

*St Mary's Church, Bromley*  
*Parish Magazine*  
**OCTOBER 2025**

*61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG*



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

Minimum donation 75p



*St Mary's Bromley  
Grace Café  
is part of the Places  
of Welcome network*

# Grace Café

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St Mary's  
Church**

**Wednesday  
morning  
10 am - 12 noon  
(not in August)**

**Coffee & Cake**

**Play Area**  
Parents & Carers are  
responsible for  
supervising their  
children, including in  
the play area

**All are  
Welcome**



**St Mary's Church, College Road,  
Bromley BR1 3QG**

Charity No. 631034



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## Welcome to the October 2025 edition of the Parish Magazine

This is my first attempt to edit the Magazine, with much help from my husband Paddy. We hope for the best. Thank you all for meeting the deadlines so well and getting material to me in such good time. I cannot guarantee perfection; the triumph will be that we managed at all.

This month becomes busy in earnest, for those of us who survive the last Cream Tea of the season. We go forward through the Harvest season, hosting The Parish School for their Harvest Festival on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and decorating the porch, the window sills and the church for our own harvest celebrations on 12<sup>th</sup> October. We look forward to the First Aid training on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, and the Vision workshop on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

See you soon at all or some of these events . Enjoy!



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

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### **Not any more**

Two young tourists went into a Quaker Guest House in Lakeland. As they were strangers, the Warden approached them and asked "Are you Friends?"

The answer came back politely, "Oh no, not now, we are married"!

### ***Disclaimer***

***The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various participants in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions, and viewpoints of the Editors.***

## Vicar's Letter – October 2025



Dear Friends,

Welcome to October, a month rich in memory, in saints, and in deepening faith. As the trees glow with autumn's gold and the air carries that crisp promise of change, we step together into a new season. While September led us through Creationtide, celebrating God's gift in all things and our call to care for all God's creations, October invites us into extraordinary devotion: honouring saints, embracing change, and preparing our hearts for what lies ahead.

We begin with dear companions of the faith: **St Francis of Assisi** on October 4th, whose humility and love for prayer, for creation, and for every living creature still inspire us today. St Francis of Assisi taught us to see all creation as brothers and sisters in prayer: *"All creatures of our God and King, praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility."*

Then, **St Teresa of Avila** on the 15th, whose writings call us deeper into contemplative prayer, and **St Luke the Evangelist** on October 18th, physician, storyteller of Christ's compassion, and patron of healing. Each life reminds us that holiness is not distant but can be lived in the ordinary patterns of our days.

18<sup>th</sup> October also brings our **Vision Day**, a chance to gather as a parish family, to pray, to listen, and to dream about our future. Who is God calling us to become in this place? How can we serve more fully? How might our community shine more brightly with the love of Christ? Your prayers and your presence will make this day a true gift.

October sits in what the Church calls *Ordinary Time*, yet there is nothing "ordinary" about the invitation it gives us. It is a season to notice how the teaching of Jesus shapes our daily relationships, our work, and our hopes. Here we plant seeds of faith, mercy, and love that will blossom in God's

time. This month gently warms us toward Advent as the leaves fall and daylight shortens,. Even now we can begin with turning more deeply to prayer, opening Scripture with fresh eyes, letting the expectation of Christ's coming stir up hope, peace, joy, and love within us.

We also begin the spiritual work of remembrance. Though **Remembrance Sunday** falls in November, already we carry in prayer the memory of the fallen, the grief of families, and the longing for peace in a troubled world.

May I invite us to hold this verse in our hearts this month: *"Be still, and know that I am God."* Psalm 46:10. May our stillness lead to strength, our remembering lead to compassion, and our ordinary days become holy ground. May we walk through October together in prayer, worship, love, hope and care for one another. Amen

With every blessing,  
Eucharistia



### Newsletter

If you would like something to be included in the St Mary's Newsletter, please send it to [Newsletter.StMarys@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!



## **NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS FAIR:**

**SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 2-5PM**

**HELPERS - SPEAK TO MARIA/CLEM/EUCHARIA**

**CUSTOMERS - INVITE FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS**

**GIFTS FOR TOMBOLA EG BOTTLES, VOUCHERS**

**CHRISTMAS CAKES / YULE LOGS TO SELL/SERVE**

**HANDMADE JAMS/PRESERVES**

**UNWANTED GIFTS, GOOD CONDITION TOYS AND TRINKETS**

**UNWANTED CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

**EXCELLENT CONDITION BOOKS AND PUZZLES**



### **Wear out**

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week." "Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

## **Artist of the Open Road**



Inspiration takes many forms, can come from different directions, is not always obvious and is sometimes very surprising. When I write for the magazine I try to share any fresh experiences or new learning that has come my way since last time. So, sharing some highlights of my recent experiences, we start with an exhibition of Japanese prints. I really like them anyway, but this exhibition was special.

