Nazi regime decided to turn their attention to invade Russia. We still had bombing raids but they were infrequent and not so intense.

I was diagnosed with multiple injuries but the most serious was to the cranium. My recovery was slow. My Aunt and Uncle told me later that they were called to the hospital to discuss my future.

The case conference members consisted of the Consultant surgeon who I cannot remember ever meeting, Mr Clarke the Surgical registrar, Ward Sister, Staff Nurse and Lady Almoner. The Consultant stated “nothing will come of this child so she must go to an Orphanage or Children’s Home “ My Saviour Mr Clarke intervened and was reported as saying “ Give her a chance. Let her go home with these good people (Aunt and Uncle) and watch what happens.”

Mr Clarke was on duty the night of the 19th April. When he had finished surgery at 3am the following morning he walked the corridors to assess if he could help any of the injured on trolleys. He found me with head injuries and decided he would operate. He took a great interest in me trying to visit every day on the ward. It was so good to see his smiling face as he squeezed my hand, he did not talk as he knew I could not reply.

Late that summer as I was making good progress my bed was moved to a balcony where I had lovely views and could watch the squirrels. One Sunday I had an unexpected visitor, Uncle Stan my Father’s only brother, who was on embarkation leave. He brought me a Royal Engineers hat badge for being a brave girl.

When it was time to leave the hospital my Aunt who was an excellent needle woman brought me all new clothes which of course she had made. So I went off in a blue suit with white and blue spot blouse, new shoes etc. As I was leaving the ward the Sister said “Be good otherwise these nice people will not keep you. “I am sure she meant it kindly but those words stayed with me.

The hospital is at the top of a fairly steep hill. I had only been in a car once before to attend a wedding. The taxi that was taking me to new home was hurtling down the hill. Having been in bed for so long I was terrified and wanted to scream but remembering the Sister’s last words to me I realised that I had to keep quiet. So I started a new and different life in Barnhurst. I was given an Orphans allowance of 10 shillings per week until the age of 14 years which was the school leaving age. This was paid to my Aunt and Uncle. Another change was that I had to relinquish my identity card which related to my position in my family ending with the number 4. My new number 444519 followed 4 letters. I did wonder if that was the number of orphans to date.

Jean Dodds

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

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I have heard
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St Peter and St Paul

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LUTHER THE MUSICIAN



When we think of Luther we first remember him as that unruly monk nailing his declaration to the church door in Wittenberg. But, there is a lot more to him than just a rebellious nature.

Luther a middle class son of educated parents, Hans and Margrether Luder (He later changed the spelling to Luther – possibly to reflect the northern pronunciation of ‘D’ which is still spoken as ‘th’ in Scandinavia) and he

himself was very well educated. As a child, he went to the German equivalent of grammar school, where he studied Latin, Rhetoric and Logic. After that, he went to university to study Law. It was only after studying law that he changed course and entered a monastery, going on to go back to university to get degrees in Theology and also to teach it. Luther also sang well, composed music and played the lute and flute. In fact, when younger, he was expected to go out on the streets and sing for his supper.

Before Luther most of the music was polyphonic. The upper male voice, the tenor, held the main tune and the text, while the other parts sang different tunes interweaving with the tenors, often with different words, possibly in different languages, or superimposing different parts of the mass, to speed it up. Incidentally, that is where the word tenor comes from. The tenors held (tenare in Latin) the tune. This type of singing, was obviously complicated and highly skilled and so restricted to the professionals. There were bits where the congregation could join in, like the Agnus Dei, but the choir were the principal singers.

Even before Luther, Erasmus had complained that the people were three times removed from worship –

By the Latin

By the complicated music

By not being able to participate.

The other thing, which Erasmus took for granted, is that it was men only.

Luther changed all this.

Although he allowed churches to format services as they saw fit, including the use of Latin if they wanted, he also believed that music was a gift of God and should have a prominent part in every service and that this should be in the common language, to be understood by all. Singing was a tool to propagate the word of God and therefore, should be understood by all. In fact, he thought that music was such a vital part of teaching and worship that he thought that every priest should be a competent musician in order to be ordained.

