

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

**FEBRUARY 2025**

*61 College Road Bromley BR1 3QG*



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

Minimum donation 75p

The resignation of the Archbishop Justin Welby comes as a response to failures in safeguarding during his time as Archbishop of Canterbury. It highlights our collective responsibility for the safety and safeguarding of us all.

At such a painful time, our thoughts and prayers are with survivors and all whose lives have been impacted by the abuse, inadequate responses to disclosures and institutional failings. During this time of uncertainty, we also pray for healing and grace for all those affected and hope that this moment will open opportunities for renewal and a safer Church.

Here at St Mary's, we recognise that no one individual is responsible for a safe culture in church, it is a shared responsibility and the responsibility of us all. We know we have a designated Safeguarding Officer and a Safeguarding Team, a PCC and a ministry team all working together to promote a safe environment in our church.

Lisa Morris is our Safeguarding Officer, and she, along with our Safeguarding and Health and Safety Team, is responsible for making sure that everyone involved in the mission and ministry of St Mary's has appropriate training. The team ensures that everyone recruited to any leadership position of trust has proper references and checks.

We want to make it as easy as possible for people to access support and help. There are information posters in the toilets and on noticeboards, as well as information on our website. If you have a concern or query, you can speak to Lisa or any member of the team or, of course, to Eucharist and any one of those responsible for ministry at St Mary's.

For further information about Safeguarding at St Mary's please visit the website <https://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/> where you will find our Safeguarding Policy and contact details for our Parish Safeguarding Officer. If you have any questions about any of this, please do contact Lisa or anyone of our team. Thank you.



# FUNCTION ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

*Warwick Hall - £45.00 per hour  
Buchan Hall - £28.00 per hour  
Front Room - £17.00 per hour*

## St Mary's Church House and Hall

61 College Road, Bromley BR1 3QG  
Email: [stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com)  
Phone: 07951 748 155

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Paul Tomlin.

Home Maintenance and Handyman  
Services:

Plumbing, Building, Decorating,  
Roofing, Patios, Fencing, Drainage,  
Jet washing, Gutters to dripping Taps,  
Flat packs to Tiling.

All trades covered. No job too small.

0208 460 6007. 07743680919  
[plumbpaul@hotmail.com](mailto:plumbpaul@hotmail.com)



## Welcome to the February 2025 edition of the Parish Magazine.

Welcome to our first magazine of 2025, which as usual has an interesting selection of articles submitted by a wide range of church members – thank you! If it isn't too late for resolutions, how about deciding to write something yourself this year? And if you pay annually or online, perhaps now is the time to do it? Or do you, or someone you know, want to place an advert in the next issue or regularly? Or if you enjoy reading the magazine, perhaps you could share your copy with someone else – that might lead to some interesting conversations. Happy New Year!

Jill Atkinson



If you wish to make payment for the magazine online the bank details are:

Sort Code 09 01 51

Account 27769404 (St Marys Plaistow Parish Magazine)

Monthly cost 75p

Annual cost (10 months) £7.50

Postal service (10 months plus 2nd class postage cost) £14.10

A free pdf copy is available from the website at [admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk).

This month's editor: Jill Atkinson

Editor for March: Atlanta Topham

Copy date: 14th February 2025

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

## Table of Contents

Vicars Article.....	6
Revd Alison Tyler .....	8
Mural Restoration Thanksgiving .....	11
True or False .....	12
A View from the Pew .....	14
Choir Notes.....	16
Children’s Page .....	18
Mouse Makes .....	19
Mothers’ Union .....	20
Cocoa and Chocolate .....	23
Coal Tas Posts (Part 1).....	26
St James the Least .....	30
Worship Diary .....	31

## 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.***

# Happy New Year!



**Dear Friends,**

I hope you all enjoyed a joyful Christmas and a peaceful start to 2025.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas services and events – to our church wardens for organising all the activities, to the choir that filled our church with beautiful music, to the administrator for doing all the paper works, to those who lovingly decorated the church and grounds, ensuring that our space radiated the light of Christ. A special thank you also goes to our hospitality team for providing such a warm welcome and delightful refreshments, and to our Sunday Club team for the wonderful Pop Nativity play, which brought the Christmas story to life with such creativity and joy. Your contributions, whether large or small, made the season truly meaningful for us all and many hearts were touched by the message of hope and love that Christmas brings.

I am delighted to share some wonderful news with you – our **church mural restoration project** is now complete! These stunning works of art, so rich in historical and spiritual meaning, have been lovingly restored to their former glory. They stand as a testament to God's beauty and the faith, generosity, and dedication of this parish.