The title of this article is not original. It was the title of the exhibition at the British Museum called 'Hiroshige (1797–1858) : artist of the open road'. It was a beautiful meditative experience of multi layered talent in action.

The introduction told us that at this stage in the Edo period in Japan - the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century - society was unsettled, with social unrest, poverty and many other stresses, and with foreign travel and foreign visitors both banned. Even so, Hiroshige - a lifelong Buddhist - along with many others travelled the main roads of the country, for trade, on pilgrimage or for adventure, and he produced beautifully detailed, stunning yet simple images of both his society and the natural world on those journeys. He captured enduring views of this world before it changed radically, whilst calming and inspiring those who saw, and still see, his work, as we observed in the overheard comments of other visitors. The beauty of the images was much admired, "like a cool drink on a hot day", and the complexity of the woodblock printing technique added to the admiration I overheard.

That the simple facts of natural life could be so beautifully produced, the snowstorm, the cloudburst, Mount Fuji, the ferry trip and the pack donkey, made this exhibition both a really good introduction to Creation Season and an excellent companion on the journey through life in difficult times. Especially as, beneath the apparent tranquillity, change was really imminent, so the prints captured fleeting idealised moments just in time, as the ancient feudal system was ending. It also acted as a reminder to me

that all times in human history are difficult, though possibly in different ways, and that human nature, and our responses to difficulty and to one another, have not changed a great deal. The images of life as a journey and a pilgrimage seem to resonate in almost every age.

Mind you, so do other less pleasing images of life, perhaps, life as an opportunity for acquisition which I discovered some days later at the Cartier exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

It was again the comments of others seeing the exhibition that were so interesting in response to this overwhelming, magnificent display of unaffordable diamonds and jewels. On the one hand people were dazzled and envious and would have so liked some of the jewels, which were the stuff of fantasy, for their own; and on the other hand some were vitriolic in their condemnation of the rich and powerful who collected this kind of work in quantity.

There were a few, like me, just amazed at the beauty of the work and glad to have the opportunity to see it. The jewels had a fairytale quality of eerie and icy beauty, whilst inspiring unrealistic aspirations of an expensive lifestyle. They were dazzling to behold, the skilled work involved quite extraordinary. It was difficult to remember that they had started as natural products, rocks, stones and metals, almost magically transformed into objects of astonishing beauty. But they were also cold and hard; sadly insubstantial, detached and unsatisfying – so, unhelpful if you were needing balm for a troubled soul.

The highlight of our recent enlightening new experiences was a spellbinding television programme about an early, potentially amphibious ancestor of ours, from about 410 million years ago, a fish called the coelacanth. Thought to have become extinct some 66 million years ago. It was only relatively recently rediscovered (in the 1930s) in a couple of places, and so is known as a *Lazarus taxon*, which is the term for an evolutionary line that seems to have disappeared from the fossil record only to reappear much later on.

It's a wonderful, ancient and beautiful, slow moving creature still living at great depth in the oceans, around Africa and Indonesia. It was

enthralled to see and to hear about its life history and lifestyle, and it was utterly devastating to discover that even here, miles below the surface, they suffer from the impact of plastic pollution. *Lord have mercy!*

Rev Alison Tyler

## Puzzle of the Month

See how many of the words you can find in the grid.

Answers on Page 30

u	g	m	i	d	i	a	n	i	t	e	s
w	y	j	s	g	s	y	g	o	d	w	u
a	v	e	d	m	r	h	w	e	r	o	r
t	f	s	h	t	a	o	o	u	i	r	r
e	r	i	n	e	e	s	u	c	n	r	o
r	r	u	g	s	l	s	h	n	k	i	u
u	o	j	m	h	i	p	p	e	d	e	n
c	a	m	p	p	t	g	r	r	d	d	d
e	h	g	i	d	e	o	n	o	i	w	e
h	o	m	e	c	s	t	r	a	o	n	d
a	f	r	a	i	d	n	s	c	l	f	g
w	o	o	l	j	a	r	s	k	h	u	g

camp  
shocked  
country  
Gideon  
help  
home  
spring  
smashed

fight  
Israelites  
ground  
proof  
worried  
afraid  
water  
wool

trumpets  
Midianites  
torch  
drink  
signal  
God  
jars  
surrounded

# Torquay Agatha Christie Festival

## September 2025

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to mark Agatha's 135<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Torbay Civil Society placed a blue plaque at All Saints Church in Torre, an area in Torquay near to her then family home Ashfield, a large Victorian villa. Agatha lived here with her parents, older sister Madge and brother Monty.



