

St Mary's Church, Bromley

Parish Magazine

October 2022

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby,

“It is with profound sadness that I join the nation, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. My prayers are with The King and the Royal Family. May God draw near them and comfort them in the days, weeks and months ahead.

“As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

“As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty’s extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty’s faith in what and who we are called to be.

“In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

“As we sustain one another in the face of this challenge, our shared grieving will also be a work of shared reimagining. I pray that we commence this journey with a sense of Her Late Majesty’s faith and confidence in the future.

“As a faithful Christian disciple, and also Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she lived out her faith every day of her life. Her trust in God and profound love for God was foundational in how she led her life – hour by hour, day by day.

“In The Late Queen’s life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others.

“Her Late Majesty found great joy and fulfilment in the service of her people and her God, “whose service is perfect freedom” (BCP). For giving her whole life to us, and allowing her life of service to be an instrument of God’s peace among us, we owe her a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

“The Late Queen leaves behind a truly extraordinary legacy: one that is found in almost every corner of our national life, as well as the lives of so many nations around the world, and especially in the Commonwealth.

“It was my great privilege to meet Her Late Majesty on many occasions. Her clarity of thinking, capacity for careful listening, inquiring mind, humour, remarkable memory and extraordinary kindness invariably left me conscious of the blessing that she has been to us all.

“May Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace and rise in glory.”

Welcome to the October edition of the Parish Magazine.

**It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death
of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

Perhaps we are never really prepared for bad news. Although Her Majesty's health had been of concern for some time the news of her death when it came through on the 8th of September was still a great shock. The nation responded in many remarkable ways both publicly and privately. The many ceremonial events were moving and splendid. There was the great patience of so many people queuing to pay their respects at her coffin in Westminster Hall.



There were amazingly disciplined and colourful processions. The funeral service in Westminster Cathedral was truly moving.

It was a remarkable coincidence that St. Mary's church had been arranged to be open on the days that turned out to begin on the day that she died and through the period of mourning. A book of condolence was made available along with the candle stand. It was a privilege to welcome many people who sought to express their loss and grief.

Revd. Alan Keeler

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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.

Of chalk and trees



It is the time of year when we think about creation and celebrate its abundance with harvest festival. We sing 'All things bright and beautiful'. We may be watching an adaptation of James Herriot's stories called 'All creatures great and small' being broadcast on television. A creature is something that has been created. We are drawn to the source of the world which is so beautiful and fruitful.

Our society is very focused on work being undertaken and profit being made. For me a harvest festival is about these features being the tip of an iceberg. Harvest depends on the provisions of the natural world such as water, sunlight, good soil and the capacity of life to flourish. The human contribution is important but its more like a sort of handling charge than the source of the produce.

A Harvest Festival is a time to step back and appreciate the wider picture and to give thanks to the Creator. However in the last couple of centuries there have been explanations about the formation of the world and it's life that have very much left the idea of a creator out of the picture.

A classic proof of God was given by William Paley who said that if you found a watch, its intricacy and precision would make you think it had been designed and built by a craftsman. Paley looked at the world with all of its wonder and beauty and said it pointed to the divine craftsman. The inquiries of empirical science have shown how the universe and life have come about by physical processes. The claim is that it seems there is now no need for a belief in God.

This comes as a brutal challenge to people who want to take a particularly literal view of the opening chapters of Genesis. But in the long history of interpreting the Bible this fundamentalism is a very recent understanding. In the past there was a much more open view that was more concerned with the wonder and mystery of creation. . Indeed being literal was considered a weakness; particularly with the differences between Genesis chapter one and Genesis chapter two.

The lesson was that God has created and being too tied to the details is foolish.

I am very interested in both what science has brought to light along with how this relates to faith. It seems very deep within our experience of being human that we appreciate beauty. We are in awe of the world in which we live and are moved to sublime appreciation of so many wonderful things. This is as true for the scientist in their explorations as it is for the tourist in a new part of the world or an urban dweller looking at the wildlife in their back garden.

Albert Einstein said 'Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler'. On the one hand he was looking for explanations that were as beautiful and elegant as possible. On the other hand he was counselling against delight for its own sake.

I can remember learning that the vast deposits of chalk such as the white cliffs of Dover locked up carbon dioxide from the skeletons of ancient creatures. This was just as true of ancient trees that locked up carbon dioxide in stores of oil and gas. Billions of years ago the earth's atmosphere was methane and carbon dioxide. Those creatures and trees transformed the atmosphere to be oxygen rich and enabled our sort of life to develop. It is only one of a large number of changes in our universe that have made life possible.

