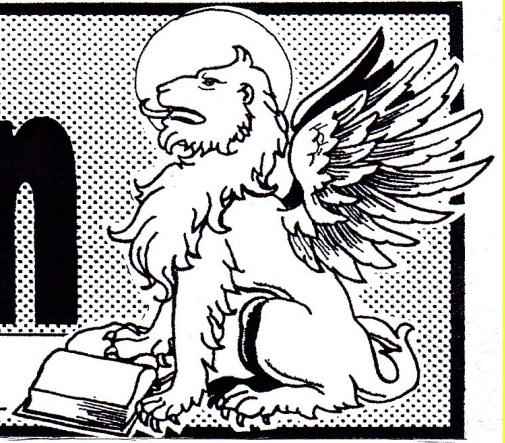
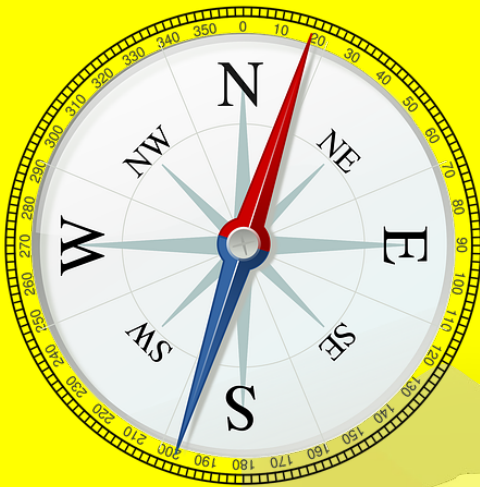


Marksman

A Paper of St. Mark's Church, Westmoreland Road, Bromley



Adventures



June, July, August 2020

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Editorial:

Extra-ordinary Time

This e-edition of the Marksman is for the months June to August. On Sunday 1st June the long period of 'Ordinary Time' in the calendar of the Church begins; the period after the feasting of Easter-tide. The colour scheme of the vestments shifts from gold and white to green, for the ordinariness of the grass some would say.

In fact, the use of the term ordinary here is in the sense of counting the ordinal number (first, second, third..) of weeks after Trinity Sunday, on and on through the summer.

Our nation, like others nations of the world, is counting the weeks as lockdown continues.

We are currently in extra-ordinary circumstances of living, straining to remember what normal felt like. Is this the new ordinary?

The recollections and thoughts in this magazine are on the theme of adventure. This was chosen by the planning group pre-COVID. Adventure is the process of arriving at a new place, often in the context of an unusual, exciting or dangerous activity, process or journey by which something happens.

The word does not describe our current situation. What will life be like when we emerge gradually to embrace the world as we knew it? Some of us are already feeling the pain of loss – of love ones, health, job, freedom. Some are discovering new skills, new things about ourselves, new ways of being. Nothing will be quite the same again.

Eventually the church will be permitted to unlock its doors – maybe during Ordinary time. I live in hope! For now, the website (and facebook page) is very much open and refreshed at least every Sunday with the weekly newssheet and material for worship including hymns and homily. There is material for Sunday School too. Please let me know if you want anything added, including prayer requests.

Blessings to you all,

Victoria

Canon Victoria Pask, Vicar

vicarstmarksbr2@gmail.com

www.stmarksbromley.co.uk

We ask Marksman readers to support our advertisers and all our local traders when shopping or getting work done. The corona lockdown has had a devastating effect on many businesses.

You can help our community get back on its feet by buying local and supporting our neighbours whenever possible. Advertisements in this edition of Marksman have been given space free of charge, as a goodwill gesture.

In addition, CALM is remaining as the current charity. Their services will be in demand during these uncertain times.

News

Congratulations to our Curate, The Revd Beth Lewis, who has a new post.

Here is the official statement from the Southwark Diocese:

Appointment of Team Vicar in the Cheam Team Ministry

by the Bishop of Southwark:

We are pleased to announce that the Reverend Bethany Lewis, presently Assistant Curate at St Mark's Bromley, in the Diocese of Rochester, has been appointed Team Vicar of St Oswald, North Cheam and St Alban the Martyr, Cheam in the Cheam Team Ministry, subject to completion of the necessary procedures. Details of the public service of welcome and licensing will follow in due course after public worship has been resumed.

We hold Beth in our prayers as she prepares for her ministry in Cheam.