The commemoration took place during this year's Agatha Christie Festival, following the morning church service.

The Victorian church was designed by John Pearson and built with money from Agatha Christie's family. Agatha's father Frederick Alvah Miller (1846-1901) was a wealthy American stockbroker of

independent but declining means and died when Agatha was just 11 years old. Leaving her mother Clarissa, who was English, to bring up Agatha on her own as Madge and Monty who were older and at boarding schools.

The church houses the marble font where Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was baptised on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 1890 and the family pew is also still there.

Anne and I visited the church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September as part of our visit to the festival, during one of the gaps between listening to the many expert talks on Agatha Christie at the Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.

Sadly, the church was closed and we could not go inside. So, I simply posed for a photograph in front of the plaque.

By coincidence, Anne was confirmed at the same church on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1977 by the Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Rev Richard Cartwright. Incidentally, he was consecrated by Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury, on 29 September 1972 at Westminster Abbey.



On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Anne and I made our way to the blue plaque that marks the spot where Ashfield in Barton Road was located. In the 1960's, Ashfield was purchased and then demolished by Torquay Council as part of the building of a technical college. Agatha tried to stop this by buying her old family home but was unsuccessful.

Anne, also attended the college in the late 1970's and two of her friends recollected as primary school girls in the mid-1960s walking by the house and being allowed into the grounds for nature studies. Does the plaque mark the precise location of the house? It was described as a large villa with grounds surrounding it. Behind the plaque there is now a block of flats, the college was demolished and the area redeveloped in the 2000's. This is a mystery I intend to uncover in the future; watch this space!

Peter Yolland



## A blast from the past!

Rev Eucharis recently went to visit Bromley College, where she met a former curate from St Mary's, Fr. Bob Wallace, now a Bromley College resident.

He sends warm greetings to us all.



## Confirmations



On the afternoon of Sunday 7th September, deanery confirmations took place at St. Nicholas' church in Chislehurst. More than 20 of us from St Mary's went to support Molly and Sonny, who were confirmed by Bishop Jonathan.

In the words of one member of our congregation, it was a wonderfully uplifting service and encouraging to see so many being confirmed.



# *A view from the pew*



I don't know about you, but I have no problem realising that I have sinned. I have done things wrong, sufficient to separate me from God, the perfect being. And the essence of Christianity, for me, is the reconciliation, offered by Jesus, to bring me back to God, by overcoming my sin.

One of the great exponents of that remarkable offer to man from God was Tom Rees. He was born in 1911 and grew up in Watford. Following the conversion of his brother, Dick, Tom became a Christian at the age of fifteen. His involvement in evangelistic activities convinced him that he was to be an evangelist. He took on youth work in his parish church but later refused to be tied to any one denomination. He was happy to work with any church that believed in preaching the gospel.

In the 1930s he worked with Scripture Union as an evangelist and conducted missions in Northern Ireland. He had remarkable gifts as an evangelist, being humorous but never frivolous, urgent, but not hurried, persuasive but not manipulative.

In 1936 Tom married Jean Sinclair who shared his vision for evangelism. Together they had a daughter Jennifer (later Jennifer Rees Larcombe) and a son Justyn, both of whom were to become involved in Christian ministry. As the Second World War moved towards its close he returned to evangelism and, with extraordinary faith, began evangelistic meetings in London. He hired ever-larger halls, culminating in a series of gospel rallies that filled the Albert Hall fifty-two times. It's worth noting that Tom was going against the mood of the time. The corrosion of liberal theology had undermined confidence in the power of preaching to the point that popular opinion was that the age of gospel rallies was long over. Tom, however, was a man who took his guidance from prayer and the Bible – he had memorised the entire New Testament – and took a very different view.

I was one of thousands who attended some of these (with my local church youth group) and came away deeply influenced by the impact of his preaching and the memorable gospel music that accompanied the event.

In many ways he prepared for the subsequent Billy Graham events at Harringay and Wembley Stadium.

At the end of the war, Tom began to think about a Christian conference centre. This led to him boldly buying the rambling property of Hildenborough Hall, near Tonbridge, Kent, in 1946.

