

St Mary's Church, Bromley
Parish Magazine
JULY & AUGUST 2026



See how the wild flowers grow! They don't work to earn, or craft their own clothes, but even King Solomon with all his wealth was not dressed as well as they are. Lk 12:27-28

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Welcome to the July/August 2026 edition of the Parish Magazine.

Welcome to a bumper “Summer Holiday” edition of our magazine. As always, I am very grateful to everyone who sent me their contributions, even if some of them (including mine) were rather later than the deadline, which hasn’t allowed long for printing. This month there is so much to choose from, including some looking back—and some looking forward, too. There is no magazine in August, so while you are “out and about” or even if you are still at home, why not think about contributing your memories, thoughts and experiences to the September magazine?



With best wishes,
Jill Atkinson

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This month’s editor: Jill Atkinson

Editor for September 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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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 – July 2026

Dear Friends,

Warm Greetings to you all. I hope you are finding opportunities to enjoy the longer days and a slightly gentler pace of life. Summer can be a welcome change from our usual routines, offering time to rest, visit family and friends, and enjoy some of the simple pleasures of life.

Looking back over June, we have much for which to give thanks. Our Quiet Day provided a valuable opportunity to step aside from the busyness of life and spend time with God. The Mothers' Union Cream Tea was a lovely occasion of fellowship and friendship, and our Father's Day celebrations reminded us of the important role played by fathers, grandfathers and all who care for and encourage others. We also give thanks for those who celebrated birthdays during June and pray for God's blessing upon them in the year ahead.

We are also looking forward to several baptisms for both adults and children during July and August. It is always a joy to welcome baptism candidates and families as they bring children to be baptised, and we pray that God will bless them as they prepare for this special step in their journey of faith.

As schools break up for the summer, please remember in your prayers all children and young people, especially those who have recently completed examinations or reached important milestones. We also give thanks for teachers, school staff, Sunday Club, youth clubs and uniformed groups leaders whose hard work and dedication have supported them throughout the year. May the holiday season bring rest, refreshment and enjoyment to all.

August brings a quieter season in parish life. Many of our regular activities, including Choir and Sunday Club, take a well-earned break. While these

groups pause, our care for one another do not. A phone call, a visit, or simply checking in with someone can mean more than we realise. We need one another, and God calls us to encourage and support each other in faith and friendship.

The Bible reminds us that rest is one of God's gifts. Jesus said, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). Rest is not a luxury; it is part of God's wisdom for our lives. Whether your summer involves travel, family gatherings, gardening, or simply sitting with a cup of tea in the sunshine, please receive and enjoy these moments with gratitude. St Augustine of Hippo famously wrote, *"Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."* True refreshment comes not only from a holiday, but from spending time with the Lord in prayer, who renews and strengthens us.



As we enjoy these summer months, may God bless our families, our children and young people, those preparing for baptism, and all who may be feeling lonely or overlooked. May He grant us rest where we are weary, companionship where we need encouragement, and joy in the everyday blessings that surround us. And may we continue to care for one another, remembering that we belong to Christ and to each other.

With every blessing, Rev Eucharika Asiegbu



It was a joy during our June Family Service to celebrate those in our church family with June birthdays. We give thanks for each of them and for the gift of their lives, their presence among us, and the blessing they are to others.

We pray for all our June birthday celebrants. May God's love surround them, His peace uphold them, and His grace guide them in the year ahead. May they continue to grow in joy, strength, and faith, and know how deeply they are valued and cherished.

Tongues of fire



The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was described in Acts 2 as being 'like tongues of fire', so it's particularly ironical that translating the Scriptures into English meant that if captured you qualified to be burnt at the stake as a heretic. – tongues of fire in a different in a different form altogether.

So, to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the English translation of the Bible by William Tyndale I am reading a book called 'Book of Fire: William Tyndale, Thomas More and the bloody birth of the English Bible' – by Brian Moynahan. Tyndale was caught eventually, and he was burnt at the stake as he knew he would be, but he carried on his work regardless. I suspect that he was both terrified himself for much of his adult life, and yet also terrifying in the strength of his conviction that he must translate the bible into English so that all could read the truth of the Gospel for themselves. He followed in the tradition of others who had suffered before him.

In 1428 the body of an earlier translator of scripture John Wycliffe, who had translated parts of the Latin of the Vulgate into English, had been exhumed, in front of a number of powerful men - Bishops, Sheriffs, lawyers and the like - ordered by the Pope Martin V, to be taken up from the chancel of his parish at Lutterworth, and destroyed at the stake and by fire, despite being already dead for many years. So, the Bishop cursed his remains and handed them over to the High Sheriff. The Executioner burnt the bones at the stake, ground them into powder collected the ash carefully, swept it in to a barrow and tipped it in to the river Swift nearby. He was just one man of many who preached against the corruption, by its rituals, laws, hierarchy, traditions and dogma, of the Medieval Church, its monopoly on religious truth and its power over the faithful. This was possible because the only copies of Scripture were in Latin from earlier Roman translations from Hebrew and Greek. Only the clergy and a few highly educated people could read Latin. Tyndale himself was fluent in six

languages.

Over the years Wycliffe and many others, known as Lollards, stressed the importance of personal faith in Christ as the only means of salvation, rather than obedience to the Church, its traditional structures and teachings many of which are not found in the Bible. Christ was poor and the Church wealthy, in itself providing grounds for dispute. Attacks on many Church teachings were however, defined as heresy.

