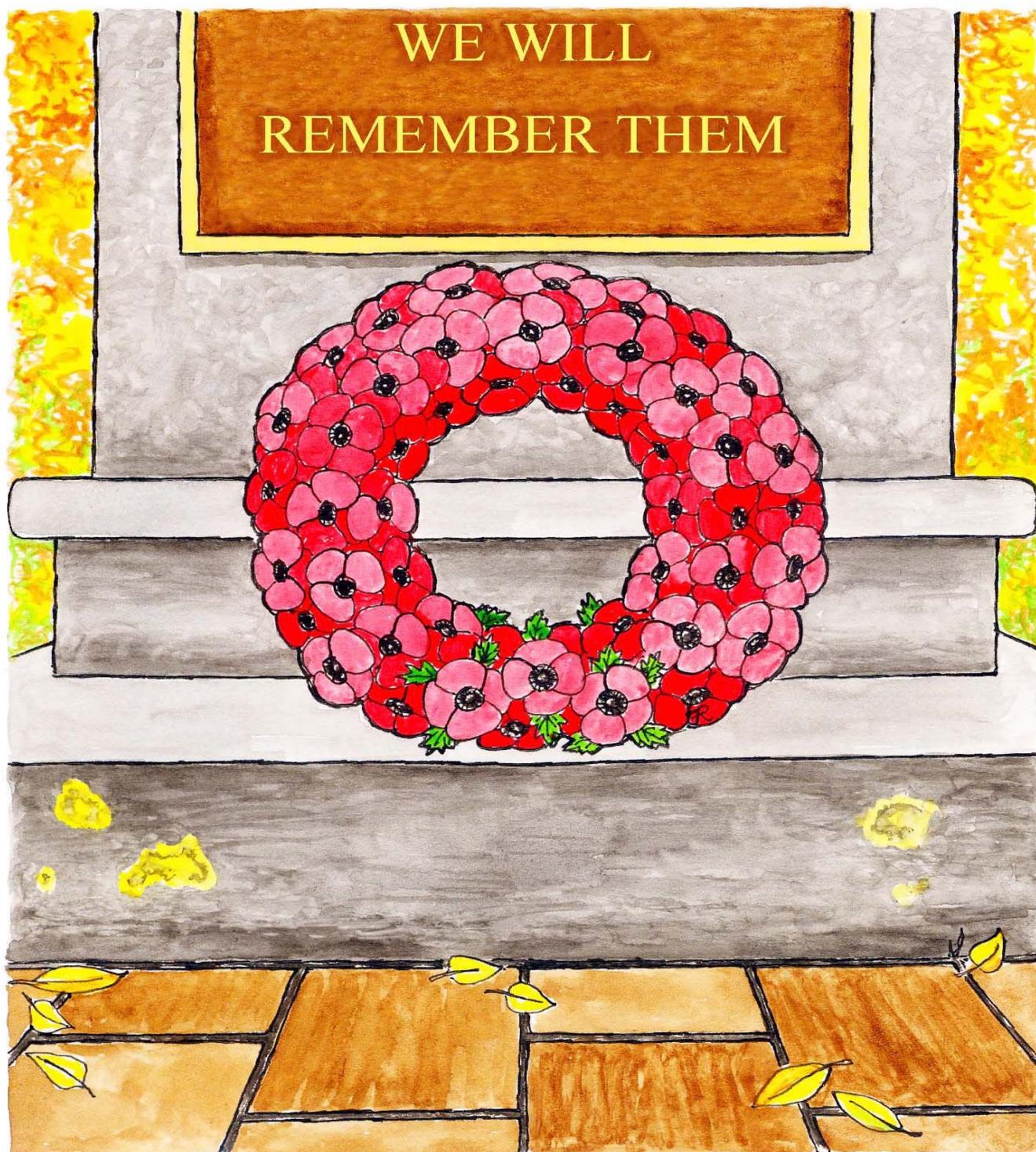


# *St Mary's Church, Bromley*

*Parish Magazine*

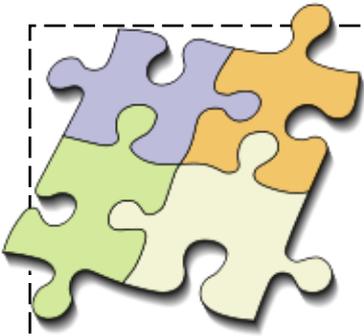
*November 2022*

*61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG*



[www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk)

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## Welcome to the November edition of the Parish Magazine.

It has been hard going to get contributions to the magazine for this month (this could really be said of most months) the next edition will be a double issue for Christmas and the New Year. Please let the next editor (Jill Atkinson) have your contributions for that copy by 12 November. NOW is the time to get in your notices of events for Christmas and the New Year.