Tom was a much-loved man, extraordinarily effective in the Lord's work, and gracious and generous with others. He was perhaps less gentle on himself, and an inability to delegate and pace himself may have contributed to his death in 1970 at the relatively young age of fifty-nine.

Tom's rallies, which he also took around the United Kingdom, saw many conversions and also prepared the way for the subsequent Billy Graham events. Tom met Billy on his first visit to the United Kingdom in 1946 and they always remained supportive friends. As a teenager, I went to both Tom Rees and Billy Graham rallies, either at Harringay or in Wembley Stadium. Tom also conducted fifty missions in North America, mainly Canada, and spoke at conventions such as Keswick.

As the war ended, Tom, ever the visionary, began to think about something without obvious precedent: a Christian conference centre. Here he hosted conferences and special evangelistic weekends. Although Tom had many able helpers, not least Jean, he took much of the management on himself. Tom gave up the Tonbridge centre in the Fifties – it is now a medical centre – and opened a new centre in Frinton-on-Sea in Essex, before finally moving to the Otford hills in Kent. He continued to use the name Hildenborough Hall for the new ventures and part of what it did now continues with Oak Hall Expeditions.

Peter Fall

## **Opening St Mary's to Visitors**

This Autumn St Mary's is trying to expand the number of people visiting our wonderful church. We have been participating with various organisations and plan to invite the community to join us in our own future events – keep alert for future announcements!

### **London Open House**

On two days in September we invited visitors from near and far to St Mary's. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September we joined the annual 'London Open House Festival'.

This is an organisation which encourages locations in the London area to welcome people into places of interest not usually open to the public. We received a steady trickle of guests, especially on Saturday. Two were Spanish, two were originally from USA, and some lived just around the corner and returned to the church after many years' absence. One even joined in the 'Quiet Day' reflection group that was taking place at the same time.

On Wednesday we had a visit from a lady, who now lives in Twickenham, but has many fond memories of the church. She previously lived in Minster Road and knew David Bowie in the 1960s, recalling how his mother used to dye his hair, even in those days. She worshipped here regularly as a teenager. She later helped to run the Sunday School.

In total we had nearly 30 visitors as a result of the 'Open House'. All were impressed with the decorations and received a warm welcome and guided tour. Many commented on the rarely seen stained glass windows in the choir vestry. Refreshments were also provided on both days.

### **Ride and Stride**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September was also the regular 'Ride and Stride' day organised by Friends of Kent Churches. This is a charity operating since 1949, which gives grants to support the historical heritage of churches and chapels throughout Kent, including Bromley. It raises funds through events, legacies annual 'Ride and Stride' sponsored day. It gives grants for fabric repairs and

the installation of community facilities. In most years these grants exceed £130,000, spread between numerous churches. In 2024 St Mary's received a grant of £2,500 towards our mural restoration and we have been told that further grant applications would be viewed favourably. They also organise a range of visits and lectures. The FKC raised £152,000 last year, to be distributed between Kent churches.

We participated in this event and helped to raise over £500. We will send our sponsorship money to the organisers, they claim the Gift Aid due from HMRC and return half the total to each participating church. Peter and Frances Boyden travelled to many churches in the Canterbury area, raising a significant amount. It is not too late if you wish to contribute – please see Chris Soper or John Beale to donate.

### **Place of Welcome**

On the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> November St Mary's Grace Café will become officially a 'Place of Welcome'. Places of Welcome is a growing network of local community groups providing their neighbourhoods with places where all people feel safe to connect, belong and get involved. This will be celebrated with special guests, led by Simon Burton Jones, Bishop of Tonbridge. Lunch will be provided. Please note this event in your diary and come if you can.

John Beale

### **STOP PRESS!**

The Mayor of Bromley hopes to come to our 'Places of Welcome' event and other local dignitaries will be invited. A light lunch will be provided.

## **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

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

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**Call today to have your oven,  
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## .....Guess Who?

Believe it or not, St Mary's doesn't currently have any employees.



Yes, the vicar has a paid role, but she is employed by the Diocese (even if St Mary's give the Diocese the means to pay her). Atlanta is paid regularly for her time spent administrating House & Hall (managing the bookings and the invoices amongst other things); most of the organists are paid when they play for us, and of course contractors submit bills for things like repairs to the building. But the majority of roles within the church are volunteer ones.