Early forms of stars generated element heavier than hydrogen and helium. The stars exploded and the resultant debris condensed into planets around new stars. The earth is in just the right orbit for the chemistry to produce life to be possible. Our moon provides a crucial stabilizing effect on the rotation of the earth. Any one of these would be remarkable but the accumulation of events has produced the conditions for life to be possible.

The universe, especially our earth has a pattern of development that leads to the most wonderful life being brought to existence. These processes may not be well known but they are as vital as water, sunlight and good soil for the harvest. In their own way they are part of how life has been possible and speak of a deeper activity, beauty and purpose at work. As we celebrate harvest festival let us worship our creator with all of the insights that faith and science provide.

A. Keeler

Royal Procession

On Wednesday we decided to go and pay our respects to the late Queen as she was transferred down the Mall from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall.

We arrived on the Mall a little after 10 in the morning. The crowd was already 5 or 6 people deep, but we found a place with possibilities and eventually found ourselves right at the front, where I was able to take pictures. The crowd was friendly, but quiet and we talked to pass the time, and also admired all the medals worn by our ex-army neighbour and the policemen. When we came up for the Jubilee the route had been lined with red tunicked guards, but on this occasion, the route was not lined with soldiers, but with policemen. Perhaps the black and white uniforms were more in keeping with this sombre event.

Eventually we heard the guns begin their salute; Big Ben started chiming and then we could hear the music from the military bands. Once they started to pass, the crowd was absolutely silent. No clapping or cheering where we were.



The crown was on the coffin and glistened and sparkled brightly in the sunshine. The Sceptre and Orb were to be added later.

Much of the procession was mounted, but the actual escort to the queen's coffin was on foot, as were the royal family following the gun carriage

We also went to lay flowers for Her Majesty

The railings of Buckingham Palace were coated with flowers and flags, but they really wanted the flowers to be left in Green Park, where there was an absolute sea of flowers.

Again, everyone, even the children were thoughtful and quiet.

There were many messages and Paddington was a recurring theme. Marmalade sandwiches, however nice, were discouraged.



We did not stay to queue for the lying in state, but we did pass the queue which had already gone a long way. At that point it was still a narrow queue, only one family or couple across, moving slowly and quietly along the Southbank. I gather that the wait was only about 5 hours at that point, but it was late and we went home.

Trine Hevezi

Our Faithful Queen

You may remember there was a delightful booklet published as part of Queen Elizabeth's 70th Jubilee called *Our Faithful Queen*. Copies can still be obtained from: https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Shop/Products/501463/Hope_Together/Books/Our_Faithful_Queen.aspx

HARVEST?



As we think about harvest festival as time of celebration and giving thanks for our food, we are also planning a harvest lunch at the end of a summer of drought and of poor harvest. There are, too, massive global food shortages due to the war in Ukraine, and there is an uncertainty and complexity about the future of food production that is relatively new to far too many of us. The prayer 'give us this day our daily bread' has already a new urgency and poignancy for many more people, and this is likely to increase.

Why? Because we have taken its continuation for granted for too long, and climate change + war is a toxic combination that we can no longer avoid. This is not a new or original thought - our lack of gratitude for the gifts of the planet and lack of forethought for its nurture and restoration have been pointed out to us often enough, but we seem to think that we can carry on as normal without changing our lifestyles or behaviours. We have not heeded the messages to live more simply so that others may simply live. God in creation provides enough for our need, but not for our greed.

It is thought that, due to climate change, by the end of the century many countries will no longer be able to grow the food they need and not be able afford to buy it either. This is likely to lead to starvation, migration and potentially war over food and shortages of water.

Globally, politicians and many industries have not been good enough at truth-telling about the real issues, partly because they are not entirely clear how to make a difference, and partly because of denial through fear, and hoping the problems will go away. There is no overall plan and, with war on the boil, making such a plan will be very difficult, if not impossible, due to the war and consequent inability to focus on anything else.

Julian Allwood, Professor of Engineering and the Environment at Cambridge University and Director of the Use Less Group, has said that acting on climate change will change our lives, but not acting may end them. The truth about food production is one of four truths highlighted by Professor Allwood in a recent article in the Church Times.

It is a call to face reality and the need for us all to act rapidly.

