

# Bromley Parish Church, St Peter and St Paul



**Parish Profile**

**Statement of Needs**

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org)



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# Bromley

## The Bromley Area

Bromley is a town in southeast London located 9.3 miles (15.0 km,) southeast of Charing Cross. It is the administrative headquarters of the London Borough of Bromley. The Borough is the largest in Greater London by area and occupies 59 square miles (153 sq. km). The resident population is approximately 330,000 with an ethnicity of 84% white, 6% black, 5% Asian and 5% mixed race or others.

Historically a market town, chartered in 1158, Bromley was an ancient parish in the county of Kent. Its location on a coaching route and the opening of a railway station in 1858 were key to its development.

Bromley is one of the major metropolitan centres identified in the London Plan. The town has a large retail area, including a pedestrianised High Street and The Glades shopping mall and many restaurants.



It is the largest and greenest borough in London and is on the edge of the Green Belt and North Downs.



It is served by two rail stations, in easy walk of the church, providing fast and frequent services to many stations in Central London. Trains also run to the Kent coast and Ashford International, and the new Thameslink service runs to West Hampstead and stations beyond. Many bus services are available.

Many people work in Bromley but a significant number commute daily to employment in London.

For more on the demographics of Bromley see: <https://tinyurl.com/ybaalevz/>

## Culture

Bromley has two theatres – the Churchill in the town centre and the Little Theatre close to Bromley North railway station. There is a library in the same building as the Churchill Theatre, with an extensive stock of books, internet and Wi-Fi access, reference section and local studies department.



## Schools

Bromley offers particularly excellent schools and is home to Bromley College of Further and Higher Education. There are two specialist Media Arts schools - Hayes School and the Ravensbourne School. Langley Park School has an outstanding performing arts centre. There are also many independent schools within the borough, including Eltham College and Bromley High. Of 70 Primary and Junior Schools, 15 were Ofsted ranked as outstanding and 47 as good.

See <https://tinyurl.com/ydh8yerj> for secondary schools.

There are also many church schools.

Bishop Justus School is a C of E School, which specialises in Music, where our vicars are usually Advisors.

We also have strong links to the Valley School and the Parish Church of England Primary School where our vicars are also Advisors.

## Bromley Parish

The population of the Parish is 6,098 living in 2,617 households. The area is 0.6 square miles.



The ages are:

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Aged 0 – 4   | 7.9%  |
| Aged 5 – 17  | 14.8% |
| Aged 18 – 29 | 15.3% |
| Aged 30 – 44 | 27.7% |
| Aged 45 – 64 | 22.7% |
| Aged 65 plus | 11.6% |

However, the church attracts members of the congregation from a much wider area than the Parish.

## The Church Buildings

See <https://tinyurl.com/ydh8crvn> for a video of the building.

Bromley Parish Church, Grade II listed, is in the Bromley Deanery in the Diocese of Rochester. It has a large main worship area as well as three small chapels and other rooms, which are used for worship services and events. The church was rebuilt after being destroyed in the second world war.

See <https://tinyurl.com/yce3cvha>

The tower was the only part of the building that remained standing and dates from the 14th century.

### Main Worship Space

At the rear of the nave stands the Baptistry. The font provides a major link with the past as the basin is of Norman origin.

The main features of the sanctuary are the Reredos and the stained glass windows. High above the altar is the east window and on the north wall the 'Resurrection' window showing the new church rising from the ruins of the old and including the inscription "I shall rise again by Spirit and by faith". See [www.bromleyparishchurch.org/church-gallery](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/church-gallery)

The Seven Angels Reredos was designed and worked by Susan Riley. Commissioned in 2000, it took two years to complete and was inspired by the angels of the seven churches to whom letters are addressed in the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation.

**The Children's Chapel** is open every day for private prayer and many visitors come each day and pray and light candles. It is used for morning prayer and mid-week communion as well as for the worship part of the Family Breakfast Club.



The **Lady Chapel** is next to the main sanctuary and is used for early morning Sunday communion services and other small worship services such as compline.



**The Resurrection Chapel** is a special Prayer space situated within the tower and reached by a narrow spiral staircase. It is used for some of the younger people's meetings and preparation for First Communion and private retreats and prayer.

**The Ambulatory** is entered through the main north door over which is a figure of Christ the King. The ambulatory contains a number of memorial stones and brasses, including the gravestone of Samuel Johnson's wife, most of these were salvaged from the ruins after the bombing.

## The Stained Glass Windows

The church has several beautiful stained glass windows in the Children's chapel and in the nave and sanctuary.



The best of all is considered by many to be the 'Te Deum' window above the north door, which depicts the apostles, prophets and martyrs.

Their inscriptions of God's mission and praise throughout the world, the joyful play of children and the resurrection life through Spirit and faith provide a vibrant reminder to the church of its aims.

