

The Parish of Bickley, St George



Monthly Bulletin

January 2021

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KEY

Calendar Date | Church Calendar Date | *Parish Roads for which to Pray*
Daily Prayer Intention | Mass Readings

Friday 1	Mary, Mother of God	<i>Newnhams Close, Nightingale Lane</i> <i>Parish Mission Partnership</i>
		Numb. 6.22-27; Gal. 4.4-7; Luke 2.16-21
Saturday 2	Sts Basil & Gregory	<i>Northfields Clo, Northumb. Gdns, Oakhurst Clo.</i> <i>Bishop Norman</i>
		Eph. 4.1-7, 11-13; Matt. 23.8-12
SUNDAY 3	CHRISTMAS 2	<i>Oldfield Close, Oldfield Road, Otford Close</i> <i>The Parish & Congregation</i>
		Eccl'us 24.1-2, 8-12; Eph. 1.3-6, 15-18; John 1.1-18
Monday 4	Feria	<i>Page Heath Lane, Page Heath Villas, Palmer Drive</i> <i>New Year's Resolutions</i>
		1 John 3.7-10; John 1.35-42
Tuesday 5	Feria	<i>Park Farm Road, Park Hill, Pembroke Road</i> <i>Bishop James</i>
		1 John 3.11-21; John 1.43-51
Wednesday 6	Epiphany	<i>Percy Terrace, Piedmont Place, Pines Road</i> <i>St John, Bromley</i>
		Isa. 60.1-6; Eph. 3.2-3, 5-6; Matt. 2.1-12
Thursday 7	(of the Precious Blood)	<i>Priory Close, Reynards Close</i> <i>S.P.S.</i>
		1 John 3.22-4.6; Matt. 4.12-17, 23-25

Friday 8	(of Requiem)	Ringmer Way, Ripley Close
Monthly Requiem		I John 4.7-10; Mark 6.34-44
Saturday 9	Feria	Rosemount Drive, Sanderson Square
Shrine O.L.W.		I John 4.11-18; Mark 6.45-52
SUNDAY 10 BAPTISM / LORD Shawfield Park, Sheridan Place, Sheridan Clo.		
The Parish & Congregation		Isa. 55.1-11; I John 5.1-9; Mark 1.7-11
Monday 11	Feria	Southborough Road
Bromley Deanery		Heb. 1.1-6; Mark 1.14-20
Tuesday 12	St Aelred	Southwark Place, Southward Close
Cistercians		Heb. 2.5-12; Mark 1.21-28
Wednesday 13	St Hilary	Spinney Oak, Springfield Gardens
The Society		I John 2.18-25; Matt. 5.13-19
Thursday 14	Feria	Springfield Road, Squires Wood Drive
Churches Together		Heb. 3.7-14; Mark 1.40-45
Friday 15	Feria	St George's Road, St George's Road West
St Augustine, Belvedere		Heb. 4.1-5, 11; Mark 2.1-12
Saturday 16	Feria	St Matthew's Drive, St Michael's Close, St Nicolas' Lane
St Mary, Swanley		Heb. 4.12-16; Mark 2.13-17
SUNDAY 17 ORDINARY 2 Stoneleigh Road, Stratford House Avenue		
The Parish & Congregation		I Sam. 3.3-10, 19; I Cor. 6.13-15, 17-20; John 1.35-42
Monday 18	Feria	Sundridge Avenue, Sycamore Place
Christian Unity		Heb. 5.1-10; Mark 2.18-22
Tuesday 19	Feria	Sylvan Walk, Tangleberry Close
The P.C.C.		Heb. 6.10-20; Mark 2.23-28
Wednesday 20	(of Christian Unity)	Taryn Grove, The Glade, The Spinneys
Christian Unity		Heb. 7.1-3, 15-17; Mark 3.1-6

