

St Mary's Church, Bromley

Parish Magazine

SEPTEMBER 2025

61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG



www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

Minimum donation 75p



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

St Mary's Church Bromley

CREATION SEASON

1st September - 5th October 2025

Creation Season is an opportunity for many of us to gather around concern for the planet, seeking to raise awareness of damage and crisis and share ideas about how to live simply and sustainably taking good care of God's Creation.



Please join us
for some or all of our
events celebrating
God's gifts in Creation
and how to care for
them... details of
services and other
activities listed
overleaf

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Welcome to the September 2025 edition of the Parish Magazine.

Welcome to the September Parish Magazine, which, with a lot of trial & quite a few errors I have put together without the usual help from Atlanta Topham. Perhaps this is the moment to thank her for all her help with the production and publication of the magazine during her time as Parish Administrator. I now appreciate, even more, how important it is that all the contributors meet the deadlines, so thank you for your help with this, & please let Alison, who has agreed to be next month's editor, have your material in good time.

This month, not surprisingly, we have something of a Creation theme, with some food (& drink) thrown in for good measure! That isn't all—but you will have to search carefully, as the usual pages are all there, but not necessarily in the usual order. Enjoy!



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This month's editor: Jill Atkinson

Editor for October: Alison Tyler

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Please support the editors by giving articles and notices to them by the copy date.

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Pick any one

While shopping at the mall, my husband and I became separated. I went out to the car, but realised I didn't have the keys. So, I went back into the store to look for him.

The woman in charge of the carts smiled knowingly. "Finished before your husband I see," she said. "Well, I have three men waiting over there on the bench... take one of them. It should all work out even at the end of the day."

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.

Vicar's Letter – September 2025



Dear friends,

I hope you've enjoyed a good summer, a time to rest, to enjoy some sunshine (when it appeared!), to spend time with loved ones, or simply to slow down for a while. Whether you travelled further afield, stayed local, or just savoured the longer evenings, I pray you've found moments to catch your breath and to notice God's presence in the beauty of creation around us.

September always feels a little like the start of a new chapter, doesn't it? After the pause of summer, life seems to gather pace again. Schools and colleges reopen, diaries begin to fill, and parish life comes back into full rhythm. There's a sense of "new term energy," a chance to step into routines with fresh purpose and, perhaps, a renewed hope about what lies ahead.

One of the themes that guides us this month is the *Creation Season*. It invites us to pause and give thanks for the wonder of God's world. But it's also a time to be honest about the challenges facing our planet, and to pray about how we can live more gently and faithfully as stewards of the earth. In our worship and conversations, we'll be exploring what it means to care for creation, and I hope you will find it both encouraging and inspiring.

I am also looking forward to our *Quiet Day* on 13th September. At this time of year, with schools, activities, and work all starting up again, it can be difficult to make space for God. A Quiet Day is a precious opportunity to step aside, to rest, to reflect, and to listen for God's still, small voice. If you're feeling weary after the summer, or simply longing to draw closer to God, I warmly encourage you to come.

This month also brings *Ride and Stride* alongside and *Open House* events. These are wonderful occasions to open wide our doors, to

welcome visitors, as well as visit other Open Houses, and to remind ourselves that the church is here for the whole community, not just for Sundays. They are also times of joy and fellowship, opportunities to support charities, share stories, meet new people, and perhaps discover new connections.

And of course, there is much more happening besides gatherings for prayer and study, moments of fellowship, and opportunities to serve. My hope is that there will be something this month for everyone: whether you are new to church life, returning after some time away, or a familiar face who has walked this journey for many years.

So, as the summer holidays gently fade into memory and the colours of autumn begin to emerge, let us carry the blessings we have received with gratitude, and step into this new season with open hearts. God is always at work in us, through us, and sometimes in surprising ways. I am really excited to see what God will do among us this September and beyond.


With every blessing,

Rev. Eucharist



Newsletter

If you would like something to be included in the St Mary's Newsletter, please send it to Newsletter.StMarys@outlook.com. Also, if you would like to receive the Newsletter by email each week, please, please send your requests to Newsletter.StMarys@outlook.com, or complete the request form found on the table, at the back of the church. Lisa looks forward to hearing from you!



St Mary's Church, Bromley

Let's celebrate the end of summer
and enjoy a

CREAM TEA

in our beautiful church on

Saturday 27th September 2025
from 2.30 pm - 5 pm



*Donations invited
for church repair
funds*

Savoury & Gluten Free options available

For catering purposes and
dietary needs,
please use the sign-up sheet
at the back of church
or contact Anne Yolland on
07929 756295

**For more
information**



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[www.facebook.com/
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Water, Climate and Creation *(again!)*



It was extremely dispiriting and sad to hear that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, which took place from 5 to 15 August 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, appears to have ended without agreement.