A huge thank you to all who contributed to this project – whether through financial support, fundraising efforts, grant applications, or by spreading the word. This vision could not have been realized without your prayers, your encouragement, and your willingness to give. Truly, this achievement reflects the heart and soul of our community.

We plan to hold a **special Service of Thanksgiving** to celebrate this milestone, to give thanks to God, and to honour everyone who made it possible

Please keep an eye on the newsletter and website for details, and I hope you will join us for this joyful occasion.

As we move into February, we have many opportunities to grow in fellowship, faith, and outreach. Our **Tuesdays Study group** continues to be a space for meaningful discussion and spiritual growth. **Grace Café** is always ready to welcome everyone for coffee, cake, and conversation – a simple yet powerful way to connect with one another and with our wider community. **Mother's Union** which is open to all who wish to join. These gatherings are a vital part of our shared life and a chance to welcome friends and neighbours into the life of our church.

Looking ahead, Lent is just around the corner. This sacred season calls us to pause, reflect, pray, and renew our commitment to following Christ. Details of our Lenten services, studies, and events will be shared soon. Let us prepare our hearts for this time of renewal, trusting in the steadfast love of God, which never fails and is new every morning.

Thank you for the many ways you bless this parish with your time, talents, resources, and prayers.

With every blessing,

**Rev'd Eucharika Asiegbu**

Vicar

### **Intercessions List**

If you aren't already on the St Mary's Intercessions List and would like to be, please let Frances Boyden know. Not sure if you are on it? If you have been contacted by a member of the Pastoral Team asking if there is anything you would like prayed for then you are, as this is the list they use.

The current list runs out soon and a new one is in preparation. Copies will be available at the back of church if you would like one for your private prayers.

# Rest for the Soul



The New year is always a difficult time. Once again it has begun in sorrow and distress for many, in New Orleans they mourn the dead and injured from a terror attack, in the North of England a month's rain in a day or two wreaked havoc, brought fear, destruction and ruin for many. In Los Angeles the wild fires are all consuming, and there is an ongoing set of issues in the Church of England and many of our local communities of sexual abuse and violence against women and children.

These dreadful things are just a few examples amongst many, which illustrate the continuation of bad news and difficult times from one year to the next. They have been experienced in every generation and lived through before and during Christmases past as well, so no wonder we sometimes think that nothing changes at all. We as Christians proclaim on a completely different level that the coming of the child Jesus, as Emmanuel, God with us, means that really **everything** has changed and nothing will ever be the same again, just because God is with us.



*Frost in my garden*

During the recent cold snap we made a magical journey through the enchantingly beautiful woods, rolling hills and heathlands of the Ashdown Forest, veiled in sunlight and mist, hoar frost and snow, all glowing and sparkling like lace covered jewels.



Such unearthly beauty on the way, like a road to an enchanted place, it was all in startling contrast to the accompanying shattering and relentless bad news that greeted the New Year. Such a collection of bad news almost wipes from the mind and soul the peace and joy of Christmas and the coming of the Christ child.

Even by human standards the times are dark and difficult, and yet still God comes to us, often in very small ways.

God in Christ is the God who comes, who knowing everything about us still **chooses** to come to us, to be born as a human child, to take flesh, to take skin in the game so to speak and so to risk everything to be with us.

Sadly, there are still many unresolved problems following the Covid pandemic which have not gone away and which still create real difficulties, especially when we come to think about how to live out our faith going forward. Many people have lost all their hope, their trust and also their faith, or spend much of their time anxious and distressed in need of reassurance and restoration, but the resources are stretched and help is hard to access. But still God comes to us.

One of the most comforting of prayers we pray often at Compline is this: 'Come to us at the dawning of the day and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

Restore us again, O God of hosts;' .....In brokenness, still God in Christ comes to us

Furthermore Psalm 30 reminds us that 'Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.' There is more, this is not all there is.

And a beautiful dawn or sunrise is a wonderful encouragement and reminder to us, that every day brings fresh opportunities to experience God's grace and mercy present and active in our lives. There is nowhere that God is not present, and remembering this can calm our fears; when we realise we are not alone.



### *Sunrise over Bromley*

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and guide our feet into the way of peace.

