

*St Mary's Church, Bromley*

*Parish Magazine*

*September 2023*

*61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG*



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

Minimum donation 75p

## ***Please come and visit St. Mary's Church***

Our building will be open between 6th and 17th September  
between 10am and noon with refreshments available

We will also be holding special events on the two weekends  
see overleaf

This is part of London Open House  
where many buildings in London are open for the general public.  
For the programme see <https://programme.openhouse.org.uk/calendar>



St. Mary's has beautiful murals and stunning stained-glass windows.  
Many people who visit say they have known the church for years  
but had never realized how wonderful it is inside.

Here is an opportunity for **YOU!**

There will also be a display of artwork from three local artists. A church is  
a local community with a wide variety of talents on offer. You will be able  
to see examples of sculpture, lino-prints, metal work and quilting.

*All monies raised will go to restoring our murals.*

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**St Mary's Bromley, 63 College Road, Bromley BR1 3QG**  
Nearest bus stop Morgan Road for 126, 314, 336 and 261.  
Yellow lines on College Road.

Parking restrictions locally noon -2pm

<https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk> (QR code right)



## Saturday 9th September

### Ride and Stride

10am to 4pm



Sponsored walking and cycling in aid of Friends of Kent Churches

### The West End at St. Mary's

7.30pm



Songs from the shows, stage and screen classics. From the musical company Artform.

## Sunday 10th September

### 160th Celebration Service

10.30am

Celebrating  
**160**  
Years

St. Mary's gives thanks for our life of faith through the years in this place

This will be followed by a buffet lunch in the church building.

## Saturday 16th September

### Open morning

between 10am and noon  
with refreshments available

### Cream Tea

2.30pm to 4.30pm



with sweet and savoury scones

## Sunday 17th September

### Holy Communion with Baptism

10.30am

followed by

Special Parochial Church Meeting

*then from 4.00pm*

### Melodic Sounds of Easy Jazz

with Afie & Nick Beston

*followed by*

### Lyrical Delights

from the

Astri Quartet

*There is no ticket price for the above but donations are welcome*

### Some future dates

**Table Top Sale** – November 4th, hire a table to sell items or come and buy

**Jigsaw Sale** – 10.00am to noon on Saturday 18th November,  
with refreshments and paperback books

## Welcome to the September 2023 edition of the Parish Magazine.

It is always a joy to publish a new edition of the parish magazine. We hope you find our September offering informative, interesting and enjoyable to read.

You will find information about our celebrations marking our church's 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please do join us for as many events as you can.

We have regular contributions telling us about a wide range of parish activities and issues that the contributors are keen to share. I would love to have hedgehogs in my garden! See page 16 for more information from Lynda Zissell.

There is an invitation from our local mosque. I have visited in the past. The welcome is generous and building is inspiring.

Having read the magazine please do discuss what has interested you with friends and do feel free to give a copy to someone you know. I'm sure we can forgo the donation if someone hears about our church. They may even decide to take up a subscription themselves.

And finally... we would love to hear from you with an article. Don't be shy, we are happy if you wish to begin with just a few paragraphs.

Alan Keeler

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A free pdf copy is available from the website at  
[admin@stmarys-bromleyomley.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys-bromleyomley.org.uk).

This month's editor: Atlanta Topham

Editor for November: Jo Cox

Copy date: Saturday 14th September 2023.

*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.***

# Celebrating good things



This September St. Mary's will be celebrating its 160th Anniversary. It is good to mark significant events and a year with a zero on it is always especially important. We talk about 'significant birthdays' and rightly so. But even having a zero can be beaten. If you have two zeros the King will send you a letter of congratulation. Although I understand you will have to write and jog his memory. At the Millenium the church celebrated having three zeros. These don't come around very often.

It is good to celebrate the good things of life and it is good to receive the good wishes and praise of others. Some years ago I attended the family celebrations after a baptism I had conducted at St. Mary's. As I was leaving the host caught up with me and said 'thank you for all that you have done, I have a case of wine for you in the car, please may I give it to you now?' I was surprised with the generosity and puzzled about what to do with a whole case of wine (no, seriously!).

I had known the family for some years and this was there second baptism at St. Mary's. I had seen all of this as parish ministry and felt valued and trusted to be in some way part of their family. Baptisms have no fee as they are the grace of God and I explain that the church may not charge for sacraments. I wondered what the gift about?

My guess was that I was being thanked for doing more than what had been my duty. I was being given a token of thanks because it sometimes hard just to express how you feel with words. We live in a consumer society where many good things can be paid for. But in our hearts we know there is so much more to life than money. As the Beatles sang 'Can't buy me love'.