There are the "obvious" volunteers who are very high profile. Alison leads services in her role as associate priest; Maria & Clem are apparent as Churchwardens – although that role covers far more than most of us would imagine. The choir members wear robes which mark them out. Those reading lessons and sharing intercessions go to the front of church. The welcomers and those serving refreshments after services are also easy to spot. If you are involved in church life, you may well know and even be able to name others with given voluntary roles – the Treasurer, the PCC members, the Synod reps, the Safeguarding officer, those who lead our children's groups and so on.

But there are also many volunteers who quietly contribute to the life of St Mary's, unseen & quite possibly unnoticed. Do you know who:

- Puts up the hymn numbers on a Sunday?
- Washes up the chalice and the cups after a service?
- Picks up any rubbish left in the churchyard?
- Organises which organist comes to play when?
- Cleans out the gutters on the porch?
- Polishes the brass?
- Orders the paper cups used by Grace Café?
- Makes sure there are flowers in church on a Sunday?

I know volunteers do far more things than this - & it is often only when they stop doing them that we notice. To each and every one of you – many thanks.

And as for us - are there ways we might contribute our time & talents? Think about it!

Jill Atkinson

### **Support the 2025 Real Advent Calendar**

The Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only Fairtrade Advent calendar which comes with a free 24-page Christmas story-activity book and supports charitable causes.

The 2025 Real Advent Calendar is a fun way to share the Christmas story. The 2025 calendar has a new design. There is a Fairtrade Chocolate and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. The free book has a page for every day of Advent, expanding on the Christmas story and includes some fun challenges.

The Real Advent Calendar is made using Fairtrade chocolate - giving producers a fair price and a cash bonus. Money raised from the sales of the calendar will also help provide care and support for mums and new babies in African villages supported by the Funzi and Bodo trust.



No other calendar enables parents and children to experience the Christmas story for 24 days, and be challenged to do some good in the season. The Real Advent Calendar is designed to share and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas so that Christ is not written out of Christmas.

The calendars are not on sale in supermarkets, but we can place an order through our local Fairtrade rep. Price £5.95. Calendars could also be ordered for the Food Bank. To order please use the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Anne Yolland