We cannot escape the difficulties of life or the dreadful things that can happen in our world like the threats and dangers that may surround us. No one lives a trouble free life, each of us has some pain and difficulty to deal with, but it is easier with God's help. Having come to be with us Christ will keep us company on the journey, so we are not alone. I try always to remember to ask for help, and to meditate on words of comfort as part of my prayer life, to look for consoling words and experiences shared by others for inspiration, because we can do very little in our own strength. Together we can do much more; with God with us, we can carry on and survive and live well. Julian of Norwich made the point that God did not say 'You shall not be tormented, or you shall not be troubled, or you shall not be grieved', but God did say 'You shall not be overcome'. Jesus himself said 'come to me all who are heavy laden .....and you will find rest for your souls', and he also said, 'be of good cheer for I have overcome the world'.

I leave you with one of the recent prayers from the Church's 'Everyday Faith' app, as a useful aid for helping us to create for ourselves silence and rest for the soul when the going gets tough.

**O God of peace,  
on whom our souls wait in silence;  
renew in our hearts an inner stillness,  
as we seek to treasure  
your Word made flesh  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**



## True or False?

- ◆ You have to be on the electoral roll to be on the PCC.
- ◆ You can only be on one electoral roll.
- ◆ You have to be over 18 to be on the roll.
- ◆ The church is charged per head for the members on the roll.
- ◆ If you are already on the roll, you needn't do anything.
- ◆ You can only be on the roll if you are a confirmed member of the Church of England.
- ◆ You have to live in the parish to be on the roll.
- ◆ You must be on the roll to vote at the Annual Church Meeting.

Believe it or not, none of these statements are totally true!

Yes, lay members of the church must be on the roll to be eligible for election to the PCC, but the roll is a list of lay members, and doesn't include the vicar, who is very much part of the PCC.

Yes, normally one person would only "sign up" for one roll, but if you meet the criteria for two churches, you are allowed to be on two rolls (and I should know!). What you can't do is be elected to represent both, e.g. on Deanery Synod(s).

The roll is open to everyone over 16, you don't have to wait to be 18.

A long time ago, the amount each parish contributed to the Diocesan budget was set via a formula which included the number on the electoral roll – and vicars were as keen to add people as their treasurers were to take them off! But it is many years since this has been the case. In our Diocese, the only factors taken into consideration now are the number of paid clergy, and value of unrestricted income.

Yes, most years, those on the roll continue to be so, without any further action – unless for example they have moved away. But once every six years, the roll is started again from scratch in every parish – and 2025 is one such year. Having been on the list in 2024 does not count, EVERYONE has to apply again.

You do not need to be confirmed, or even a member of the Church of England, to apply, although you should be baptised, and “a member of a church in communion with the Church of England”.

Yes, living in the parish is one criterium for eligibility. But many people at St Mary’s (& other churches) live beyond the boundary, & therefore also need to sign a declaration that they have “habitually attended public worship” at the church for the last six months, or give a reason why they have been unable to do so. How often is “habitually” is open to interpretation!

Yes, to vote for PCC members at the annual meeting, you must be on the roll – but anyone may attend, and (for historical reasons) anyone resident in the parish, on the roll or not, may vote for the church wardens.

So – if you meet the criteria, why should you apply to be on the new roll?

From your point of view, it demonstrates that you consider St Mary’s your church. It qualifies you to take a full part in voting for and even belonging to the PCC. It could even enable you or your children meet the criteria for a marriage at St Mary’s at some future date!

From the church point of view, it enables the Vicar to know who considers St Mary’s to be their church. It gives an indication (and a historical record) of the number of people who feel involved, and a numerical comparison with other parishes. The number on the roll also determines the size of the PCC and the number of representatives on the Deanery Synod.

It costs nothing – so if you can, go on, make sure you do it!

# *A view from the pew*



Will you forgive me if I duck out of providing an article this month – and instead treat you to one by someone else, whom I discovered on the internet.

First a picture:



Then the poem by JamieAdStories

When the snow starts to fall  
I will be impressed.  
Because a snowy winter  
Is always better than the rest.  
When the skies are clear  
And the frost is crisp,  
And nothing can be heard  
But a Willow-o-the-Wisp.  
When the cosiest rooms  
Succumb to fires crackling,  
Decorations twinkle  
Cakes and chocolates worth tackling.

When the days are short  
But the mood is sublime.  
There is no happier period  
Than that cold winter time.  
When hot drinks before bed  
Infuse warmth and a yawn.  
All is right in the world  
Till another winter dawn.  
But for me this won't happen  
Snow's a thing of the past.  
Global warming is spoiling  
Our winters, which no longer last.  
Sometimes it feels more like  
Summer in the day.  
I can tell cosy winters  
Have long gone away.  
For pollution and waste  
Mean a less seasonal time.  
And I think stealing our winter  
Is an absolute crime.