All Wycliffe's works were burnt, but still many began to look for reform in the Church, and not just in England Tyndale, himself many years after Wycliffe, went up to Oxford in 1506 - then in Germany - Martin Luther, translated the Bible into German 1522/34, in Holland – Erasmus produced modern Greek translations of the New Testament, Jan Huss in Bohemia (Czech), in Switzerland - Huldrych Zwingli. all began to seek reform and criticise the Church and in France, and Eastern Europe other scholars were heading that way too. Not all became formal Reformers, but it was definitely a time over many years of intellectual activity and serious dispute.

To get back to Tyndale he was an excellent student and studied Greek and Hebrew, all so he could translate the Scriptures into a more modern English from their original languages. He was skilled translator and is ranked with Cranmer and Shakespeare as one of those key people who shaped and formed the English language we still use today. Up to 80% of his text is incorporated into the Authorised or King James Bible and we still use many of his words and phrases like 'an eye for an eye' or 'man shall not live by bread alone', or 'eat, drink and be merry' so many, too many to count really. His translation has a force and intensity completely lacking in the Latin Vulgate, he writes of faith and love with joy and tenderness and is clearly passionate in his love for Lord Jesus and for his brothers and sisters in the faith. Equally he has passionate rage and contempt for the corruption of Church teachings where they diverge from scripture. He writes lyrically of the joy of the gospel message and the importance of the humble believer, and contemptuously of rich and powerful Churchmen. It matters because salvation for the reformers depends on faith and commitment and not on just 'good' works. He is full of the excitement of reading the scripture in your own language and

is infectious and popular. Even so it is impossible to overestimate the depth of the hatred men like Thomas More felt for men like Tyndale, he worked obsessively long into the night writing polemics against him.

It was the continuing development of printing that made the translation and large-scale distribution of scripture possible. His passion meant that Tyndale wandered Europe translating and seeking printing facilities, always in danger of arrest and capture, hunted by the English state in the persons of Cardinal Wolsey and Sir Thomas More, who hated him as a heretic, encouraged and driven on by the King, Henry the VIII. Ironically, it was Tyndale himself who wrote in one of his other books that the King should rule his own land and not be subject to the Pope, and it was said to be Anne Boleyn who apparently introduced Henry to the book. So when he broke with Rome, he had the arguments already to hand. It did not prevent him hunting Tyndale down to burn him for his heresies. It is possibly too easy for us today to forget the violence and cruelty of the medieval and the 15th century state and Church when their powers or vested interests were threatened.

If Tyndale was captured, he was certain to burn at the stake, and while he was hunted, his books and Bibles were hunted just as keenly and they were burnt by the Bishop of London just behind St Paul's cathedral. In 1526, Tyndale's first New Testament was printed in Europe and many copies smuggled into England in bales of cloth at a time when translating the Bible into English without Church approval was a capital crime. So successful were the book burners that only 3 copies of his 1526 New Testament remain in our day, (one of which is the centrepiece of a new exhibition at St Pauls from 5th June - 27th February 2027). Yet within fifteen years, a book that was burned outside the walls of St Paul's became one of the most sought-after in England.

Tyndale himself was arrested in Antwerp in 1532 and executed in 1536 by being strangled and burnt at the stake. And yet ... 'Within four years of Tyndale's death, no fewer than four [English translations of the Bible](#) were

published in England at the king's request, revising Tyndale's versions of the New Testament and Pentateuch with various objectionable features (notably Tyndale's critical introductions) removed: [Miles Coverdale's](#), [Thomas Matthew's](#), [Richard Taverner's](#), and the [Great Bible](#).' The modern writer and critic George Steiner described Tyndale as "the greatest of English Bible translators."

But at what a cost!! -He had very hard adult life, no wife or children. Few pictures of him in case he was recognised, no settled home, always on the run in Europe and likely to be betrayed at any time to certain death. He provoked the powerful, who hated him in exchange, he sought the truth and argued for the reform of the Church, he passionately loved the gospel, the Lord Jesus Christ and the truth and risked everything.

His life and work provokes me to ask myself about my own faith and passions, for the Gospel, the Lord Jesus, the truth and to ask how many risks I am willing to accept?

Lord, bless our Bibles, your living Word revealed to us through prophets, priests, and kings, through the lives of the apostles, the dedicated skills of translators and interpreters, the love of the faithful and of all those who shared their faith with us, and in the wisdom of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Alison Tyler





We
We



We had a wonderful time at the CAREPLUS Garden Party. A special highlight was seeing our very own Merle. CAREPLUS Trustees have asked me to pass on their sincere thanks for the generosity and support shown by our church family. Your donations help them continue to bring friendship, care, and practical assistance to older people who might otherwise feel isolated. Thank you for making a difference.

We are used to members of the church starting an initiative which thrives for a while (Electric Earwigs, JusB, Christmas Journey) & then for various reasons fades away, or which continues to this day (Careplus, Grace Café). But imagine starting something which is still flourishing 150 years later!

Mary Sumner

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.



Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited all the local women. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the

women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

The Mothers' Union is now 150 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. Today, it spans six continents, with members working in local communities and through national and international programmes to strengthen families, advocate for justice and bring hope to those facing hardship and disadvantage. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began.

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Community and Arts Festival

13th - 18th July

Bromley Little Theatre, North Street, is offering a varied programme, a full list of events available at <https://bromleylittletheatre.org/community-and-arts-festival/>

As part of the festival, Bromley and District Floral Society are organising an illustrated talk by Jean Schofield on

'The Magical and Mysterious World of Bees'

on Thursday 16th July, 2pm - 4pm, with tea and cakes.

