Eucharist with St. Mark's Primary School Choir and Families – Sunday 29 November

On the morning of 29th November, we will be joined in our morning Parish Eucharist by the choir of St. Mark's Primary School and their families. The children will sing two short pieces with our own choir – "People Look East", based on a French traditional carol, and Graham Ellis's beautifully simple setting of "There Is No Rose" – as well as part of our regular congregational mass setting by David Thorne. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome many new families to St. Mark's; please give them your warmest reception!

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.

Advent Book Group

We will be holding a book group during Advent looking at The Archbishop of York's 2026 Advent Book 'Walking with Angels' by Eleanor Sanderson (ISBN 978-0-281-09207-9). The book is widely available. There will be four sessions following the book which has a chapter for each week in Advent. The Sessions will be on Wednesdays 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December from 7pm to 8.15pm in the Church Room. Please let Fr Michael know if you wish to come along.

Date for your diaries in the New Year

The social committee will be organising a Quiz Night on Saturday 23rd January 2027. Further details to follow, but please save the date in your diaries, it will be lots of fun!

In the service today:

Welcomers: Kate & Stuart Buchanan, **Servers:** Ryan Cupido-Weaich & Philip Hood
Reader: Barbara Pikesley, I**ntercessions:** Eleanor Franzen, **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;
Hall bookings: Ruth Liddon - hallbookingstmarksbr2@gmail.com

Please see the porch noticeboard and notices in church for details of all regular and seasonal services or the website: www.stmarksbromley.org.uk

St Mark's Church, Bromley

15th November 2026

Second Sunday before Advent

President -The Rev'd Michael Gentry – The Vicar
Preacher – Mr Greg Barry – Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

Hymns

Processional:	486	We have a gospel to proclaim
Gradual:	388	Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Offertory:	439	Praise to the Holiest in the height
Communion:	341	Blest are the pure in heart
Final:	488	And did those feet in ancient time

Setting: Communion Service in F - Harold Darke (1888-1976)
Anthem: If ye love me – Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)
Organ Voluntary: Préludes liturgiques, Nos. 20 and 23 - Gaston Litaize (1909–1991)

Collect: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11: Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord

Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

The Gospel: Matthew 25.14-30: Jesus said to his disciples:
'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me7 two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Prayers

Today's Bidding and Response During Prayers:
Bidding – Lord in your mercy
Response – Hear our prayer

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 (Former Vicar of St Marks)

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 Fr Michael – vicar@stmarksbromley.org.uk

Post Communion Prayer: Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

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

Forward Programme

Wednesday 18th November – 11.15am – Midweek Said Communion Service
Readings – Revelation 4 and Luke 19.11-28

Wednesday 18th November – St Mark's Friendship Group
12noon -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 – 11.15am – Midweek Said Communion Service
Readings – Revelation 15.1-4 and Luke 21.12-19

Wednesday 25th November – Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Sunday 29th November – Advent Sunday
10.00am Parish Eucharist with St. Mark's Primary School Choir & Families
6.30pm Choral Evensong with Advent Carols