**JamieAdStories**



**Oven  
Wizards®**

*We clean your oven...so you don't have to*

**Rob Hadgiyianni**  
**Tel 01689 253525**  
**Mob. 07957 325452**  
**robhadgiyianni@ovenwizards.com**  
**[www.ovenwizards.com](http://www.ovenwizards.com)**

**Call today to have your oven,  
hob, extractor or Aga  
professionally cleaned**

## CHOIR NOTES

Christmas has come and gone – for the Church Choir, as well as for the rest of us. The choir love singing the familiar carols and anthems at that season, but still try to ensure that none become hackneyed through over-repetition. Accordingly, a record is kept of all the choir carols sung at the main (singing) Christmas services each year. The choir is fortunate to have a great body of anthems, songs and carols in its store – the index to Christmas Choir anthems alone lists 129 different items! We should not have to repeat a piece for about 20 years.

And yet....

We all like familiarity. We know what we enjoy. Much as a new item of clothing is welcome, we all relax into well-worn and well-loved less-fashionable casuals. Similarly, much as singers welcome the challenge of new music, bringing out a well-worn, older piece with familiar intervals and half-remembered words can revive a group of singers, stressed with novelty. So don't be surprised if you recognise some of the pieces sung by the church choir at this time of year. You will certainly find that larger, more professional choirs repeat themselves, especially in December! Hence no apologies for singing what (we hope) you enjoy – and maybe half-remember from another occasion!

Our thanks, for another year of wonderful, reliable and sensitive piano/organ playing each week, go to Sheila Knight, and we are grateful for the continuing support of Ben James, and for the keyboard skills of David, Andrew and Alfie.

Finally, a big thank you to our wonderful singers for their dedication, hard work and musicianship.





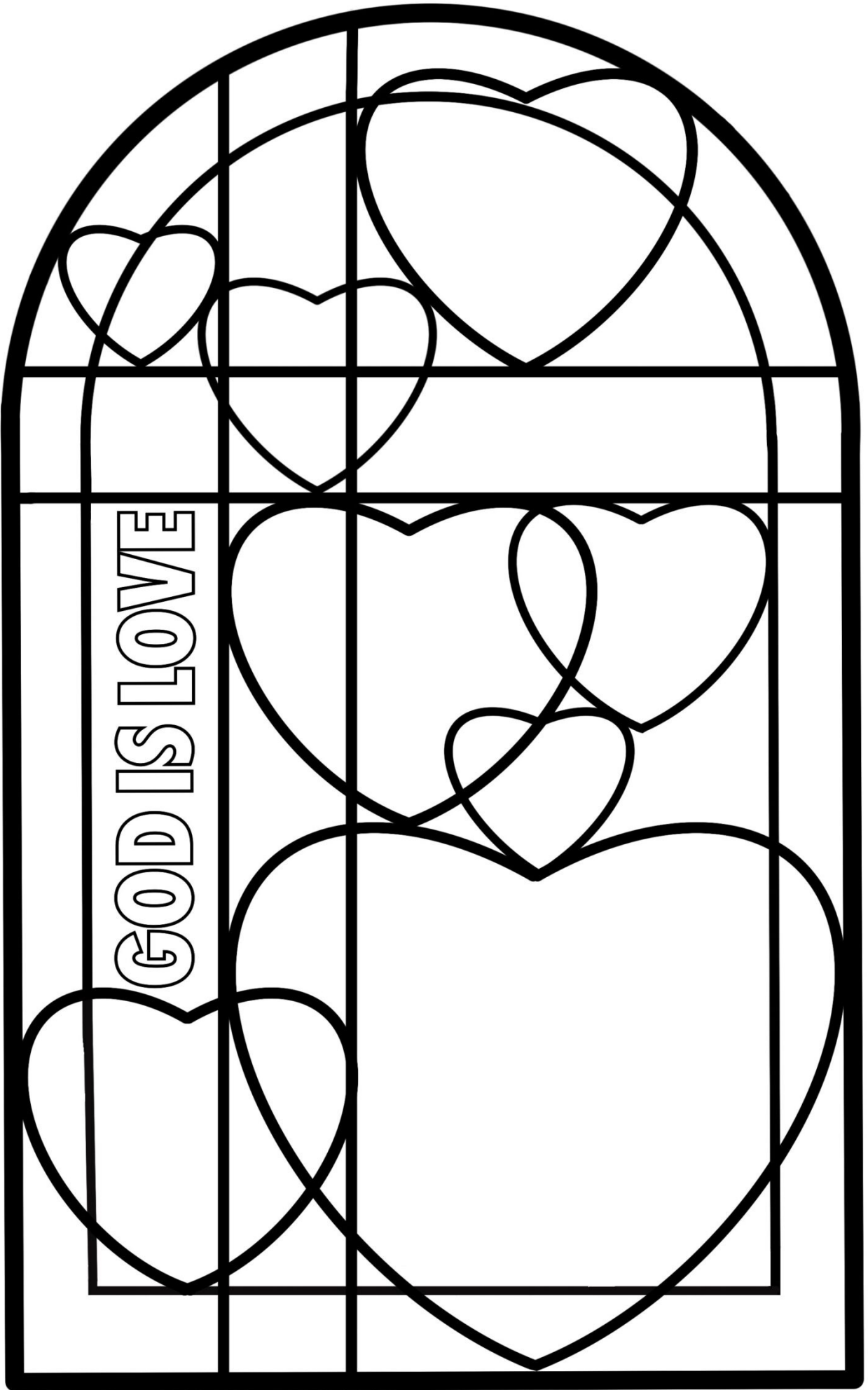
The core of our choir turns out for practices, rehearsals, run-throughs and trials, week after week, without complaint or stop. They look after their voices, learn their parts, sing loud and soft, high and low, make words intelligible, and listen. Yes, they have to use all their faculties to blend a disparate group of voices into a concordant choir. Our choristers are self-taught, self-willed and self-controlled – a winning combination displayed each week in the services at St Mary's.