Part of me did not want to receive the gift as that had not been my motive. To be welcomed, trusted and asked to carry out significant service for someone is humbling and paise enough. But the other thing was that I was not alone in my ministry and I am supported by so many people. I decided that the true thing to do was to share the bottles with colleagues. They were a bit surprised with my explanation but were touched that I

see ministry as teamwork and grateful for me expressing this.

One of the problems with life is that we can be perfectionists. If someone talks about what we have been doing we will point out the faults and be a bit shy. But where there has been good work and people have benefitted it is right and gracious to accept praise and thanks. Another thing with perfectionism is that if we are asked to do a job we will think of our shortcomings and expect someone better qualified to do the job. I like G K Chesterton's wry comment that 'if a job is worth doing it is worth doing badly'. It is no one's interests for nothing to be done and only failure to be the result.

Jesus said 'No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.' God will call us to acts of service. In fact we should be asking how we might be of use. Jesus goes further and says 'in the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' There is a right way to attract attention and make a splash. Both quotes from Matthew 5:15-16.

It is understandable that we value humility. There are too many people who are only self-interested and will even put others down to make their interests prosper. But there is a right sort of pride in a job well done.

St. Mary's is in a place to reflect on the many years of faithful service and to celebrate the people and achievements that have taken place. The right way to do this is with gratitude to God for what he has done through us. It is important to express how many people and skills; both known and secret have enabled this to happen. There would be many things to mention but uppermost in my mind is that we are valued as a welcoming congregation. People are touched that in a gentle but honest way their visit is valued and they are made to feel part of something bigger. It might be for a morning, a particular event or a long period of time. We believe that God loves them and we wish them to know it too.

Best wishes

Alan Keeler

### **Save the Date**

Come and join us for Alan's last service as Vicar of St. Mary's before he retires which will be at 10.30am on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

# Wisdom and Discernment



One of the things I most enjoy about getting older (and there are not very many) is that I really do experience myself as wiser, having gained both experience and practice. I do not make quite as many mistakes as I used to. I preached recently on Solomon's request to God for wisdom as a gift to help him rule well. I reflected again that the mere fact of his asking for wisdom meant that he had the beginnings of it already, because he knew himself well enough to know what he needed.

Since retiring from full time work I have spent a lot of time as a vocations advisor, and wisdom and discernment are key requirements for those who are exploring any kind of vocation in ministry.

What we don't always realise is how wisdom and discernment are critical throughout our whole lives. They are the tools for our decision making in all sorts of contexts, from how to plan nutritious meals for my young children, applying for the next job, right through to organising a complicated training course for prison Chaplains. It's about balancing what we know with our proposed or hoped-for outcomes, and making a judgement about what we hope will work.

I started to write this on 11<sup>th</sup> August, the feast of St Clare of Assisi, which was an excellent reminder of her clarity of vision, her wisdom and her discernment about how to guide her Community of the Poor Ladies of San Damiano, following in the Franciscan way of prayer, simplicity and humility. Their Rule of Life was the first religious rule written by a woman, and after the death of St Francis they became known as the Poor Clares.

We, as a Christian parish community, will very soon be wishing Alan and Gill Keeler the best and happiest of retirements as they leave St Mary's for pastures new and exciting. Meanwhile, we who remain behind will be starting the journey into a new chapter of the future for St Mary's, which has the potential to be equally exciting and different. A vacancy in a parish can be an unexpected opportunity for experiment, innovation and change.



We will need exceptional wisdom and discernment, coupled with clear thinking from beginning to end as we start to move forward.

Nothing can ever be taken for granted; we may not find a new parish priest, or be unable to fund the work we have traditionally done. We are looking ahead to a time of change and of different things, a time with fewer certainties, and greater responsibilities for all of us, as we have to step up and increasingly become the body of Christ in this place. Will we have Church Wardens? If not, what will happen next? If or when we begin to write up our parish profile, what do we have to offer, what do we do well, and where do we need to develop?

As Alan and Gill prepare to leave us I am reminded of the words in the Joni Mitchell song Big Yellow Taxi: “you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone”. As with the environment, which is what the song originally references, so too with those who love us and minister to us, we do not recognise how blessed we are until they leave us.