Tickets £10 available from Anne Yolland (anne.yolland@outlook.com)

St Mary's C. E. Primary School 1865-1986

On Wednesday 16th July 1986 the children and staff of St Mary's C. E. Primary School in Fairfield Road said farewell to their school as it was closing after 121 years. There were 108 pupils in five classes at the school. The staff included Mary Hardcastle (Acting Headteacher), Joy West (Acting Deputy Head), Daphne Taylor, Judy Davey, Sian Westwood, Chris Rometsch and Julia Jeffery, who had been the school secretary for 23 years.



Most of the children and several of the staff were transferring to Parish C. E. Primary School in the autumn term. Closure of the school had been mooted as long ago as the 1940s. Mary Hardcastle was appointed in 1984 to take the school to closure in August 1985 but the new home of Parish Primary School, the former Quernmore School in London Lane, wasn't ready. It nearly didn't happen in 1986 either as in May there was a new Secretary of State for Education and Science, whose approval was needed. This was given just in time and the planned closure events were able to take place.



There were Victorian Celebrations on 19th and 26th June for the Juniors and Infants respectively, with country dancing in period dress in St Mary's churchyard.

On 5th July the St Mary's School reunion service was held at St Mary's Church. A fancy-dress Family Farewell Party took place in the playground on 10th July with games, a cake, the presentation of St Mary's mugs to all the pupils and the singing of Auld Lang Syne. Adults and children wrote their names on the playground wall.

40 years later the building still stands, having been converted into School Cottages; there is still a school road sign on the lamp post outside no. 7 Fairfield Road; and Peter and Frances' son, Edmund, and John and Chris' daughter, Verity, who started in the Reception Class in 1986, have grown up.



Frances Boyden and Mary Hardcastle



A Profile of Alison Tyler, our Associate Priest

At the time of writing this, Volunteers Week has just been celebrated. Like many of us, Alison is a volunteer as she is unpaid for her work among us. Her parents came from Liverpool and Alison was born in Oswestry, Shropshire and had a younger brother Andrew, born in Birmingham, as their father changed jobs over time. Shropshire is an area she loves still, as is the family cottage in Norfolk bought in memory, both of seaside holidays and of her mother-in-law who, when she died, left the family a flat in sheltered accommodation that no one was old enough to live in.

Hers was not a religious family, but she went to church with a friend from school and that sparked her interest in faith. She decided she would like to be a nun but soon realised she was not cut out for the life-style! However, she felt faith gave both shape and meaning to her life “you know where you are” and ultimately became a Probation Officer instead.

In 1978 Alison gained her lay readers licence, her qualification as a probation officer, became a Franciscan and married Paddy, it was a busy year! Paddy also serves as a volunteer at St Mary’s, operating the temperamental sound system and helping in many other ways. Anxious not to lose her family name, Alison has kept her maiden name, to remember her father who died when she was only twenty.

Alison and Paddy have two daughters, Hannah & Naomi, and two grandchildren, Eliza and Dylan, who are (mostly) a great joy to both Alison and Paddy. According to Alison, Paddy is very quiet with an extremely dry sense of humour, but they understand each other and can argue peacefully.

After graduating Alison chose a career as a Probation Officer which she greatly enjoyed. It was at a time when probation officers could be really creative and help turn individual lives around. Some of her clients had done truly awful things, but for others she felt both anger, and compassion that they were struggling to live with the levels of loss and difficulty that many of them faced. Luckily, she doesn’t get depressed – more angry or grumpy sometimes.

In 1993 Alison astonished her family when she was accepted for

ordination training on the Southwark Ordination Course. Her mother and brother joined Paddy and the girls in 1996 when she was ordained.

Later, after ordination as a Priest, she worked for the prison service as a Chaplain and Training Officer starting in 1999 – firstly at Brixton, and then Wandsworth and later Wormwood Scrubs. She knew she had to do things that would change their lives and this was often challenging. She retired in 2013 following a final eight years as a Chaplaincy manager at Prison Service HQ and she and Paddy moved to Bromley in 2018. In 2019 Alison was licenced to St Mary's so we were fortunate to have her during our interregnum.

As many of us can testify she is a great baker, and it is our good fortune to benefit from this. She also enjoys sewing and gardening. I asked if she had any ambitions for the future, but she said that she is now able to relax into what she has. A good idea that many of us would do well to copy.

Other interests include the “Community of the Cross of Nails” set up by the Dean of Coventry Cathedral after the war to promote local and global peace and reconciliation. She is also a member of the Third Order, Society of St Francis, a dispersed order that aims: “to make our Lord known and loved everywhere, to spread the spirit of love and harmony and to live simply”.

The last word goes to her daughters who think she is “as tough as old boots” – but Alison thinks she is normal!

Thank you, Alison, for all you do for St Mary's.

Mary Mills.

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.

Lord, for the Years

I suspect I attended my first Mothers' Union meeting before I was born, and so I was excited to get a ticket for the special 150th birthday celebration at St



Paul's cathedral on 10th June. There I joined a congregation of over 1,500 members (there is no requirement to be a mother to be a member) for one of the largest Eucharists ever celebrated there. I met a group of fellow member friends at London Bridge station, & having found the correct bus stop, we were a bit concerned to be told the buses had been diverted. Nevertheless, we all made it safely to a convenient café beside the cathedral for a much-appreciated cup of tea & use of the facilities. Queues were forming outside the cathedral long before the doors were due to open, and when we finally joined them, there was much excitement as we snaked back & forth to the side of the building in a "Disneyland" manner.