Dear Everyone at St Mark's,

Thank you all so much for your farewell card and collection.

I have really enjoyed my three and a half years (yes, I'm sure it felt like longer...) ministering with, and journeying alongside you. Thank you for the encouragement, support and advice which I have received from you during that time, particularly during the interregnum. I wish I could thank you in person and with a glass of something in our hands, but for now I hope you all stay well.

I have already ordered a lovely home communion set and a couple of books which had been on my wish list for a while. But fear not, I have held some back for a takeaway with bubbly for my first evening in the vicarage, and also to help me sample the wares of the local hostelryes...

I hope to see you all again soon!

Beth

Paul Gladman

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2020 adventuring, missionary style

I used to think missionaries were the great explorers and colonists of the nineteenth century - David Livingstone, Eric Liddell and the like. Now I know differently. Because I find I have become a millennial missionary.

After nearly 50 years of working for a living, I decided in retirement to branch out. My resolution led to a Masters degree in Theology and to active Christian life, leading me into realms I never knew existed. A holiday visit morphed into a wish to spend time working in Tanzania, where Rochester Diocese is linked with two companion diocese. Then my first extended visit to St Philip's Theological College in Tanzania, where I am now a visiting lecturer.

For me this is adventure big time. Teaching itself is a challenge (as every UK teacher will vouch), compounded by language and cultural differences. Poverty is real and everywhere. The very practical challenges of life in subsistence tropical Africa mean that food and power cannot be taken for granted, and transport becomes an expensive luxury.



I meet remarkable people. As this article is supposed to be about missionaries, I will mention a few. Helen H is a priest from Australia, and in 20 years has developed a girls' educational complex in

the North - nursery, kindergarten, primary and secondary schools, and a sewing/life skills centre. She fizzles with ideas and new schemes. Helen E from the UK visits every year to teach English at the local theological college and help at the schools.

At St Philips there is a steady procession of modern missionaries - nurses, teachers, handymen, priests, home makers. Some defy an easy label. Janet came to St Philips for 2 years, and ended up staying 14, running the college administration. Wendy from USA is dedicated to helping families cope with disability. She now directs the college outreach programme, and is leading Tanzanian efforts to improve national disability access.

Adventure, inspiration, and remarkable people: some of the blessings God bestows on modern missionaries.

Christina Parry

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Survival against the odds: Ernest Shackleton's rescue mission

From 1914, a true survival story: an epic of courage, endurance, leadership and teamwork, and unsurpassed skills of seamanship and navigation. Aided by God's Providence.

Endurance, the exploration ship of the 1914 British Antarctic Expedition, was home to 28 crew, led by Ernest Shackleton. She was crushed by ice and sank as winter came on. In those pre-satnav days of sail there was no chance of rescue.

The crew's only hope was to launch three small boats and battle the advancing ice. They landed on Elephant Island, a bleak uninhabited rock. The only option was for six of them to take to the Southern Ocean in an open boat and make for South Georgia, 1000 sea miles away.

For 15 days and nights the six battled the worst the ocean could throw at them, till they saw land. They arrived in a hurricane so fierce it threatened disaster: 'For three hours, our thirst almost forgotten, we looked Death squarely in the eye. It was not so much terrifying as chilling, especially with



Taken from "South" by Shackleton published in 1919

the ceaseless rush of breaking seas over us'. It was another 24 hours before they could make it ashore.

But they were the wrong side of South Georgia. To get to the whaling station, and help, they had to cross impassable mountains:

'the hell that reigns up there in heavy storms blind a man and take

away his senses. No man could live in some of the gales where we stood'. Three days later, Shackleton, Worsley and Crean reached habitation. 'The Norwegians told us afterwards there was never another day for the rest of the winter when we could have lived through on top of the mountains. Providence had certainly looked after us'. They also learned that on the terrible journey each of them 'had a strange feeling that there had been a fourth in our party'.

After 100 days and three failed attempts, all the men were rescued. Worsley said of Shackleton: 'By self-sacrifice and throwing his own life into the balance he saved every one of his men - not a life was lost - although at times it looked unlikely one could be saved'.

Marksman

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On your doorstep

I once read somewhere that we only need one moment of inspiration to spark an adventure; and yet on most days I would struggle to find the magic. Adventures don't have to be exciting or fast moving; they can be a state of mind, a way of being, an attitude of doing something different, or choosing to do something we do all the time but in a different way.