## Church Rooms

In 1982 the church rooms were constructed as an extension to the west side of the church.

They consist of the Clubroom, Lounge and Shortlands Room. They are used for church functions and to provide an income for the church.



See

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org/church-rooms](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/church-rooms)

**The Clubroom**, as well as being used for church events, with its adjacent large kitchen, is very popular for children's parties. It can accommodate seventy people maximum.

**The Lounge** is a slightly smaller, carpeted room that again holds seventy people. It is furnished with informal chairs and tables and has access to a small galley kitchen.

**The Shortlands Room** is a small committee room and can hold a maximum of fifteen people.

**The Youth Centre** is located at the eastern end of the church and was constructed in 1983. It is a more functional building with a kitchen and holds eighty people maximum.

**The Vicarage**, a large and attractive detached house with spacious garden, is located close to the church and backs on to open parkland.



The property consists of an entrance hall with a separate toilet immediately to the right, followed by the kitchen at the next right, with a utility room off leading to the garden. There is also a cellar.

To the left of the hall is a large sitting – dining room. To the rear of the house is a large study and garden room.

There are 4 bedrooms on the first floor with a family bathroom and separate toilet. One bedroom has an ensuite. On the second floor, there is a fifth bedroom. There is a single detached garage and parking in front for 3 cars.



## **Worship**

### **Church Services**

Sunday services commence at 8.30am with Holy Communion or Morning Prayer attended by a small number of people.

Bell ringing, with at least six bells, sometimes eight, can be heard before the main service, which follows at 10.30am (attendance of around a hundred – the Electoral Roll totals 174) with Parish Eucharist on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at which we use the Lectionary throughout the year. Children receive tuition in their own groups.

On the third Sunday of the month an All-Age less formal Communion service is held.

A Family Breakfast Club meets at 9.00am on the 1st Sunday of the month.

At all services there are books for children at the back of the church and, on the south side of the church, a quiet carpeted area with toys and games for little children. A screen may be used to display the service to this area.

After our main Sunday morning service we offer the opportunity of someone to pray with individuals.

Choral Evensong takes place on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6.30pm.

On Wednesdays at 10.30am Holy Communion is held in the Children's Chapel, followed by coffee.

On the first Thursday of every month at 10:00am we have a Healing Prayer meeting in the Children's Chapel to commit to God all who have asked for prayer or for whom we are concerned.

Several special services are held, including a varied mix for Holy Week, a Holiday Club service, a Civic Remembrance service, a

commemorative service for loved ones, a Christingle service and Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas.

### **Faith**



See

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org/faith](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/faith)

Faith is developed through a series of ongoing life events from Baptism to First Communion, sometimes at the early age of 10 years. Each year the Bishop usually comes to confirm people.

See

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org/life-events](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/life-events)

### **Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges**

We have strong links with the Colleges, which have a number of retired clergy who are ready to help our Church. Our choir also sing at services at the Colleges.

See [www.bromleyandsheppardscolleges.com](http://www.bromleyandsheppardscolleges.com)



## Music

### The Choir

Choral music is a vital and valued part of the life of Bromley Parish Church. The music at our services is led by an able, dedicated and committed 4-part choir consisting of both junior and adult members.



As well as the Organist and Director of Music, the church has an Assistant Organist and an Organ Scholar. Singers come from a range of backgrounds and all ages.

The active, vibrant choir are often invited to sing at cathedrals around the country and are supported at these events by a number of the congregation.

**Junior Choir Club** is held on Thursday evenings at 6.00pm for children over seven years old.

### The Worship Group

The Worship Group consists of singers (of all ages, abilities and type of voice) and instrumentalists who meet informally to sing and play at the All Age Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

### The Organ

Bromley Parish Church possesses a highly acclaimed and impressive mechanical action organ, built in 1991 by J. W. Walker & Sons Ltd. It was designed to support congregational worship, to accompany a traditional choir, and as a recital instrument for use alone or with

other instruments. (It has three manuals and pedals, 40 speaking stops, six couplers, and three tremulants, and comprises 55 ranks of pipes with 2,708 pipes.)



### Saturday Morning Concert Series

The Saturday Morning Concerts take place at 11.30 on the 2nd Saturday of the month from January to May and September to November and last for 45-50 minutes.

See [www.bromleyparishchurch.org/music](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/music)

## Parish Church Outreach

See

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org/community](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/community)

### Thursday Fellowship

This group meets in the church rooms on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons of each month. Men and women, including those not attending Bromley Parish Church, are very welcome to a programme of interesting talks on a range of subjects followed by afternoon tea.

### Lychgate Lunches

Twice a month at 12.00noon on Wednesdays lunches are enjoyed by a grateful group of food lovers. A small and very dedicated team provide a high-quality meal, beautifully served in a friendly, welcoming environment. It is open to all.