Contributions for the Parish Magazine come from a small circle of people, a circle we (the editors) would like to see enlarged. If you have a story to tell about happenings in your life (see Northern Iraq), special holidays or perhaps you have attended a special service at Rochester or have read a book that is especially meaningful to you. - please share your experiences in the Parish Magazine.

Remember 12<sup>th</sup> November this will give the editor and Atlanta good time to get the Double edition out, printed and distributed well before the 1 December.

Jo Clark.

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Editor for December/January : Jill Atkinson

Copy date: 12th November 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.***

# A Season of Remembrance



The middle of Autumn is a time to remember. There are a variety of occasions to be reflective about people and there are events to focus our thoughts. It can be a time of very mixed feelings. But this makes it all the more important as we continue to give value to the past and live with confidence for the future.

I can remember as a child the structure that this gave the close of the year. I greatly enjoyed having fireworks in the back garden as we celebrated Guy Fawkes Night. The nights had become darker and I knew it would not be long to the joys of Christmas. There was also the approach of Remembrance Sunday and we would give money to obtain a poppy. This happened at school and the teachers were very keen that we did not consider we were buying the poppy but we were donating to those who were injured.

As the years passed my understanding deepened. I learnt that Guy Fawkes Night was about the deep religious struggles that took place in our country centuries ago; not just an excuse for a fireworks party. Remembrance Sunday was born out of the deep national trauma of so many young lives coming to an end in what was hoped to be 'The War End All Wars'.

But it is not just a child's understanding that deepens. As a society we continue to re-evaluate the past. The initial explanation may be far from the whole truth. As society itself changes it is necessary to remember in a new way.

Preparing for the Fifth of November could include having children make a human figure they would call Guy and ask people to give money for their fireworks. The Guy would then be burnt on a bonfire as part of the festivities. Fortunately, that grotesque ritual has been put to one side along with the underlying anti-Catholic sentiments. The focus is now on safe public firework displays as ends in themselves. No doubt there remain differences between peoples in our society. But these are not worn as badges of honour in the same public way.

Remembrance Sunday has evolved too. It has had first to incorporate the experience of the Second World War and then a series of other conflicts. Remembrance has continued to develop to express the sacrifice of people from other nations who supported Britain along with a strong voice from pacifists. The great symbol of the red poppy has been joined by black poppies expressing people of colour and white poppies that express peace.

These re-evaluations have unsettled many people as views about our nation are reconsidered. It is a serious question to ask whether our view of the past was the whole truth or a shorthand that was useful at the time. In addition if there are new issues to consider, whose interests are served in not addressing them? There can be a descent into hostility between positions characterised by misrepresentation and insult. It is harder work but examining evidence and listening to unfamiliar points of view is crucial.

These issues can be as true for us as individuals. We are formed by our personal history. There are deep experiences that have made us the people that we are. Some of these are the source of great joy and to be celebrated. Some others maybe more complicated and may need to be revisited and given a new understanding.

At the end of October we commemorated All Soul's where we remembered those dear to us who had died. Bereavement is a particular experience of loss which in all its forms is hard to bear. Unfulfilled ambitions, broken relationships and unemployment are hard things to endure. We can be baffled by the events and maybe feel anger towards those who have been the cause or guilt about how we fell short. Time will pass. We may not have found resolution and we continue to carry distress or an identity that is wounded in some way.

But the past can be revisited. This may happen with our own thoughts or a wise friend or a professional counsellor. The aim is to find fresh understanding and examine flawed thinking. We can find healing and be able to put aside the struggles we carry. Our guide is that of hope because new possibilities are truly possible.

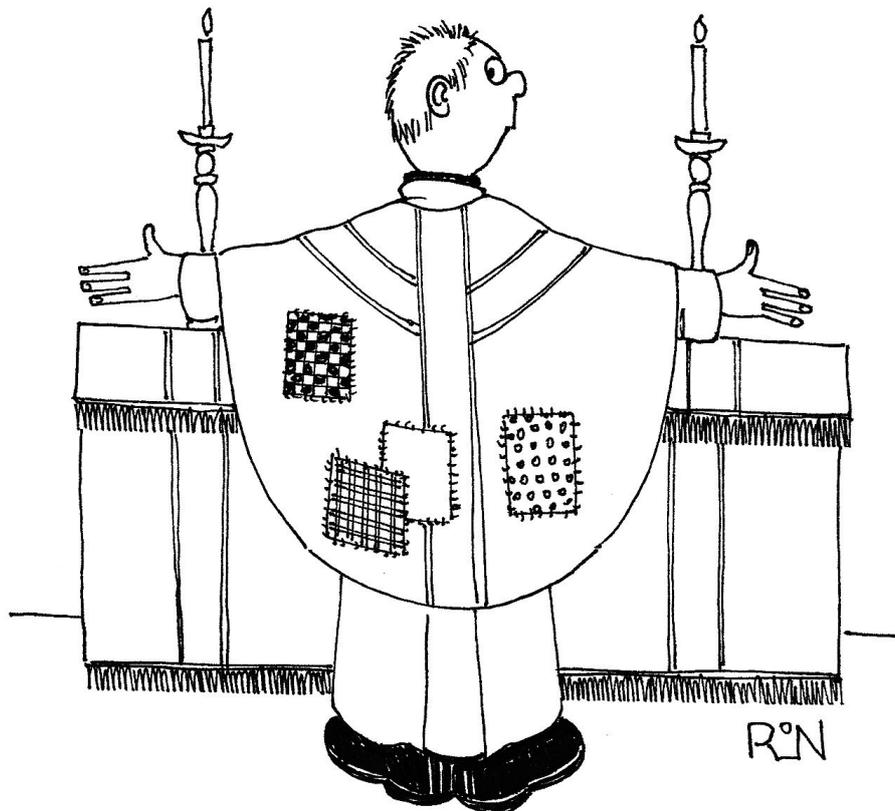
One of the foundations of our faith is the Bible. It presents itself as the recording of events and reflections on what they mean. It is the product of numerous authors which build upon their predecessor's work .