Luther was the instigator of congregational hymn singing as an integral part of Church services. He believed that 'next to the Word of God, Music deserves the highest praise' and that it was a necessary part of worship, generating an emotional response and allowing the whole congregation to participate in worship. He adopted the new style, four part harmony, with the tune in the top line. This allowed all the congregation, including children and women, to sing along. He still had some pieces where the tenors held the tune, but that was less common. This use of chords and harmony was considered frivolous and lower class at the time, so using it for Church services was quite revolutionary.

Trine Hervezi

Definitions from church life

- AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.
- PEWSHEET: Your receipt for attending Mattins.
- HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.
- RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Sunday morning worship, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.
- JONAH: The original 'Jaws' story
- PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.
- PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of a formal Sung Eucharist, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.
- SIDESMEN: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew



Prayer

Lord,
God of visionaries and believers
of dreamers and fools,
God of longshots and surprises,
We dream a different world,
your Kingdom come, a new Creation
where dirty hands are washed and clean,
where feet are washed and washed again,
and broken hearts mended.
A surprising world coming into being,
where hope, once withered, now blossoms,
where wayward paths converge
and wrong turnings can be reversed.

God of forgiven and forsaken
We dream a better world,
where tears of sorrow and regret are wiped away,
where the deepest fears are calmed,
aching bodies soothed and held,
the thirsting souls and lips are bathed and quenched.

God of faithful and hopeful
We dream a new world,
this world made new,
Resurrection life freely given
flesh restored, sins forgiven
justice and peace the new order
reconciliation the first choice
this stone once rejected now the start of something.... Amen

(Inspired by Stephen Cottrell 2011)



MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS

Mothers' Day is on 19th March this year, so there should be plenty of daffodils to go round!

Members of St Mary's branch of Mothers' Union will again be producing posies (on Saturday 18th) to be distributed at the Mothering Sunday service the following day. They are also supporting the "Make a Mother's Day 2023" appeal. This raises money for the global



community and important MU projects around the world. In 2023 the Gift of Perseverance is being emphasised, with funds going to help women with their "Money Matters", with "Rebuilding lives in prison", to support "Women leading the way", encouraging "Flourishing families", "Dealing with disaster" and providing "Safe spaces". A gift of £8 to £48 can purchase one of these items, and coffee mornings, bring and buys, and other fund raisers are being planned to do just that. By choosing one of these gifts, we can make the difference between a young person missing out on school or creating their new life at university. We could give a mother much-needed relief from hardship and poverty, and help her on a new path to grow and flourish with confidence.



Meanwhile, our Knit and Natter group continues to provide much-needed articles, especially blankets and small garments, for "Knit for Peace" (in contact with refugee camps in the Middle East) and for local hospitals. We usually meet to knit on the third Thursday of the month.

We were again pleased to welcome our vicar, Rev. Alan Keeler, to speak at our Annual Review meeting in February. Our Lent Meeting is on Thursday 9th March, when Rev. Elva Sullivan, who leads the church that meets in St Mary's Church Hall each week, will address members.

Mothers' Union meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Front Room of Church House. They usually begin with prayer at 10.00 a.m., coffee having been available before the meeting – and sometimes biscuits as well! Everyone is welcome to attend meetings.

Peter Fall

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 is brewing

This year Fairtrade Fortnight falls between the 27 February and 12 March 2023. During this period especially we are asked to consider how we can support Fairtrade and it could be as simple as making a cup of tea or coffee, by consciously choosing a Fairtrade endorsed brand. St Mary's are registered as a Fairtrade church and part of this pledge is to ensure that Fairtrade products are used wherever possible for church refreshments, Grace Café and other events. We also raise awareness of Fairtrade throughout the year by promoting the sale of Easter Eggs and Advent Calendars.



Tea is the most popular drink in the world after water – an estimated 70,000 cups are drunk every second. Yet tea farmers and workers struggle to get a fair deal. Not all tea is created equal. Behind your brew, real people face low wages, discrimination and the hard choices living in poverty can bring. Whether farmers working their own land, or workers on big estates, the people who grow and pick our tea often do not earn enough to even feed their families. But when you buy Fairtrade tea, farmers and workers can bring greater security, equality and opportunity to the lives of their families and communities – and that is just for starters. Through Fairtrade, they can improve their working conditions and learn how to improve the way they farm and manage their environment. They can make sure their children are fed and can go to school. Communities can invest in clean water and clinics, improving everyone's health. So, however you make your cuppa, make sure it is Fairtrade.

