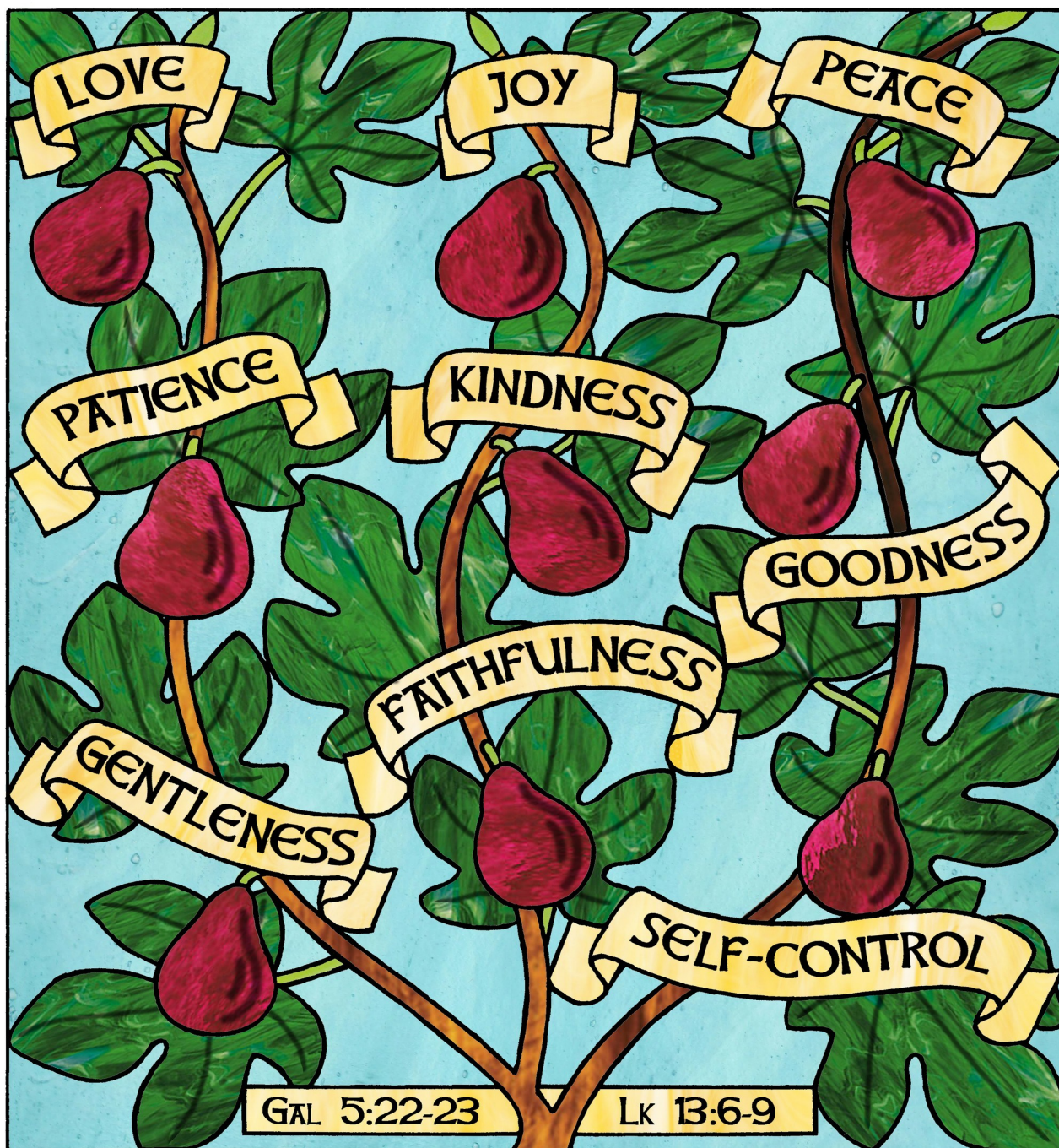


St Mary's Church, Bromley

Parish Magazine

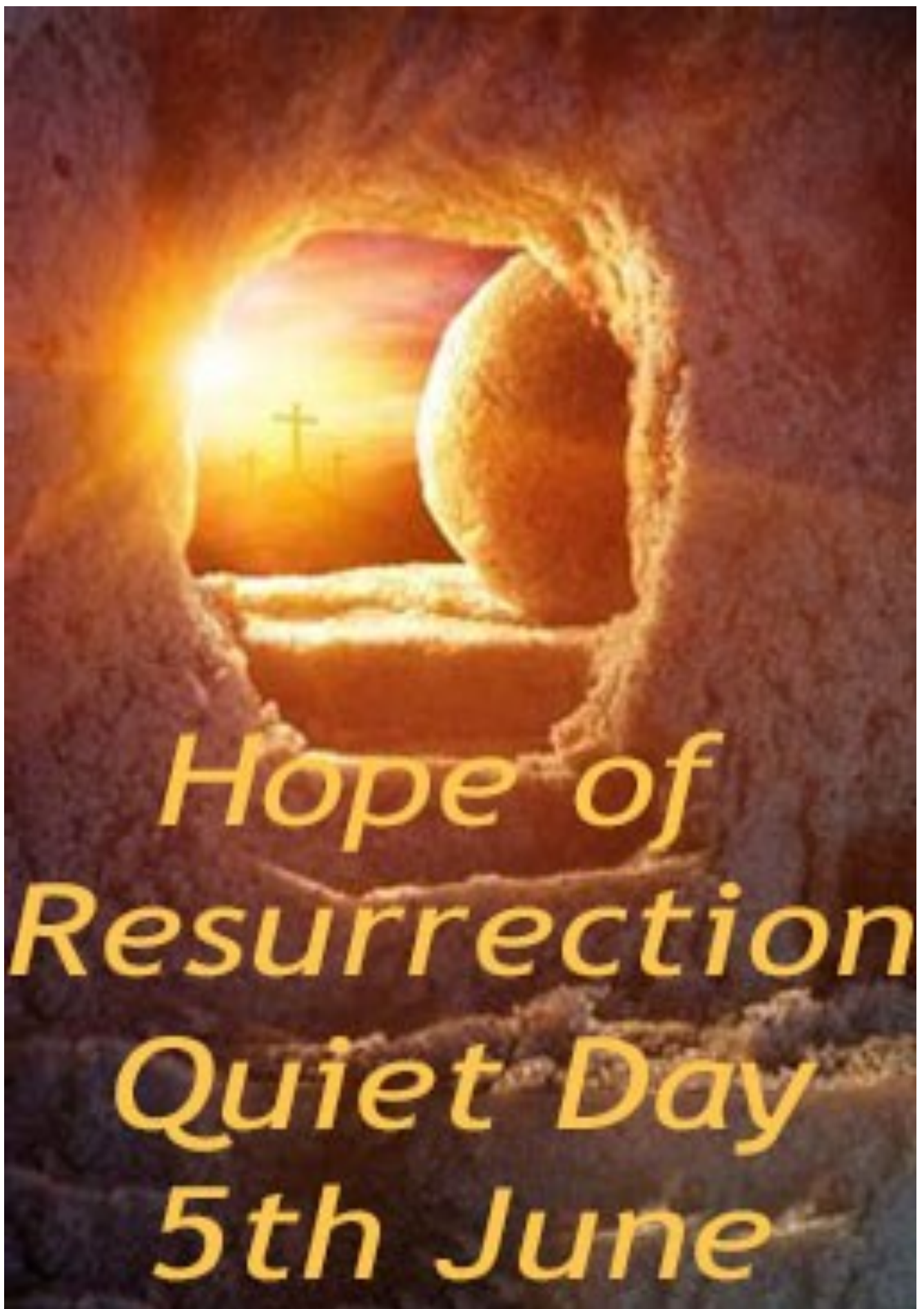
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Welcome to the June 2025 edition of the Parish Magazine.

Dear Friends,

As we step into the vibrant month of June, nature is in full bloom, and so too is the life of our parish. The longer days and warmer weather bring with them a renewed sense of energy and community spirit. Whether it's the joyful sound of children playing outdoors, the scent of gardens in bloom, or the gentle hum of bees at work, June reminds us of the beauty and abundance of God's creation.

As always, we are grateful for the contributions of our volunteers, writers, and readers. Your support keeps this magazine thriving and helps us share the good news of our parish far and wide.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed June

Atlanta

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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.

Vicar's Letter



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the month of June., I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude to God for his faithfulness. I've been truly blessed to experience the warmth, generosity, and support of our parish community. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and the many ways you have helped me feel at home.