Once in the building, my friends were amazed by its grandeur, although I must admit that as I have had the opportunity to sing in the choir at St Paul's on quite a few occasions, & have taken part in a "behind the scenes tour" given by a friend when he was one of the architects, I was more interested in spotting people from Rochester Diocese in the congregation, & in making conversation with the people around me. Some of the members from other countries were wearing colourful MU uniforms. My friend had a friend who had travelled down with her branch for the occasion from Northumberland – and much to their delight, & with the help of their mobile phones, they succeeded in physically meeting up at the end of the service.

Finally, everyone was seated and the service began, with a procession of the six United Kingdom Provincial banners, a large number of bishops

and priests, and concluding with Dame Sarah Mullally, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is Patron of the Mothers' Union. We had all been given large glossy commemorative programmes so were able to join in singing the first hymn which, appropriately enough, was "Lord for the Years". The volume of sound from the women (and men) present, combined with the cathedral acoustics, was truly memorable. Kathleen Snow, the Worldwide President gave a testimony, Dame Sarah preached, and the intercessions were led by the British & Ireland trustees, including our own Julia Jameson, now representing Canterbury Province, but formerly President of Rochester MU.

We came to the communion, and I feared that we would miss the hymn ("Brother, sister, let me serve you"), but I need not have worried. The choir sang the Agnus Dei and two anthems, and we all joined in the hymn, and we were still waiting for our invitation to receive! I suspect that a more typical congregation at the cathedral would have included a larger percentage of "spectators" and "tourists" – not surprisingly, the MU were all very much participating. Incidentally, I did not notice anyone refrain from receiving wine from the shared chalice.

Following a final blessing from archbishop Sarah, the procession made its way out as "Tell out my Soul" rang around the building, and after a quick group photo we made our way out ready to return to our daily lives, and to do what we can to support family life, here and abroad.

Jill Atkinson

(photo courtesy of Mothers' Union)



The Mothers' Union Cream Tea held on the 11th June 2026 at Bromley Court Hotel, was enjoyed by Members and their guests.

Margaret



An APCM message from the Treasurer

– for those of you who weren't there, or who couldn't hear, or who had switched off by then; with a few bonus pieces of information for everyone else.

As treasurer, I don't control the church's money; but, with the help of a few others, particularly Atlanta, I do keep a record of all the money going out & coming in, and each year my records are checked by someone totally independent, and the figures are put together into an official document, which I then submit to the Charity Commission. The document – with a bright yellow cover this year – is available at the back of church and online. For those of you with less time to spare, I have also produced a two-sided summary, also at the back of church, which you can identify by the umbrella pictures on it (I wonder why?).

I don't wish to belittle those who have raised huge sums of money at the church fair; those who run House & Hall so efficiently; those who have made generous contributions to our appeals for special projects; or those who leave money to the church in their will. I am also very grateful to those who put money into gift aid envelopes or donate via the SumUp machines. Every PCC meeting I try to predict how our finances are going to turn out for the year, and I often worry that we will not have enough to pay our everyday housekeeping bills, & to date, I have always been proved wrong – there is a very unexpected donation or source of income, and everything works out ok.

I would like to say something, however, about our “planned giving”, which last year accounted for only six per cent of our income. In 2025, the church received money through forty-eight standing orders –some weekly, most monthly, a few less frequently. This is money I can rely upon when needing to pay the regular bills. Over half the donations come from joint bank accounts, so in effect, that may be some seventy people contributing regularly, which is very good. The amounts vary tremendously, but then, so do our personal financial circumstances, so that is fine.

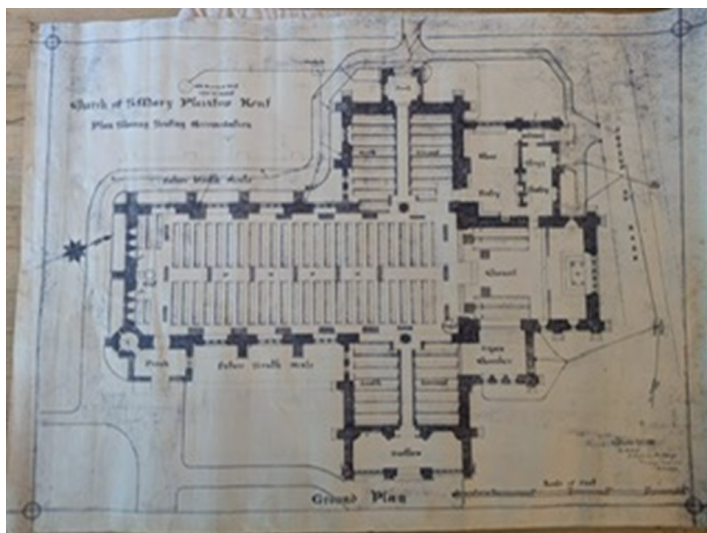
However, if I was to compare the figures with 2021 – only four years ago - I would find that of those forty-eight standing orders, only

four are new; whilst twelve of those operational in 2021 have been discontinued, along with two more this coming year– the donors have died or moved away. More significantly, although we all know that prices have been rising – the Bank of England says there has been a twenty five percent increase since 2021 – and many of us have had an increase in our income (thanks to the Triple Lock amongst other things), only three people have increased their giving in that time. And the £42,500 given “in a planned manner” four years ago, paid for far more than the £36,400 given the same way in 2025.