We are as totally dependent on the seas, the rivers, lakes and the rainfall, (which all suffer so badly from plastic pollution,) for our physical lives as we are on God for our whole lives in general. We cannot live without water or without God. The pollution of the waters and the unbalancing of the climate, with such dreadful effects, are all a part of our human resistance to either acknowledge our dependence or to change our behaviours.

So we have raging wildfires, drought and destructive floods, potential genetic damage to ourselves and all other species from micro plastic penetration and we really need to pay attention to any possible solutions to end the continuing damage and lack of repair or restoration of our planet. Sadly, we also have many despairing, violent and conflict-ridden communities in our world who do know their need of God.

These are the same waters over which the Holy Spirit brooded at the beginning of Creation, and we are the same people made in God's image and likeness, into whom God breathed the breath of life. We are also the same people who throughout history have not listened to God's Word in Jesus his Son, in Scripture or in Creation.

We keep Creation Season again this year from the 1st September until the 4th October, and we end with a celebration of St Francis who saw so clearly our need not to exploit or abuse the gifts of God in Creation, but rather, reverently to acknowledge that we too are part of Creation and so related, as fellow creatures to every other part.

We will celebrate the harvest, and God's generous provision even though some local farmers are warning of possible shortages. We are those who live in hope and have faith in the generosity of God who provides enough for the world's need but not for its greed.

When thinking just of 'our sister water so useful, humble, precious and pure', the topic is almost unbelievably complex, plastic pollution is only one aspect of it. There are also issues around sustainable fishing, marine protected areas, and decarbonising marine transport, to name only a few. There is too, the major question of who will pay and how to pay, for all the work needed to develop the means to invest in evidence-based policymaking and cutting-edge research, in observation and monitoring systems, and how best to use local and Indigenous knowledge in shaping effective ocean governance.

On top of all this we need to learn to work together to collaborate, to share knowledge, expertise, and resources generously – because in this context nearly all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God– and some of us have fallen further than others.

Our problem is twofold, to be prepared to change our habits, attitudes and lifestyles, and really learn to trust in God's promises and God's providence even in when the situation does not look promising. As a species we have the gifts and the talents, enough and to spare; what we still need is the will and the desire to change.

There are no easy solutions, even though we long for them, to the world's many problems, but with Julian of Norwich I have faith in the God of whom she wrote :

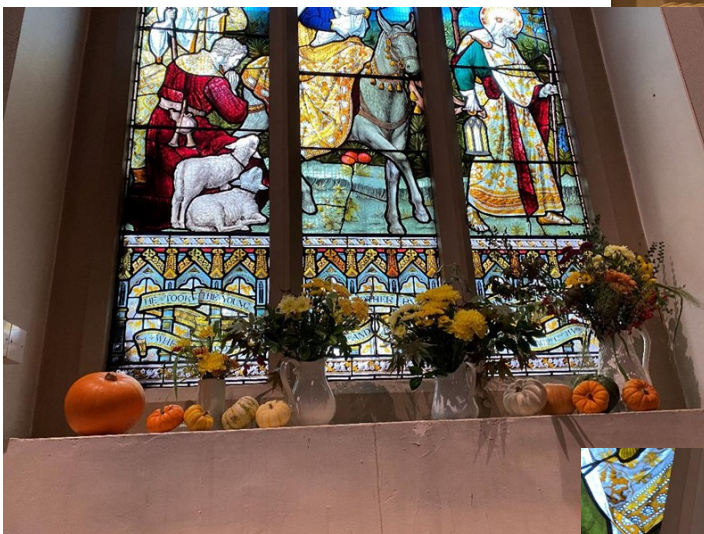
"He said not 'Thou shalt not be tempest, thou shalt not be travailed, thou shalt not be dis-eased'; but he said, 'Thou shalt not be overcome'." It is in this hope that I live and have faith, for Julian also wrote ""All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

Rev Alison Tyler

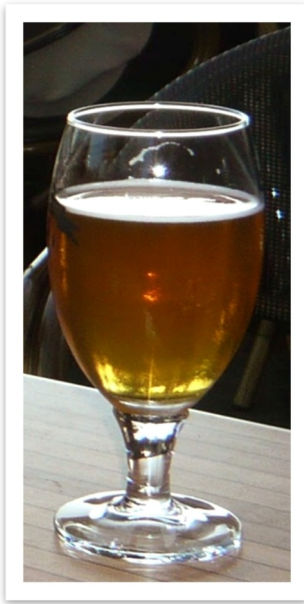
Harvest Festival 2025 – let's get creative!