We understand it is divinely inspired but not literally dictated. Jesus could give immense value to scripture but could also say '...but I tell you'. He was both authentic and gave fresh inspiration.

Our faith is about healing and hope, for the world and for our own lives. There are ways we can get stuck and feel chained up. There will be fresh avenues to travel along but they will start here and now, require fresh understanding about how we got here and trust that God has plans and treasures in store.

Best wishes

Alan Keeler



*Trevor hated asking for money, but he  
sometimes made subtle hints*

## Generosity from St. Mary's

In recent months a number of opportunities to donate have been presented to the congregation. Time will pass and gathering the results may take time. Here are the results from a number of appeals

### August – East Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal

Christian Aid sent collection envelopes asking for donations to a region that is suffering from the consequences of the war in the Ukraine. St. Mary's has been able to send £212.00. The letter of thanks said this money would 'give lasting hope, stop this widespread hunger and help people build a life free from poverty and injustice.

### September – Something Special in September

On Saturday 10 there was Ride and Stride which resulted in £245, representing 50% of the amount raised. We also benefited from another £16 which had been put into the 'Murals' collection box. On Friday 16 there was the Rock Choir in aid of Bromley Welcare which raised about £1,400, a tremendous result. On Saturday 17 there was a delightful Cream Tea. The Murals Renovation Fund benefited from donations of £170 + Gift Aid.

### October – Harvest Festival

A collection of goods was received at our service on the 9 October. This was then added to by the Harvest Services that Parish Primary had in the church building on 13 October. The gifts were collected by the Bromley Borough Food Bank and amounted to 253.2 kg. It has to be said that the lion's share came from the school but that is quite a contribution to have been made.



**THANK YOU**

**St Mary's, Bromley**

**For donating 253.2 Kg of Food**

**To Bromley Borough Foodbank for our 2022 Harvest Festival**



# Moving on . . . . .



Thinking ahead from the copy date to the publication date requires a leap from Creation season to Remembrance, both remembering and moving on still further on our faith journey through the Church's year. At the same time we carry with us the links and the lessons of this year and every year, so both old and new, as we move on.

Recently I went to a talk by Thomas Vellacott, a Franciscan tertiary and CEO of the World Wildlife Fund in Switzerland, on the global crises the planet is facing, and I took from it two major issues from amongst the many that he covered.

Firstly, he dwelt at some length on the need to hold on to and build hope for our young people, to help them believe that it will be possible to build a sustainable future. They need to believe that peace can be made, and that both renewal and restoration are possible if we have the will, the faith and the desire to work together to bring them about. 'With God nothing is impossible,' the angel said to Mary. This is our God who spoke the Word of Creation and brought all things into being, the God who raised Jesus from the dead, who forgives and restores and brings new life.

"He brought light out of darkness, not out of a lesser light; He can bring your summer out of winter, though you have no spring", as the priest and poet John Donne said in his Christmas sermon in 1624. He was a man who knew both grief and anxiety. He goes on to add, ". . . all occasions invite his (God's) mercies, and all times are his (God's) seasons". When he speaks of times and seasons, he draws us into knowing and sharing alongside each other all of the hurt and pain that we know, both now and in our past.

During the covid pandemic the young have suffered greatly from so much that causes distress and anxiety. This ranges from the loss of their loved ones, the loss of opportunities, lack of social care and support, missing milestones and educational input to actual abuse and neglect.

They will carry the memories of loss and distress with them into their futures, just as the prisoners I used to work with carried all the impacts and memories of their losses throughout their lives. We all do, but they often had so much more to carry than many of the rest of us. Some of the work we did together was about learning to live with those losses and memories, to love and accept themselves regardless, and to try to build their futures differently. The young people in our communities need our support to come to know God, and God's love and grace, and they need us to join them in building a new future together.