Thank you, singers. We are grateful to you. We look forward to next week!

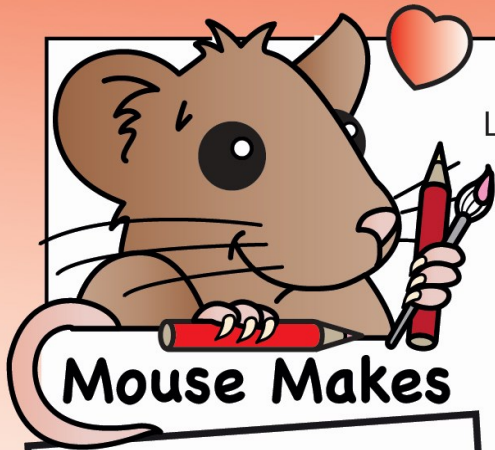
Peter Fall



"It may well attract more young folk to join the congregation but I still prefer the old church notice board"



GOD IS LOVE



# Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is \_\_\_\_\_  
 It does not, \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_

others, it is not self -

it is not easily

it keeps no record of

Love delights in

it always

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;  
 His \_\_\_\_\_  
 never come to an end;  
 they are new every \_\_\_\_\_.

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...  
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 that **love** is.

Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.

whoever \_\_\_\_\_  
 in **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
 in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_  
 in them.

1 John 4:16

Give \_\_\_\_\_  
 to the Lord, for He is

his steadfast **love**  
 endures

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES  
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

**God sent me a saviour:**

He sent His one and only  
 Son into the world so  
 that we might have  
 eternal life through Him.

1 John 4:9

**God gave me His spirit:**

He has given you the  
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts  
 with His **love**.

Romans 5:5

**God called me His child:**

See what great **love** the  
 Father has for us that He  
 would call us His children.

1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

**LOVE** the Lord your God with  
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**  
 and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

**LOVE** your neighbour the  
 same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

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

GOD • **LOVE**  
 PATIENT • KIND  
 GRACIOUS • PEACE  
 JUST • TRUTHFUL  
 TRUSTING • LOYAL  
 HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERES  
 ENDURES  
 HUMBLE  
 SELFLESS  
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

## **Mothers' Union Matters**

What a Dickens of a time has been enjoyed by St Mary's Mothers' Union!



A Pickwickian outing in December to the Toby Carvery in deepest South Bromley for Christmas Lunch, was complemented by an enlightening talk on Charles Dickens' children to warm up January 2025. Candles are a symbolic device in Dickens' novels, often representing the illumination of the soul. The soft glow of a candle in "A Christmas Carol" lights Scrooge's path to self-discovery. In her engaging talk, MU Member Veronica Lo told an attentive audience about the active life of Charles Dickens, some of his imagery, and how his stories affected his own children.

Lest it be thought that MU members were only laying back and letting Christmas wash over them, in December they set to and made Christingles for the church's annual Christingle service. Good sized oranges had a red ribbon put around each circumference. Then a hole was gouged into the top of the orange, and a slice taken off the base, so it stood firmly and could also accommodate a candle in the hole. This was lined with aluminium foil before a small white candle was inserted. Finally, four toothpicks were inserted around the candle. On these were put raisins, dolly mixtures and orange segments, representing the fruits of the earth. The candle stands for the Light of the World (Jesus) and the red ribbon is His blood.