It’s almost a standard human characteristic only to value what we have in retrospect, when we realise what we have to manage without. We then have to become completely responsible for maintaining and sustaining our Church community. We have trust one another enough to work collaboratively, and plan together for the future, whatever form it takes. I think that is very scary, but it could also be great fun and a wonderful opportunity to build community together because, in the words of St Theresa of Avila’s prayer since the resurrection, “Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which He looks compassion on this world, yours are the feet with which He walks to do good, yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world”.

So when we have a vacancy in this place, in the community that is St Mary’s, the buck has to stop with us.

For Alan and Gill, I wish every blessing and all joy, and hope that they enjoy their well-earned retirement, travel well and stay safe. May God refresh them and renew in them God’s own love and joy and goodness, through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

For the rest of us, we should gather our strength and energy and prepare to work hard, secure in the knowledge that God will be with us and with

Them, and in the words of a prayer from St Martin in the Fields we will pray for all of us:

O God, you have bound us together for a time as priest and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place. We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these years now past. We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart.

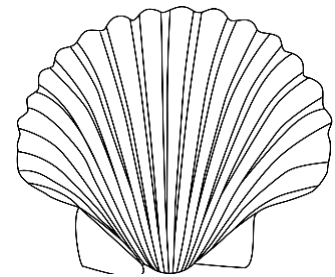
Alison Tyler

### **The Scallop Shell**

The hub of the matter,  
an anchor,  
holds fast and  
shelters the structure  
of intricate nature.  
Crafted with care, in time,  
from Creation,  
its inner part, as though  
a cradle  
for ancient sea life, thriving,  
as life, forms.

The hub of the matter,  
a pictorial shell,  
as solid as a rock;  
with external 'radial ribs'  
spread out - almost as though  
foretelling the sending out of  
Christ's disciples.

Admired by saints and  
a fitting recognition of  
the symbol it is -  
Christian Pilgrimage.



Barbara Buckingham

## MOTHERS' UNION MATTERS

Mothers' Union is encouraging branches and members to take part in its "Summer of Hope" campaign. The theme is "turning hope into action", by donating, holding fundraising events and praying for those who need support.



St Mary's MU branch has done its part in this campaign by raising awareness of the families in need, and by holding a coffee morning in August to raise funds.

The main meeting in July was graced by Alan Coxon MBE, whose talk, on being a Toastmaster, was most entertaining and amusing. Members clearly enjoyed his tales of weddings and grand dinner occasions, when things sometimes went wrong – and it was expected that the Toastmaster would put it all right! He came, resplendent in red jacket and bow-tie, to regale us with his tales of speakers at social functions, and the things that went wrong. How often the toastmaster was expected to solve all their problems and how often he succeeded! It seems that it is not just about banging a gavel and introducing the speakers with "My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen".

In August we had a coffee morning in (and around) the church porch, always a bit of a challenge to get tables and chairs safely into position, but which enabled a number of members and non-members to meet socially in a relaxed atmosphere. Having a meeting without significant time pressure, nor needing continuous concentration, has its advantages for the majority of attendees, mostly past retirement age, but still mentally active.

Knit and Knatter continued in August on the third Thursday, as it does in most months. This is always a happy time, with plenty of laughter to accompany the clicking of needles, as folk tell each other about the bargains that got away, or the grandchild that has exceeded expectations. This is where MU is so good, with its prayerful support of each other based on knowledge of their circumstances, and practical aid provided where appropriate.

We are now looking forward to the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September, when Chris and John Soper will be conducting a Quiz. All are welcome, members or not, to this session in the Front Room of Church House at 10.00 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

### ***Summer of Hope Prayer***

Lord, help us to love our neighbours that this may be a Summer of Hope for those struggling with life's demands:

To help create change for good, Lord, prompt us to pray.

Where resources are lacking, Lord, move us to generosity.

Lead us to take the steps needed to enable hope to grow into reality.

Amen

Peter Fall

### **Table Top Sale**

at

St Mary's Church Hall

61, College Rd, BR1 3QG

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm

Booking fee in aid of mural fund

Enquiries to book a £10 table space to

[carole.beale@yahoo.com](mailto:carole.beale@yahoo.com) or 0208 460 9330

(free entry to buyers)

## Choir Notes

One of the joys (and strengths) of the St Mary's Church Choir is that the members are all regular worshippers at St Mary's. Which means (holidays permitting) that choir members are in the congregation during August, when the choir takes its annual break. This proved valuable when a few of the hymns chosen by the congregation appeared to be known only to the person who selected them. Choir members, strategically placed around the church, were able to support the singing from within, enabling other worshippers to feel more secure. And judging by the lovely sounds we heard there, maybe some of you might come and join the choir – if not every week, just occasionally. There is no voice test, or audition. If you enjoy singing, you are eligible! And you will be just in time for all the lovely Christmas songs we sing.