He points out that reducing and offsetting emissions are no longer possible options; we must work seriously for no emissions as the climate cannot bear more. The solutions he points out are all about restraint and creativity, saving energy and being realistic about activities that we must end, like flying using fossil fuels, as there are no realistic alternatives. It will not prevent us from doing lots of things that we value and enjoy, expanding many of them, like spending time and sharing meals with friends and family, singing, dancing, hiking, sailing making things, growing things, being creative in many, many different ways, living locally and creating rich and active communities, sharing our resources more widely and re-using things as a way of life. The cost to us will be an investment for future generations. The challenge will keep us all endlessly busy and active.

As Christians called to live lives of discipline and creativity we can use our collective voice in the debate, celebrate and encourage the restraint that is so vital in moving forward, and offer such solutions as we find, to counteract those who still change nothing and do nothing and hope that someone else will find a solution. We are those who remember that Christ came to bring us life in all its fullness.

I share with you a difficult prayer written (not by me, found online!) for Creation season.

Prayer

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in God-with-us - God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen

Alison Tyler

St Mary's First Aid Course

A whole day First Aid course was given by [Karen Stewart Training](#) on the middle Saturday of July this year. It was well publicised and ten people were able to attend and they all passed and received the FAA Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work.



We all met up in the Church at 10 in the morning, with our packed lunches and started. Karen gave us an interesting day, complete with giving artificial respiration and heart massage to the dummy. We had to achieve a vigorous pumping rate to keep the dummy going. The first group had to have a couple of goes, but the second group learned from their example and passed first time. Guess which group I was in.

At the end of the day, we were all told that we had passed and were told that the certificates would be send later, which they have been, so St Mary's now has 10 accredited First aiders.

Trine Hevezi

In 1099, religious knights trained in medical care organised the Order of St. John to specifically treat battlefield injuries. In other words, although these knights were considered laypersons, they were formally trained to provide "first aid."

Mothers' Union

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was felt particularly acutely by members of the Mothers' Union, for she had been our Patron for many decades.

Her life was dedicated to the service of her country, the Church and the Commonwealth, an inspiration of steadfastness. Her example helped to keep MU

members focussed on the importance of family life and community concern. Her guidance and support of Mothers' Union down the years has enabled the achievement of so much – impacting communities and touching lives. During times of turmoil and ongoing war around

the world she reminded us of the healing power of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. This inspired and encouraged MU to work for harmony and good relationships among all people.

But perhaps we gain most insight from the words of the Queen herself. She often spoke about how her faith encouraged and sustained her as she continued to live out the promises she made before God at her Coronation. In her Christmas message in 2014 she described it in these words:

For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace... is an inspiration and an anchor in life... I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad.



Hers was a life born to serve God and all humanity, and her legacy will live on, not least in the hearts of Mothers' Union members, for generations to come. *Her Late Majesty taught as much, if not more, about God and grace, both in words and the actions that reinforced them, than any other contemporary figure. We*

remember her not for what she had, but for what she gave.

Archbishop of Canterbury



Music at St Mary's

We have missed our concerts at St Mary's over the past two years – but they are returning!

The London Gallery Quire – that wonderful mix of ancient instruments and village voices – will be performing for us on Sunday afternoon 16th October.

Frances Roads, their director, is excited to be spreading to the uninitiated of south London a selection of attractive songs from the late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries. The instruments include a serpent (relatively harmless!), lute and viol, but feel able to bring your own – or just

join in with your voice. You are sure to know some of the tunes – such as “Ilkley Moor baht’ ‘at”!

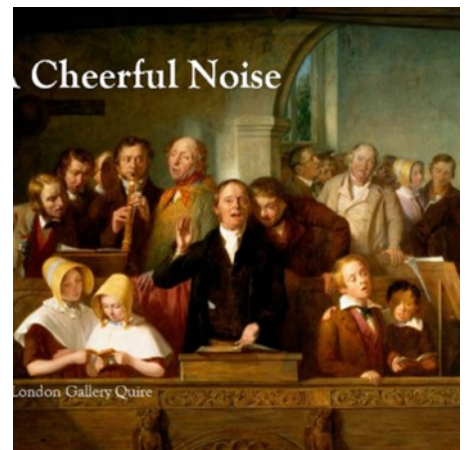
Music from a different era will be sung on Sunday afternoon 13th November, when St Mary's Festival Choir, directed by David Storey, will perform the “Requiem” by Gabriel Fauré. Alfie Beston will play the organ for this moving cantata. There is no charge for either of these concerts, but donations will be given to relevant charities, after the costs of the performers and the church have been met.