Finally, a month of MU would not be complete without a Knit and Knatter session. December duly had a K-and-K, which was well-attended and active, making another visit to the Seafarers' base look likely in early 2025, to deliver knitted hats, scarves and gloves for their use.

The new MU programme for 2025 is full of interesting meetings – a Quiz, a talk about Bromley Little Theatre, the annual Plant Sale and a Cream Tea outing, to mention but a few.

Why not pop along sometime to see what the fuss is all about? If you like it, you can join the branch and come whenever you like. What could be fairer?

Peter Fall

## **Mothers' Union Meetings in February**

5<sup>th</sup> Grace café from 10 a.m.

20<sup>th</sup> Knit n' Natter from 10 a.m.

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Review at 10 a.m.

**(Front Room of Church House)**

### **National Nest Box Week – 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February**

#### **Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days?**

As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.

This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

**Friday 7 March**

A service for everyone!

10.30 a.m.  
**St Joseph's Church**

Plaistow Lane, Bromley  
BR1 3FH

All welcome

**Cook Islands** *I made you wonderful*



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 233242

## Cocoa and Chocolate

Cocoa originated in Central and South America, but most of it is now grown in small farms in West Africa.

It grows in large, multi-beaned pods on cocoa trees. In spite of it being a tree, cocoa is a delicate plant needing the right conditions to grow – hot, shady, lots of rain and not much wind. This means that they can only thrive in a narrow band centred on the equator

Other countries do grow cocoa, including India and Indonesia and even the UK.



As you can see, it is quite unusual, with flowers and fruit appearing together and both coming directly from the main branches, not side shoots.

A typical cocoa tree will give enough beans to make three pounds of cocoa a year. The pods are harvested by the farmer, or his assistant, climbing up the tree to carefully cut them off.



Inside the pod, the beans are surrounded by a soft white jelly like pulp, which can be eaten itself and which, I am told, tastes unlike any other fruit - a kind of cross between passionfruit and the tangy taste of a mango. Not at all chocolatey. You may be able to try it at Kew Gardens, if you are lucky

enough to be there at the right time, when a pod is harvested .

Once the beans have been harvested, they must be fermented. The quality of the fermentation is one of the most important stages for the final taste. The beans are removed from the pods and packed into large trays still covered by their pulpy coat. The full trays are then covered with banana leaves for several days. Both the banana leaves and the pulp are important to the process. The banana leaves provide yeasts and the pulp heats the mix, both of which promote the fermentation of the beans. In the process the pulp liquidises and drains away. Even so, the beans are still quite wet and must be spread out to dry for up to a week.

Once they are dry the beans are roasted. This too is an important stage for the final flavour. The roasted beans may be crushed to give cocoa nibs, which can be bought in the UK. These can be used in cooking as they are, but they do not have a very strong taste, although some recipes suggest using them instead of chocolate chips as they are full of minerals, antioxidants, fibre, flavonoids (good for the heart - similar to red wine) and beneficial oils and fats, without the sugar etc. of real chocolate. Almost a health food.

The nibs are then ground to an acidic powder which is neutralised by various alkalines, sometimes even sodium hydroxide (caustic soda). This leaves solid cocoa, a liquid, cocoa liquor, and cocoa butter. The solid cocoa is then ground even finer to be used in the manufacture of chocolate. This must be kept cool, so it is a slow process.

Once all the material has been ground, the chocolate is made by recombining these elements in different proportions together with sugar and often milk and other flavourings. This mixing results in the smooth chocolate we know today. Exactly how it works is not known, but the method is called conching.

As mentioned, cocoa has many constituents, some of which can affect our moods and alertness. The best known is theobromine, a bitter chemical which can act like caffeine.



Phenyl ethylamine is another ingredient which also affects the mood, giving chocolate the comfort factor. There are also various other cannabinoid receptor activators, another way chocolate might improve your mood.

We, like many animals, like chocolate. We humans can get away with eating it with no worse outcome than a few pounds on the scales. However, dogs are not so lucky. They still like the taste and will happily run off with your chocolate, but dogs can die from chocolate, as did my brother's dog after stealing and eating half a chocolate cake. Horses too are affected by chocolate, which is why giving racehorses chocolate is a sacking offence for stable hands.