So – please, speak to me if you have any questions at all about the figures in the documents or about church finances generally, but please, please, stop & think. If you do not have a standing order to the church, please think about setting one up. If you do have one, please think about increasing it – if we each make even a small increase, it would make a huge difference. It is easy to do online (I just have); or if you prefer to use paper, there are forms available on the website and on the board at the back of church. If we know we have the money to meet our regular commitments, then we can more easily concentrate upon everything else we would like to do.

Jill Atkinson

p.s. Despite our latest quotes for repairs to the roof & fleche, my message is still the same. If we can cover our “everyday” costs with our “everyday” income, then all our extra efforts – e.g. the Christmas Fair – can be given over to paying all the “extra” bills.



A ground plan of the church Carole discovered in the Parish office. I imagine she could show you the original.



MU Dates:

July

Wednesday 1st **Grace Café** from 10.00am

Monday 13th **Diocesan Wave of Prayer, in Church 10.00am**
(please see Newsletter for more details). The short service will be followed by cake and coffee, all are welcome.

Thursday 16th **Knit and Knatter** in the Front Room of Church House from 10.00am, open to all.

August

Wednesday 5th **Mothers' Union Annual Church Porch coffee morning from 10.00am.** Proceeds to go towards the Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary collection for good causes.

Thursday 20th **Knit and Knatter** in the Front Room of Church House from 10.00am, open to all.

September

Wednesday 2nd **Grace Café from 10.00am.**

Thursday 10th **Games morning** - Note this is a change from the Programme entry – the Gentle Exercise will now be on Thursday 22nd October in the Buchan Room

Thursday 17th **Knit and Knatter** in the Front Room of Church House from 10.00am, open to all.

Introducing Sir Richard Arkwright (1732-1792) and Son, and Cromford Mills

My first degree was in politics and history and I have been fascinated by both of them ever since - this is coupled with a great interest in the impact of history on the landscape. Ever since I heard of Cromford Mills I have wanted to see them and we went to the Derbyshire Peak District and the Mills in April, when, after a busy two days at Coventry Cathedral at a conference called 'Practical Peacemaking: Global to local', we went to visit my friend Susan who lives nearby.

Cromford Mills were the work of one man, Richard Arkwright, and became an icon of the early industrial revolution in the eighteenth century, as manufacturing became industrialised rather than domestic. Until these developments, things were largely made at home, in a small workshop like a smithy, or a boatyard, or on the farm. The mills were a new concept, purpose-built for mechanised water frame cotton spinning on a very large scale, using water as power. The water was vital and was a waste product of the lead mining carried on higher up the hill; it flowed downhill to the mills by gravity. The local canal still runs adjacent to the Mill site.

The Mill site is now a UNESCO World Heritage site and was the project begun by Richard Arkwright in 1771 and carried on later by members of his family, possibly until the 1880s. The site has had various other industrial or semi-industrial uses until the 1970s when it was empty and dilapidated. It is now run as a historical site of great interest by the Arkwright Society.

Richard Arkwright did not appear an obvious candidate to become a wealthy entrepreneur, or a model for future industrialists. Born in 1732 Richard was the 13th and last child born in Preston, Lancashire to tailor Thomas Arkwright and his wife Ellen. He began work as an apprentice wig maker. Moving on to work in Bolton for a wigmaker, he became known for the good quality of the permanent dye he used to colour his wigs. Moving on again, in 1755 he set up as a barber–surgeon. That same year he married his first wife, Patience, who sadly died within the year, soon after their son, another Richard, was born. He married again in 1761 to Margaret Biggins, who apparently left him in the 1770s because he was too taken up

with his work.

Arkwright travelled all over the north west of England and the Peak District, buying up hair for wig making, and on the way becoming interested in clocks and mechanical devices, especially those which tried to improve the speed and strength of the spinning process. During his travels he visited Cromford and discovered the water resources available there. His interests in mechanical devices then bore fruit when he came across a half-developed invention of Thomas Highs and John Kay. Kay was a clockmaker, employed by Highs in machine-making experiments in Preston. They were trying - unsuccessfully - to construct a spinning jenny, and later a roller-spinning machine which interested Arkwright who, spotting an opportunity, persuaded them to make a model for him. He used this as the basis for his own design, working as High's assistant to develop it.

By spring 1766 he had his prototype of the Spinning Frame. He abandoned Highs and Kay and instead formed a partnership with two distant relatives, David Thornley and John Smalley, to raise enough money for patent fees, rent and the construction of machinery. He also formed a further partnership with two wealthy Nottingham manufacturers, Samuel Need and Jedediah Strutt. Their financial muscle enabled Arkwright to lease premises in Nottingham and, with Need, set up a spinning mill powered by horses turning a capstan.

A year later Arkwright decided that water might be a more effective source of power and returned to Cromford, renting a site for £14 a year. With great confidence he built the first five-storey mill in 1771. Five more mills were built locally by 1783 - in order to make as much money as possible before his patents expired in 1783-85. He also made large royalties by licensing other mills in Lancashire and Salford.

As he expanded his business Arkwright needed to attract labour - men women and children - to work in the mills. He built good quality houses for them in Cromford village and Cromford Hill, which are still lived in today. He took an interest in the community, forming clubs and friendly

societies, and a new Sunday School in 1785. Life was still very hard for the workforce, children began long days in the Mills at seven years old, but were taught to read, and were able to source good quality food, it was, by the standards of the times, a good beginning – if you wanted good workers you had to provide for their well-being. We now sometimes forget just how hard and uncertain life in a pre-industrial age could be.