This year we will be decorating the Church for our Harvest Festival on Friday 10th October from 10 am – 12 noon. We would like to encourage others to be creative and get involved to help decorate our church window sills and other areas in the church. A very simple arrangement in a vase or basket with some twigs, greenery, berries, gourds/squash would look very good. You could include sunflowers, chrysanthemums or other flowers in autumnal colours, or you may have other ideas - the choice is yours! Coffee and cake available. If you are interested in being involved with this in some way, it would be helpful to let Anne Yolland know of your intention as early as possible. The photos show some of our windows from Harvest 2024.

Anne Yolland



BEER



Beers and Lagers are some of the oldest and most popular drinks around at the moment.

Beer in the UK is taken to be the type of beer which is brewed relatively fast using yeast that collects at the top of the brew, cutting off any air and the microorganisms that it would bring. This makes beer much easier to produce and is probably the type of beer that you made at home as a teenager. I well remember coming down one morning to see the brew that my brother had started in his large plastic bucket. The weather was good and the yeast had got going, frothing up to soak the tea towel that was draped over the bucket to protect it. This tea towel was now saturated and was now acting as a siphon for the half-fermented beer, the whole thing smelling nice and malty. This was definitely approved of by the house-mice, who gathered round for the free drink, balancing on their hind legs to sup the alcoholic bounty, before staggering away in slightly random directions.

Lagers brew using a different type of yeast which collects at the bottom of the fermentation vessel. They also ferment at much lower temperatures resulting in a crisper, cleaner taste. They are the most popular type of beer on the European mainland, with many different varieties.

One of them, probably the best (according to Carlsberg) is Carlsberg.

CARLSBERG

One of the largest brewing companies in the world, Carlsberg was founded in 1847. Not by a Mr. Carlsberg, but by the son of a brewer, P.J. Jacobsen. So, while the rest of Europe had the Year of Revolutions, Denmark had Carlsberg.

Twenty years later, the brewery burnt down.

This was a blessing in disguise, as P.J. was able to rebuild and include some

revolutionary innovations, including a factory wide cooling system. Cooling the brew led to a better result and sales went up and in 1867 Carlsberg started to bottle its beer, which meant that it could export it more effectively. 12 ship loads a month to England alone. At the same time, they also exported further afield, including China and India.

Carlsberg is still a great exporter, but less to the UK. In the UK we have session drinkers, who do not stop at a half pint, but go on to drink by the litre. Danish-brewed Carlsberg is frothy and the extra gas caused issues to the UK pub drinkers, so the first non-Danish Carlsberg brewery was set up in Ipswich to brew flatter beer.

Back in the 18 hundreds there were still problems to be overcome. Although the cooling system gave better results, there were still bad batches of beer, so in 1875 research labs were set up in the Carlsberg factory to investigate. They found that it was strains of wild yeast that gave the bad beer, so they created the first Purified Yeast. This was successful and gave consistent results, so they shared it with whoever wanted it. This yeast is widely used today, not only for beer, but also for bread and even in the production of insulin. Another development by the Carlsberg labs in 1909 was the pH scale for assessing the acidity of a liquid, which we all remember using in our chemistry lessons at school. This has also proved to be invaluable.

The quality of beer is also dependant on the water used. In the UK, it is claimed that the best bitters are made with the soft waters of the north, while the hard water of Southern England is better for the sweeter mild ale. I am not sure about this, as although there is definitely a historic tendency for beer to be amber and bitter in the North, getting darker and sweeter as you go South, this trend continues and develops into the South West and Cornwall, where the water is really soft.

The Carlsberg brewery sorted the issue of where to get pure water by transporting in clean water from outside Copenhagen. They went

quite a distance, to the lake Ørnsø in the spa town of Silkeborg, 300km away. When I worked in the neighbouring spa, they still were said to get their water for Carlsberg beer from Ørnsø and my mother remembered the old drey carts, drawn by horses who had little ear muffs to protect their ears from flies. Nowadays, with 361 different beers to produce and a whole world to supply, Ørnsø is a bit too small, so they must look elsewhere.

I initially intended to tell you about beer in general, but looking up Carlsberg has given me so much unexpected information, that it has taken up all my space and I think that I will leave all the others for another day.

