Shortlands Air Raid Wardens Memorial – Wreath Laying – Wednesday 11th November

We will be meeting at the Shortlands Air Raid Wardens Memorial in Queen Anne Avenue at 10.45am, the memorial is just within our parish, and adjacent to St Mark's School. Walking up Queen Anne Avenue from the Church the memorial is on the righthand side before the passageway. On 4th December 1940 during an enemy air raid, a direct hit was received on the Air Raid Warden Post in the grounds of St. Mark's School. Three wardens were on duty, two were killed instantly, and one suffered multiple injuries. Please join us to commemorate the sacrifice made by our air raid wardens.

Bromley Repair Café Information Morning

The Vicar, in partnership with St Peter and St Paul Bromley and St Mary the Virgin Hayes, and in conjunction with Bromley Greener & Cleaner, is hoping to start a new non-profit Repair Café in Bromley, in the Spring of 2027. To make this happen we need volunteers to do repairs and help with refreshments. If you have a skill that you think could be useful and want to know more, then please come along to our information morning on Saturday 14th November. The event will take place in St Mark's Church Hall between 10am and 1pm. Please come along and find out more about this exciting new initiative in Bromley.

Christmas Tree Festival

We will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival on the weekends of 5th/6th and 12th/13th December. We are inviting various groups, businesses and individuals to decorate trees for the festival, and there will be prizes for the best decorated trees and refreshments will be available. The festival will raise money for Bromley Homeless and the church. Please do consider providing a decorated tree as we need a good number for this event to be a success. Further details can be found on St Mark's website, including an application form.

Date for your diaries in the New Year

The social committee will be organising a Quiz Night on Saturday 23rd January. Further details to follow, but please save the date in your diaries, it will be lots of fun!

In the service today:

Welcomers: Ted Jackson and Marian Smith; **Servers:** Gaye Blagden and Emily Jones; **Reader**: Gaye Blagden; **Intercessions:** Carol Robins; **Director of Music –** Richard Sutton ATCL

Contact Details

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Gentry vicar@stmarksbromley.org.uk**;**
Churchwardens: Emile Akabi-Davis info@stmarksbromley.org.uk and Helen Cooper churchwarden@stmarksbromley.org.uk;
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Theresa Weller - pso@stmarksbromley.org.uk 07856 775603; **Safer Recruitment**: Ruth Russell hr@stmarksbromley.org.uk;
Hall bookings: Ruth Liddon - hallbookingstmarksbr2@gmail.com
Choral and Family Outreach Manager: Eleanor Franzén (eleanor.m.franzen@gmail.com).

St Mark's Church, Bromley

8 November 2026
The Third Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

The Rev'd Michael Gentry – The Vicar

Hymns

Processional:	333	All my hope on God is founded
Gradual:	417	O God, our help in ages past
Offertory:	331	Abide with me; fast falls the eventide
Final:	489	God save our gracious King

Setting: Communion Service in D - Martin How (1931-2022)
Anthem: Requiem: Libera me - Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Organ Voluntary: Improvisation

Collect: Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: Ecclesiasticus 44. 1-15: Let us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations. 2 The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. 3 There were those who ruled in their kingdoms and made a name for themselves by their strength; those who gave counsel because they were intelligent; those who spoke in prophetic oracles; 4 those who led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the people's lore; they were wise in their words of instruction; 5 those who composed musical tunes or put verses in writing; 6 rich men endowed with resources, living peacefully in their homes - 7 all these were honored in their generations and were the pride of their times. 8 Some of them have left behind a name, so that others declare their praise. 9 But of others there is no memory; they have perished as though they had never existed; they have become as though they had never been born, they and their children after them. 10 But these also were men of compassion whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten; 11 their wealth will remain with their descendants and their inheritance with their children's children. 12 Their descendants stand by the covenants; their children also, for their sake. 13 Their offspring will continue forever, and their glory will never be blotted out. 14 Their bodies are buried in peace,

but their name lives on generation after generation. [15] The assembly declares their wisdom, and the congregation proclaims their praise.

Please turn to face the gospel as it is read from the central aisle.

The Gospel: Matthew 25. 1-13: Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: 1 "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Prayers

Today's Bidding and Response During Prayers:
Bidding – Lord hear us
Response – Lord graciously hear us

For all who are unwell at this time:

James Bunting, Tobias Franzén, Mary Marsh, Roderick Cupido, Cheryl Nicholls, Bob and Jenny Humble, William Wright, Wynne Bowen, and Edward Holland (Priest).

For the recently departed:
Kofi Ofori-Amanfo, Mark Burkitt and Emmanuel Suru Davies

To add names to or remove names from these lists please contact the Vicar.

Post Communion Prayer: God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Act of Remembrance at The Memorial Cross: At the end of the service, please follow the choir outside for the Act of Remembrance. Please leave your hymn books and service sheets at the back of the church, you will only need the separate sheet with details of the Act of Remembrance.

Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served in the church hall after this service. All are most welcome to join us.

Forward Programme

Wednesday 11th November – 11.15am – Midweek Said Communion Service

Readings – 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11 and Matthew 25. 34-40

Saturday 14th November – Bromley Repair Café Information Morning

10am – 1pm in the Church Hall – come along and learn about this exciting initiative – see below for more details.

Sunday 15th November – The Second Sunday Before Advent

10am Parish Eucharist with guest speaker Greg Barry – Diocesan Lead Safeguarding Officer

Wednesday 18th November – 11.15am – Midweek Said Communion Service

Readings – Proverbs 31. 10-end and Matthew 25. 31-end

Wednesday 18th November – St Mark's Friendship Group

12-2pm in the church hall - BYO lunch – please see the notice at the back of the church for details – everyone is welcome to come along and join us.

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King – The Sunday Next Before Advent

10am Parish Eucharist with Baptism

Wednesday 25th November – Meeting of the Parochial Church Council