The Choir (and Organists) Summer Coffee and Cake morning in August was well attended and good fun. This replaced the Choir Lunch, which had been held in previous years, and allowed the social side of the choir full reign. It was also an opportunity to meet up as a team, there being no robed choir in August, nor any rehearsals until 31<sup>st</sup>.

Teamwork is vital in a choir, and St Mary's is fortunate to have so many singers ready to give up their individuality for the good of the group. Blending voices together is a tricky task, but singers at St Mary's have spent many years meeting this challenge and are adept at ensuring that their melodies ring out, with appropriate harmonic accompaniment, whichever vocal part carries the tune. We are helped in no small measure by the organists, who provide patient space for rehearsal. They all play sensitively during the hymns, and work hard to enhance the performance of the choir in their anthem.

With Summer fading into memory, the choir are back in their choir pews to lead the congregational singing and help set the tone for worship with appropriate music during Communion. And maybe a few more descants in the last verse of a hymn..... maybe. We'll see, or, more likely, we'll hear!

Peter Fall



St Mary's Celebrating  
160 Years  
**CREAM TEA**  
**Sat 16 September**

Teas served from 2.30 pm  
until 4.30 pm in church



**Donations invited for  
St Mary's murals  
restoration fund**

**Savoury options  
available**

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

QR code right



## **Cream Tea**

Do join us on Saturday 16th September for a delicious Cream Tea as part of the 160 year celebrations. There will also be the option of savoury scones for those who prefer something less sweet. Teas will be served from 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm in church.

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church to confirm numbers attending for catering purposes and to notify of any food allergies. Alternatively, please contact Anne Yolland on 0208 466 1939 or email [anne.yolland@outlook.com](mailto:anne.yolland@outlook.com)

Donations are invited for the St Mary's murals restoration fund.



Do you enjoy visiting churches? Many do, whatever their faith, or none. Churches are often the most beautiful and serene places in a town or village. They are steeped in history not only available for worship but also open for arts and community events. The slogan of The National Churches Trust is 'Churches are for Everyone'. Friends of Kent Church (FKC) are part of that nationwide Trust. with the aim of helping to keep churches and chapels in good repair and improving facilities by giving grants. St Mary's is a member of FKC and last year we received a generous grant for our Murals Restoration Fund. The annual Ride & Stride event is FKC's main fundraiser. In 2022 £124,564 was raised for Kent churches.

This is where we need your help. Are you able to visit some participating churches and chapels or sponsor someone who is? Sponsor forms and a list of participating churches are at the back of the church. Your visits can be just half a day this September Saturday, to visit some local churches for example, Holy Trinity and St Augustine's, Bromley Common or venture further afield in Kent. If you aren't able to do that please consider sponsoring someone who is Riding and Striding.

St Mary's will be open on Saturday 9th to welcome visitors so a big thank you to our volunteer Welcomers (who can also be sponsored). It's still; not too late to make some visits or give sponsorship. Please contact John Beale or Chris Soper at [cmsoper10@gmail.com](mailto:cmsoper10@gmail.com) and we will be pleased to answer any questions.

## Hedgehogs by Lynda Zissell



I've always liked hedgehogs and loved Beatrice Potters story about Mrs Tiggywinkle when I was very young, however my real passion was sparked during lockdown in the spring of 2020. My next door neighbour informed me she had discovered a hedgehog roaming around in her garden, being a keen gardener, I wanted to encourage this slug and snail eating friend into my garden too. I started to research and bought a hedgehog house, made sure they had access, made a feeding station, bought some dry hedgehog food, set these up and waited. I didn't need to wait for long before we had regular visits. That summer we were blessed by a little family; mother and three hog lets and spent lockdown evenings watching our noisy little visitors munch their way around our garden. Since then we have had another hedgehog family. It's been lots of fun but also traumatic at times. I found a badly injured hedgehog with its nose cut off( probably due to a strimmer) which had to be euthanatized and found another which had been run over in an adjoining road, but they keep returning so there must be a few around the local area. I help the hedgehogs by feeding them but also by not using chemicals in my garden and allow nature to take care of the pests themselves.

Christmas 2020 I was bought a wildlife camera, so we can see who is visiting the garden and when. It's fascinating. Not only hedgehog, cats and foxes star regularly too!

