

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH ALMS:

The charity represented for the month of July
Bromley Y – Free, Independent and
 Confidential Counselling for Young People:

Bromley Y has provided counselling for young people in the Borough for over 30 years. The service is available to 11 to 23 year olds and is free of charge. Qualified counsellors at its headquarters in Ethelbert Road provide one-to-one counselling, group work, and consultation to parents and others involved with young people. Outreach work takes place in two special schools and, together with Connexions, in four or five locations in the 'edges' of the Borough.

The agency works in close partnership with statutory agencies and other voluntary bodies and receives referrals from the Health and Education services, Social Services and Connexions. Young people or their parents also contact the agency directly, often on the advice of former clients.

There appears to be an ever-increasing demand for independent, non-medical, intervention for children and young people. Families seem to be continually under stress, schools anxious about league tables pile on the work, and the social culture demands conformity to certain ways of looking and behaving – all of which seem to result in some fairly confused, miserable, angry, despairing young people.

While the agency receives grants from statutory agencies, there is a large shortfall, and a voluntary body needs charitable income in order to maintain its integrity and independence. Such income is also an indication of local support. Bromley has every right to be proud of Bromley Y, and we at Bromley Parish Church can be proud that we have been involved since the birth of the agency in 1965.

This worthy cause requires all the assistance it can muster and deserves the continuing support and endeavours on its behalf that St. Peter and St. Paul gives it.

Veronica Mountford

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