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We are hopeful that a Service of Light can be held on Advent Sunday afternoon, 27th November.



London Gallery Quire,
a non-costumed quire.



And we are looking forward to a Nine Lessons and Carols service in December. More of this next time.

Meanwhile St Mary's church choir continues to support the congregation, and complement the organ, in hymns and songs, while preparing a new anthem for each service. Another singer has recently joined the choir, helping to sustain the presence of choral music at services in St Mary's for the future. If you would like to sing with the choir regularly or join in one or more of the choral events mentioned above, do talk to a choir member – or just turn up at choir practice in the church on Thursday evening between 7.30 and 8.30 pm.

Peter Fall

Choir anthems in October

2nd October "Glory, love and praise and honour" by Ebeling

9th October Family Service (no choir)

16th October "Thou visitest the earth" by Greene

23rd October "Lo, my shepherd is divine" by Lloyd Webber

30th October (All Saints) "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace" by Wesley

30th October (All Souls) "The souls of the righteous" by Marchant



Hymn or maths?



A father had taken his small son to church. The boy listened attentively without saying a word until the clergyman announced: "We will now sing hymn two hundred and twenty-two: 'Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand', two hundred and twenty-two."

Alarmed, the little boy nudged his father. "Do we have to work this one out?"

Reflections

The Light of Christ
Risen Morning Son
Shining
through glass.
The Perfect Light Beam
as One, yet scattered,
reflecting the image of
Christ in Glory.

Fast light stills,
reverently serene
upon the window
scene
on high,
from where the
spectral Alpha and Omega
are perceived
through unstained glass
Pure and Holy
the Light of Christ.

Barbara Buckingham

6th October – National Poetry Day

Who needs a poem? Apparently, many people feel much better for them – either in writing them or in reading them. That is the reason for the National Day of Poetry, which wants to see “an explosion of activity nationwide,” from kitchen tables to gardens and public spaces, “all celebrating poetry’s power to bring people together.”

This month our Parish Magazine is going to do our local bit for poetry, and invite our readers to compose a poem of no longer than 16 lines, and based on one of the following subjects:

Harvest & gratitude, Remembrance, Our church building

According to The National Literacy Trust, 66.5 per cent of children and young people agree that writing poetry made them feel better during lockdown. More details at: <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/about-npd/>

A view from the pew



Do you get wound up by people who don't turn up on time?

It is a remarkably frequent occurrence, particularly considering that we now have all the alarms, reminders and diary entries that we could possibly need on our phone. And our phone goes everywhere with us, so there is no escape!

Yet we do forget. We let people down. We are late. Is it a memory thing? Are our gadgets removing the need to **remember** appointments, meetings, events? Is it down to the more relaxed mores of today's society – it doesn't matter so much if you are late, or forget? Is our memory atrophying, as we use it less? Will our memory become the next appendix – function redundant, but hanging on in there, just in case! And then potentially creating problems. You know what I mean – the half-remembered conversation/date/commitment.

“Did we agree to meet on Thursday?”

“Does the District/Elizabeth Line go to Southend?”

“What have I committed to do before the next meeting?”

“ – And when is the next meeting?”

To return to my question – Do you get wound up by people who don't turn up on time? I mentioned that it is a remarkably frequent occurrence. But it seems to be restricted to relatively few individuals – who are probably responsible for most of the lateness/absenteeism/date mix-ups that happen. It does seem that some folk are more prone to forgetting where they should be, and when, than others. And I include myself in that group. We have all the memory aids known to man, we have a good education, and a solid moral approach to “not-letting-people-down”, yet I can still forget that it is Monday and that I should be at Ecumenical Singers Choir practice this evening. I still forget that I promised to be early for church choir practice to get out the music I still forget to get Magazine articles in on time (sorry!).

I suppose in the end it is a matter of priorities.

What is more important? That they have turned up late, or that they have actually turned up at all? Must remember that for next time....

Peter Fall

Ride and Stride 2022: or a church crawl in Tunbridge Wells

On Saturday 10 September Frances and I travelled by train to Tunbridge Wells to make sponsored visits to places of worship in the town to raise funds for the Friends of Kent Churches, which has offered St Mary's £2,500 towards the cost of repairing the chancel murals.

