

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH MONTHLY ALMS:

Charity represented for the month of October.

BROMLEY Y – Free, Independent and Confidential Counselling for Young People:

For more than thirty years Bromley Y has provided counselling for young people in the Borough. The service is available to 12 to 23 year olds and is free of charge. A team of qualified counsellors at its headquarters in Ethelbert Road provides one-to-one counselling, some 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 continues to receive referrals from the Health and Education services, as well as from 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, for reasons which are not altogether clear. 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. The statutory services are unable to meet the demands this makes on them, and many of these issues are probably better dealt with in an agency like Bromley Y which can be more flexible.

While the agency receives grants from statutory agencies, there is large shortfall, and of course 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.

Donations are received for all our represented charities through General Communion Alms; Harvest Collections; Christmas Collections; Special Collections; Traidcraft Stall Contributions and MONTHLY OBJECTS – the subject of this article. The proceeds from the St Petertide and November Fairs benefit the charity or charities of the Organisers' choice.

Veronica Mountford.

New Editor of the Key – Donya Young

I shall be handing the Key over to Donya Young to edit for the next 6 months whilst I while my time away in the idleness of writing up a PhD. Sadly, there does not appear to be time to do both.

Best wishes to Donya

Nic Hodson

Next Copy Date

Sunday 19th October

Any suggestions, articles, etc. can be left in the Key pigeon-hole.