As you can see, the production of chocolate is not easy. Many stages, each of which must be done properly for a high-quality luxury product. One which I hope to continue to enjoy for a while yet.

Trine Hevezi

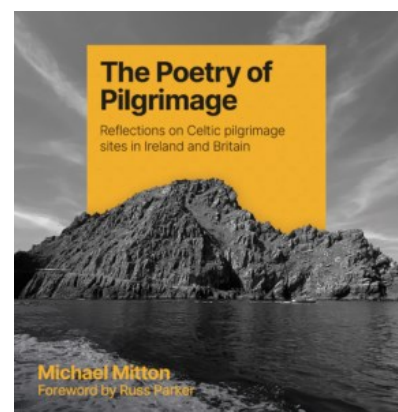
## BOOK REVIEW

### **The Poetry of Pilgrimage: Reflections on Celtic Pilgrimage sites in Ireland and Britain**

**By Michael Mitton, BRF, £12.99**

Drawing from his experience of co-leading pilgrimages in Britain and Ireland, Michael Mitton captures the essence of 23 significant pilgrimage sites for anyone from experienced pilgrims to armchair pilgrims.

Each chapter outlines the story of the Celtic saint who founded the site, together with information about the location, a poem inspired by the author's experience of that place, a reflective question, a suggested Bible reading and a photo of the site.



## Coal Tax Posts (Part 1)

When walking, cycling or driving near the outskirts of Greater London, you may well have seen white posts about 4 foot tall bearing a shield of the City of London coat of arms and not giving them a second thought. These are coal tax posts erected in the 19<sup>th</sup> century marking the point and giving due notice at the place when tax became payable to the Corporation of London on coal being transported into the City of London by road, track or path.

Coal imported into the City of London had been taxed since medieval times but there was a new era of tax legislation being enacted in 1667 to raise funds after the Great Fire of London of 1666 to help rebuild the likes of St Paul's Cathedral, about 50 new churches and other structures, including Blackfriars Bridge and Holborn Viaduct. At that time, most coal was brought by sea via the River Thames to riverside wharfs with the collection of tax relatively easy and payable to the Port of London.

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was increasing trade by canal and rail, so Acts of Parliament extended the catchment area to include these new modes of transport. In 1845, the boundary was set at a radius of 20 miles from the General Post Office in Martin's le Grand, City of London. The Coal Duties (London and Westminster and adjacent counties) Act 1851 permitted the erection of boundary markers, so about 50 markers were erected and inscribed with a reference to the act. Calculated coal tax due was collected by the Clerk of the Coal Market, Grove Park, Hertfordshire, with wine duties still collected in the Port of London.



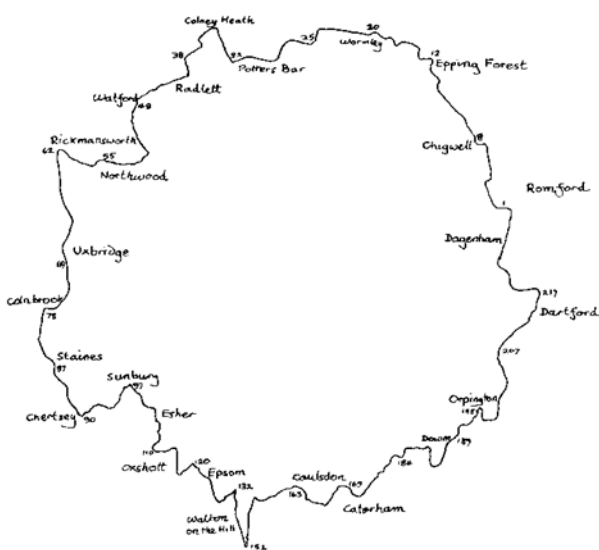
Coal barges at Linsey Wharf on Cremorne Rd, Chelsea, London

Coal Duty marker post from 1851



The London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Act were passed in 1861, reducing the area to that of the Metropolitan Police District plus the City of London. About 280 new marker posts were erected to show the boundary within which coal (not wine) duty was payable. In some cases, notably on railways and canals, markers made for the earlier acts were re-used on new boundaries. After the 1861 boundary change, a permanent house for coal tax collection was built at Stockers Lock near Rickmansworth. The coal levy was initially set at one shilling (5p), now around £8 per chaldron (a volume measurement) approximately equivalent to a weight of 1.25 tonne (25cwt). However, railway companies were initially allowed some coal free of duty for their engines.