Trine Hevezi



*As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had
disturbed nothing in the vestry*

*With thanks to everyone involved in the transformation of both of our
vestries....*

A view from the pew



I enjoy going to museums and can remember (imagine?) visiting the Natural History Museum and seeing the giant dinosaur skeleton when I was at primary school. But, old though I am, there were museums around even before me! The world's first known museum was established by Babylonian princess Ennigaldi-Nanna around 530 BC. It housed artifacts from previous Mesopotamian civilisations. These items were organised, and some labelled, to show the history and culture of previous Mesopotamian empires. It was discovered in 1925 by archaeologist Leonard Wooley.

The ancient Greeks and Romans collected and displayed art and objects, but their collections were often housed within temples, or in public spaces such as gardens or bathhouses, rather than in dedicated museum buildings. In Britain, the Ashmolean Museum (1683) in Oxford is generally considered to be the first public museum, and was established to share knowledge of humanity across cultures and times.

Most museums are built around a collection, and in the sixteenth century, systemic collectors (royalty, noblemen and affluent merchants) compiled "cabinets of curiosities". John Tradescant filled his house and garden in South London with more curiosities than someone might see in a lifetime of travel, thanks to his employers and other connections.

Collections such as these formed the basis for the first public museums in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. In Britain, the British Museum was formed in 1753 by an act of Parliament, comprising Sir Hans Sloan's collection. Culture turned out to be a useful vehicle for governments in their effort to transform the "masses" into "citizens"; museums were often referred to as "civic engines".

In 1888 the publisher Thomas Greenwood proclaimed public museums and libraries a state affair as indispensable for municipalities as drainage, the police and lunatic asylums! Institutional buildings were repurposed to house new, reforming institutions: Tate opened its doors to the public in 1897, on the site of the Millbank Penitentiary.

Linked to the public museum, exhibitions showcasing advances in manufacturing, science and technology were promoted as celebrating international co-operation and peaceful competition among nations. However, when the 1851 “Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations” opened at the Crystal Palace (in Hyde Park!), it was loaded with British items, celebrating Britain’s political and economic supremacy.

It may appear that museums in Britain now strive to serve a “worldwide civic purpose”, but this is difficult to dissociate from the “Western world”. And it goes with a great responsibility to display a wealth of multicultural artifacts in their true context. We in Bromley are fortunate to be able to assess their success by easily visiting London’s great museums and forming our own view.

Peter Fall

Churned Choices

Life can be like the contents of a rotated drum. Having made your choice, you may then find that the outcome is not as you had hoped for, and be disappointed. Never mind - try again. There’s nearly always another chance.

If, however, it has gone your way and you are pleased with the result, well done! Congratulations! ‘Just the ticket’.

Tom Bola

Hymns for people over 50

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I’ve Forgotten Where I’ve Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

Blessed Insurance

It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

A Canine Thank You

Many of you will be aware that I lost Meghan in Downham Fields on Sunday 10 August . She is now home having been missing till 3 o'clock on the following Thursday morning, when I received a phone call from David in Burnt Ash Lane saying he had found her in his next door neighbour's garden hiding behind two water butts. David and his wife Myra had heard a dog crying, got up, dressed, found torch and went looking . David knew there was a Scottie lost as he had seen the poster in MInn's store and snapped a picture of it. Thus had my phone number. There were lots of posters up – courtesy of Andrea (from St Andrews) - plus Facebook, Downham Community and other Social Media sites. In addition to which the Scottish Terrier Rescue Scheme had a drone sent up around Downham Fields searching for her (Thank You Steve and Elaine)

This is a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who helped find Meghan - a wonderful community effort. So many of you at St Mary's text, emailed or sent vibes ,(which I felt) and prayed - especially to St Anthony.

Meghan is home and physically fine, but extremely nervous. Has found a "Safe Place" in the downstairs shower room where hopefully she will one day emerge from.

I'm sure I've forgotten someone but, Thanks from Jo and woofs from Meghan



Poverty and Hope Appeal 2024/25: Loving our neighbours around the world

Since 1977 Rochester Diocese has, through this annual appeal, helped meet the most basic needs that all of God's children deserve: a safe place to live; food to eat; and a way to something better for their children. We can only make a small contribution in response to a huge worldwide challenge, but we do what we can, working through long-term trusted partners.

Over £20,000 was raised in the 2023 Appeal and we are most grateful to every church and individual who contributed. Every penny of this is going to our seven beneficiaries: four international Christian Charities and three Companion Dioceses in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Over the last five decades Poverty and Hope has focused on five core themes: Agriculture, Education, Healthcare, Women's Empowerment and Community Advocacy. This year we are adding another one: Peace. War and violence has devastated millions of lives in recent years and we can't just watch helplessly.