Visit Bromley Borough  
Foodbank site  
here for more info



**ST MARY'S**

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

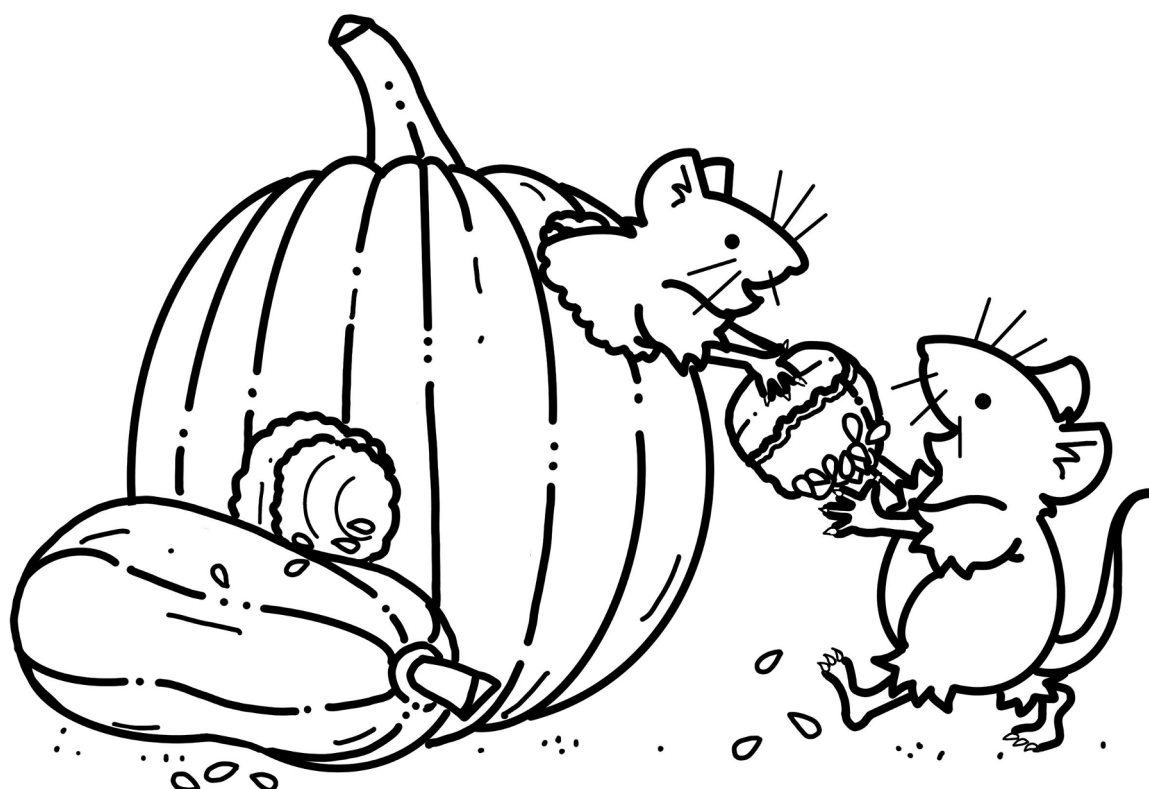


Visit Bromley Homeless  
starter pack site  
here for more info

**SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 10:30AM**

**BROMLEY BOROUGH FOOD BANK &  
BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH HOMELESS STARTER PACK SCHEME  
NEED OUR HELP.**

**IF YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE DONATE:  
TINNED TOMATOES, TINNED COLD MEATS, SUGAR, BLEACH,  
WASHING UP LIQUID, TOILETRIES**



# Mothers' Union Matters



## Mother's Union Meetings in October and November:

### October

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>**      **Grace Café** from 10am.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>**      **Beetle Drive**— Held in the Front Room of Church House at 10am, please join us.

Please note this is a change from the Programme - the Quiz by Chris and John Soper has been moved to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November (see below).

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

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>**      **Autumn Members' Meeting**  
at **St Justus Church, Rochester**, 9.30am for 10.00am.

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.

### November

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>**      **Grace Café** from 10am.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>**      **Quiz** run by Chris and John Soper – do join us for an enjoyable and fun morning.

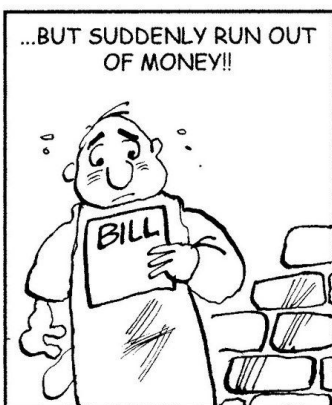
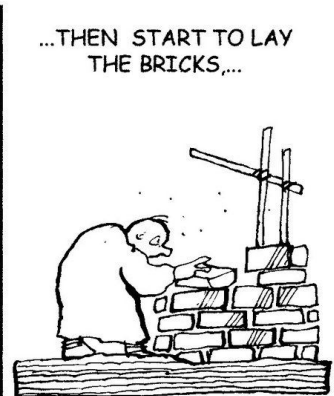
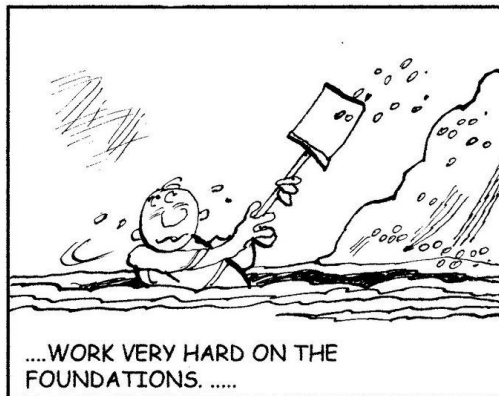
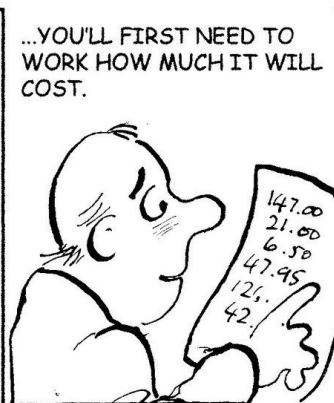
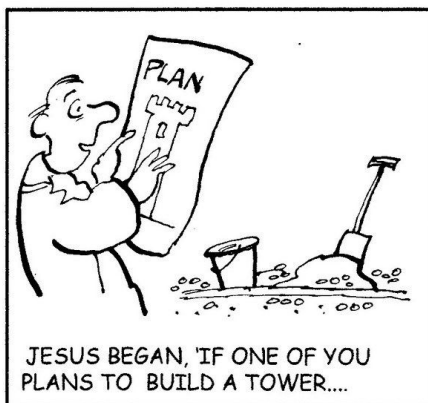
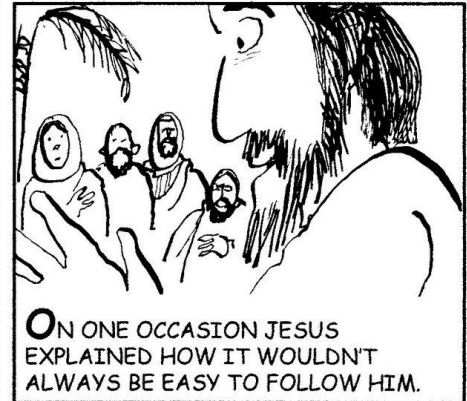
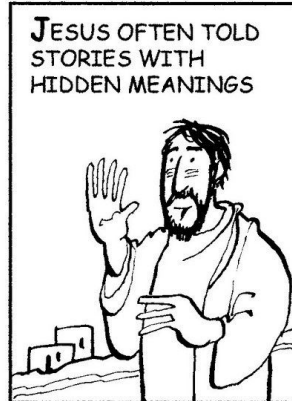
Held in the Front Room of Church House at 10am, all welcome.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>**      **Knit and Knatter** in the Front Room of Church House from 10am – open to all.