Something the casual visitor to Tunbridge Wells may not realise is that very little of it is flat, in fact it is built on a series hills, some of them steep. We walked in excess of six miles up and down and visited six Anglican churches and single examples of Baptist, Church of Christ, united Methodist & United Reformed, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, and Society of Friends places of worship, dating between 1676 and 1997. It was possible to enter eight of them, at the others we recorded our visit by signing forms attached to the doors. This was disappointing as it deprived us of seeing their interiors, and also of having conversations with those stewarding them about church life in Tunbridge Wells.

Perhaps our most surprising discovery was the Baptist Church of 1938, a red brick building which looked as if it had strayed from Lombardy. A short walk away was the Friends' Meeting House, built in 1892 in a seventeenth century style. This has recently been altered internally by converting the ground-floor meeting room (worship area) into accommodation for six folk transiting from the local YMCA hostel to independent living, a continuation of the social care for which the Friends have long been famous. The meeting room is now on the first floor.

The oldest of the half dozen parish churches we visited was King Charles the Martyr, built in the 1670s as a chapel for Royalist visitors to the wells, it only became a parish church in the nineteenth century. The building's chief glory is its plaster ceilings, executed by two craftsmen who worked with Wren on his London churches. Nearby is Christ Church, a 1997 building which replaced a Victorian Norman-style church, from which, fortunately, three large stained glass windows, designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, of the Ascension, Moses, and St Paul have been reinstalled in the new building. The only church in Tunbridge Wells built, in the late 1880s, for ritualistic worship is St Barnabas, a grandly proportioned brick and sandstone building, very light inside, which makes it easy to appreciate the various fittings, including a striking 1929 white and green marble lectern.

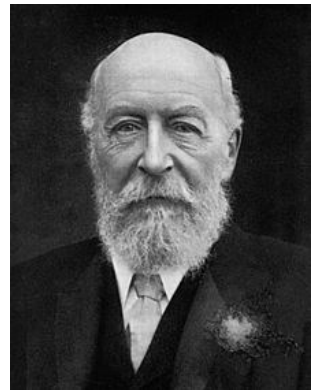
The attractions of St Barnabas's notwithstanding, many residents preferred (and prefer) worship in which preaching played a large part, and during the 1850s-70s three new churches catering for this were established: Sts John, James, and Peter; extended and reordered they are all still in use today. All have small chancels and tall towers, and two have plenty of Bible stories illustrated in stained glass. The building of these three churches was master-minded by Canon Hoare, while incumbent of Holy Trinity, a town centre church now redundant and since 1982 used as a theatre.

We enjoyed taking part in Ride and Stride and supporting the work of Friends of Kent Churches and for the opportunity to learn about eleven churches we had never previously visited.

Peter Boyden

George Cadbury

One hundred years ago, on 24th October 1922, George Cadbury died. He had transformed his father's failing chocolate and cocoa business into one of the world's most successful companies and provided low-cost housing and improved working conditions for his employees.



George was the third son of John Cadbury, a Quaker who founded Cadbury's cocoa and chocolate company. With his brother Richard, George took over the family business in 1861 and founded the chocolate producer Cadbury Brothers. But his consuming interest was in the welfare of his employees and others: having taught in an adult school he was aware that poor housing was a major problem.

One of his first moves was to relocate his factory to a greenfield site south-west of Birmingham with access to canals and the new railways. It was here that he later founded a Quaker higher educational institution – now the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

But apart from his chocolate he is best known for his creation of a rural factory village (designed by architect William Alexander Harvey), called Bournville after the nearby river Bourn. The houses – not exclusively for factory employees – were never privately owned, and they remain attractive and affordable to the present day.

There was Something Special in September

We hope that you were able to attend some of the events that took place in St. Mary's during September. There is much to give thanks for.

Cream Tea - Grateful thanks to all those who supported this event on Saturday 17th September. Also, special thanks must go to the Cream Tea Team who worked so hard on the day looking after all the guests so well. The church and porch were set-up as a 'pop-up' Vintage Tea Room for the afternoon. During this time copious amounts of assorted scones, lashings of clotted cream and unlimited cups of tea were served, consumed and enjoyed by all! The Murals Renovation Fund will also benefit from donations of £170 + Gift Aid. Many thanks to all. Anne Yolland.

