

Bromley Parish Church Monthly Alms:

The charity represented for the month of September is: **BROMLEY Y**

Free, Independent and Confidential
Counselling for Young People:

For more than thirty years Bromley Y has provided counselling for young people aged 11 to 23 years in the Borough. The service is free of charge. A team of qualified counsellors provides 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 several 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.

There is an ever-increasing demand for independent, non-medical, intervention for children and young people. Families seem continually under stress, schools pile on the work and the social culture demands conformity to certain ways of looking and behaving – resulting in some fairly confused, miserable, angry, despairing young people. The statutory services are unable to meet these demands and many of these issues are probably better dealt with in a flexible agency like Bromley Y.

While the agency receives grants from statutory agencies, there is large shortfall and charitable income is needed 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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