As lockdown restrictions were lifted I have been able to share my experiences with my charity hard of hearing group by giving them a talk about my spikey friends, with aid of Hedgehog Street slideshow. I've encouraged friends and neighbours to consider hedgehogs in their gardens too. One friend has since been in contact with her local rescue centre and has had two hedgehogs to release in her garden (named them Heidi and Horace). She holds me entirely responsible.

Please, please consider encouraging a hedgehog in your gardens too. A small hole in the bottom of your fence 13cm x 13cm, bowl of water, and food (not milk and bread as they are lactose intolerant). By doing this I assure you will reap rewards and save an endangered species too

By the way please let me know if you want more articles in the magazine about hedgehogs, I could tell you lots more about them including history, their nocturnal habits, hibernation etc, however I don't want to bore you!



## Colour

Colour is often regarded as a bit of a luxury – a bit soft. However it is one thing that we humans have always valued.



In the beginning, actually before the beginning, Neanderthal and Homo Erectus seem to have been using red ochre for decoration by about 250,000 years ago. It is found in their graves and other sites where they lived and worked and seems to have been used both as body paint and also to deco-

rate their caves. Humans, Homo Sapiens, have been using it to draw with from at least 50,000 years. They also had other colours – yellow, brown and white mainly. These colours were mined and processed and traded over considerable distances. In France the mines were up to 25 miles from the painting site. Colour has been a valuable resource for a long time.

These colours were derived from minerals mined from the ground and this has continued up to the present day. For example, high quality ultramarine blue is still made using ground up lapis lazuli and is correspondingly expensive. The fact that it was expensive is why it was used for the Virgin Mary's cloak in the Middle Ages.

Some are not so good. We all know about Arsenic green, used extensively on wallpaper in Victorian England, which has been blamed for the slowly fading heroine in romantic novels, but there were other toxic paints. In the USA school busses used to be painted bright yellow using a Chromium based paint. This was found to be toxic, so it has now been replaced. Cadmium is another commonly used element that gives vivid green or yellow paints and is also toxic. Luckily for me, the cadmium oxide that produces the yellow is not very soluble, so I did survive eating a tube of cadmium yellow oil paint as a child. Lead is also implicated here, not only as a pigment in itself, but also, as white lead, it was mixed into many paints to make them opaque and give them body.

Other dyes have organic sources. Tyrian Purple, the colour of emperors, comes from a tiny sea snail, the murex. Thousands of shells or this rare snail are needed, and the process for getting the dye from them is complex, so this is expensive.

It was used for emperors and, until the fourteen hundreds, for cardinals. Cardinal Purple changed to Cardinal Red when they discovered cochineal. Made from tiny American beetles which were farmed and processed in South America it was not only expensive, but also had to be transported from the New World. Perfect for a flashy Cardinal's robe. These beetles provided the colour for a whole group of lac dyes, including crimson lac. They gave a translucent lasting sheen to their paintings, but were still rare and hard to get. Possibly why Mary has a red dress on under her blue robe in many of the old paintings.

As usual, I have more than can be fitted in one article, so watch this space for the next colourful episode.

Trine Hevezi



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# *A view from the pew*



At last I can honestly say that I have something in common with St Paul (aka Saul). “Something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes and he could see again.” (Acts 9.18). I have had cataracts removed from both my eyes, and my sight is greatly improved. Colour in particular, is brighter, but everything is clearer and more distinct than it was. The funny thing is that I hadn’t really noticed the deterioration in my eyesight until the cataracts were identified when I went for a routine eye test at SpecSavers.

So the eyes had to be operated on to remove the lens, with the cloudy patches that had developed, and to replace them. These were done individually, right eye first, with a couple of weeks’ gap between operations. Everything went well – though the left eye still requires drops regularly to complete the course. The operation was performed by Spamedica at their ophthalmology clinic in Northside House, the office block next to Bromley North Station. The cost of this operation, privately, can be up to £2000, but it cost me nothing, being on the NHS.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, I was feted at the second operation, with all the staff assembling to give me a clap. And the reason was that I was their 5,000<sup>th</sup> patient. I was presented with a box of chocolates and a certificate to prove the case. Which definitely cheered me up. And made me a bit of a Forrest Gump. He was a simple soul who had the capacity (or misfortune) to turn up in the most iconic and unexpected places with well-known people, in thirty years of American history.

I went to the cataract clinic just to have a routine, and frequent, operation, only to be treated as a special person who warranted more. It was undeserved, but it felt quite special. The chocolates have gone, but the certificate sits in pride of place on one of our many bookcases. Whatever we do, we are all part of history, with a role to play out – though we never know precisely what impact that may have in the years to come. Maybe you will be the five millionth customer in Bromley MacDonalDs or take a selfie to find a famous film star (like Tom Hanks) in the shot? Or maybe not.