Coffee is one of the world's most popular beverages and 80% of it is produced by 25 million smallholders. When you choose Fairtrade coffee, not only can farmers build a better quality of life for their families and communities, they can invest in growing better quality beans too. Fairtrade coffee farmers invest at least 25 percent of their Fairtrade Premium in improving productivity and quality. Choose Fairtrade coffee and you are also supporting farmers to fight the challenges they may face. These include the effects of a changing climate, low and unpredictable incomes and in some coffee growing communities, there may not be enough food available for three to four months a year. .



Being part of Fairtrade has meant better knowledge about protecting the local environment and the chance to plant other crops and buy livestock to put more food on the table. So, next time we reach for the kettle to make a brew, let us spare a thought for those producers who work so hard under extreme conditions so we can enjoy our tea, coffee and other commodities. Please think about how, as consumers, we can support them by making some small, but effective and positive, changes to our shopping habits and by looking out for the Fairtrade mark on packaging you will be helping to make a difference. Further information on the extensive range of Fairtrade tea and coffee brands at www.fairtrade.org.uk

Anne Yolland

Share the Easter story – with an Egg

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions. So, buy a 2023 edition Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

Where to buy

The 2023 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarkets and Traidcraft has recently gone into Administration. Order through Fairtrade rep at St Mary's, Anne Yolland.

About the Real Easter Egg

The Original and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition.



Foster for Bromley and help a child smile again...

Please join us for one of our regular fostering information sessions to find out some more about fostering for Bromley and to meet our friendly fostering team.

The session will start with a presentation on what fostering for Bromley is all about and what we will offer you in return and then you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

These sessions are run virtually on Microsoft Teams. Please contact us for joining instructions.

- * **Event organiser:** Bromley Council
- * **Telephone:** 020 8461 7701
- * **Email:** fostering@bromley.gov.uk

Date: 14th March 2023.

Location: *Virtual*

Cost: Free

Time: 18:00 - 19:30



Bromley trading standards

If you or somebody you know is affected by rogue traders or a scam get the advice, support and assistance you need by calling **07903 852090**.

To keep up with the latest scam alerts and warnings from Bromley Trading Standards sign up on www.bromley.gov.uk/ScamAlertSignUpForm.

Bromley Trading Standards also run a fair-trader directory to help you find a safe, reliable trader that you can trust, visit www.bromley.gov.uk/tradingstandardschecked to learn more.

CHOIR NOTES AND MUSIC

March falls entirely in the season of Lent, and the choice of choir anthems during the month reflects its sombre mood. You might think that it is a relief for singers to have slow reflective music to perform rather than more rhythmically complex, faster-paced pieces, with words tumbling over each other. The truth is that breath control and tone quality are much harder to achieve with slow music than in lively items. However, as usual, the church choir will do its best to provide an appropriate soundscape for the season, with reflective music by Mozart, Attwood, Ouseley and Stainer. There are also two settings of “O Saviour of the world”, one by John Goss, who was active when St Mary’s was being built in the nineteenth century, and the other by Arthur Somervell, who was born in the year that St Mary’s first opened its doors, in 1863.

The choir continues to be extremely grateful to Sheila for her patient and professional accompanying of choir rehearsals, and to the organists who come and play on Sundays. From each of them members of the choir have learned more about ensemble singing, timing and word production. The organists have also been perceptive, but kind, in their comments about the ensemble of the choir. Whether this is apparent during services is for you to determine, but comments about our choice of choral repertoire and its interpretation are always welcomed. We believe that we can still improve our contribution to St Mary’s worship and Ben James has kindly agreed to help with this aim. We are so fortunate to have musical people outside the choir (and within it) who can help us to achieve this objective.



Looking ahead, the choir is hoping to have a look at some music composed to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles. There may be more about this later in the year.

Peter Fall

A view from the pew



If you are reading this article on a Thursday, “Snap!”

It is a Thursday as I write. A good day, Thursday. Not just this week, but every week. For someone like me who has lost their main daily structure by retiring from work, alternative fixed points are required to keep the sagging hours from falling apart and depositing me into an eternal round of “What day is it?” “Should I be somewhere today?”. Thursday is a good day, because the dustmen come to remove the rubbish –though even here there is a problem. No two Thursdays are the same. This week it is food waste and tins/bottles. Next week it may be unsortable rubbish and food waste. The following week, who know? And when does the garden waste get collected? I know there is a chart to consult, but that has morphed into a scrap pad by/near the phone. Or it had. Where it might be now is anyone’s guess. And don’t even mention refuse collections during Bank Holiday weeks....