### Bromley Homeless Shelter

This is a project run by Churches Together in Central Bromley. The Bromley Winter Night Shelter provides temporary accommodation in the Youth Centre for homeless people during the winter months. After a meal, up to fifteen folk sleep overnight and, before they leave the next morning, are given breakfast and a packed lunch. The goal is not just to provide temporary accommodation but also to help the guests to turn their lives around.



### Starter Pack Scheme

This Bromley Parish Church scheme is a project set up to collect household goods on a re-use basis and distribute them to households moving from homelessness to new tenancies.

The Local Authority works hard to find homes for homeless people but, when someone who has been on the streets or in a hostel receives the keys to their first flat, that is all they get – a bunch of keys, a floor, walls and a roof.

### Saturday Café and Traidcraft

Coffee is served on a Saturday morning in the Church Rooms between 10.15am and 12.00 noon. The Vicar and Pastoral Assistants are usually there to take the chance to meet people not only from the Church but also from the local community.

The Parish Church was one of the first places in Bromley to sell Traidcraft goods and our stall offers products from around the world.

### Bromley Relief in Need

BRiN was formed in 1973 from an amalgam of several ancient local charities that have been helping people in Bromley since 1631. It can offer small grants (usually up to £300) to a person in need living in Bromley. One of the

Vicar's responsibilities is to chair the BRiN committee meetings.

### **Sanctuary Guild**

This is a group of people who look after flower arrangements and other decorations, plus more ambitious designs to enhance the church for services and events. Every week flowers are placed on the Altar or Pulpit, beside the Book of Remembrance and in the Children's Chapel.

### **Pastoral Group**

This small group meets regularly and arranges contacts with those members of the congregation who are in hospital or ill at home, or needing extra support during a particularly difficult time, such as bereavement.

The Group was enhanced in 2017 by the appointment of an Anna Chaplain, Rev Sophie Sutherland, who was commissioned by the Bishop to focus on the spiritual needs of the elderly, both within the church and in the wider parish. This is the first such paid post in the Diocese.

Monthly, we visit the Eversleigh Care Home for a Holy Communion Service.

### **Discipleship**

Several home groups continue to flourish and play a very important part in sharing faith as members encourage, support and pray for each other.

### **Young People**

See

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org/young-people](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/young-people)

Young families are made very welcome and there is something for children every week.

On first Sundays at 9.00 am there is Family Breakfast Club for young families and the young at heart.

On the second and fourth Sundays the Little Fishes Club is available for children up to the age of ten, who can take part in fun craft or drama activities to learn more about Jesus during the 10.30am Eucharist Service before rejoining parents to receive a blessing with them at Communion. For older children there is the Angel Fish Club, whose members are usually taken on a course towards a first Communion and later to confirmation.

On the third Sunday of the month, at 10.30am, there is a more informal All Age service with a worship group that young people are welcome to join. Communion is shared in a more family-orientated way and the sermons are aimed more toward the younger generation.

**Toddler Praise** is held on Tuesday mornings and over sixty toddlers aged between 0 and 5 are welcomed and befriended together with parents, grandparents and carers, by a dedicated group of regular volunteers who man the craft table and clear up afterwards. Activities include songs, bible stories, crafts and sensory play.

During the summer, there is a very popular **Holiday Club**, and in 2017 the church was transformed into a big top representing the world of Daniel the lion tamer, Elijah the fire-eater and Jonah the escapologist, with Moses as the ring leader.

### **Charities**

We support many charities, including JusB, a local community-based youth centre, and 4 children at Footsteps International, a Christian Charity supporting street kids in Kenya.

See

[www.footstepsinternational.org](http://www.footstepsinternational.org) and

[www.jusb.co.uk](http://www.jusb.co.uk)

Every 4 months, we select another charity to support; this provides time for engagement with that charity.

### **Schools**

There is an involvement in the schools within the parish by leading collective worship or assemblies and hosting their Christmas carol services at the church. In the summer, the church hosts the Bromley Church Schools Festival for over four hundred children and more than fifty staff from nine schools. The 2018 Festival is being planned for a similar number of children, and the theme will be 'All are welcome'. Our Director of Music visits two schools every week to sing with Year 4 children. Sunday afternoon concerts are arranged for them to invite their families and friends.

Our vicars attend assemblies at both the Valley and C of E Primary Schools.

The Bishop Justus School Jazz band have played at our Vicarage Garden Party for the past 3 years and last year at our Patronal Festival Celebration

### **Link to St Paul's Church, Harare**

We formed a link to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe during a visit in 2012 by Ed and Anne Tree with Bishop James.



This was followed by a visit in 2014 by our previous vicar, Anne Jablonski. During the interregnum, Ed and Anne have taken back the liaison role and are participating in the Harare Partnership Group meetings.