We are moving towards the season of Remembrances: All Souls, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday, those who have died this year and during the pandemic, and all those who have died in war(s). All of them are loved and lost and missed by their friends and families; all those who have died in the pandemic will continue to be mourned and celebrated by their loved ones.

We will have the opportunity again to give thanks for God's great gift of life, to express our sorrow for all those lost lives and to ask God for strength and support. We all live with the spaces left in our lives by those who have gone before us, but we also live inspired by those same people who have taught us, loved us and nurtured us. The future will be different, not least because of the experiences of the pandemic and the various crises that we all face, but also because more people than ever realise that the great gaps between the very rich and the very poor cannot continue to widen indefinitely.

The second issue I took from Thomas Vellacott's talk was his very crisp summary of the simplicity we will need to face the future, Simplicity does not just mean minimalism or absence of stuff, it is about meaning and purpose and the active presence of God. Where will we look for meaning and purpose when we give up on the notions of acquiring many expensive possessions to demonstrate success, when the very rich will not be able to demonstrate their wealth by conspicuous consumption? The implications of such simplicity are profound and far reaching, too much for us to do more than just begin to think about, but it is worth beginning to think at the very least about a kinder and more nurturing community from which we, especially our young people, could all benefit.

Alison Tyler

## Mothers' Union Matters

MU members continue to be a strong voice and force for good in a challenging world. As one member said recently:

*"I'm a Mothers' Union member because it's a grassroots organisation with a global vision".*

Not many groups can make that claim, but MU is not *just* another social group – though it fulfils that role superbly well. It is a faith-based organisation of four million like-minded members. It is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths (and none) to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change.

In October members were able to enjoy an entertaining, and informative, talk by Peter Yolland about the development of railways in Victorian South London – our patch, if not our time! Later in the month a some members travelled to Rainham for the Autumn Rochester Diocesan MU meeting. It is always good to catch up with what other groups are doing, to be encouraged by their successes and learn from their “whoops!”.

“Knit and Knatter” provides an opportunity to make valuable warm items for babies and adults. Many of these are distributed by “Knit for Peace” to refugee camps, prisons and similar places where people do not have much to keep them warm. A grateful letter of thanks was recently received from Knit for Peace, outlining how important contributions, such as ours, are to those who have very little. However, our monthly “K&K” meeting is also a warm social gathering, doing its therapeutic work for members with the wool and the chat, as well as providing warm garments to those in need.

This month's talk, by Alan Hayward, will combine the MU passion for society, with nature. His topic is “The Woodland Trust”. The Trust has planted over 50 million trees since it was formed, saved thousands of woods and revived hectares of ancient woodland. And this year they celebrate 50 years of working towards “a world where woods and trees thrive for people and nature”.

Just for a start, our nearest woods are Milk Street Woods, Elmstead Woods, Marvel Woods and woodland in Beckenham Place Park. I am off to the woods!



## Mothers' Union Meetings in November

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10.00 Alan Aylward speaks about The Woodland Trust.

*Coffee before the talk.*

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10.00 Knit 'n' Natter

*Coffee (and cake!) throughout the morning.*

*Advance notice of MU **Christmas Buffet Lunch**, which will be on*

***Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December** from 12 noon in the Buchan*

## Have you made out your Will yet? Now is a great time to do so!

Will Aid, [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk), the UK's most enduring and successful charity Will-making scheme, runs again this month, throughout November. If you haven't yet written your Will, now is the time to think about it!

This is how the system works: Will Aid solicitors all over the UK agree to write basic Wills during November, without charging their usual fee. Instead, these solicitors raise as much money as possible for the Will Aid charities, by asking Will-makers for a donation, which reflects the time and expertise they have devoted to writing the Will. The suggested donation is £100 for a single Will, £180 for a pair of basic 'mirror Wills'.

Will Aid is effective. Not only does it raise substantial money for charity, but also motivates people to get on and make their Will – something that many people have been meaning to get around to for years.

The contact details of participating solicitors are at [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk). The website also has a good deal of information on Wills and inheritance issues as well as a useful Will planner to help people prepare their Will.

## Help your hedgehogs this autumn

With our warmer British autumns, hedgehogs now tend to begin hibernation later – in December or January. In the meantime, it is critical that they build up enough body weight to get them through those lean, bleak weeks of January to April... so now is the time to help them, by feeding them.



## Northern Iraq

A recent TV programme of Michael Palin visiting Northern Iraq awakened memories of two years Don and I and baby Shirley spent there in the 1950s. He went out first. I and the baby followed a few months later, when a doctor was available on-site.

We were sent to where a dam was to be built, and there was a long drive to get there across the desert from Baghdad.

Life at Dokan, set among mountains on the dam site, was in the context of a specially built cluster of nice bungalows (for us the consulting engineers), and prefabs for the French and Austrians (contractors). There was a swimming pool and clubhouse, and I attended a choral group two evenings a week run by a Frenchman with a tuning fork. We used to put on over-long concerts sung in various languages. Don played rugby for the Oil Company. Life was simple but friendly. There was not a single shop, definitely no coffee shops. Few phones but I remember the general feeling of harmony and of almost unusual cooperation in the atmosphere.