Some of us are accustomed to leave our homes and almost always turn to walk in the same direction. Sometimes it can be an adventure to turn and go in the not so familiar other direction and wander along thereby seeing some scenes almost as if for the very first time. We might even bump into someone we used to know well and haven't seen for ages.

An adventure doesn't have to be exploring new places. It is possible to have an adventure on your own home territory. Try walking through the areas you have tramped



over in the past and daydreaming, and you may see them in a different light which could change your mind completely. Try looking near, not far, and definitely down as well as up.

It is 9.00 am on a Thursday and I am sitting in a Costa Coffee in a street running parallel to Oxford Street in London's West End. The background music is Bob Dylan singing 'Mr Tambourine Man'. My mind is

running riot, and I am thinking of the many times I have heard this song, more often sung by a group called 'The Byrds'. I am also recalling the adventures I used to have in my mind when the song and I were young. What I was going to do with myself and my life, and what I was going to be. Everything was going to be marvellous. However, life doesn't always work out like that, but I had some wonderful journeys in my mind. Ah, now Joni Mitchell is singing -

Marian Smith



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Adventures- Bromley after Lockdown

COVID-19 took its toll on our planet last year. Hundreds of thousands died and many more were sick. But despite all of that suffering and turmoil, the coronavirus outbreak had a few positive impacts on our world. Global pollution levels plummeted, reaching lows that no one would've imagined. Animals under the great threat of extinction began returning to their natural habitats for the first time in decades. And people got the time to bond and spend with their loved ones that they usually would never have. So this year, in 2021, after our world has steadily recovered from COVID-19, Bromley Council decided to make some lasting changes to our borough with the intentions of sustaining those positive impacts the virus brought.

Firstly, the gardens behind Churchill Theatre were restored. More flowers and trees were planted to extend the green space in the area. The bushes and shrubs overlapping the pathways have been trimmed neatly, and the wild birds in the area now get looked after by the council; they have their own feeders on branches near their nests where they lay. A majestic marble fountain has been constructed nearby with an ample volume of



water for whenever the neighbouring animals require it.

The park by Bromley Civic Centre has also undergone some changes. More benches have been constructed with tables around the space so that people can socialise together under the sun. A new basketball court and astroturf area have just finished development nearby the pavilion; these new

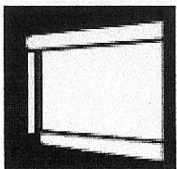
recreational zones are great for community sporting activities.

Bromley Library has just been remodelled after much anticipation and excitement. The old computers have been replaced with new, sleek, more responsive ones. Another floor has been designed for collaborative study; this will be tremendously useful for students wishing to concentrate and get work done after school together. A larger variety of books have been bought for the library by the council, and now members of the public can borrow more at a time.

With all of these changes, Bromley is sure to be a newer adventure to explore for the community...

Akshay John

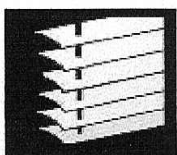
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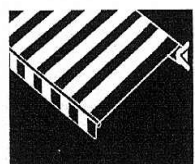
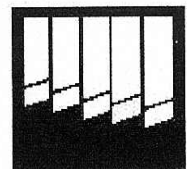
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Prayers page from English Cathedrals

From the front page of the
Prayers for Coronavirus
section

All our cathedrals are working hard to adhere to the latest advice and guidelines from the Government, Public Health and the Church of England to ensure everyone's safety and to minimise the risk of spreading the Coronavirus.

Check your local cathedral's website for specific arrangements they have made for worship and visits. Some are making services available to stream online for those who cannot attend. St Edmundsbury Cathedral are doing just that.

We will keep this page as up to date as possible as information becomes available.



We will also provide links to Coronavirus COVID-19 guides and advice. And prayers. We'll post all the Cathedral Coronavirus Prayers here too.

Coronavirus Prayer
from Wakefield Cathedral

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and
distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and
fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen*

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This link takes you to the English
Cathedrals web page.: -

[www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/
prayers-for-coronavirus](http://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/prayers-for-coronavirus)

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Adventures in Art



I've always had a passion for art. I remember the excitement I felt as a child, sitting at my Grandma's table, being presented with blank pieces of paper. I would spend hours making little houses with

opening doors, drawing imaginary characters and scenes.