# The tale of the Tower Builder

BUILDING SITE FOR SALE



## Choir Notes

If you are ever at a loose end on a Thursday evening, do drop by the church and poke your head round the door to witness the church choir practising. It is usually quite a sedate affair, with well-planned anthems being brought out to run through for future services. But recently, the upheavals in the church, caused by redecoration and repair, have created unsettling conditions for the singers. Being a hardy group, they just carry on, but the impact of atmospheric dust on the lungs, and the frantic searches for music moved as a result of work in progress, have made "Choir Practice" slightly more challenging. Don't get me wrong. We are not complaining. We all want to benefit from the improvements being implemented. But not every church group has a vast stock of music, cunningly filed so that only a few members know where the selected anthems are, which may be needed on each occasion.

And the dust..... Well, every snooker cue has to have a dusting of chalk to provide friction when the snooker ball is struck. So perhaps every voice requires a little dusting occasionally to give just that rich throatiness which makes an adequate group of singers into a good choir! Whatever the theory, the practice is proving that, whatever the conditions, St Mary's Church Choir are able to rise above the environment and deliver well-sung anthems and reliable hymns to support the congregational worship. However, please accept our apologies for any coughing/sneezing/nose-blowing episodes that may occur during the service. Even the church choir are only human!

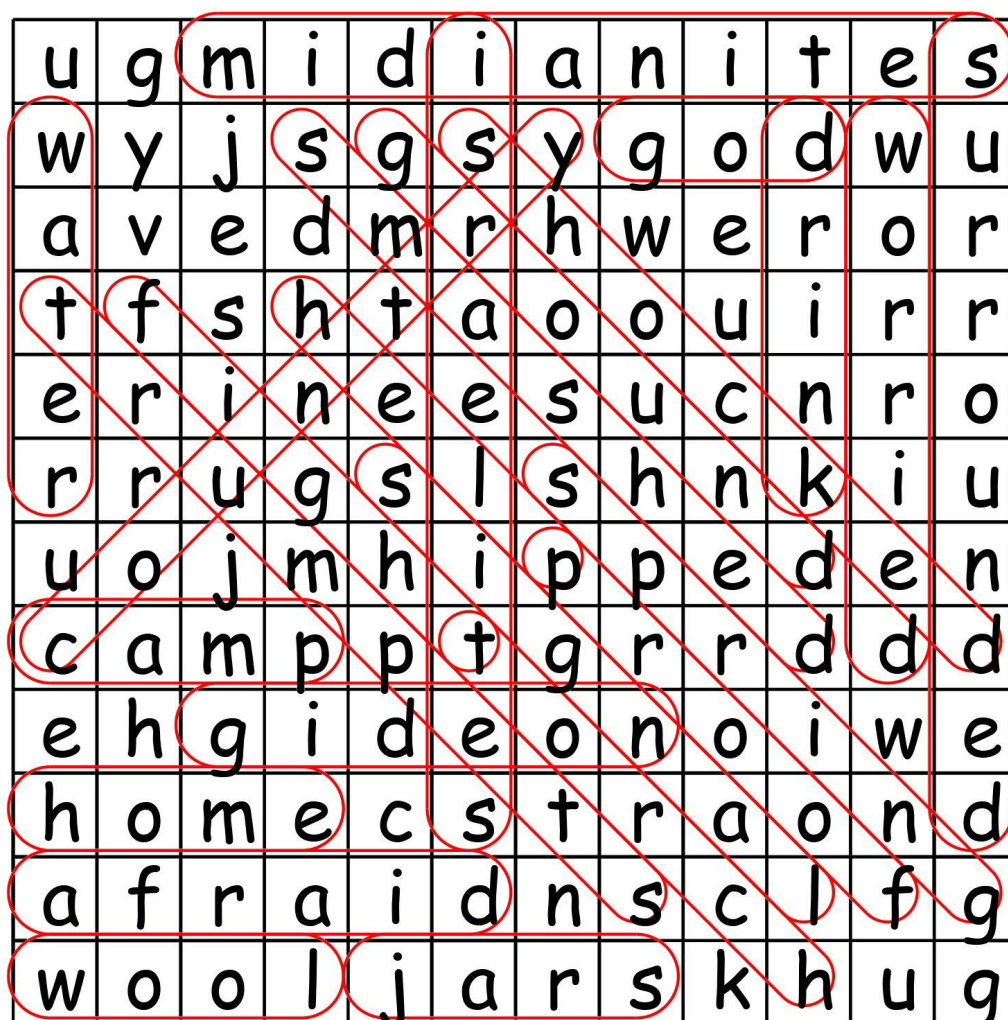
And as for the music! It has all been moved to accommodate the refurbishment. Although previous storage of paper music, alphabetically by composer, and occasionally by season, meant it was usually relatively simple to find what we wanted, we are still acclimatising to the seemingly arbitrary piles of boxes. These usually contain what the scrawl on the outside of the box indicates, but there have been exceptions.....Fortunately the choir did not sing a Christmas carol at Harvest, but this was mainly due to the vigilance of the singers, rather than confidence in the music library arrangement.