Have you had a Forrest Gump moment?

Peter Fall



*3rd September 10.30 am*

*Family Service*  
*followed by*  
*Teddy Bears' &*  
*Friends' Picnic*



**Picnic in church garden if dry, or Church House**  
**Please bring own picnic, drinks, blankets or chairs**  
**There will be games and a parade of teddy bears**  
**See newsletter or website for more information**

**All welcome!**



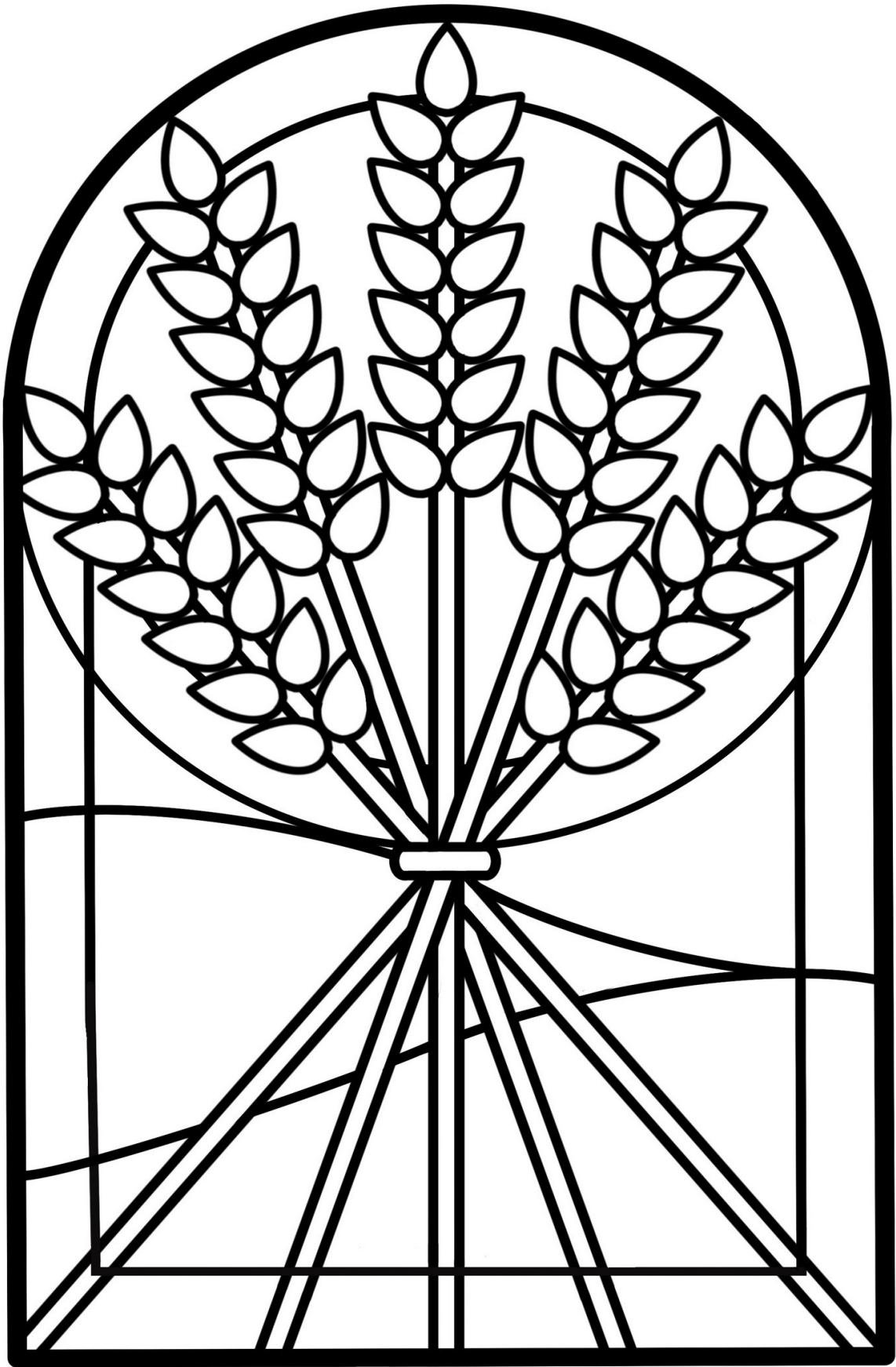
### **September Family Service and Picnic**

The Autumn Term starts with the Family Service led by the Sunday Club Committee on Sunday 3rd September at 10.30 a.m.

