

EXTENSION LAUNCH APPEAL DAY

Saturday, 10th May, was the day chosen to launch the fund-raising appeal for an Extension at St. Mary's. In the morning, Margaret Bellinger, a bellringer at the church for 35 years and a server, set out at 9.00 am on a sponsored walk round the 10 other churches in the Sidcup Deanery, some 15 miles. When Margaret arrived at St. John's, Bexley, the penultimate church on her list, word was passed to the ringers at St. Mary's in time for them to give her a warm ringing welcome as she arrived back at 2.00 pm. This marvellous effort raised £599.50.

In the evening the official launch for the extension took place and we were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Bexley, Councillor Sharon Massey, local councillors and members of other churches as well as many of St. Mary's congregation. Alison told everyone about the history of St. Mary's and its importance in the local community before asking Chris Kirk, Chairman of the Extension Committee, to explain about the proposed extension – the plans would include a meeting room/quiet area for children, re-siting of the clergy vestry and toilet facilities, with disabled access, as well as a new tea and coffee station. The estimated cost of the extension is £150,000 which needs to be raised within the next three years and he explained the church's current fund-raising activities.

Following the presentation and refreshments visitors were invited to see the location of the proposed extension in the church and an exhibition of archives relating to St. Mary's.

Donations to the Extension appeal would be most welcome. Cheques, payable to St. Mary's Bexley PCC, should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. C. Lee, 11 Holmesdale Road, Bexleyheath, DA7 4TJ. Gift Aid envelopes are available.

Mary Andrews and Sheila Thompson



Margaret Bellinger at the Launch



Councillor Sharon Massey, Mayor of Bexley signing up to buy a brick, along with Rev'd Alison Letschka and Anna Fox.