As an adult I was fortunate enough to teach art to Primary School children. It was here I found art to be a great leveller – the children who might have perhaps struggled academically were able to achieve and this sense of achievement meant their confidence grew.

Nine years ago I got the opportunity to start an art club in the School I was working in. It was at this point I decided to take the plunge and become a self employed Art Tutor. My art adventure had begun! Before long, I was running art clubs in several Schools, along with class art lessons and

activities for Arts Week. I was also commissioned by the Schools to adorn their walls with Murals. Although being self employed can be hard work and I admit a little stressful at times, I have never regretted giving up my "sensible" job. The pleasure of teaching others to draw and paint is a constant reminder of why I love my job.

Last year I decided that it was time for a new art adventure! It occurred to me that there were a number of adults who had done art in School but for whatever reason had not painted since they were children. My new focus was to help adults who have always wanted to paint! Again I felt rather like I was starting at the beginning with so much to learn about web sites and advertising. I had to keep focussing on what it was I wanted to achieve. Over the past year I have had the pleasure of helping numerous adults reconnect with painting and look forward to welcoming new students on their own art journey!

Cat King



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Adventure

"If you keep doing what you've been doing, you're going to keep getting what you've been getting." — Author unknown.

Adventure to me means taking a leap of faith, to take risks & try new things. When I first wrote this piece I was thinking of my personal adventures from quitting work to travel the world in my late 20s, getting married & buying a house in a new place. By far our greatest adventure as a couple has been having a child & learning together how to build our family and the values that are our foundation.


As I rewrite this piece the world is undergoing unprecedented times which includes many casualties but I also see lots of hope in there too and through the lens of stepping into the unknown some adventures too. Communities are coming together to support each other, neighbours are looking out for one

another and I like to think that we are all grateful for the many people still going to work to get us all through this - doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, supermarket workers, delivery drivers and many public service workers. Friends and families are learning to communicate in different ways - using technology to keep in touch and support each other. Some families living together are now spending more time together and learning to adapt to a slower pace of life, this will be an adventure of its own.






As a community, country & world I hope that when all of this is over the sense of community spirit, the things we've come to appreciate again and the value we place on life and the promise of adventure that it holds will stay with us all.

Jen Peters





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Exploring new dimensions

I am sharing with you information about the Easter Pilgrim series of emails which the Church of England sends to subscribers.

However, I wanted to explore how this would fit in with the theme of Adventure.

Roget's Thesaurus places Adventure in the groups of event, chance, pursuit and trial. That's fair enough. Interestingly it is grouped with Advent under event.

Nuttall's dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms lists venture, risk, hazard,

imperial, experiment, trial, crisis, occurrence, romance, transaction and speculation.

Finally, in 1913, Webster's dictionary defines adventure in many ways, including "a noteworthy event or experience in one's life."

One of my conclusions is that following the CoE Easter Pilgrim series is a form of adventure. Pilgrimage is a spiritual as well as a physical adventure.

Richard Brown

The Church of England Easter Pilgrim series of online mailings.

Day 14 - 24th April "Living in the present times."

The reading for the day was Romans: 8: verses 18-28.

There is a short explanation about the reading: -

"Paul describes what it is like to live at this point in the story of salvation. God's reign has begun in Jesus Christ, but God's kingdom has not yet come in all its fullness. We see signs and first fruits, but there is still so much that needs to be set right."

The post includes ideas for a family activity and further reading.

The Collect for Christ the King is used for prayer: -

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Sign up to the Church of England's #EasterPilgrim: The Lord's Prayer reflections and receive exclusive emails over this special season: www.churchofengland.org/easterpilgrim

A Prayer for the coronavirus situation

From the Association of English Cathedrals

God, as I enter this holy place, I bring into your presence the bewilderment and uncertainty engulfing our world. As I light a candle of hope, I pray that my anxiety may soften. I ask for calm, not only for myself, but for all people. Give us all a spirit of love and compassion in this time of need, and for all who are sick, isolated and afraid, embrace them with the assurance of your peace and love.

Amen

Miscellany

Some prayers and extracts
from books published during the inter-war period.

From **Bees in Amber**

by John Oxenham

CREDO

Not what, but WHOM, I do believe,
That, in my darkest hour of need,
Hath comfort that no mortal creed
To mortal man may give;--

Not what, but WHOM!

