

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH ALMS:

The charities represented for the month of December are: **The Children’s Society** (including Christingle) and **Bromley Welcare** (including Nine Lessons & Carols, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day)

The Children’s Society

“Reaching out for a better future”

The Children’s Society has been working since 1881 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. Most of the children it works with suffer daily 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.

As a Christian charity, The Children’s Society gives runaways a safe refuge from the streets, ensures children are 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, listening to what they have to say and helping them articulate their needs to planners, policymakers and educators. It is working to develop long term solutions to the very serious problems faced by youngsters every day.

The Children’s Society runs projects which help children to overcome their problems by getting to the root causes of their disruptive behaviour to reduce school exclusion. In addition it is the only national charity working to get 15-16 year olds on remand, out of prison. The Society’s Remand Rescue, Fostering and Bail Support programme helps them to face up to the consequences of their offending and helps them lead useful lives again.

Annually approximately 20,000 babies and toddlers suffer from a potentially fatal condition called “Failure to Thrive”. This can lead to both mental and physical damage which can have a lasting effect on their lives. The Children’s Society’s innovative programme which works with the family in their own home has had an almost 100% success rate.

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 – mothers or fathers – 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 health and social care professionals, other concerned organisations or individual and directly from lone parents themselves.

Bromley Welcare offers the following services:-

- Help with problems arising from relationship breakdown, pregnancy, difficulties with children, bereavement and violence and advice on benefits, health, financial, legal and housing issues.
- Individual sessions for people to discuss their concerns, make informed decisions and take responsibility for their actions. It offers help and support in achieving good parenting.
- It aims to promote the understanding of lone parenthood and improve the quality of family life for those it works with.
- “The Parents Project” (funded by BBC Children in Need) enabling parents to meet on a regular basis to form friendships and develop networks of support. The Project provides information on social, health, educational and parenting issues and involves other community agencies. A creche is provided, staffed by qualified workers.
- Requests are sometimes made for furniture, bedding, children’s clothing and food – for details on donations of this kind and any further information required please contact the office on 0208 466 0399.

Veronica Mountford