Mothers’ Union does its best to help, by always appearing on a Thursday. Monthly meetings and interpolated Knit and Natter sessions fix the day securely in the week. And finally, if all else fails to convince me where I am on the calendar, Choir Practice manifests on Thursday evening, appearing like a Flying Dutchman emerging from the sea fret. Though without the Wagnerian overtones!

All in all, I am pretty satisfied with Thursday. It generally provides regular activities, things to look forward to, people to meet, music and laughter, learning and muddling. I don’t want to play down the importance of other days of the week, but Thursday is my week’s signpost. And a direction indicator is very necessary, because, as the old rhyme says:

“Thursday’s child has far to go!”

I am on my way!

Peter Fall

The King's Speech – support for JusB

JusB Youth Charity are pleased to announce the Charity Preview of 'The King's Speech' at Bromley Little Theatre on Thursday 9th March at 7.45 pm. This brilliant stage adaptation by David Seidler has been developed from the Oscar winning film in 2011 with Colin Firth. Early bird tickets are £10 until 22nd February and then £12. All ticket sales will support the work of JusB. To book tickets please contact Anne Yolland, email anne@jusb.co.uk or phone the JusB office 020 8464 2722.



Save the Date – National Day of Reflection & Great Daffodil Appeal 2023

For the third year running, Marie Curie will lead the National Day of Reflection on Thursday 23rd March.

It is a day for everyone to remember loved ones who have died, and to support people who are grieving. There will be a minute's silence at noon, a nationwide network of Walls of Reflection, and a series of grief-themed online events.

Taking place on the third anniversary that the UK went into lockdown, the National Day of Reflection raises awareness of the impact of grief on our lives and of the need for better support. Millions of people across the UK – adults as well as children – are grieving now and need support, whether in the workplace, at home, in schools or across communities.

The National Day of Reflection also ties in with the charity's flagship annual fundraising appeal in March – the Great Daffodil Appeal – with people donating and wearing one of their iconic daffodil pin badges. Every year thousands of supporters from across the UK come together to raise money to support the charity's nurses, doctors, and hospice staff so they can continue to provide expert care to people at end of life, and their families.

More details at: www.mariecurie.org.uk/dayofreflection

The 'Nones'

Do you know any? 'Nones' are people who, when asked what religion they belong to, say 'None'. At the last Census in 2021, just over 50% of adults in England and Wales said they were 'Nones'.

Not all are atheists. More detailed delving by the research organisation Theos, revealed that 16% of Nones believe in reincarnation, 14% in the healing power of crystals and 14% in the supernatural power of ancestors. The author G K Chesterton (1874-1936) wrote, "When people choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything." He had himself dabbled in the occult and a variety of alternatives, before becoming a committed Roman Catholic.

Recent research by historian Tom Holland convinced him that, "to live in a western country is to live in a society still utterly saturated by Christian concepts and assumptions." You'll find all this in his book, *"Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World"*.

Even the Guardian's resident atheist admits, "I feel culturally Christian, so deeply imbued with its myths, paintings, hymns and parables". Many others who also claim atheism, often turn out to be less certain than her, and are actually agnostic, meaning 'don't know'.

Many of us seem to have lost touch with our roots and contented to live our lives on the surface without asking questions, until we have to.

Actor Amanda Abbington and stuntman Jonathan Goodwin tell of how their love for each other deepened after an accident left him paralysed from the waist down. He says, "I've always been a very cynical person but since meeting Amanda I've shifted my opinion about the power of the universe. I just had this really powerful feeling that we were supposed to be together."

Does that mean 'none', or something more?



An Easy Quiz for Lent (and partly for Holy Week)



1. What is the original meaning of the word 'Lent'?
2. What is the Liturgical colour for Lent (and Advent)?
3. Can Mothering Sunday ever be in February—and by how many days (plus or minus) clearance?
4. What is 'Refreshment Sunday' and when is it?
5. Name the Sunday between Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday.
6. What can one NOT celebrate in (amongst others) Holy Week, Easter Week and on any Sunday in the Easter season?
7. In which century was Phineas Fletcher, the author of the hymn 'Drop, drop, slow tears' born?
8. The hymn 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence' is from the Liturgy of which Saint?