For Christ is more than all the creeds,
And His full life of gentle deeds
Shall all the creeds outlive.

Not what I do believe, but WHOM!

WHO walks beside me in the gloom?
WHO shares the burden wearisome?
WHO all the dim way doth illume,
And bids me look beyond the tomb
The larger life to live?--

Not what I do believe,

BUT WHOM!

Not what,

But WHOM!

YOUR PLACE

Is your place a small place?

Tend it with care! -

He set you there.

Is your place a large place?

Guard it with care! -

He set you there.

Whate'er your place, it is

Not yours alone, but His

Who set you there

BIDE A WEE!

Though the times be dark and dreary,
Though the way be long,
Keep your spirits bright and cheery,--
--"Bide a wee, and dinna weary!"
Is a heartsome song.

----- o0o -----

From **A Few Picked Gems**

A compilation of writings by the Late Rev.
James Walker Brown.

The last verse of J.W.Brown's poem

The Sun Dial: -

O Sunlight of God, there's a Dial waits
thy shining;
Around it are gathered the aged, the
youth;
Have pity on souls in perplexity pining,
Unveil to the darkened Thy truth.

Two Prayers: -

MORNING

With Thee when dawn comes in
And calls me back to care;
Each day returning to begin
With thee, my God, in prayer.

EVENING

With Thee when day is done,
And evening calms the mind
The setting as the rising sun
With thee my heart would find.

The Rev. J. D. Burns

'Not iPod but my pod': A Land of Promise, Prophets and Patriarchs

Travellers returning from the Holy Land have reminded me of my adventures there and the taste of cardamon in my coffee.

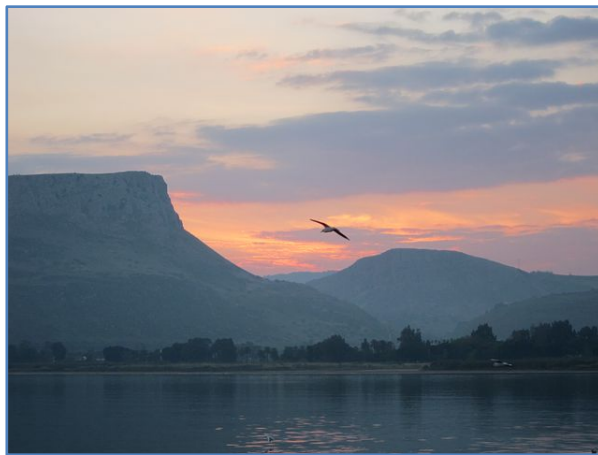
I recall the stillness of a cave behind the rather lurid nativity grotto in Bethlehem and the hospitality of the inhabitants who shared lunch and songs with us and told us of the challenges of living under siege behind a high wall with gunposts.

I felt humbled following Jesus's route on Palm Sunday and walking the Way of the Cross through the streets of old Jerusalem to the place of Crucifixion, and later on being in the Garden of Gethsemane at night among ancient olive trees reflecting on Jesus's betrayal and sufferings.

Going to the Temple Mount and overlooking the rock sacred to three faiths encouraged me to hope for a brighter future where reconciliation might be possible, and this was enhanced by listening to the inspirational leaders of the Musalala programme, who take young people from the different communities camping in the wilderness and get them working together. Watching a multifaith dance troupe also lifted my spirits.

I have been moved by the living water and lush pastures of the River Jordan, the oasis and frontier town of Jericho and the expanses of desert running down to the Dead Sea with its pillars of salt. However, it is the Sea of Galilee which has left me with the most abiding impressions, as it is here, where Jesus was

fishing, teaching, healing and eating breakfast on the beach, that He seemed closest. Sitting among meadow flowers beside the waves on the shore I found the Beatitudes, including his words 'Blessed are the Peacemakers' particularly stirring.



The Sea of Galilee

Serenity seemed elusive, though, when having to argue with a dishonest taxi driver and opportunistic shopkeeper in the bazaar. I was also disturbed when local Christians told me how many of them have already left the country to escape oppression and conflict.

Where is liberation? Suddenly I recall a rainbow over the lake and good travelling companions, and a garden with an empty tomb with the sign 'He is not here. He is Risen'.

Carol Robins

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Contact Sylvia on 07729952918

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Member of CIAA, BCCMA & TCUGB

Our current charity

The Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) is leading a movement against suicide, the single biggest killer of men under 45 in the UK and the cause of 18 deaths every day.