Arkwright was not apparently, a prepossessing man, described by Thomas Carlyle as a “plain, almost gross, bag-cheeked pot-bellied Lancashire man....of copious free digestion!” Despite this he was an inventor, planner and manager of genius, and a very hard worker himself, often working from 5am – 9pm. He was knighted in 1786 by George III and started to build himself a castle at Willersley, though he died in 1892 before it was finished.

His son, another Richard Arkwright, inherited his businesses and his ability. He had a very successful career himself based on investment and banking. He gained a series of landed properties in six counties and gradually moved out of cotton into other forms of business. He was very successful, becoming a millionaire by 1801 and when he died in 1843, he left £3.35 million, and was said to be the richest commoner in the first half of the 19th century. He had six equally successful sons: one was an MP, two were Justices of the Peace and High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire, and two others became High Sheriffs of Herefordshire and Staffordshire, His youngest son, Rev Joseph Arkwright, was also a Justice of the Peace for Essex and Hertfordshire.

The first Richard made a fortune in twenty years entirely from cotton. His son, also a businessman, died even richer and set up his own sons as landholders and fund holders. The family had gone from artisan to landed aristocracy in two generations, The first Richard was looked down on at Court as common, coarse and vulgar, especially when he offered to pay off the national debt, but when he died Sir Robert Peel spoke warmly of him as ‘a man who had done more honour to this country than many another hero’.

Alison Tyler

Tea with the bishop.



The Bishop of Rochester invited seventy members of the Mothers' Union to tea in his garden on June 23rd as part of their 150th birthday celebrations.

Before the food was served, Diocesan President Mary-Margaret Yates enrolled both Bishop Jonathan and his wife into the Mothers' Union.

Margaret, Vicki and Jill enjoyed meeting friends old and new – and the tea!

Meeting the guides



Eucharistia was delighted to spend some time with the Guide group, led by Sally, in our church hall. A heartfelt thank you to Sally and her team for their faithful commitment to nurturing, encouraging, and supporting our young people. We greatly appreciate all that you do for the community and for our church family.



Messy Vintage

A group has been formed to set up a Messy Vintage group, meeting the third Monday of each month, in the afternoon. Messy Vintage is the more senior version of children's Messy Play. The plan is to serve tea, coffee and biscuits and provide company along with some activities. We are aiming to make it suitable for older people, people with dementia but also people with other disabilities. Because of the latter there won't be an age limit. Carers will be welcome as well. It will be open to all, like our Grace Café, but will give people a chance to become familiar with our church and connect or reconnect with it, if required. We can provide spiritual support if necessary.

Activities will be provided if people want to join in, but they won't be compulsory. We can provide a 'quiet table' with easy and relaxing things to do.

The first meeting will be Monday September 28th (fourth Monday not the third), and there will be a cream tea and a get to know you session. Then subsequent dates are Mondays 19th October, 16th November and 21st December. The time is 2.15pm to 3.30pm

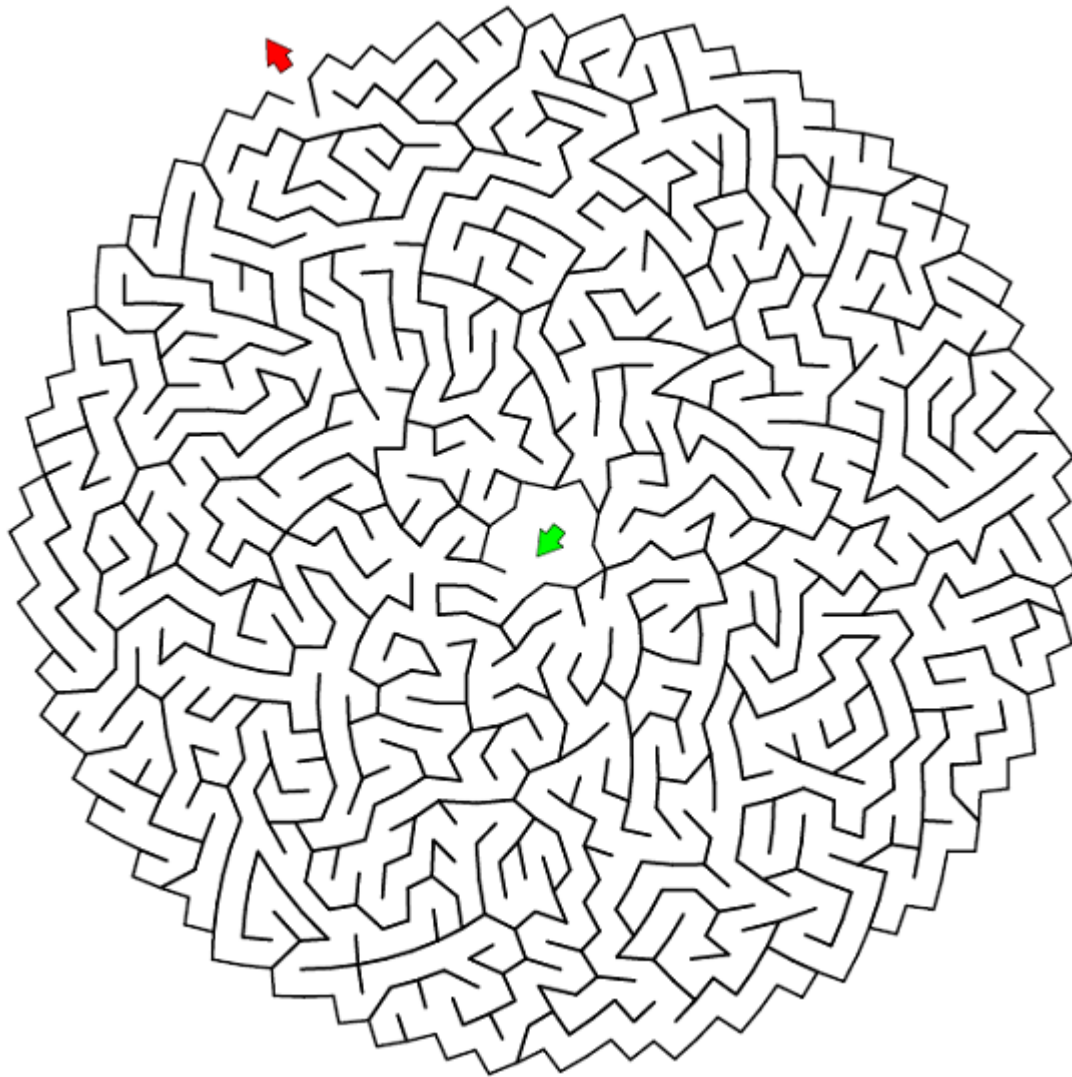
We hope that you will all want to join us and contribute as well. Any ideas for activities gratefully received. Let us know if you would like to help. Anthia Page is leading Messy Vintage and I am her 'wing woman'. You can also contact the Vicar, Eucharua, who will be setting up a central email address for this group.