Thursday 21	St Agnes <i>Persecuted Christians</i>	<i>Thornet Wood Road, Timms Close</i> 1 Cor. 1.26-31; Matt. 13.44-46
Friday 22	(of Requiem) R.I.P. Brian Williams	<i>Tudor Close, Twitten Grove, Tylney Road</i> Heb. 8.6-13; Mark 3.13-19
Saturday 23	(of Requiem) R.I.P. Allan Cooper	<i>Vale Road, Waldegrave Road</i> Heb. 9.2-3, 11-14; Mark 3.20-21
SUNDAY 24	ORDINARY 3 <i>The Parish & Congregation</i>	<i>Wellands Close, Wells Road</i> Jonah 3.1-5, 10; 1 Cor. 7.29-31; Mark 1.14-20
Monday 25	CONVERSION / St PAUL <i>Converts</i>	<i>Wellsmoor Gardens, Westleigh Drive</i> Acts 9.1-22; Mark 16.15-18
Tuesday 26	Sts Timothy & Titus <i>Bishops</i>	<i>Westwood Close, Whites Meadow</i> 2 Tim. 1.1-8; Luke 10.1-9
Wednesday 27	St Angela Merici <i>Educators</i>	<i>Widmore Lodge Road, Widmore Road</i> 1 Pet. 4.7-11; Mark 9.34-37
Thursday 28	St Thomas Aquinas <i>Aquinas Trust</i>	<i>Windy Ridge, Woodknoll Drive</i> Wisd. 7.7-10, 15-16; Matt. 23.8-12
Friday 29	(of the Holy Cross) S.S.C.	<i>Woodlands Close, Woodlands Drive</i> Heb. 10.32-39; Mark 4.26-34
Saturday 30	Feria <i>The Annunciation, Chislehurst</i>	<i>Wyncroft Close, Wythes Close, Yester Drive, Yester Road</i> Heb. 11.1-2, 8-19; Mark 4.35-41
SUNDAY 31	ORDINARY 4 <i>The Parish & Congregation</i>	<i>Those resident outside the parish</i> Deut. 18.15-20; 1 Cor. 7.32-35; Mark 1.21-28

In Remembrance, January

Barbara Meyer (1st)

Jean Staples (7th)

Tony Baldwin (8th)

Mary Smith (8th)

Frances Jenkin (10th)

Leslie Bessell (11th)



Cathy Shore (13th)

Jill Cunningham (14th)

Gloria Curle (18th)

Bridget Pickering (18th)

Arthur Clark (19th)

Elsie Curwood (20th)



Helga Lee (21st)

Penny Coe (23rd)

Delia Pettit (23rd)

Derek Welch (24th)

David Stead (29th)

Susan Hall (31st)



Dates for the Diary, and Save the Date!

Mary, Mother of God	Friday 1 January (Mass, 9.30am)
Wedding Couples' Drinks	Sunday 3, after Mass
The Epiphany of the Lord	Wednesday 6 (Masses 10am, 8pm)
Guest Preacher: <i>Fr Andrew McClellan</i>	Wednesday 6, 8pm
The Baptism of the Lord	Sunday 10 (Masses 8am & 10.30am)
Guest Preacher: <i>the Bishop of Southwark</i>	Sunday 10, 10.30am
<i>n.b. <u>no</u> live-streamed Mass</i>	Thursday 14 (tbc)
PCC Meeting	Tuesday 19, 7.30pm (Mass, 7pm)
Guest Preacher: <i>Fr Bill Beer SSC</i>	Sunday 31, 10.30am
Candlemas (The Presentation of the Lord)	Tuesday 2 Feb (Mass in Chislehurst, 7.30pm) (tbc)
<i>Save the Date!</i>	
Guest Preacher: <i>Dr Ashley Cocksworth</i>	Sunday 7 February, 10.30am
Ash Wednesday	17 February (Masses 10am & 8pm)
Guest Preacher: <i>the Archdeacon of London</i>	21 February, 10.30am
Guest Preacher: <i>Fr Simon Cuff</i>	28 February, 10.30am
Guest Preacher: <i>Fr Myles Owen</i>	7 March, 10.30am
Mothering Sunday	14 March (Masses 8am & 10.30am)
Guest Preacher: <i>Canon Paul Jenkins</i>	21 March, 10.30am
Palm Sunday	28 March (Masses 8am & 10.30am)
Easter Day	4 April (Masses 8am & 10.30am)
St George's Day (<i>transferred</i>)	Sunday 25 April (Mass times tbc)

From the Vicar

I WRITE as an extraordinary, and very challenging, year draws to its close. But, in the life of the Church - as well as in respect of developments nationally and internationally - I believe that there is much to which to look forward positively. For example, many of the eminent guest preachers scheduled to join us during 2020, for “The Year of the Word”, have kindly agreed to come instead in 2021 - as the diary page, opposite, details; and other special speakers have been added to their number.