The two leading projects over the next twelve months are:

The continuing efforts through Amos Trust to work for peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine, highlighted by the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Centre, working in the shadow of the separation wall in Bethlehem.

A big new initiative involving Christian Aid, the EU and US Aid, to help people turn away from violence towards peace in Latin America and the Caribbean. The immediate focus is on the 'Communities Living Peacefully' project working at the northern border of Haiti and Dominican Republic.

We are God's hands and feet (and money) on earth, so please donate generously!

Peter Kettle, LLM, Poverty and Hope Appeal Coordinator.

For many years, members of the congregation have donated money to the Rochester Diocese's Poverty in Hope appeal every Autumn. Looking back, we have contributed over £4,000 the last 14 years, and last year we sent the appeal £300, although in our best year (2011) we raised nearly £450. Peter Kettle's article talks about the desperate need for peace in our world, so let's see how much we can send this year.. All donations made through the church account - provided they are identifiable - will duly be passed on – please look out for further information.

Jill Atkinson

Advertise in our Parish Magazine! Spaces are available in our Parish Magazine, and we will like to help you share your goods and services with our friendly local community. It's a great way to support the parish while reaching new clients. Here are our suggested advertisement fees and the magazine's account details.

Full page (app 200 x 145 mm) 12 Months: £110; Six Months: £60

Half page (app 145 x 100mm) 12 Months: £80; Six Months: £50

Quater Page: (app 75.2 x 50mm) 12 Months £50; Six Months: £30

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Rob Hadgiyianni
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Mob. 07957 325452
robhadgiyianni@ovenwizards.com
www.ovenwizards.com

**Call today to have your oven,
hob, extractor or Aga
professionally cleaned**

Back to School:

I wonder what those three words mean to you? I groaned inwardly when I first read them back in mid July, & as September approaches, the words appear in ever more locations.

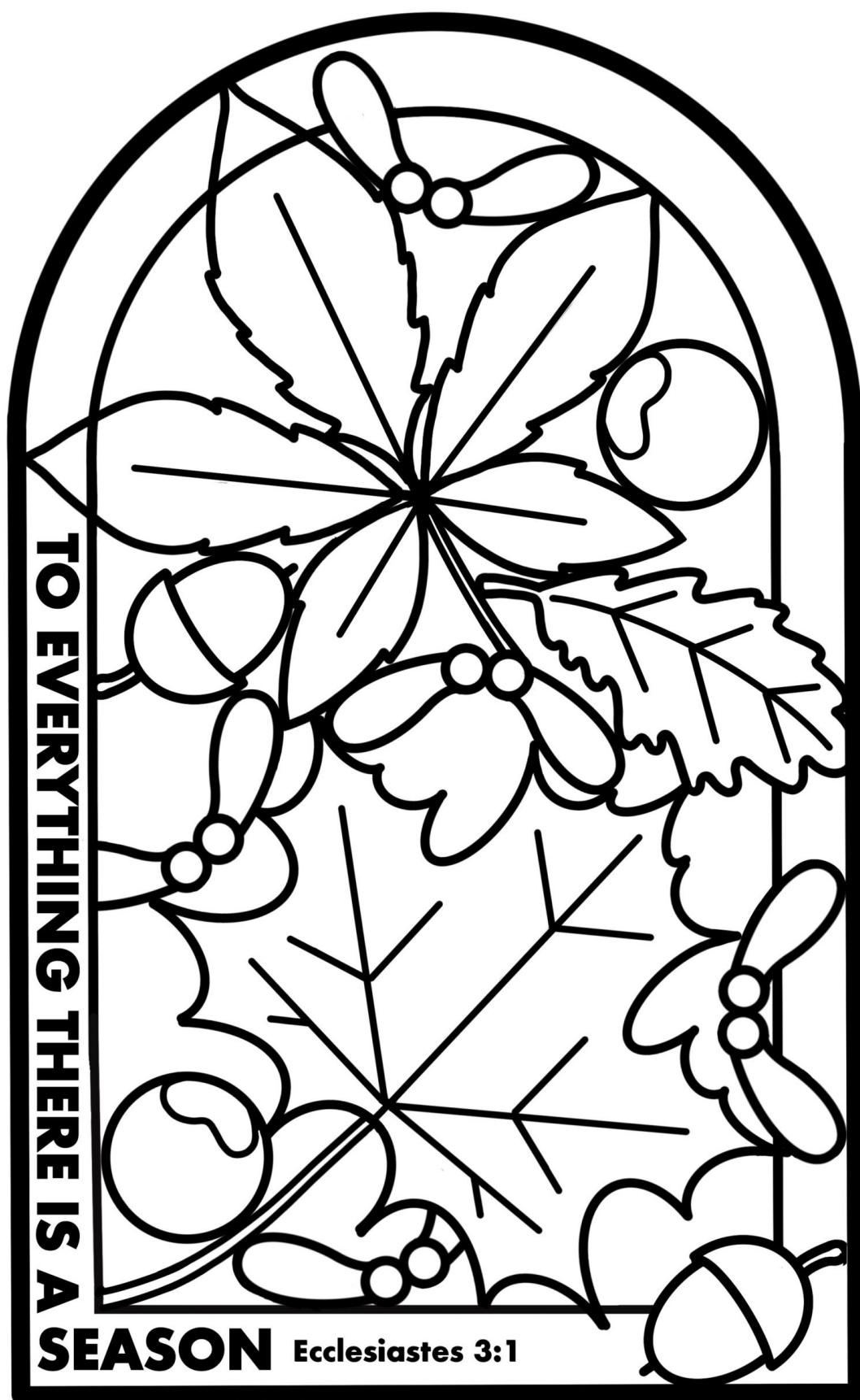
For me as a child, “going back to school” in September was viewed with a mixture of excitement and sadness that the long holidays were over. The last day of the holidays was spent preparing everything and making sure it was safely in my satchel (yes, I am that old). There were discussions with friends whether to go back in “Summer” or “Winter” uniform as we could choose. Invariably, by the end of the first week, the novelty of “Winter” would win out. Being at the same school as my sisters, which had a relatively a stable staff, I wasn’t too worried about meeting my new teacher – I already knew her. For my mother, the day marked the culmination of a frenzy of name tape sewing and “turning up” & “letting down” hems on school uniform – my own, when they still fitted, or my sister’s hand-me-downs, which needed adjustment.