Barbera Buckingham

Answers on page 32

British Summer Time

Sun, Mar 26, 2023 1:00 AM





Wordsearch



Leeks
Daffodils
Spring
Patrick
Day

Mum
Mother
Angel
Ireland
Wales

Sunday
Lunch
Pregnancy
preparation
prayer

parades
Mary
Magnificat
Fasting
Lent

See page 32 for answers.

WHATS ON IN OUR HALLS

Monday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
3.45pm—6.45pm	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
4.15pm—6.45pm	Ballet Belles	Warwick Hall

Wednesday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick 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—6.00pm	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

Wordsearch Answers



Quiz Answers

1. It means 'lengthen' and refers to the lengthening of daylight hours. In old English the word was –and spelt– LENGTEN.
2. Purple.
3. No. 0 days. The earliest date it can be is 1 March.
4. The day when Lenten observations can be relaxed (just for the day) and is on Mothering Sunday.
5. Passion Sunday.
6. A Saint's Day.
7. 16th.
8. St. James.

Become a litter picker – and earn money

Litter pickers will be able to make about 20p per can or bottle from a new deposit scheme in England and Wales, according to an environment minister.

From 2025, bottles and cans will include a deposit, likely to be 20p, that can be reclaimed when containers are returned to reverse vending machines at designated sites, according to a recent government statement.

As one environment minister explained, “there will be an opportunity for people to go around collecting up litter and so forth, and taking it back, and receiving the deposit, which we think might benefit a range of charities and individuals.”

The scheme will include all polyethylene terephthalate plastic bottles and cans up to three litres in size, meaning households will have to take their rubbish to a recycling point instead of leaving them on the kerbside for collection.

Councils will be able to cash in on any bottles and cans left in the recycling by collecting the deposit. The exact amount of the deposit will be decided by a new quango that will run the scheme, which was first announced in 2017.

The scheme is expected to save local authorities around £35 million a year by reducing the amount of recycling they pick up. The UK uses 14 billion plastic drink bottles, and nine billion drink cans every year. The country already recycles around 70 per cent of these.



GO!

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, “That’s easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator.”

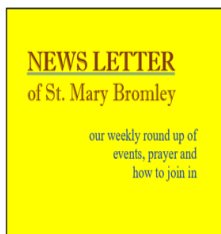
Grace Café



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.

The Church Boiler

The church boiler has been repaired with a number of spare parts and we are hoping that all will now be well. However even with the boiler working well on a cold winter day the church does not become very warm. We suggest wrapping up warmly when attending the church in the near future.



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

Holy Communion at St. Mary's

The worship of the church is in word and sacrament and seeks to express what Jesus says is to be in Spirit and in truth. The Holy Communion is a key aspect of this which finds its foundation in the Bible and is expressed in a variety of ways in the Church of England as it is both catholic and reformed. Like many churches, St. Mary's has developed its practice in response to the covid pandemic. The aim has been to hold onto our authentic expression of worship with precautions to prevent transmission of infection.

During this time the PCC has continually reflected on the advice that has been offered. It has also born in mind the infection rate in the community. The January PCC meeting discussed issues such as the use of small cups, not using the communion rail and using masks and gloves for the distribution. At our March PCC meeting we will reflect on the way forward. The PCC encourage members of the congregation to think about this and if they have any comments to make their thoughts know to Alan and the PCC.

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 are 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:

<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 March

Sunday 5th – 2 Sunday in Lent

10.30 am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 12th – 3 Sunday in Lent

10.30 am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 19th – 4 Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 26th – 5 Sunday in Lent

10.30 am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

St John's Lent Lecture

26 March 2023 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

The St John's Lent Lecture invites leading professionals in their field to address tough questions of how biblical theology responds to the challenges of life in the 21st century.

This year it is the distinguished physicist Russell Cowburn, who will be speaking on the topic

God and Science: One big question and six wrong answers. All welcome,

The St John's Lent
Lecture 2023
**God and
Science**
Russell Cowburn
Professor of Experimental Physics
University of Cambridge



St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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