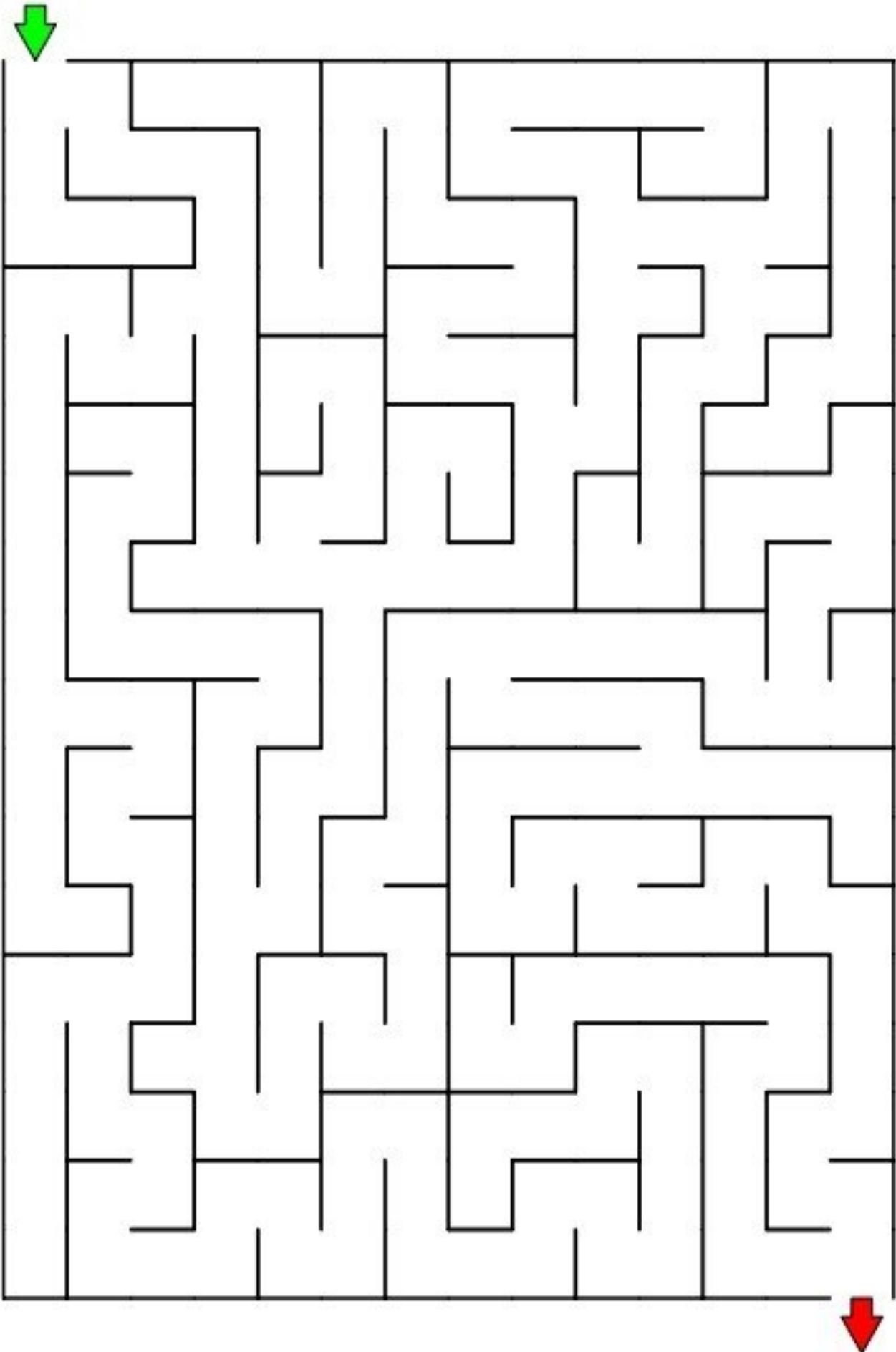
The service will be followed by a Teddy Bears' and Friends' Picnic in the church garden if dry or in Church House if we t. Please bring your own picnic and drinks, blankets or chairs.

There will be games and a parade of teddy bears and other cuddly toys - biggest, smallest, best dressed, oldest, most colourful.

And it's for EVERYONE 0 - 100!