Sheila Crimmin

A gallery of pictures from the baptisms of Mila and Isaac.



'Can you find your way out of the maze?



Who I am

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

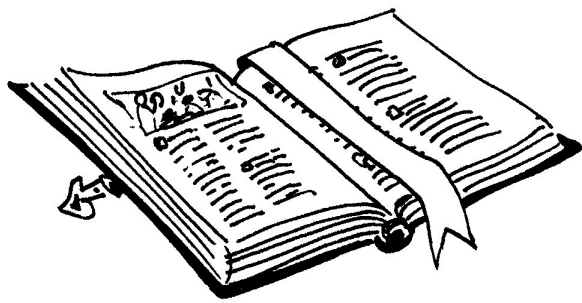
"The front row please." she answered.

You really don't want to do that", the usher said. "The vicar is boring."

Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired. The man shook his head. "Well, I'm the vicar's mother," she said indignantly.

Do you know who I am?" he asked. The woman shook her head.

"Good," he grinned.



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 Peter Boyden—email:

pbboyden@yahoo.co.uk

Mzny thanks also to Alan & Jean Read who have faithfully been responsible for these records for many years.

Bucket list

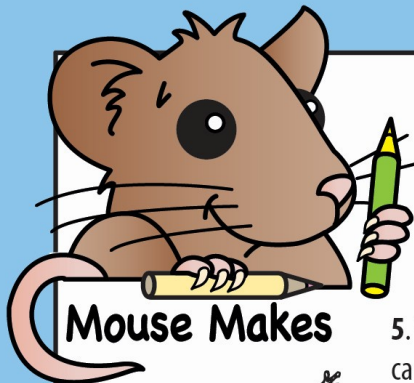
I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.



A total of £660 was donated to the Christian Aid Week appeal by members of St Mary's congregation this year. Twenty-one envelopes were returned, 18 of which contained Gift Aided donations. In 2025 13 envelopes containing £515 were returned with eleven Gift Aided donations.

Many thanks are returned to those who contributed to the £145 more donated this year over 2025's total, and to John Soper who helped count this year's contributions.

Peter Boyden



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4

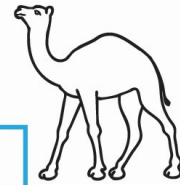


3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29



8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27

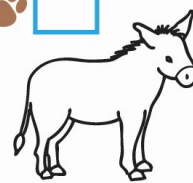


9 down.
What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30

B I B L E

CREATURES

A crossword puzzle grid with the words 'BIBLE' and 'CREATURES' filled in. The grid contains various clues and illustrations. Clues include: 1. What bird makes its nest on high? (Job 39:27); 2. What ate the seeds along the path? (Matthew 13:4); 3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains? (Exodus 36:14); 4. What insect can we learn from? (Proverbs 6:6); 5. What plague came out of the River Nile? (Exodus 8:6); 6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person? (Luke 18:25); 7. Which animal was Jesus compared to? (John 1:29); 8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first? (Genesis 8:7); 9 across. In what creature's mouth was a coin found? (Matthew 17:27); 9 down. What lives in holes? (Matthew 8:20); 12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as? (Luke 3:22); 13. Which animal did Jesus ride on? (Matthew 21:7); 14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness? (Exodus 16:13); 15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness? (Matthew 3:4); 16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"? (Proverbs 30:30). Illustrations include a white bird, ants, a camel, a frog, a sheep, a fish, a bee, a donkey, a lion, and a grasshopper.




Our Quiet Day was a wonderful opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and spend time together in prayer, reflection, and fellowship. A sincere thank you to Paul for his thoughtful leadership and to his wife for her valued support. We would also like to thank everyone who attended and shared in the day. Together, we created a warm and reflective space that was both spiritually nourishing and deeply encouraging.