As an adult engaged in the education business, you might be surprised to hear that, for me at least, the words still filled me with the same mixture of anticipation and anxiety, however much I told myself I had done it all before. First impressions are important – and I needed to get things just right with the new group of pupils. Rules and expectations needed to be established, but without terrifying the more timid members of the group. And of course, at some points in my career, I was also dealing with new colleagues, or even a new school myself.

I still find it difficult to disassociate myself from thinking in terms, despite having (technically) been retired for quite a few years now. Old habits die hard! And of course, my diary starts to fill up again at the start of September, when evening classes restart; choir practices return, and the brownies are expecting me to lead their meetings. How do I feel? I still wonder where the days of August went, and what happened to all my good intentions; I still have all sorts of things I intended to do & haven’t done; but I am no longer as anxious about the future. It is good to have a new start from time to time, and “Back to School” or not, September can be a new beginning for everyone.

Jill Atkinson

A page to colour—for all ages.



					1	3		
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		5	2					

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(Answer on page 30)



And a different sort of puzzle:

There have been conversations recently about our “old vicars” - not just Alan Keeler (known to most); Bishop Simon (known to many) & Peter Henwood (known to quite a few), but also the clergy before them—who are the photos in the vestry? Who still remembers and can identify them? What were they like? Perhaps someone would like to enlighten us!

Mothers' Union Matters



Mother's Union Meetings in September and October:

September

Wednesday 3rd **Grace Café** from 10am

Thursday 11th **Talk by Peter Yolland** – 'Bromley Little Theatre', this will be held in the Front Room of Church House at 10am, please join us for another of Peter's interesting talks.

Thursday 18th **Knit and Knatter** in the Front Room of Church House, from 10am – open to all.

October

Wednesday 1st **Grace Café** from 10am

Thursday 9th **Games morning** – please note this is a change from the Programme - the Quiz by Chris and John Soper has been moved to Thursday 13th November. Held in Front Room of Church House at 10am, please join us.

Thursday 16th **Knit and Knatter** in the Front Room of Church House from 10 am – open to all

Saturday 25th **Autumn Members' Meeting** at St Justus Church, Rochester, 9.30am for 10.00 This year there will be a Dementia information session, led by Diana Pattison, MU member and Lead Anna Chaplain for the Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley. Further details in the MU Newsletter sent to all MU members by e-mail recently. If you would like to go, please speak to Margaret.



Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer



Members of St Mary's MU held their Annual Wave of Prayer service on the 15th July. This is a prayer service to gather to give thanks for our Wave of Prayer links across the world in Toliaria, Madagascar; Zaria and Ndokwa, Nigeria; Chhattisgarh, North India; Mbale, Uganda; and Rochester. This short service was followed by light refreshments.

