

email survey to everyone on the Electoral Roll at St Mark's for whom we have an email address. If you are interested in taking part in the survey and either you are not currently on the Electoral Roll and/or you do not have access to an email account, please contact one of us and we will ensure that you receive a hard copy of the survey.

For your information, the members of the new social committee are as follows:

Theresa Weller (Chair); Rev'd Michael; Sue Gentry; Barbara Pikesley; Glenda Isaacs; Jermaine Isaacs; Sue Saeed; Carmen Azad and Eleanor Franzen. Many thanks to all of them for volunteering their time, ideas and talent.

Rev Michael and Theresa Weller

Growing God's kingdom across the Diocese of Rochester

Our church is part of the Diocese of Rochester. As a family of faith across Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley, we are on a shared journey to grow God's Kingdom. In March 2025, the Diocese of Rochester secured nearly £11 million of funding from the National Church to support the Called Together vision. This is a nine-year programme of work to grow missional churches, with missional leaders and missional disciples. This is the largest external funding award the Diocese has received in support of mission and ministry, and it is designed to enrich every church setting. In the latest update on the diocesan-wide Called Together vision, find out how churches across the Diocese are starting to see the benefits, with new staff funded by the bid in post, bringing increased capacity to support churches with their local mission, from schools' engagement and leadership development to parish revitalisation and mission initiatives. Read the latest update on how work is progressing by visiting: www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/ourvision/progress-updates/ or pick up a printed sheet as you leave church today.

In the service today:

Welcomers: Glenda & Jermaine Isaacs

Servers: Ryan Cupido-Weaich & Emily Jones

Reader: Barbara Pikesley

Intercessions: David Young

Organist: Sarah Best

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 - 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

26 July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity – Parish Eucharist with Baptism

The Rev'd Michael Gentry – The Vicar

Hymns

Processional:	339	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Gradual:	359	Fight the good fight with all thy might
Offertory:	352	Crown him with many crowns
Communion:	378	Immortal love for ever full
Final:	368	Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Setting: Mass of St Thomas - David Thorne (b.1950)

Organ Voluntary: Badinerie - J.S.Bach (1685 - 1750)

Collect: Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: Genesis 29. 15-28: ¹⁵ Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for

Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸ Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

The Gospel: Matthew 13. 31-33 & 44-52: ³¹ Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Prayers

Today's Bidding and Response During Prayers:

Bidding – May your kingdom come

Response – On earth as it is in heaven

Baptised Today:

Daniel John Layfield

For all who are unwell at this time:

James Bunting, Tobias Franzén, Mary Marsh, Roderick Cupido, Cheryl Nicholls,
Bob and Jenny Humble, & William Wright.

For the recently departed:

Raymond Akabi-Davis

To add names to or remove names from these lists please contact Ruth Russell -

hr@stmarksbromley.org.uk

Post Communion Prayer: Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

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

Forward Programme

Wednesday 29th July – 11.15am – Midweek Said Communion Service

Readings: Isaiah 25. 6-9 and John 12. 1-8

Sunday 2nd August – The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10am Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 5th August – 11.15am – Midweek Said Communion Service

Readings: 1 Peter 4. 12-end & John 16. 29-end

Sunday 9th August – The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Parish Eucharist

Summer Choir

Over the summer months of July and August, St Mark's Choir will be on holiday. The musical content of services will therefore consist of a congregational mass setting, hymns and organ music. Members of the choir attending services will continue to lead the singing from the stalls and, as in the past two years, we invite anyone from the congregation to join them to form an informal 'Summer Choir'. This worked very well in 2024 and 2025, and I was delighted that several occasional singers who joined the choir enjoyed the experience so much. Don't be shy: if you're in need of gentle persuasion, please speak to me or Eleanor. **Richard Sutton, Director of Music.**

Social Activities at St Mark's

The Parochial Church Council has recently established a Social Committee to plan and hold various social events throughout the year for the congregation and wider community. We have eight members of the congregation who have volunteered to sit on this committee and others who have offered to help with social events. The committee is chaired by Theresa Weller and if you would like to find out more about what the committee will be doing, please speak to her. In the meantime, the committee have decided to ask the congregation what type of events you would like us to hold, to ensure that we are not just organising things that interest us! We are doing this by sending an