The gentle joy of summer, with its longer, warmer days, sunshine and vibrant colours of the season often lift our spirits and draw us closer to one another. That spirit of community was powerfully evident last month as we came together to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Some of the highlights include lighting the Peace Lamp, bell ringing and picnic with our College Road neighbours at the Church ground. What a joyful and moving occasion it was! I want to thank everyone who helped plan and organise the celebration: from those who prepared the refreshments, set up for the picnic, coordinated music and the service, to those who decorated, dressed in 1940s style, and supported in many practical ways. More than simply commemorating the past, the occasion reminded us of the deeper spiritual value of remembrance. It binds us together, grounds us in gratitude, and reflects God's enduring love through every generation. In moments like these, we glimpse the essence of the Church: a people held together by memory, faith, and love.

Our APCM was a wonderful milestone, and I am grateful to God for the dedication and love that flows through our church family and parish. I would like to congratulate all who are now on the new electoral roll and extend a warm welcome to our newly elected PCC members, Deanery Synod Representative and those continuing in faithful service.

Thank you for offering your time and gifts to support the life and mission of this parish. May God guide and bless you in all that lies ahead.

A sincere thank you as well for your ongoing support of our local foodbank. Your donations continue to provide vital help to many. The foodbank manager recently sent his heartfelt thanks, along with a photo in appreciation of your steadfast compassion. These quiet acts of kindness are true reflections of Christ's love in action.

As we move through the exam season, please hold our children and young people in prayer. Whether they are sitting school tests, GCSEs, A-levels, or university finals, may they be strengthened with calm, courage, and confidence. May the Holy Spirit guide them, and may they know that their worth lies not in results, but in being beloved children of God.

Looking ahead in June, there is much to look forward to: our Pentecost Quiet Day, a wedding celebration, Pentecost Sunday, Trinity Sunday, and other moments of joy and ministry. Let us remain open to the Spirit's movement among us.

Let us continue to pray for one another and we experience a summer of peace, rest, and refreshment in our hearts and homes. Amen.

With every blessing,

Revd Eucharika Asiegbu

Vicar

Archdeacon's Visitation – Thursday 12th June, 8.00pm

All are welcome to come and support Maria and Clem, our new (continuing) Churchwardens as Archdeacon Allie swears them in on Thursday, 12th June 2025 at St John's Church, Penge, 2 St John's Road, London, SE20 7EQ. Doors open at 7.00 pm; formal service of Admittance starts promptly at 8.00 pm.

In the Power of the Spirit



It is, I believe, an ancient Buddhist saying that ‘Everyone you meet is fighting a battle of their own that you know nothing about. Be kind, always.’ Which I think is an invitation to be gentle with each other, because we carry such a lot of unshared potential pain and hurt unseen within us.

I have seen this as part of our Christian calling to treat one another as we would wish to be treated ourselves, as sisters and brothers made in God’s image and each one needed to show the image of God to the world. But always to be gentle and respectful, rather as the poet (WBYeats) entreats anonymously “Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.” Just in case we wound each other unintentionally, by accident.

I write as we are beginning the week in which we will celebrate the Ascension, the return of Jesus to the glory of the Father. Our Easter celebrations and remembrances will be ending, moving instead forward in thanksgiving towards Pentecost when we will pray ‘Come, Holy Spirit’. We will ask again, as we do always, for all the Spirits’ gifts for ministry and mission, to make us peacemakers, truth-tellers, and faithful children of God, so that we may follow in the footsteps of Jesus, our brother and our Risen Lord, sharing the good news of Resurrection life.

We will claim Jesus's promises that he will send to his followers, to us in this our own time, the Spirit of truth, the Comforter, the Advocate. The Spirit will remind us of all that Jesus himself did and taught, and will fit us to stand together with him, for all our suffering neighbours, for those who suffer poverty, persecution, pain and injustice. We may also ask the Spirit for the power to treat each other gently and kindly, as we share the faith, without making the pain of others yet more painful.

Somehow this call seems increasingly urgent, and the need seems very great in such very unsettled and difficult times. The time between Ascension and Pentecost has become a novena or a (10 day) time of prayer that the Church has invited us to use each year, for ten years so far. We use that time to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom We offer meditations and prayers called annually 'Thy kingdom come' for us each to use for just a small number of people, a manageable number (up to five) so that we are not overwhelmed, to come to know the good news of Resurrection.

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is now a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus

This year's prayers are based on the Lord's Prayer, a sentence at a time for 10 days, ending on the 11th day with Pentecost and the coming of the spirit. The website www.thykingdomcome.global has the information and the materials; if it sounds interesting, follow the link and download the materials, and look for more of them on YouTube. If we are perhaps too late this year, then we can remember it for next year and start the prayers now, early, to get ready. -steady regular prayer, in the power of the Spirit, to make a difference in difficult times.