Maze





# FUNCTION ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

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



## St Mary's Church House and Hall

61 College Road, Bromley BR1 3QG  
Email: [stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com)  
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[plumbpaul@hotmail.com](mailto:plumbpaul@hotmail.com)



## **Invitation to Mosque Open Day, Saturday 23rd September 2023 at Al-Emaan Centre**



On behalf of the Al-Emaan Centre Mosque in Keston it gives us great pleasure to invite you, your friends and your family to our annual Mosque Open Day!

We look forward to welcoming friends from around the borough of Bromley and beyond to visit the mosque, engage with its diverse Muslim congregation, and learn more about what we do.

Al-Emaan Centre has been involved in several initiatives within the local community and is currently serving a number of local Muslim worshippers. We want to ensure this mosque open day continues to contribute towards fostering interfaith and intercultural understanding in the local community.

We plan to have plenty in store throughout the day for all members of the family, and not least refreshments & delicacies for all!

In keeping with the national 'Visit My Mosque' initiative, this will be held on Sunday 23rd September between 11am to 4pm at Al-Emaan Centre, Croydon Road, BR2 8HF.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via email for any further information at all, and to confirm whether you will be able to attend. For more information see <https://al-emaan.org.uk/>

Hoping to see you there,

The Al-Emaan Centre Team!



## WHAT'S ON IN OUR HALLS

### Monday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
4.15pm—6.30pm	Ballet Belles	Warwick Hall
6.15pm—7.00pm	Ballet Belles	Buchan Hall
6.45pm—8.45pm	Guides	Warwick Hall
7.00pm—8.00pm	Meditation	Front Room

### Tuesday

9.15am—12.30pm	Ready Steady Go! Pre-school	Warwick Hall
2.00pm—3.00pm	Adult Ballet	Warwick Hall
4.15pm—6.30pm	Ballet Belles	Warwick Hall
6.45pm—8.00pm	Remix Theatre Arts	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
4.30pm—6.00pm	Harlequins Theatre School	Warwick Hall
6.00pm—7.00pm	Remix Theatre Arts	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

## Grace Café



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



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

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

## Church Wardens



Please will you join us for a Special Parochial Church Meeting after the morning service on the 17th September.

From time to time it is good to gather as a congregation and the meeting is to elect Church Wardens. St. Mary's is very grateful for so many Church Wardens over the years but we have not had any for the last three years.

This is now very important as a church without Church Wardens does not look viable. With me retiring in January St. Mary's needs to demonstrate that it is a strong and able parish. I have written to all of the members of the Electoral Roll. The letter explains a way to make the job of Church Warden less onerous with a team of six people. Our Archdeacon Allie Kerr will be present at the Special Parochial Church Meeting to provide a Diocesan point of view.

Please consider standing yourself and do talk with me or past Church Wardens about what is involved.

Alan Keeler

## Worship Diary

We offer a variety of services through the year. This is mostly on a Sunday at 10.30am. These are mostly Family Communion. We hope you will find us a warm and friendly congregation. If you have questions about what we do, why we do it or how you might like to be more involved please do speak with the Vicar Alan Keeler, a sidesman... or anyone really!

Our Sunday 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 September

Sunday 3rd – 13 Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Service

Sunday 10th – 14 Sunday after Trinity

10.30am 160th Celebration Service, Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

Sunday 17th – 15 Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs followed by a Special Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 24th – 16 Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Family Communion, with Sunday Clubs

**SAVE THE DATE—10TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

**St Mary's Celebrates 160 Years**

## St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

Vicar	Revd ALAN KEELER	020 8460 1827
<i>Day off Friday</i>	74 London Lane BR1 4HE e.mail:agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk	
Associate Priest	Revd ALISON TYLER	020 8249 8843
	59 Bishops Avenue BR1 3ET ar.tyler@ntlworld.com	
Readers	Mr JOHN COX	020 8464 8269
	47 Mooreland Road, Bromley BR1 3RD	
	Mr MIKE EAMES	020 8851 5180
	4 Powster Road, Bromley BR1 5HF	
	Dr KEITH NYE	020 8464 9346
	61 Wharton Road, Bromley BR1 3LE	
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs ANTHIA PAGE	020 8460 1960
	21 Rodway Road Bromley BR1 3JJ	
Churchwardens	Positions Vacant (contact Vicar)	
Parish Administrator	Mrs. ATLANTA TOPHAM	020 8466 6969
	e.mail: admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	
Church House	Mrs. ATLANTA TOPHAM	07951 748155
Bookings	e.mail:stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com e.mail:agkeeler@tiscali.co.uk	
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