We lived miles from Siemani where we sent to for supplies, and any other vital requirement could be supplied by Mr Harrod of Knightsbridge.

We could get a car to occasionally explore the vast mountainous areas. At any "rest-house" en-route, Agatha Christie had already stayed. She was married to an archaeologist.

Kirkuk was a British-run oil town, an oasis built in the desert, a hundred miles from Dokan. We visited occasionally for a spot of luxury. Along the route there were flames emerging permanently from the ground. Kirkuk was the one place where we could have the spiritual refreshment of attending church.

Olive Green



## CHOIR NOTES

Let's get the bad news out of the way first.

The fourth (or fifth, depending on your viewpoint) wave of Covid put paid to the planned autumn concert at St Mary's, as members of the London Gallery Quire succumbed to the dreaded bug, leaving them disastrously short of singers. We could not help out as the church choir suffered similar problems. Covid stopped play! Hence LGQ were unable to visit St Mary's and perform this October. However, it is intended to be a postponement rather than a cancellation. They will be return!

Our regular performance of the "Requiem" by Gabriel Faure by St Mary's Festival Choir on Remembrance Sunday has also been cancelled again this year. The Service of Light on Advent Sunday is a further casualty, removing yet another of the special events that members of the church choir look forward to so much.

Regular singing of hymns, service settings and anthems during church services is what the church choir is there to do – praising God in music and encouraging the congregation to raise their voices. However, without the occasional challenge of sung services, new music, or concert performance, singers may become complacent, or bored. It is always valuable for the choir to be preparing music for services such as the Nine Lesson at Christmas, a cantata such as "The Crucifixion" at Easter, or for a summer choral concert. It gives long-serving choristers more variety, and introduces new music to singer and listener alike. Perhaps most importantly, it provides the ideal opportunity to recruit new singers to the "extended" church choir, when the singing is in a more familiar setting – a concert or a "special" service. The hope is always that the experience will encourage new singers to appear more regularly with the choir.

One of the great joys of the church choir is its friendliness and the encouragement it gives to music-making. All members pray together before the service, learn the music together, and perform together as required. Although it is done to the best of everyone's ability, the church choir is not primarily concerned with the perfection of its delivery, but with each person's input being "as best we can". With Christmas carols beckoning, why not consider joining in occasionally – especially for the showpiece events? It might become a habit!

## Choir Music in December

4 <sup>th</sup> December	“This is the truth sent from above” by Ralph Vaughan Williams
11 <sup>th</sup> December	“E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come” by Manz
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nine Lessons and Carols service

## Holding a fireworks party on Bonfire Night?

If you are planning to set off fireworks at home on Bonfire Night, you may wish to review the Fireworks Code, to help keep you and your family and guests safe....

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box. •
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them. • Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves. • Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.



## Guy Fawkes

Back in 1605 Guy Fawkes managed to stow a good few barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords without anybody noticing. He was part of a Roman Catholic plot to murder James 1 of England and his parliament at the state opening. Fortunately, Guy Fawkes was found - and stopped - in time.

# *A view from the pew*



As we enter the darkest months of the year, it is timely to remind ourselves of summer – and the sunflower. In art, the sunflower is a symbol of happiness. In Greek mythology, Clytie, a water nymph, was a lover of Helios, the sun god. However, his head was turned by Leucothea, a mortal. Clytie was enraged and told Leucothea's father, Orchamus. He sentenced his daughter to death by burying her alive. However, this made Helios think even less of Clytie. So she lay naked on the rocks, staring at the sun, for nine days, without eating or drinking. On the ninth day she was transformed into a flower, a heliotrope or sunflower. Another name is "turnsole", as its flowery head follows the direction of the sun.



Vincent van Gogh had seen the fresh, colourful paintings of the Impressionists in Paris, and among these were still life paintings depicting flowers. Van Gogh loved nature, and flowers offered him the opportunity to portray nature at its best. He often used ordinary flowers that grew in the countryside near his home as subject matter for his paintings and wanted to bring more colour into his work. When Gauguin showed an interest in the younger painter's early forays in this subject matter, it reinforced van Gogh's focus on the flower.

Later, when his mental state had deteriorated and he was confined in an asylum, the sunflower, which he had once seen as decorative, became something almost sacred. For him it became a symbol of light itself, the ideal of an honest life lived in nature. An art critic claimed that van Gogh's sunflowers contained a powerful idea - the artist's "obsessional passion for the solar disc, which he loves to make shine in the blaze of his skies, and, at the same time, for that other sun, that vegetable star, the magnificent sunflower, which he paints over and over, without wearying, like a monomaniac."