So Alleluia Christ is risen, not just at Easter, but today and every day, and we pray 'Come, Holy Spirit' help us to share Resurrection life and joy with everyone we meet.



VE80 reflections May 2025

We started planning for this event some months beforehand to remember those who gave their lives during the Second World War and to mark the end of war in Europe. Nearer to the day, we started getting ready by putting up the bunting. In the porch were displays of very interesting artefacts and memorabilia, all carefully labelled. We had some special crocheted bunting lovingly crafted by Sheila Crimmin, which was hanging up in the porch. There were displays from some church members who had local family connections, and these showed the bravery of the men who had gone to serve their country.

Also, photos of the families on happier occasions when celebrating at street parties on 8th May 1945. There were some lifelike mannequins dressed in war-time costumes, and these were created by Nicole in College Road. In church there were other examples of war time ration books, old recipe books and other items from this era for us to take a trip down memory lane on. The church and porch were patriotically decorated with red, white, and blue flowers and some strategically placed flags.

We had a special service of commemoration on 8th May. Before the service started at 6.30 pm the church bell was rung, and several church members took it in turns to sound out the bell. Churches across the nation had been encouraged to ring their bells at this time on the actual 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe day. The service poignantly reflected and remembered the many soldiers, sailors and airmen who paid the ultimate sacrifice of war. During the service, special peace lamp was lit by Councillor Alisa Igoe and Mike Eames and has been continuously lit in the porch as a symbol of hope, peace and light in the world.

On Saturday 10th May, we had a community picnic and were joined by several neighbours from College Road. The picnic was held in the church yard and the sun shone down for us. It was good to see a number of people dressed up for the occasion in 1940's style; several land army girls, a nurse in uniform, vintage tea dresses etc. Some were attired in red, white and blue. During the afternoon there was a great buzz of community spirit. Games to keep us amused included hopscotch, skipping, quoits and croquet. In church, refreshments were available and some war time recipes had been dug out and included Potato Chocolate cake, Trench cake, War Cake, WI Orange & Ginger cake, Carrot buns, Victoria Sponge, Rock cakes and Camp coffee was also available and, of course, plentiful cups of tea! During the afternoon there was a rousing 1940's sing-song led by our very own Peter Fall. A big thank you goes out to all who supported VE80 in so many different ways, too many to name individually, but you know who you are!



Anne Yolland

Bell Ringing to celebrate 80th Anniversary of VE Day before the service on 8th May, 2025



The bells rang out on evening air,
A song of peace, a call to care.
Eighty years since victory's day,
Their echoes led the solemn way.
Each chime a tribute, proud and deep,
To those who woke while others sleep.
Before the prayers, before the flame,
The bells sang freedom's timeless name.



Giving thanks for 65 flower filled years!



Bromley & District Floral Society celebrates its 65th anniversary in June of this year. The society was formed in 1960 “to encourage the enjoyment and appreciation of floral art”.

The flower club continues to flourish to this day with a membership of around 90 members and is the largest of the South clubs in the London and Overseas area.

To mark this special milestone anniversary, the club held a special afternoon at St Mary’s church on Tuesday, 20th May 2025. The proceedings started off with some delicious refreshments served at the back of church and these included mini cheese scones, other savoury items and a choice of home baked cakes and cups of tea were flowing.

A NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arranging Societies) demonstrator and a member of Bromley Flower Club, Susan Tausig, entertained everyone with an interesting floral demonstration of four different designs, these included a Meadow, Pot au Fleur, (herbs and flowers), a contemporary Hand Tied in black and white and a Rose and Chrysanthemum all-round design. The Chair of London and Overseas Area of NAFAS, Peter Bodnar, gave a vote of thanks to Sue

All those present were given a single long- stemmed rose tied with a blue ribbon



Revd. Eucharica conducted a beautiful service of thanksgiving for the club's Blue Sapphire anniversary. The service started with singing the hymn 'Morning has Broken'. There was a reading from Psalm 100 for thanksgiving. During the address everyone was invited to focus on the petals of the rose they were holding and then later to raise their flowers up to give thanks and praise for the beauty of flowers and nature.

The Church Flower Arranger's prayer and Lord's prayer were also part of the service. The second hymn was 'Give me Joy in my Heart'. A particularly well-chosen hymn for a bunch of flower arrangers who receive much delight from their love of flowers!