CALM offers a free and confidential phone and web chat support service for people in crisis— 7 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone who needs to talk about life's problems. They also support those bereaved by suicide, through the Support After Suicide Partnership (SASP).

CALM helps communities by supporting parents, siblings, partners, friends and colleagues. The charity spreads its message in universities, pubs, clubs and prisons across the country – so that people feel empowered to share their experiences and get the help they need



before they reach the point of crisis.

CALM campaign with media partners, brands and ambassadors to spread awareness of suicide and its devastating impact, with campaigns like #Project84, #DontBottleItUp and The Best

Man Project. 'We challenge boring male stereotypes and encourage positive behavioural change and help-seeking behaviour, using cultural touch points like art, music, sport and comedy'.

CALM was first launched as a pilot by the Dept of Health in Manchester in 1997. Finding that local commissioners and supporters wanted it to continue, CALM was launched as a national charity on 31 March 2006.

Until 2011 CALM was aimed at men aged 15-35. By 2011 it was clear that the volume of male callers aged over 35 was growing and suicide among older men was increasing. So CALM expanded its remit to cover all men in the UK. CALM now supports men and women.

The organisation receives a small proportion of its income from trusts, foundations, local authorities and companies, but the majority of its funding is through charitable giving.



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Contact details: -

By post: CALM, PO Box 68766,
London, SE1P 4JZ

Tel: 0808 802 58 58

Website: thecalmzone.net

In view of the current situation, CALM is being retained as the current charity because its services will be needed more than ever.

What's On

At this time of lockdown, the church building is closed, as are all churches in the Diocese and C of E. The website is very much open – please see: -

www.stmarksbromley.co.uk

The website is updated each Sunday and Holy Days with worship material, newssheet, readings, hymns, an anthem and reflection/homily. Some of these are recorded and the YouTube link given.

There is also a Sunday School page, which is refreshed regularly.

St Mark's Bromley has a facebook page by the same name.

[See and use the links on the back cover](#)

Many of the congregation have chosen to use noon each Sunday to stop, light a candle, take a morsel of bread, read the Gospel of the day and say the Lord's Prayer together, but apart. Please join in!

A prayer about the outbreak

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in
isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our
own safety: we are people who
protect our neighbours' safety. We
are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson

From the Registers

At the time of production of this
edition of Marksman, entries from the
registers could not be extracted

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Who's Who at St Mark's

St Mark's Web site www.stmarksbromley.co.uk

Vicar The Revd Canon Victoria Pask 020 8460 6220 vicarstmarksbr2@gmail.com
Curate The Revd Bethany Lewis 07516 951540 bethlynnlewis@hotmail.com

Churchwardens

Pat Openshaw 8460 1211
 Richard Collins
 e-mails via the pcc secretary

Treasurer

David Thomas 8460 1476
davidsbthomas@hotmail.com

PCC Secretary

Joanna Seymour 8460 3097
pccsecretary1898@gmail.com

Licensed Reader

Carol Robins 01689 832833
goldenplanet@btinternet.com

Pastoral Assistant

Maureen Mattison 8464 1288
maureenmattison@hotmail.co.uk

Director of Music

Andrew Wilson (A Cert CM) 8289 9103
wilson2912@hotmail.co.uk

Organist

Ralf Ayling-Miller
Stopped_Diapason@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Theresa Weller 07771 946615
tweller1@icloud.com

Sunday School

Maureen Mattison 8464 1288

Friends of St Mark's Church

Margaret Hales 8464 6970
margarethales@gmail.com

Church Room Bookings

Claire Buckley stmarkshallbr2@gmail.com

Marksman

Christina Parry 8658 7233
clparry00@yahoo.co.uk

Coming Services at St Mark's

An alternative way to guidance and worship

The following links take you to church websites and online resources for study and worship. Just click, or double click, on a link and you should be redirected to the website. If the link does not work, then copy the link including www. and paste it into your browser search box.

Website	The Link
St Mark's, Bromley	www.stmarksbromley.co.uk
Diocese of Rochester	www.rochester.anglican.org
The Archbishop of Canterbury	www.archbishopofcanterbury.org
The Church of England - Faith in Action	www.churchofengland.org/faith-in-action
The Church of England - Easter Pilgrim	www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/easterpilgrim-lords-prayer

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