Van Gogh responded that they did indeed represent an idea: "gratitude." He later wrote to his sister (in 1890) that they were "almost a cry of anguish while symbolizing gratitude in the rustic sunflower," an image that brought him comfort and familiarity, and which, one can imagine, had a certain vital glow and form that could raise his spirits in troubled times.

It is not a coincidence that Ukraine's national flower is the sunflower, and that it has become a symbol of resistance against the invasion by Russian forces. The exuberant and lively form of the flower represents the opposite of the destruction being suffered by the Ukrainian people. Russian soldiers have been offered sunflower seeds by Ukrainian women, so that if they are killed the seeds will grow. Symbols of hope in a dark time.



We grow sunflowers in our Bromley front garden, as does our neighbour. Seeds from the huge flower heads have been offered to Avondale Road residents, to grow/show a sign of solidarity with Ukraine, and to cheer up a world that desperately needs the smile a "flower of gratitude" can bring.

Peter Fall

### Quiet



A Sunday School teacher asked her children: "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One little girl replied helpfully: "Because people are sleeping."

## The Poppies of Remembrance

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



## The Two Minutes Silence

In October we had the All Souls' service remembering people who have died and in November again we think about people who have died particularly we think about those who have given their lives in war, the Two Minutes Silence is a significant act of remembrance. The silence provides an opportunity to remember those who have suffered in war and how we can work for a peaceful world. However, we can also find ourselves thinking about lunch or whether we've switched off our phone?

Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes of silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). When observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we call to mind those who have laid down their lives.

In our busy lives, where so much clamours for our attention, silence gives us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. This is not just for Remembrance Sunday, as Jesus often withdrew to find silence to seek God (eg: Luke 5:16). Let's use silence in our lives as space to seek God's will and offer ourselves to Him, *just as those who gave themselves in conflict through the years.*

***'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:***

***Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.***

***At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'***



### **POPPIES in aid of THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**Mothers' Union Knitters** have produced knitted poppies which are available at the back of church. Suggested donation £2.

Thank you for your support.

## Apples



Now is the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. The harvest has been brought in and in particular, the apples are ripe and ready for picking, so I thought that I would have a look at the humble, but ubiquitous apple.

Apples are part of the Rosaceae group, along with hawthorns and roses. The ancestor of the apple seems to have originated in the Americas over 50 million years ago probably starting off with small red berries, very like the hawthorns of today. These then spread across to Asia, where their evolution took off.

It seems that the large, sweet apples of the form that we have today, evolved in central Asia, probably in the mountains of Tien Shan in Kazakhstan. This is an area that has been left unchanged for millions of years. Too far south for the Ice Ages, hilly enough to catch the rain, no major upheavals have affected it, leaving this area free to allow the evolution of many of our fruiting trees, including the eating apple. About five million years ago (well before the end of the ice ages) the apple grew large enough to attract the attention of the megafauna, bears and so on, that roamed these mountains. Bears in particular enjoy sweetness (as we all know from Winnie the Pooh) but they cannot digest the small apple seeds, which go on to give rise to new trees. This created a positive loop, where the biggest and sweetest apples attracted the most animals to eat and spread them to grow new trees of big, sweet apples. Millions of years later, starting in Neolithic times, the apples and their seeds were spread further by the trade along the Silk Road to China and the Mediterranean, from where they eventually spread to conquer the whole world.

By the way, the original wild eating apples were rediscovered in the Tian Shan mountains in 1793 by the explorer Ivan Sievers. The DNA shows the link between these apples and the eating apple of today, and also that they are a completely separate breed from the European crab apple.

Medicinally, apples have been shown to have all sorts of positive effects as well as the aid to the digestive system, which we all know about. They are good for the blood circulation, supporting the heart, reducing cholesterol and are a good source of iron. They help with asthma, support the immune system, brain and also strengthen your bones. No wonder they suggest an apple for the teacher. By the way, fresh is best. They can be stored, but processing removes a lot of their beneficial effects.

Apples have always featured in our myths and legends.

In Greek legend, Gaia gave Zeus and Hera a tree of golden apples as their wedding present. The golden apples then reappear in many legends, in the Garden of Hesperides, where they give immortality; in the race between Milanion and Atalanta, where Milanion throws down the apples to slow down Atalanta thus winning the race and Atalanta's hand in marriage and many other stories.

Norse legend also has the apple as the fruit which gives immortality. Perhaps a reflection of their general health giving properties.

The Old Testament also has apples - Deuteronomy first uses the phrase "Apple of your eye" and the Song of Solomon comforts with apples. There are other mentions of apples – between 15 and 25, depending on the translation. One mention that is not there is the apple as the fruit of knowledge. This connection between apples and the garden of Eden seems to have started relatively late. Possibly due to a confusion between the Latin adjective *malus* for evil with the Latin noun *malus* for apple which seems to have crept in when Jerome translated the Bible from Latin.