See

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org/partners](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/partners)

## 2017 Annual Report

As we look back on the achievements of 2017, we pray that we may reflect with gratitude for all the ways that God in his infinite love and mercy has graciously blessed us.

Some of the highlights of 2017 have been: -

- The 60th anniversary celebrations which included:
  - The Choir singing at Coventry Cathedral and the accompanying pilgrimage
  - Our Patronal Festival with fun and games (and dancing!) and the songs of praise on the lawns



- Open house over two days with so many activities and so many people involved
- The Bishop's celebration service which followed a great YPG breakfast

- Peter Cheshire's licensing as a Licensed lay minister
- Amanda Spence starting her ordination training
- The appointment of the Rev Sophie Sutherland as Anna Chaplain
- So many people taking up the offer of spiritual direction; now around 30.
- Continued success of Toddler Praise, usually with around 60 parents and toddlers
- Wonderful Holiday club and accompanying Sunday service at which 40 of the children attended.
- The Church Schools festival, which is now the largest annual children's gathering in a single day in the diocese with nearly 400 children visiting our church.
- Christmas services last year were amazing with wonderful anthems and the Christingle being so well attended with around 230 people
- The installation of the audio/visual equipment which is almost complete
- Homeless sleep-out which has grown year on year in numbers and in profile and the amount of money raised
- Getting an agreement on the purchase of the Youth Centre freehold.

## **Churches Together in Central Bromley and Bromley Deanery**

We value our fellowship with other churches in the town and participate fully in the Churches Together in Central Bromley and the Bromley Deanery Synod.

CTCB supports a Town Centre Chaplain. Agnita Oyawaie, was appointed about a year ago.

Some of the churches in CTCB are supporting financially a Christians against Poverty Debt Counselling Centre and we are celebrating its success in lifting its first clients out of debt.

The Multi-Faith forum Christians, Muslims and Jews continues to meet and they have started a Toddler group in the Mosque in Keston.

## **Thanks**

The life of the church involves an enormous number of people each playing their part, both on Sunday mornings, weekday events as well as behind the scenes.

May we continue to abide in the vine, in the heart of God and draw all our energy and inspiration and love from Him as we continue on our journey in Him, through Him and with Him.

Thank you. Gill Thompson & Graham Walpole  
- Churchwardens 29.4.18

## **Financial Report**

Bromley Parish Church is in a relatively strong financial position, although in the longer term the church will need to increase its planned giving in order to meet its obligations. The church has a diverse variety of income, including planned giving and gift aid; the use of its Rooms, Youth Centre, church facilities and car park; rental income from a number of residential properties (including its curate's house); rental income from a commercial property (St Paul's House); from solar panels; and interest and dividends on investments. The church was also fortunate to receive a significant legacy in 2016.

Some legacy income has been allocated to a number of significant projects, including a significant update to the church's audio-visual equipment; the planned purchase of the freehold of the land on which the Youth Centre is located from the local council; a significant refurbishment of the church's organ; and to fund an Anna Chaplain post for three years. The church's other main items of expenditure are its parish share; salaries of its other employees (Administrator, Cleaner, Director of Music and Children's Worker); typical running costs such as heat, light and insurance; and its general maintenance costs.

The church's assets consist of its properties and audio-visual equipment. It holds repair funds at the Diocese as well as invested with the Central Board of Finance and it has monies invested with the Church of England Equity fund as well as sums held as cash investments.

## The Future

In 2018, we shall

- Complete the audio-visual work and fully enjoy its benefits
- Complete the purchase of the freehold of the Youth Centre,
- The 25 year overhaul of the organ will take place in the autumn of 2018 and we will welcome a new assistant organist, Jacob Collins.

### Looking ahead



- We will plan how the Youth Centre will best be used for the benefit of the Church and community.
- We will continue to develop the Children's ministry and outreach.
- We will continue to welcome many more people into this community of faith and fellowship.
- We will further develop our prayer ministry after the main service.



## Qualities of New Vicar

The Parish Church, based in the heart of Bromley town centre, is seeking a priest:-

- Who can offer a blend of leadership, innovative skills and experience.
- He/she must be approachable and warm, compassionate and a good listener.

The person appointed will need to possess:-

- the right skill set to lead a church with a strong and highly reputable choral tradition;
- ability and willingness to identify necessary areas for change and make difficult but decisive changes if required;
- be competent and confident in conducting worship, particularly high-profile civic services;
- the qualities to preach thoughtful and inspiring sermons and to give spiritual leadership;
- the energy to steer the various groups and activities and outreach work that are important to this church as already described;
- a passion for mission and outreach, and
- the vision and encouragement to develop the Youth Centre.

The new incumbent will be supported in their role by a strong team.

See

[www.bromleyparishchurch.org/whos-who](http://www.bromleyparishchurch.org/whos-who)