The choir robes were all moved from the vestries before decoration commenced, but it has sometimes proved difficult to locate one's own outfit. Please forgive any singer who appears in an ill-fitting cassock or a dusty vestment. Normal service will resume..... soon!

Peter Fall



### Answers to Word Search puzzle



## On what those adverts from parishes wanting clergy REALLY mean...

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



So, you are being encouraged to look at adverts for parishes for that happy day when you will have charge of your own church. You wonder if you should look to moving to another part of the country; I suspect it may be better if you look to moving to another planet, as your reputation may not yet have travelled that far.

Reading the specifications that parishes provide, giving a picture of life in their community, need to be read in the same way as estate agents' specifications for houses for sale. Both demonstrate a triumph of optimism over reality. Let me help you decode some of the statements you will find:

"We look to grow our Sunday School" – We do not have a Sunday School.

"We have an enthusiastic choir" – We have a choir totally out of control.

"Our youth group is always eager to learn" - Our youth group experiments with some strange substances.

"The new incumbent should be sympathetic to our musical tradition"- The new incumbent must be able to play the organ as well as lead the Services.

"While cherishing our traditions, we see the need for change" – We always see the need for change, but alter anything at your peril.

"Plans for church renovations are in hand" – The building is in imminent danger of collapse.

"We have a large range of church groups" – You will have to run a large range of church groups singlehandedly.

“The vicarage is being refurbished” – The vicarage is a death trap. Its rising damp and dangerous electrics will not be fixed for many months yet.

“There is opportunity for developing ecumenical relations” – No one in living memory has ever spoken to clergy of other denominations in our town.

“The new incumbent should have a sense of humour” – He or she will need it when reading this specification.

My dear nephew, *caveat emptor*. Let the buyer beware!

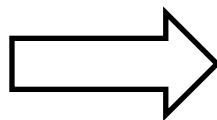
Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

**You may remember this snippet from last month’s magazine:**

***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.”*

Well, perhaps this  
is the answer...!!



*...if you have been affected by any  
of the issues raised in this sermon...*

## **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.

### **Thursday 2nd October**

09.00 am    Parish School Harvest Festival

### **Sunday 5th October**

10.30 am    16th Sunday after Trinity. Creation Season pledge

### **Sunday 12th October**

10.30 am    Harvest Festival. 17th Sunday after Trinity.

### **Sunday 19th October**

10.30 am    18th Sunday after Trinity.

### **Sunday 26th October**

10.30 am    Last Sunday after Trinity. Bible Sunday—bring your favourite Bible to church

## The Journey Continues.....



God of our pilgrimage,  
you have led us to the living water:  
refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

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	Mr MIKE EAMES	07711 421 544
	Dr KEITH NYE	
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Churchwardens	Mr CLEM SUTTON	
	Mrs MARIA STAINES	07932 637 002
Parish Administrator	vacant e-mail: admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	
Church House	Mrs. ATLANTA TOPHAM	07951 748 155
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