Musical Extravaganza! – Many Thanks. to all who performed and supported Sunday's Something Special in September "Music Extravaganza" Your performances (Musicians & Singers) was enjoyed by all who attended and the variety music was very much appreciated! I was looking for something different and different was certainly delivered to everyone's delight. The "Music Extravaganza" raised a total sum of £250.00 which will go toward the "Chancel Murals Restoration Fund". Clem Sutton.

Ride and Stride – A big thank you to all who generously supported Ride and Stride on Saturday 10th. The Welcoming Team kept the church open all day and provided refreshments. About 20 visitors also came as part of London Open House or to sit and reflect on the loss of our Queen. It was a great team effort. We will soon announce the total sponsorship money collected, of which half goes to the Friends of Kent Churches and half to St Mary's.

And a whole lot more! – There were many other dimensions of Something Special. Thanks to the Rock Choir, St. Mary's Choir, Grace Cafe and Knit and Natter. In addition the people who attended to steward the open church were really faithful and welcoming, well done all of you. There were many visitors because of London Open House Festival and people expressing their condolence following the death of Queen Elizabeth.

31st October All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off t

The evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

PP



Bishop Simon asks Who is my neighbour?

'In a networked world, the options are endless. And it becomes especially hard when we try to figure out how to give generously to those in need, when so many are in need. Which is why having specific projects where there are reputations, track records and existing relationships are a massive help.'

For decades, the Poverty and Hope Appeal has resourced initiatives across the world and made specific and lasting changes to the welfare of poorer communities. This year we are supporting left behind minorities in Bangladesh, children's education in rural Myanmar and people living in the favelas (slums) of Brazil.'

There are five areas being focused on:

Christian Aid: Minority Communities in Bangladesh – 11% of the population of Bangladesh belong to a minority community and are under-represented in government. The 'Empowering Left-Behind Minority Communities' project will enable these communities to find opportunities, use their voices, claim their rights and be involved in the development process of Bangladesh.

CMS: Hidden Voices of the Favelas – Partnerships with CMS are based on supporting individuals, who in Florianapolis, Brazil are Andy and Kati Walsh. Over time, they will concentrate on engaging subcultures on the fringes including impoverished migrant communities and people that get caught in the cycle of crime just to survive. It is to these subcultures and "hidden voices", where the Church struggles to be, that they feel called to by God.

USPG: Myanmar Education Programme – 70% of Myanmar’s population live in rural areas. In remote places children and young people often have to travel in small boats and walk or cycle for hours to reach schools or live in boarding houses away from their families. There is also a shortage of teachers in these areas. The programme will directly support 600 girls and 600 boys at 13 primary schools and nine secondary schools, seven of which are boarding schools.

Tanzania Clean Water Provision – The Dioceses of Mpwapwa and Kondoa are located in the central part of Tanzania - a challenging but beautiful environment of mountains and semi-arid plains. Donations received through this year’s Poverty & Hope Appeal will enable the Dioceses of Mpwapwa and Kondoa to empower rural communities with water harvesting projects, irrigation systems and safe drinking water.

Harare: Self Supporting Communities – Harare Diocese is a mix of urban and linked rural parishes and Poverty and Hope funding will be directed towards projects and activities that will help the rural parishes to be less dependent on support from the city.

The above are extracts from the Poverty and Hope appeal leaflet. There is a copy on a notice board in the church and leaflets are available too or electronically on the diocesan website. <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/ourfaithinaction/poverty-and-hope-appeal/>

During October envelopes are available in St. Mary’s for you to make donations.



Welcoming Bishop Jonathan

On Saturday 25 September the Diocese of Rochester welcomed our new Bishop at a wonderful service in Rochester Cathedral. Below is a picture of Bishop Jonathan knocking on the west door of the cathedral requesting to be let in.



In his message Bishop Jonathan said:

‘God longs for his reign of justice and peace to flourish in our world, and how we live as followers of Jesus, seeking God's kingdom in all that we do and speaking of the good news of Christ, really matters if the Church is to further the cause of God's reign and to grow both spiritually and numerically. Being disciples of Jesus requires us to be ready to change, as we seek to grow in his likeness and to follow him in a fast-changing world, and that in turn means being ready to serve our communities and the wider world, demonstrating the compassion of Christ and our commitment to God's reign of justice and peace.’

As part of the service Bishop Jonathan was given five gifts each representing one of the five Called Together priorities of the Diocese. The gift of a fruit tree representing caring for the environment received a great chuckle from the congregation.