Bromley & District Floral Society would like to extend their grateful thanks to St Mary's church and especially to Revd. Eucharica for arranging such a wonderfully uplifting thanksgiving service and to Sheila Knight for the joyful piano accompaniment. After the service, some delightful floral arrangements created by Graham Harmer, were presented to Eucharica and Sheila by Karen Higgs, Chair of Bromley & District Floral Society.



Anne Yolland

Vocation Sunday Guest Preacher.



It was lovely to welcome **The Rev'd Canon Pamela Ive, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations** at St Mary's on Vocation Sunday, 11th May 2025.

Thank you Rev Canon Pamela joining us on Vocation Sunday and delivering such an inspiring sermon on God's calling. Your words deeply encouraged and challenged us to listen attentively to God's purpose in our lives. We are grateful for your presence and the wisdom you shared with our church family.

Thank you from Steve, Warehouse Coordinator at Bromley Foodbank

Steve sends words of appreciation to all who support the Foodbank. He says. ...your generosity, care and kindness make a real difference in the lives of those facing hardship in our community".



Christian Aid Week 2025 update

Many thanks to all those who have made donations via Christian Aid Week envelopes. This collection closes on Sunday 1 June, and anyone wishing to give in this way is requested to hand their envelope to Peter in church on that day. (If you have mislaid your's please ask for another.) Remember, it is possible to donate to Christian Aid 365 days a year via christianaid.org.uk

They have their exits and their entrances

I came late to singing in church choirs. Despite having had my own “tune” hymn book & sung alto in the congregation with my mother from the age of about twelve, joined the school choir as soon as I met the age criteria, & sung in various choirs from then on, I wasn’t persuaded to sing in a robed church choir until the grand old age of 35. So, you might not be surprised to hear that the thing I found most tricky about my new role was – the processing. It isn’t easy, especially in a strange venue, with poor lighting, and sometimes even, carrying a candle.

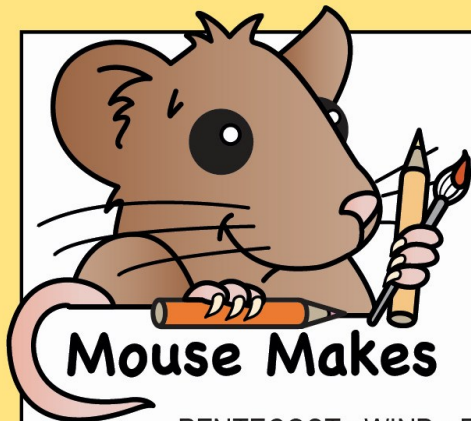
Since then, I have had the privilege of being able to sing in robed choirs at several different churches and in many of this country’s cathedrals, and the procession remains something that is taken very seriously when a choir visits somewhere else. The logistics are always different. Indeed, when singing in Peterborough cathedral recently, we were very surprised that no one rehearsed our entrance or exit.

I appreciate that, with age, the hymn book gets heavier and heavier; and that mobility, eyesight & balance decline. Singing in any choir should never be limited to weight-lifting gymnasts! And I certainly don’t want to detract from all the regular choir members contribute to our worship. But I would like to comment on Peter’s observation in the last magazine. I appreciate that it is my personal opinion, but when I am at special services at St Mary’s I really miss processing through the congregation singing – I have memories, for example, of smiling to friends as I pass as we all sing carols together at “Midnight”. Sitting up in the chancel, I find it difficult to identify, let alone smile at members of the congregation, known and less familiar, (perhaps if they sat nearer the front....?) & by the time I have removed my robes etc, people have already gone home. We are all one body – not two. Maybe someone will feel inspired to write some more for our next magazine?

Jill Atkinson

Colour-in





Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

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

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

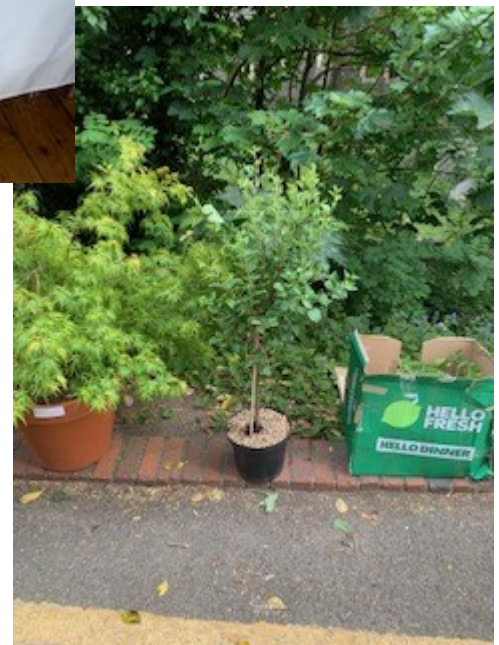
The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Mothers' Union Plant Sale

Thanks go to all who were involved with this recent event. It was another successful community event.