QUIET DAY

St Mary's Church Bromley

"Taking Time Out to reflect on our need of God for Healing, Wholeness and Holiness"

Saturday 13th September 2025
9.30 am to 3.00 pm

Led by Paul Stevens

The Quiet Day will take place in church and include times for creative activity, quiet and solitary reflection

Light refreshments included



*"To have needs is to be human,
to need God is to be holy"*

To book your place please contact
Rev Eucharist at
vicarstmarysbromley@gmail.com
or 07917 169972

www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO KEEP ALL THIS FOOD

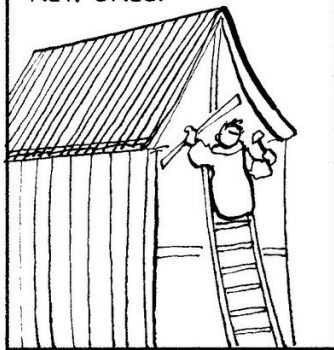


I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN MY BARNs AND BUILD BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS OLD BARNs....

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE TOWN!



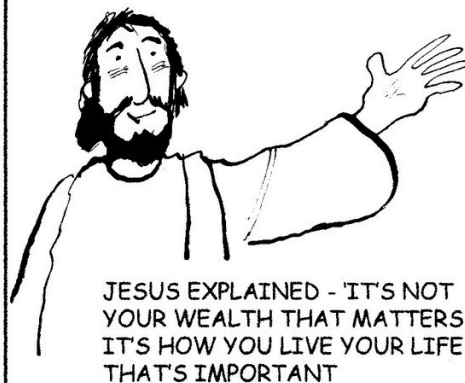
I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT, THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS, IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE THAT'S IMPORTANT

**‘He gave us eyes to see them:
William Holman Hunt’s Scapegoat**



William Holman Hunt’s Scapegoat, Wikipedia, public domain.

14th September in the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is a time of fasting and prayer, and its observance is regulated by Leviticus 16.

The Old Testament ritual involved cleansing the priesthood and the people when a scapegoat bearing the sins of the faithful was sent into the wilderness. Much of that ritual has lapsed, but the heart of Yom Kippur is prayer that the relationship of love and service between God and His people would be renewed and restored. The goat that was sent by relays into the desert had a scarlet cord – a reminder that ‘though our sins be scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow.’

It is the subject of William Holman Hunt’s famous painting that is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight. This village was founded by Lord Leverhulme in 1889 for the workers in his soap factory. It consists of gabled houses and Elizabethan style cottages which nestle side by side around the impressive domed art gallery containing a wealth of paintings and sculptures.

Work on 'The Scapegoat' began in 1854 and was completed two years later. Holman Hunt went to the Dead Sea to paint the goat in situ, following the Pre-Raphaelite principles of art embodying exact detail and accuracy in its subject matter. There is a photograph of the artist by his easel, a paintbrush in one hand and a rifle in the other. It was a time of political tension between Syria, Palestine and Turkey, which combined with the constant danger of hostile tribesmen in the area.

Undaunted, Holman Hunt sketched by the sea and then finished the details off in his rooms in Jerusalem. He described the scene as a 'beautifully arranged horrible wilderness.' In the distance are the hills of Edom against the sky, and in the foreground the solitary goat with the scarlet cord over its head. It is a bleak landscape, and on the frame surrounding the picture are the words from Leviticus: 'The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.'

At the time critics were not sure what to make of the painting, as there was no recognisable story or moral so beloved of the Victorians. Elegant ladies inquired if the artist was going to put in the rest of the flock, and one critic said it was an excellent portrait of Lord Stratford.

We look at the painting with the eyes of faith and realise that the scapegoat was sent over the river Kidron into the wilderness, the very same river our Lord and His disciples crossed to the Garden of Gethsemane which heralded the passion of Jesus. We can see this sad creature, isolated and alone, bearing the sins of God's ancient people, and think of Isaiah's words: 'He was despised and rejected by others.' A scapegoat in the Old Testament bearing the sins of the people: the Lamb of God in the new covenant who takes away the sin of the world.



Share

There are only two things a young child will share willingly – communicable diseases and mum's age.

On the annual war of pumpkin-growing

From The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin growing competition. Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence.

On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters' rights to that place, and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation.

I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence. That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick and accompanied by a golden Labrador does, however, raise doubts.

To award the Earl any prize at all does seem a little unfair, when the only time he ever gets mud on his boots is when he falls off his horse while hunting. I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate. But to give any credit to his gardening staff would be seen as bad form, so we all keep quiet.

