

serving as Organist and Master of the Choristers for 39 years. His music is characterized by pastoral warmth, melodic fluency and an understated harmonic language. The Evening Service in A, composed in 1935, was written for the boys and men of Gloucester Cathedral, and its lasting popularity lies in its deceptive simplicity. Unlike the grand, declamatory settings of the Victorian era, Sumsion's music is marked by a lyrical, almost conversational quality that mirrors the acoustics of a great vaulted space. Composed in 1973, Rutter's anthem 'O Clap Your Hands' is a vibrant setting of verses from Psalm 47. Dedicated to Lionel Dakers and the Incorporated Association of Organists, the piece is marked by its bright and rhythmic character, immediately established by a syncopated, ostinato bass line in the accompaniment. As a setting of Psalm 47, the anthem is traditionally associated with the Feast of the Ascension, referencing the biblical passage: "God is gone up with a merry noise; and the Lord with the sound of the trump".

The organ voluntary is Louis Vierne's Toccata in B-flat minor, serving as the fiery conclusion to his *Deuxième Suite* of the *24 Pièces de Fantaisie*. Composed in Paris in December 1926, the work was dedicated to Alexander Russell, the Professor of Music at Princeton University and Vierne's manager during his 1927 American concert tour. Vierne, who served as the titular organist at Notre-Dame de Paris, was known for his intense chromaticism and spontaneous harmonic shifts, both of which are elements of this work. The Toccata is notorious for its dark introspection and difficulty.

Richard Sutton – Director of Music

Sunday 7th June - Annual General Meeting of The Friends of St Mark's

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of St Mark's will take place on Sunday 7 June in the church hall after the 10am Parish Eucharist. All are most welcome to attend and new members of the Friends are always welcome. Please speak to Pat Openshaw, Roger Parry, Stephen Stringer or Ted Jackson if you interested in joining The Friends.

In the service today:

Servers: Gaye Blagden & Ryan Cupido-Weaich

Reader: Jeanette Keefe

Intercessions: The Rev'd Michael Gentry - The Vicar.

Director of Music: Richard Sutton ATCL

Contact Details

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Gentry vicar@stmarksbromley.org.uk

Churchwarden: Emile Akabi-Davis info@stmarksbromley.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Theresa Weller - psa@stmarksbromley.org.uk 07856 775603

Safer Recruitment: Ruth Russell – hr@stmarksbromley.org.uk;

Hall bookings: Ruth Liddon - hallbookingstmarksbr2@gmail.com

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

St Mark's Church, Bromley

17 May 2026

7th Sunday of Easter (Sunday After Ascension Day)

The Rev'd Michael Gentry - Vicar

Hymns

Processional:	440	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
Gradual:	434	Oft in danger, oft in woe
Offertory:	364	God is Love: let heav'n adore him
Communion:	457	The King of love my Shepherd is
Final:	475	Ye holy angels bright

Setting: Festive Eucharist - Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

Anthem: O for a closer walk - Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Organ Voluntary: Prelude on the Londonderry Air - Noel Rawsthorne

Collect: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: Acts 1. 6-14: ⁶When the apostles had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son

of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

The Gospel: John 17. 1-11: 17 Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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 and Heather, Keith & Colin Pagano

For the recently departed: Hazel Robins

To add names to or remove names from these lists please contact Ruth Russell -
hr@stmarksbromley.org.uk

Post Communion Prayer: Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Forward Programme

Sunday 17th May - 11.30am - The Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens & The Annual Parochial Church Meeting – please see below for details.

Wednesday 20th May – St Mark's Friendship Group

12-2pm in the church hall – BYO lunch – details on the notice board at the back of the church – please join us, everyone is most welcome.

Wednesday 20th May – Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Sunday 24th May – Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

10am Parish Eucharist and 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 27th May - 11.15am – Midweek Said Communion Service

Sunday 31st May – Trinity Sunday

8am BCP Communion and 10am High Mass

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 17th May

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of parishioners for the election of churchwardens and the annual parochial church meeting (APCM), will both take place in the church hall after this morning's service. Anybody on the Electoral Roll of St Mark's is very welcome to join us for these very important meetings in the life of our church. Copies of the papers for the meeting and the Financial Statement and Reports are available at the back of the church.

Hazel Robins – Funeral Service

Hazel Robins' funeral service will take place at St Mark's at 11am on Monday 18th May 2026.

The Music for Choral Evensong – Sunday 24th May 2026

The introit by Grayston Ives is a setting of the poem 'Whitsunday' by the metaphysical poet George Herbert (1593–1633). Herbert's text is devotional, originally written for the feast of Pentecost which celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit, often symbolised as a dove. Herbert Sumsion remains one of the defining figures of the 20th-century English choral tradition. Born in Gloucester, he spent his entire life associated with its cathedral,