Apples originating in the middle of a continent are adapted to cold winters and warmer summers. They actually need a certain number of days where the temperature is between 0 and 7 degrees Centigrade. This could explain why apples do not feature much in Egyptian, or African myths and legends.

Today in the UK apples are used both for eating and for cider. These are now two very different tasting groups. Cider apples may be sweet, but they must also have tannins making them bitter, and acid.

They will also be crushed and this can give a requirement for the flesh not to disintegrate and pass through the crusher to contaminate the cider juice. Eating apples disappear when you chew them, but you can go on chewing many cider apples until they are like cotton wool. Cider apples were introduced before the Romans, but it was the French Normans who introduced the sweeter cider apples, which could be fermented without needing the addition of a honey sweetener. Since then, the English have taken to cider big time, with different regions having different styles. Most of them stay below 7% of alcohol, to keep the tax down, but the scrumpy of Somerset and the West Country is notorious.

That's it for now. I must go and consider what to do with the excess of stewed apples that I have waiting for me in my fridge.

Trine Hevezi



## Get a free MOT for your bike...

Our fully qualified DR BIKE cycle mechanics will check your bike and fix minor faults such as brakes, chain, cables, gears and tyre pressure.

Simply bring your bicycle along to the Cow Shed in Norman Park near the Mencap Community Hub at the Hook Farm Road (A21) entrance.

(The Cow Shed is situated on the new section of the walking path behind the car park).

**Date:** 5th November 2022.

**Location:** Norman Park Hook Farm Road BR2 9SX

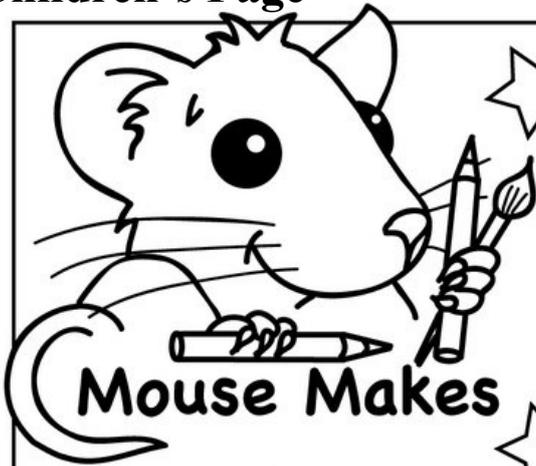
**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 09:00 - 12:00

**Event organiser:** LBB Road Safety Team

**Tel:** 020 8313 4546 **Email:** [road.safety@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@bromley.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.bromley.gov.uk/DrBike](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/DrBike)