It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but they would also have to face a 12 month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Letters would be strangely mis-delivered, and the butcher's boy would suddenly deliver lamb when pork had been ordered. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Your choice

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Worship Diary

We offer a variety of services through the year. They are mostly on a Sunday at 10.30am and are mostly Family Communion. Most months we also have an All Age 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 a Church Warden, a sidesman... or anyone really!

Our Sunday Club is a valued provision for our youngest members. They do not meet during school holidays.

Sunday 7th September

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club on theme of Creation

Sunday 14th September

10.30 am All Age Communion celebrating the dedication of St Mary's

Sunday 21st September

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club—St Matthew's day

Sunday 28th September

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club—All Saints' Day

7	4	2	8	9	1	3	6	5
5	9	6	4	3	7	2	8	1
1	8	3	6	5	2	9	4	7
4	2	7	9	8	3	5	1	6
6	3	1	7	4	5	8	9	2
9	5	8	1	2	6	4	7	3
2	7	4	3	6	9	1	5	8
3	1	9	5	7	8	6	2	4
8	6	5	2	1	4	7	3	9

Answers to Sudoku on page 22

Saturday 6th September: 10.00 am - 12 noon

CHURCHYARD TIDY UP: clear up rubbish, plant the spring bulbs and plant donations and build a **PEACE GARDEN**. Cleaning in church (for everyone) if wet. Refreshments available.

7th September: Sunday Service 10.30 am

Theme: “ And God saw all that he had made and behold it was very good”.
Genesis 1:31



Saturday 13th September: 9.30 am - 3 pm

QUIET DAY, led by Paul Stevens. “Taking Time Out to reflect on our need of God for Healing, Wholeness and Holiness”. Lunch provided. Please book a place with Rev Eucharis.

14th September: Sunday Service 10.30 am

All Age Family Communion: Celebrating the dedication of St Mary's, and the beginnings of our Church community consecrated on 13th September, 1863. The theme will be dedication. As it will be **LONDON OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**, the Church is open on Sunday until 4.00pm with refreshments.



21st September: Sunday Service 10.30 am

St Matthew's Day: We will look at relationships in his Gospel with the natural world as glimpses of a vision of engagement with Creation.

28th September: Sunday Service 10.30 am

St Michael and All Angels: We will focus on the fight against evil. St Michael fought the devil/evil. What do we fight or how do we struggle to protect Creation and our planet from exploitation and destruction and how to do it best?

Wednesday 1st October: 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm

School children are invited to a **CRAFT WORKSHOP** and **TEA** to make beautiful leaves to decorate the windows in the Church porch ready for the morning worship on 2nd October.
Volunteers needed to help, details in Newsletter.

Thursday 2nd October: 9.30 am - 12.15 pm

Parish School Harvest Festival in Church.



Saturday 4th October: 10.00 am for 10.30 am - 3.30 pm

St Francis' Day SE London Area Third Order Celebration.

Come and join in with the Third Order either for the whole event, if so bring packed lunch, or just for the Service at 1.30 pm. Tea, coffee and water provided.



5th October: Sunday Service 10.30 am

Finish off the season with a pledge and commitment with symbolic actions.



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025



For more information

www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

[www.facebook.com/
stmarysbromley/](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbromley/)

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

Vicar <i>Day off Friday</i>	Revd EUCHARIA ASIEGBU 74 London Lane BR1 4HE Email: Vicarstmarysbromley@gmail.com	020 3612 0110
Associate Priest	Revd ALISON TYLER E-mail: alisontyler@gmail.com	07973 457336
Readers	Mr JOHN COX Mr MIKE EAMES Dr KEITH NYE	07751 117 427 07711 421 544
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs ANTHIA PAGE	07976 385 132
Churchwardens	Mr CLEM SUTTON Mrs MARIA STAINES	07932 637 002
Parish Administrator	vacant e.mail: admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	07951 748 155
Church House	Mrs. ATLANTA TOPHAM	
Bookings	e.mail: stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com	
Concerts & Choir	Mr PETER FALL	020 8464 1239
Safeguarding	Mrs LISA MORRIS email: lisa.morris104@hotmail.com	
CarePlus	e.mail:info@careplusbromley.org.uk	

Magazine Committee

Jo Clark	Editor e-mail:joc1947@msn.com	07973 457336
Alison Tyler	Editor e-mail alisontyler@gmail.com	
Jill Atkinson	Editor e-mail: jilleatk@aol.com	
Lesley Speller	Distribution Manager	