If you would like to see a recording of the service it is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0gqtMIn-UA>



Harvest at St. Mary's



Do join us for our Harvest festival on Sunday 9th October at 10.30am. There will be a collection of gifts which will go to Bromley Borough Foodbank. The items most requested are UHT Milk, Coffee, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, Tinned Soup, Cold Tinned Meat, Toilet rolls, Washing up liquid, Bleach. Further details can be found on our website:

<https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/happening-now/harvest/>

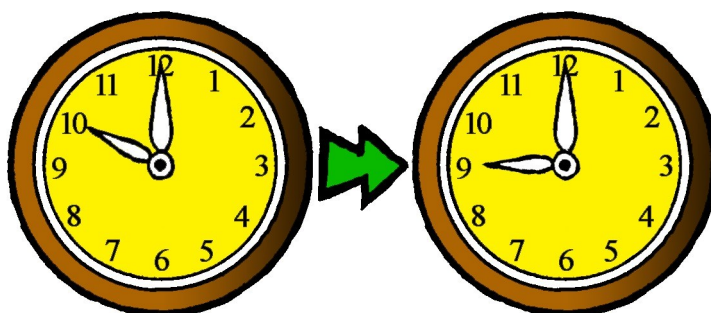
This will be followed by the Harvest Lunch in the Warwick Hall at 12.30pm. We will offer you a two course lunch, including poached salmon, new potatoes and various salads. a vegetarian option, fruit crumble and custard, and child friendly choices. Soft drinks will be provided, if you want wine do please bring your own. To help plan the catering please sign up on the list in Church so we have accurate numbers. Donations welcome.

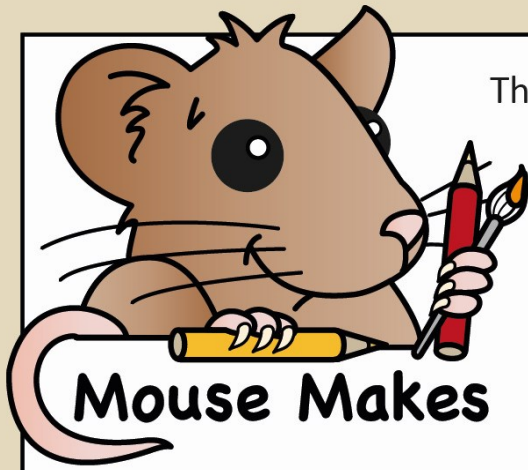
Please notify admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk if you have any food allergies.

All Souls' Service

Our Annual All Souls' service will be at 3.30pm on 30 October. This will be a service in St. Mary's church and live streamed on our Facebook page. If you would like a person mentioned in the Roll of Remembrance please add their name to the list in the church building.

The clocks go back on
Sunday October 30 2022.





Mouse Makes

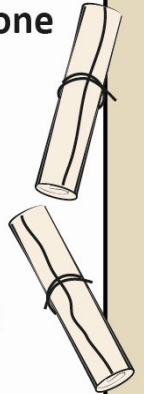
The New Testament has **four gospels, twenty one epistles** and the book of *Revelation*.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...



Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.



How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?
.....

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

Which are the longest epistles?
.....
.....
How many chapters do they have?
.....

Which is the shortest epistle?
.....
How many chapters does it have?
.....

DID YOU KNOW...?
At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls

A large scroll containing a word search grid:

G	A	L	A	T	I	A	N	S	J	A	M	E	S	E	J	S
W	A	E	D	I	S	P	E	T	E	R	A	P	T	L	O	C
R	O	T	E	T	B	A	W	R	I	T	E	H	I	R	H	R
I	P	T	M	U	O	U	S	P	H	I	L	E	M	O	N	O
T	H	E	S	S	A	L	O	N	I	A	N	S	O	M	D	L
C	O	R	I	N	T	H	I	A	N	S	N	I	T	A	J	L
S	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	A	N	S	A	H	N	U	S
M	C	O	L	O	S	S	I	A	N	S	A	N	Y	S	D	P
H	E	B	R	E	W	S	H	W	E	P	I	S	T	L	E	O

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON
HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE

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 October

Sunday 2nd – 16 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 9th – 17 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 16th – 18 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 23rd – Last Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 30th – 4 Sunday before Advent

10.30am Family Communion

3.30pm All Souls Service

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 (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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	4 Powster Road, Bromley BR1 5HF	
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