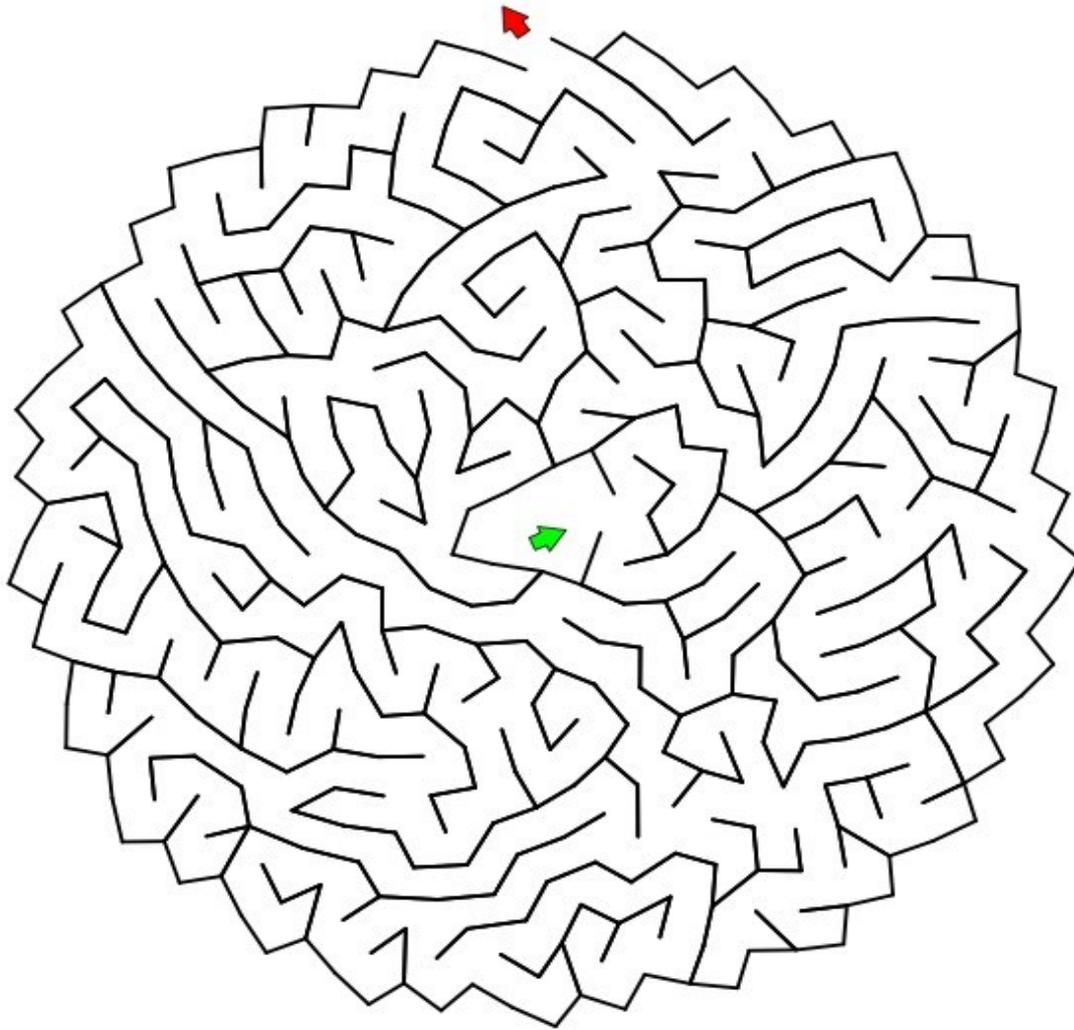


Jesus is coming! Christmas is near!  
ADVENT is the time before  
Christmas when we celebrate the  
arrival of JESUS, God's son, our Saviour.  
We remember God's promise to  
the world, God's message to Mary,  
God's love for us and God's promise  
come true.

Countdown to Christmas by  
colouring in one candle  
each Sunday in  
ADVENT



ADVENT



## Book Review



The Unexpected Gift Activity Book – Creative Christmas Activities By Annie Kratzsch and Tessa Janes, 10Publishing, £6.99.

The activity book for youngsters aged 4 to 7 helps to make the Christmas story hands-on and tangible. It contains 25 activities to make, as well as 25 Bible verse ornaments to decorate. Templates to create a nativity scene, plus other crafts, can be torn directly out of the book, making it much easier to get creative with decorating and assembling the crafts.

Each activity pairs up with a corresponding page from the storybook, so they can be used together to explore the Christmas story with your family.

## On the challenge of hitting 11 o'clock precisely.

The Rectory  
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

It is a great shame that your church doesn't have chandeliers – although in your low-ceilinged converted cinema, any chandelier more than a few feet tall would also be embedded in your floor carpeting. But I find that there is nothing like watching the standard bearers on Remembrance Sunday parading up the aisle with their flags and getting them caught up in our brass candelabra.

One year, the procession ground to a halt while a bearer fought to retrieve his flag, and was obliged to leave it flying in the centre of the church while he presented me with an empty pole. I always feel obliged to tell parishioners that, since all the candelabra will inevitably be sent spinning, not to stare at them, or they may leave the church hypnotised. On the other hand, Miss Simpson generally leaves the church looking like that.

Major Hastings always arrives bejewelled with so many medals that every time he kneels for prayer, it sounds as if he is taking the collection. Their weight increases his stoop by at least ten degrees, to the point where some feel we should support him with a personal flying buttress.

Since the trumpeter playing the Last Post can be of varying quality, your idea of broadcasting it from London into your church is inspired. However, your worries about whether your radio will be good enough need not trouble you. If you tell your congregation that they are about to hear the broadcast silence and you then simply not switch the thing on, no one will be able to tell the slightest difference whether the silence is being broadcast or not. In fact, they will even congratulate you on hitting 11am at exactly the right moment.

I always use subterfuge; I have the church clock disconnected and then when we reach the time for silence, irrespective of the true time, I get a churchwarden to toll the bell eleven times. This way, I have apparently come to the exact moment without a hitch for the last 30 years.

You will also find that preaching about warfare and of man's inhumanity to man will give you greater insights into the working of your church council. The only difference is that on committees – sadly – the use of machine guns is rather frowned on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

## Worship Diary

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

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

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

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/>

The words of the service can be found on our website:

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

### Services for November

Sunday 6th – 3 Sunday before Advent

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 13th – Remembrance Sunday

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Clubs

Sunday – Christ the King

10.30am Family Service

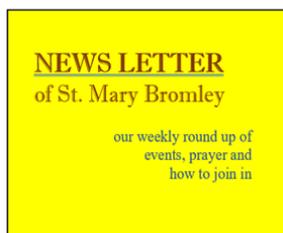
Sunday 27th – Advent Sunday

10.30am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs



### Grace Café

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



St. Mary's publishes a weekly newsletter with information about our worship, events and people to pray for. You are welcome to have your name added to the distribution list; if so please let Atlanta know your contact information.

Copies are emailed at the end of the week. If you do not have email we are happy post. There is also a copy on the website. Please let Alan know about notices you would like to be included.

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