The parable of the Fish and the Nets

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



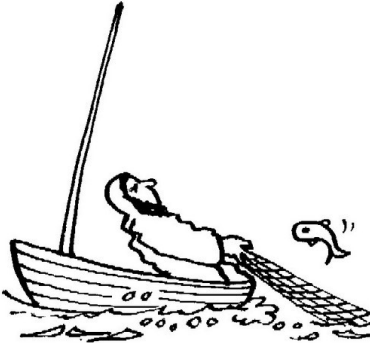
ONCE JESUS SAID THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS A BIT LIKE CATCHING FISH!



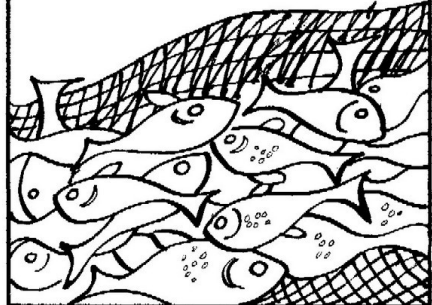
WHEN PEOPLE GO FISHING THEY THROW THEIR NETS INTO THE LAKE...



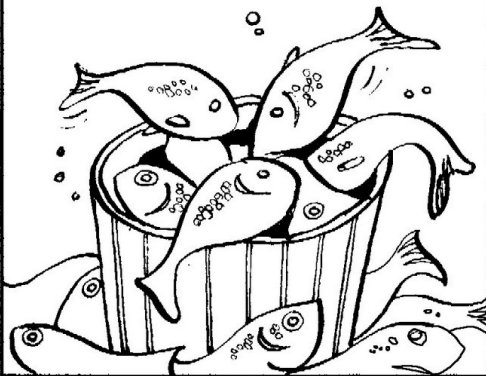
...WHEN THE NETS ARE FULL, THEY PULL THEM TO SHORE



ONCE ON SHORE THE FISH HAVE TO BE SORTED OUT.



THE GOOD FISH GO INTO BUCKETS



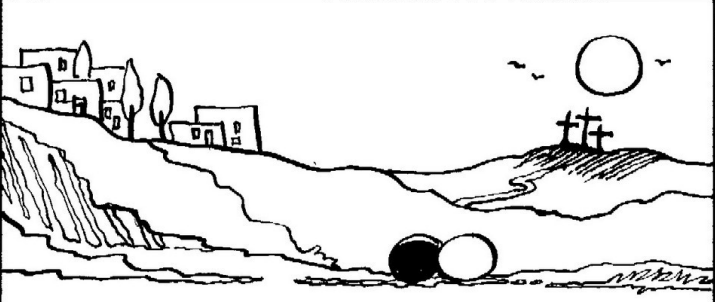
THE BAD FISH GET THROWN AWAY!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE TOO WILL BE SORTED LIKE THE FISH. WE CAN CHOOSE TO DO GOOD OR BAD THINGS WITH OUR LIVES.



BUT EVEN IF WE MAKE TERRIBLE MISTAKES - WE CAN ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN - THAT'S JESUS' PROMISE.



Ode to Spell Checkers

I have a spelling checker
I disk covered four my PC.
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot see.

Eye ran this poem threw it.
Your sure real glad two no.
Its very polished in its weigh,
My checker tolled me sew.

A checker is a blessing.
It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed,
And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays comes posed up on my screen
Eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Bee fore wee rote with checkers
Hour spelling was inn deck line,
Butt now when wee dew have a laps,
Wee are not maid too wine.

And now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare,
There are know faults in awl this peace,
Of nun eye am a wear.

To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should be proud,
And wee mussed dew the best wee can,
Sew flaws are knot aloud.

That's why eye brake in two averse
Cuz Eye dew want too please.
Sow glad eye yam that aye did bye
This soft wear four pea seas.

Grove Booklets

With my apologies for all the mistakes you will find in this magazine!



*The boys on the substitutes' bench knew
their only chance of a sing was if one of
the first team was injured*

Don't forget—in August the congregation gets to choose all the hymns! Write your favourite hymns on the sheet at the back of church, or email your choices to Eucharist.

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) 10 issues: £110; 5 issues: £60

Half page (app 145 x 100mm) 10 issues: £80; 5 issues: £50

Quarter Page: (app 75.2 x 50mm) 10 issues: £50; 5 issues: £30

Account details: St Mary's Plaistow Parish Magazine, Sort code: 09 01 51, Account: 27769404 (Santander Business Banking) Please contact John Beale for more details.

BREAKFAST CLUB FROM 8:00am



**SUNNY KIDS
PRE-SCHOOL
ST MARY'S BROMLEY**

**PLACES AVAILABLE
Monday-Friday
9:30am-4pm
extended hrs available**

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to 5 years**

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Might your advert go here?

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 a Family Service, and when we do so, we also have a traditional said 8:30am Communion Service following the book of Common Prayer. We hope you will find us a warm and friendly congregation. If you have questions about what we do, why we do it or how you might like to be more involved please do speak with the vicar, 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.

Our services are often live streamed and can be viewed on our Facebook page.

Services July

Sunday 5th

10.30am Parish Communion with baptism

Sunday 12th

8:30 Said Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Family Service—recognizing leaders of Children & Young People)

Sunday 19th

Sunday Club end of year breakfast

10.30am Parish Communion with baptism

Sunday 26th

10.30am Parish Communion

For services in August and details of everything else going on, please refer to the website: www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk

St Mary's (Plaistow) College Road Bromley

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Churchwardens	Mr CLEM SUTTON Mrs MARIA STAINES	07932 637 002
Parish Administrator <i>(Tues, Weds, Thurs)</i>	Ms MANISHA SHARMA e.mail: admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	0208 466 6969
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