So many people had helped in various ways, by providing plants, refreshments, raffle prizes and by coming to buy.

So far, over £970 has been raised, which will be shared between Mothers' Union 'Literacy Project' and 'Away from it All holiday scheme'.



Grace Café

We meet in the church building on Wednesdays between 10am to 12 noon for coffee, cake and fellowship.



Ordination Season is Underway

Every summer the Church of England ordains its new deacons and priests.

The services are traditionally held during Pentecost (29th June), a feast day that remembers the martyrdom of Saint Peter. He was the fisherman who became a devoted disciple of Jesus, and who then went on to be an instrumental figure in the early Church in Jerusalem.

Although the ordinations this summer will be held in a variety of cathedrals across the country, those being ordained will have certain important things in common:

They will have felt called by God to serve as a deacon or priest.

They will have passed a rigorous selection process.

They will have completed a two-to-three-year training course (diploma or degree) at one of the theological education institutes (TEIs) based around the country.

And so here they are now – called, accepted, trained and soon to be set apart for this specialised ministry. If you know a deacon or a priest, pray for them and their families this month, as they begin a lifetime of public service to God.

APCM

Thank you to everyone who attended the APCM meeting last Sunday, and to all who worked hard to prepare the report. We also want to thank the new PCC members and those who have taken up new posts. Our prayers are with you as you serve. Electronic copies of the report were emailed to everyone on our mailing list, and hard copies are available in the church. If you haven't received a copy, please send your email to Atlanta, and she will send it to you.

£ £ £ £ £

The one question Eucharist has been asking me ever since she arrived is “How much money have we got?”, so having finalised the 2024 figures for the APCM, I thought I should tell you all.

I get to deal with lots of money. Nearly fifty Church supporters have set up standing orders which ensure there is a regular income. The Inland Revenue gives us back the tax our supporters have paid on most of those donations – if you don’t know about Gift Aid, please ask someone who does. We receive legacies, and grants and donations towards special projects. We do some fund raising. Some money comes in from collections. Well over half our income comes from renting out the church hall, Church house, & 31 Fairfield Rd.

But I also get to pay lots of bills. Last year the biggest one was for the Murals restoration, but we spent almost as much again on our share to the Diocese and again on running the House & Hall complex. Our ordinary everyday church expenses cost us around £9k a month!

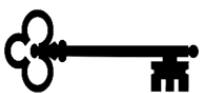


So, how much money do we have? The accounts say nearly £515k!

But - £300k of that figure is the paper value of half of 31 Fairfield Rd.

That leaves nearly £215k

But - £118k of that is in restricted funds – it is illegal to spend it other than in the way the donor intended.



That leaves £97k

But – nearly £93k of that is in designated funds – that is, mostly money we are trying to save for a particular purpose (eg House & Hall fund for work to the hall); or in the Special Purposes fund, which I consider to be rather like birthday present money – it has been given to the church with no restrictions but with the hope it will be used for something a bit “extra”.

That leaves slightly under £4k, which is in the general fund, and I was very pleased with that, as it is £3k more than at the start of the year, so thank you to everyone for what you have given – we can’t do it without you. I will be very surprised if there is that much left at the end of 2025, but hope that you (& God) prove me wrong!

Jill Atkinson – (Church Treasurer)

From The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras here at St James the Least of All. Thank goodness the suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroy's garden next door, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, was narrowly defeated – though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance every time she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

I have at last found the several hiding places where Mr Prentice secretes his bottle of whisky every week when he comes to wind the tower clock.

Colonel Wainwright, who served for some time in the security services, is now worried that photographs of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he imagines – to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures and so whenever they are in church together, all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items - and even the nest where they have hidden it. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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.

Services for June

Sunday 1st June — Easter 7, after Ascension

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club

Thursday 5th June — Quiet Day

9.30am—Pentecost Quiet Day

Sunday 8th June — Pentecost

10.30am All Age Communion

Sunday 15th June — Trinity Sunday

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Club

Sunday 22nd June — 1 After Trinity

10.30am Family Communion with Sunday Club

Sunday 29th June — 2 after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion
with Sunday Club

PENTECOST

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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