But for us as Christians, matters run deeper than simple positivity, or mere optimism: as Christians, we have *hope*. And hope, as Canon Giles Fraser explained in a recent article (in *Unherd*, 17 December), is ‘*a depth charge dropped right into the middle of human darkness*’. The Jews of Jesus’ day lived in a world gripped by a violent power - the Roman Empire - and yet God’s Kingdom came among them in the unlikeliest of ways, a kingdom of peace, prayer and justice which has outlived that Empire by 1,600 years and counting. Today, a no-less devastating force has left its mark on our lives: COVID-19. But our celebration of the hope we have in Christ continues, throughout the Christmas season we celebrate this month. Christmas is not cancelled; because Christ remains King. Giles Fraser continues, ‘*this hope is not the same thing as optimism. It is two things. First, the reframing of daily struggle and hardship within a much wider story in which good is always more powerful than evil.*’ The coronavirus, and the lockdown restrictions imposed in response, may have taken so much from us in 2020: but our lives are lived in a greater context, in the context of the breathtaking drama of redemption into which, by baptism, we have been incorporated. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, as St Paul reminds the Romans. ‘*And second, [hope] is a spiritual form of bloody-minded defiance... That is the point of [our parishes - they] wage a war on bleakness.*’ Our confidence in God’s goodness, and in His ultimate purposes, inspires us to live lives of courageous charity and audacious kindness, and to be lights in the darkness of this world.

Whether or not you are yet able to join us to worship in church, do use the prayers included in this booklet - to be prayed before an image of the Crib - asking God to fan into flame the fire of hope within your hearts, to face the New Year without fear, but with trust in Jesus and with a readiness to do his will. We have been tested by fire, but God has preserved us, and purified us thereby - to refocus our efforts to do His work in His Name. Perhaps we might return to those familiar words written for the year’s turning: ‘*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: / Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. / And he replied: / Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*’



“The Adoration of the Magi”

ON JANUARY 6TH the Church keeps the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord: the showing of Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Wise Men from the East. Only St Matthew records this unusual event, in

Chapter 2 of his Gospel. He tells us that Magi, or Astrologers, came to Jerusalem, seeking the King of the Jews, whose birth had been foretold in the stars. After some difficulty, they found the house in Bethlehem where the Holy Family was staying. They paid their reverence to the Child, gave their gifts, and departed, never to be mentioned again in the Gospels. People since then have assumed that there were three of them because of the three gifts they brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Popular devotion has also made them kings, come to worship the King of kings. The visit of the Magi to Bethlehem has often been painted by artists down the centuries. Perhaps the painting best known to us is “The Adoration of the Magi” in King’s College Chapel, Cambridge. It was painted in 1623-4 by the Flemish baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens. Made as an altar piece for a convent in Louvain, it was sold after the 1780 suppression of convents. It passed through various hands until it was bought at Sotheby’s in 1959 by the property millionaire Alfred Alnutt for a world record price then of £250,000. Two years later he offered it to King’s College. It was gratefully accepted. The Chapel building was modified, so that it could be installed once again as an altar piece in 1968.

For many years since 1918 the College has held the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols just before Christmas. It was first broadcast on the radio in 1928, and more recently “Carols and Lessons” has been televised on Christmas Eve, making us all familiar with the beautiful Rubens altarpiece. In the centre of the picture our Lady, flanked by St Joseph, hold the Child on her lap. On the left the three “Kings”, clad in billowing, Eastern clothes, are offering their gifts. Above, cherubs gaze down on the Baby, while soldiers and servants stand in the background. Rubens’ idealized picture of the Epiphany above the altar, whether seen on television, or on a visit to the Chapel, inspires in us a feeling of devotion to the Christ Child on Mary’s knee, and reminds us of John Betjeman’s words in his poem “Christmas”: *‘That God was man in Palestine, and lives today in Bread and Wine.’*

[“Prayers Around the Crib” are taken from
“O Come, Let Us Adore Him, published by
the *Church Union* and *The Society*:
the complete resource is available here -

[https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/
Prayers_at_the_crib_v6.pdf](https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/Prayers_at_the_crib_v6.pdf)]

Report on the December PCC Meeting

A new hazard sign has been ordered for the church car park. Bromley Council has not yet made a decision on the planning application in respect of St Michael's. No further information has been received as to when installation of the mobile mast in the tower will commence.

One Safeguarding concern had been raised since the last meeting, which Fr Richard has recorded confidentially, and addressed in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Members of the Council were reminded they must all complete the CO and C1 online safeguarding training. Churchwardens and the Parish Safeguarding Officer must also complete the new "Leadership" training module, C2. Margaret Brading should be notified once the training has been completed. All PCC members must also undergo DBS clearance.

Following London's move to Tier 3, Father Richard confirmed there are no changes as what churches can and cannot do. All Christmas services at St George's will therefore proceed as advertised with the appropriate COVID-security measures in place.

With the continuing restrictions imposed as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic, it was agreed any new mission initiatives should be deferred until 2021.

The Treasurer reported that the loss for the year to the end of November is around £14,200. The current balance in the bank account is approximately £69,000. A gift aid payment of approximately £5,000 is awaited from HMRC. The first year's rental of £6,000 and the one-off payment of £5,000 from the mobile mast company are expected in early 2021. Receipt of the £10,000 bequeathed by Joyce Powell is also awaited.