There are around 210 extant coal tax posts and markers, including some which have been moved to new locations or are in museums and some have been removed to make way for new roads. The posts and markers are between 12 and 18 miles from Charing Cross, the average distance about 15 miles. Today, Charing Cross is the normal point from which distances are measured but the boundary is quite an irregular shape as seen in the figures.



Boundary of 1861 Coal Act markers around Lodon



Coal tax post boundary around the Bromley Area

There are five different types of coal tax posts and markers remaining from 1861.

**Type 1**, Granite obelisk about 4 ft (1.2m) high, erected beside canals and navigable rivers.

**Type 2**, Cast-iron posts about 4 ft (1.2m) high. These form the majority of posts and are found beside roads, tracks, footpaths and sometimes in open countryside. They were cast by Henry Grissell at his Regents Canal iron works.



Type 1 Post 60 at Springwell Lock



Type 2 Post 187 at Milking Lane, Downe



Henry Grissell's marker's mark on a Type 2 Post

**Type 3**, Cast-iron boxes or plates about 9 inches (230mm) square built into parapets and road bridges.

**Type 4**, Stone or cast-iron obelisk about 15 ft (4.6m) high found beside railways. Originally erected on previous boundaries and re-used on the 1861 boundary.

**Type 5**, Cast-iron obelisk about 6 ft (1.8m) high erected on railways after 1865.



Type 3 Plate 68 on Clilby's Bridge over River Colne    Type 4 Post 206 near Swanley Station    Type 5 Post 197,  
back 15 Holywell Close, Orpington

Almost all markers bear the City of London shield or in some cases, the full coat of arms. Most of the cast iron posts are painted white with the cross and sword of the shield picked out in red but the stone ones are often a sombre black, still bearing the stains accumulated on the smoky trackside. Most of the posts are Grade II listed buildings and were maintained by English Heritage but more recently, the City Corporation's Historic Surveyor has employed a contractor to maintain the posts.

Roger Benoy

***Those notices which didn't come out quite right...***



- Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.
- Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.
- In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.
- This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.
- Volunteers are needed to spit up food for distribution.
- The King's Bras will present a concert at our church this evening at 6:00pm.

The Rectory  
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

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 February**

#### **Sunday 2nd February—Candlemas**

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club

#### **Sunday 9th February—The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

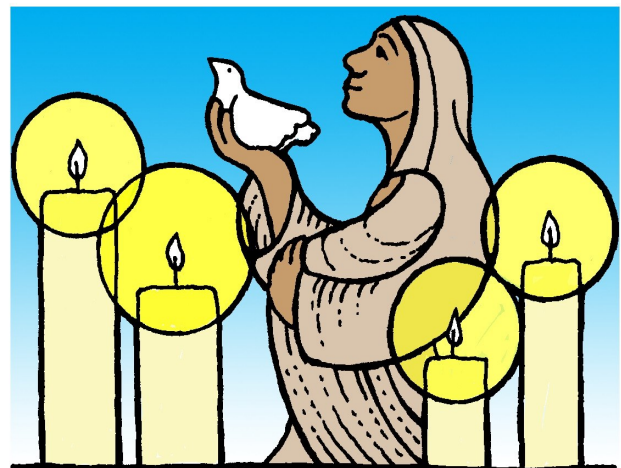
10.30 am All Age Communion

#### **Sunday 16th February - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club

#### **Sunday 23rd February—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

10.30 am Family Communion with Sunday Club



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

Vicar <i>Day off Friday</i>	Revd EUCHARIA ASIEGBU 74 London Lane BR1 4HE  Email: Vicarstmarysbromley@gmail.com	020 3612 0110
Associate Priest	Revd ALISON TYLER  ar.tyler@ntlworld.com	
Readers	Mr JOHN COX  Mr MIKE EAMES  Dr KEITH NYE	07751 117 427   07885 247 38 5
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs ANTHIA PAGE	07976 385 132
Churchwardens	Mr CLEM SUTTON  Mrs MARIA STAINES	  07932 637 002
Parish Administrator	Mrs. ATLANTA TOPHAM  email: admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	  07951 748 155
Church House	Mrs. ATLANTA TOPHAM	
Bookings	e.mail:stmaryshouseandhall@gmail.com	
Concerts & Choir	Mr PETER FALL	020 8464 1239
CarePlus	e.mail:info@careplusbromley.org.uk	

### Magazine Committee

Jo Clark Atlanta Topham	Editor e-mail:joc1947@msn.com Editor, Postal distribution, Advertising e-mail: admin@stmarys-bromley.org.uk	
Jill Atkinson	Editor e-mail: jilleatk@aol.com	
Lesley Speller	Distribution Manager	