

Bromley Parish Church Monthly Alms:

During the month of December two Charities are represented in our Alms Giving: **The Children's Society** and **Bromley Welcare**.

The Children's Society

"Reaching out for a better future"

Since 1881 The Children's Society has been working to make the difference that will last a lifetime, by helping children who have been deprived of the start in life which most of us take for granted. Almost all the children it works with suffer from poverty and a vast number of young runaways are fleeing from violence or abuse at home or in care, falling prey to drug dealers, pimps and criminals.

The Children's Society gives runaways a safe refuge from the streets, ensures children get educated rather than excluded, promotes programmes which provide an alternative to prison custody for young teenagers and works with children to create communities which are safe to live in.

The Children's Society works to give children a voice not only listening to what they have to say, but helping them articulate their needs to planners, policy-makers and educators. Rather than merely patching up the problems in society, it is working as a force for change to develop longer-term solutions to the very serious problems faced by youngsters every day.

Each year, more children are being excluded from school. The Children's Society runs projects that help children to overcome their problems by getting to the root causes of their disruptive behaviour.

Prisons are widely recognised as colleges of crime. Yet jail custody is the fate of most

15-16 year olds on remand even though most will not be given a prison sentence when they come to trial. The Children's Society is the only national charity working to get 15-16 years old on remand out of prison. Through the Society's Remand Rescue, Fostering and Bail Support programmes it helps them to face up to the consequences of their offending and help them lead useful lives again.

Every year an estimated 20,000 babies and toddlers suffer from a potentially fatal condition called "Failure to Thrive" where they stop eating, often for no medical reason. This can lead to both mental and physical damage, which can have a lasting effect on their lives. The Children's Society has developed an innovative programme which works with the family in their own home and which has had an almost 100% success rate.

In addition to the regular collections, alms from the Christingle and Nativity services go to The Children's Society.

Bromley Welcare

Bromley Welcare is a Christian organisation funded by Bromley Social Services and the Anglican Churches of Bromley, Beckenham and Orpington Deaneries.

It is a social work agency specialising in work with lone parents and their families.

It offers a range of services for lone parents facing crises or difficulties in their lives including individual and family work, bereavement counselling, group work, advice and advocacy work.

It works throughout the whole Borough and takes referrals from Social Services, health visitors, GPs and any other organisation or individual concerned about a lone parent. It also takes referrals directly from lone parents.