All Christmas services except Christmas Day are now fully booked. The Hall will not now be used as an overflow area for any of the Christmas services due to the logistical difficulties involved. The collection at both Crib Services will be for the Friends of the Princess Royal University Hospital.

The Pre-school will cease operating from the hall at the end of this term. There have been a number of new regular evening bookings, including a choir rehearsing on Thursdays from 7.30 to 10pm, with most evenings now booked. There are also some new daytime bookings. Once the situation with the pandemic improves, further bookings will be possible including children's parties at the weekend.

The Electoral Roll Officer reported that following the annual revision there had been no changes to the roll. The number on the roll after the revision is 113 (41 resident and 70 non-resident).

Work completed in church included tuning of the organ and repair of a light switch in the tower. Work on waterproofing the main hall coping stones had also been completed. Outstanding work includes clearing of vegetation to the north of the main hall and church and replacement of two faulty lights in the main hall ceiling. Following a subsidised energy audit of the church and hall the Standing Committee had agreed to the implementation of various recommendations. This work will be undertaken next year once the heating systems are no longer in use. The Standing Committee felt that the remaining recommendations were either too costly to implement and/or would cause too much disruption to the fabric of the church/hall. Strengthening work recommended to the east window will be revisited in 2021. A second report and quote for this work would be obtained in due course. It was agreed Mark should continue to undertake sufficient gardening in the preschool (Vicarage) garden to prevent it from becoming overgrown.

Monica Sanderson had asked if the funeral candlesticks could be replaced due to their current condition. She had suggested purchasing four candlesticks the same as those currently used at the Sacred Heart Statue (if still available) to make six in total. This will be considered once funds become available.

The possibility of installing WiFi in the Hall was discussed as some users had asked if it was available. WiFi will be provided in the church when the new mobile mast is installed. It is likely this would also cover the Hall. The matter will be raised with the mobile mast company at the pre-start meeting. Fr Richard reported that a film company had recently hired the church car park during filming at a nearby property. A fee of £350 was paid to the church. A baby grand piano had been donated to the church by Colin Gosling just before his death. This is now in the small Hall. The upright piano currently in the Hall will be moved to the main hall. The re-location of the clavichord is to be agreed.

It was agreed the Events Committee continue with its current members. The Mission Committee will be reconstituted once the pandemic position improves and missionary work can recommence. The Fundraising Committee is an *ad hoc* committee which is formed when needed for a specific fundraising purpose.

The date of the 2021 Fete will be 19 June.
The next meetings of the PCC will take place on 19 January and 16 March 2021.

[“The Wondrous Gift” is taken from
a more extensive resource for the 12 Days of Christmas,
published by the *Church Union* and *The Society*:
the complete resource is available here -

[https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/
The_Wondrous_Gift_FINAL.pdf](https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/The_Wondrous_Gift_FINAL.pdf)]

Contact us

Parish Priest

Fr Richard Norman SSC
The Vicarage, Bickley Park Road, Bromley BR1 2BE
Tel. 020 8295 6411
E-mail. rjnorman@hotmail.co.uk

Honorary Assistant Priests

Fr David Cossar SSC
Tel. 020 3730 9003 or 07977 533 302
E-mail. davidanddianec4@talktalk.net

Canon Owen Beament MBE
Tel. 07984 668 290
E-mail. owenbeament@aol.com

Churchwardens

Mrs Vera Bilby
Tel. 07943 098 828

Mr Leonard Brown
Tel. 01689 827 257

Assistant Churchwarden

Mr Paul Braybrooke
Tel. 01689 855 914

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Margaret Brading
Tel. 07793 402 459 E-mail. margaret.brading@yahoo.com

Health & Safety Officer

Mr David Hood 020 8467 9623

St George's Church Hall - Bookings

Mrs Margaret Brading 07793 402 459

Director of Music

Mr Nick Stein

	Mass	Other Sacraments
Sunday	8.00am Low Mass 10.30am Sung Mass (with Children's Church)	Holy Baptism, Marriage, Sick Communion, Anointing & Reconciliation by appointment
Weekdays		
Monday	<i>no Mass</i>	Healing Service the monthly healing service is currently suspended, pending review (*this Mass live-streamed to Facebook)
Tuesday	9.30am Low Mass	
Wednesday	9.30am Holy Hour 10.00am Low Mass	
Thursday	12 noon Low Mass*	
Friday	9.30am Low Mass	
Saturday	9.30am Low Mass (followed by Rosary)	