



St Mary's Shortlands

News Sheet 31st May - 7th June, 2020

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2, v.2



Worship at St Mary's

Whilst we cannot meet in person in the church building we are still able to join together in prayer and worship. Services are available every day via the St Mary's website or Facebook page. The services are 'live-streamed' but can also be watched at a later date/ time. The relevant orders of service are available by clicking on the link on the website.

Sunday, 10.30am

A celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday 31st May, 6.30pm

Pentecost Forever: a service of songs, poems, prayer and reflection, led by the Music Group

Sunday, 4pm

Junior Church meeting via Zoom – contact Jo Eade, joanna.eade@hotmail.co.uk

Monday to Saturday, 9am

Morning Prayer

Sunday 31st May – Day of Pentecost

Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings: Acts 2.1-21;
John 20.19-23

Sunday 7th June – Trinity Sunday

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings: 2 Corinthians 13. 11-13;
Matthew 28. 16-20

How to access online services (without a Facebook account)

1. Go to the St Mary's website www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk
2. Go to the line "To access our live services and recordings of our most recent services, please click [here](#)" and click with the mouse or pointer on the word '[here](#)'
3. This takes you to videos on the St Mary's Facebook account. The most recent video will show at the top of the screen or be the first in the list (top left hand side).
4. If the video seems to be stuck, try clicking on the pause/ play button on the left hand side. If you were expecting to see a live service but the video seems to be an older one, it's probably that the live service hasn't started yet. Wait for a minute or two and then try again from step 1.

For our prayers

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray for The World

- We continue to pray for all in this country and around the world who are directly affected by the virus, and all who are anxious and concerned about the impact of the virus on their lives today and for the future.

The Community

- For all those within our congregation and community who are struggling financially through a loss of their business, their jobs, or through being furloughed.
- For the safety of all key workers in our community.
- For older people who are isolated, lonely, or suffering with long term illnesses and struggling to cope.

The Sick

- For all who are unwell, including: Jane Green; Marian Parr; Margaret Parry; Melanie Jones; Belinda Petty; Revd Hugh Broadbent; Joan Austen; Ivy Burton; Paul Corben; Roger Bullen; Jill Glynne.

The Departed

- We remember those who have recently died and all who mourn them.
- We also remember those whose anniversary we keep at this time: Sheila Douglas; Grace Waring; James Parry; Hazel Hovey; Patricia Ewen.

Junior Church Feedback

On Sunday 17th May Junior Church looked at the story of Noah's Ark. We thought about what it might have been like for Noah to listen to God and to trust him and build the ark. We thought too about God's special promise to us to keep us safe through rainbows. We talked about how we are seeing lots of rainbows at the moment giving thanks for NHS and keyworkers during this crisis. We also had fun creating our own 'flood music' with kitchen percussion - using wooden spoon and saucepans to build the wind and rain into a mighty flood! We thought about how lovely the peace was when the music stopped and everything returned to normal. Our special prayer was:

Father, Thank you for reminding us through rainbows that you have promised to keep us safe. We want to be like Noah and trust you especially when things are difficult. Help us to care for your creation together – the people, the animals and the plants. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

* * * * *



On Sunday 24th May we shared the story of Joseph and his Coat of Many Colours. We thought about how God had a plan for Joseph and how he has a plan for our lives too. We thought about how it must have been hard for Joseph to keep faithful to God and work through his plan. We used chocolate or a treat to explore this. The children had to put the treat in front of themselves but couldn't eat it - we thought about how this made us feel and that we need to learn to wait and trust God and the people who care for us. God has a plan for all our lives but is isn't always easy to see, God will never stop caring for us and he won't disappear – unlike the chocolate which rapidly did!

Father, we thank you for showing us your faithfulness through Joseph's story. Help us to remember that you have a plan for our lives too and help us to trust you in all things. We ask you for patience and courage in difficult times. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Church Building and Garden

As you will realise, churches remain closed for public worship. However, in recent weeks the Church of England has agreed to the lifting of some restrictions in step with the government's latest advice on limiting the spread of the Coronavirus. This has meant that Revd. Gary has been able to enter the building again in order to livestream services. So for recent Sundays the 10.30am Eucharist service has been streamed from the Millennium Chapel and we have appreciated seeing some of the familiar fittings and banners from St Mary's. Further steps towards opening churches for prayer and worship will be announced by the Church of England when appropriate, always with due regard to government advice and to public safety.

In the meantime the church grounds are open and offer a peaceful green space that is appreciated by many. Our thanks to Tony Chase (and others) for keeping the gardens tidy and the grass cut. While the church remains closed, the Ministry Team have set up a prayer tree (a live tree) in the grounds and are encouraging people to come and pray and leave a ribbon or symbol on the tree to acknowledge their prayer. Please remember to adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times when in the church grounds and to wash hands before and after your visit.



Congratulations

Many congratulations to David Jefferys who has now been officially licensed as a new lay minister in the Diocese. As the annual licensing service could not be held in Rochester Cathedral due to the current restrictions, the twelve LLM candidates were licensed online on 16th May via Zoom. We pray for David as he starts this new ministry at St Mary's, and as he joins the growing Ministry Team here.

Choir News

Although the choir are unable to physically meet we have still got together via zoom every Thursday evening to chat and check everyone is ok. Claire has also met with the junior choir by zoom too. We have played choir bingo and will be doing a choir quiz next week.

Claire has sent out an accompaniment of a hymn or anthem and the choir have individually recorded their part and sent it back to David who has software to add all the parts together and produce a 4 part hymn or anthem. There will be more to come!!

The choir are in good spirits but we miss being together and worshipping together. Hopefully we will be back in the choir stalls soon. *Claire Tillotson*



Songs of Praise

The second *Songs of Praise* service was held on 24th May, once again led by Claire with help from Rachel and David Tillotson. The services are much appreciated, offering music, reflection and prayers based around hymn requests from members of the congregation. We continue to welcome requests for a favourite hymn, if possible with a few words on why you have chosen it. Please contact canonclaire.tillotson@gmail.com or vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Choral Evensong

For those who like Choral Evensong, you might be interested in this virtual evensong service by the Rodolfus Foundation. <https://www.therodolfusfoundation.org.uk/virtual-evensong>.

I thought the music was wonderful. *Gill Charnley*

Christian Aid Week

Many thanks to everyone who donated to this year's Christian Aid Week appeal, which focused on helping in the fight against Coronavirus among some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. I am pleased to say that the St Mary's e-envelopes and cheques have raised £1,005 so far and I'm aware that a number of people contributed separately via the Christian Aid website. Thank you for your support for this appeal, and we look forward to further updates from Christian Aid about their work. *Kate Buchanan*

Recipe Book

Do you have a favourite recipe that you could share with others in the church? Stephanie Maurel is compiling a book of favourite recipes of the congregation, which will be sold to raise money for the Future Generations project, hopefully to go on sale in the autumn. She has a number of recipes that were collected about 7 years ago and has already been sent some yummy new recipes to add to the collection. Please send any recipes to: stephanie.howarthmaurel@yahoo.co.uk

Face Masks

Would you like to make a cotton face mask for yourself, family or friends? I now have a pattern, instructions, material and photos of the finished article. If you are interested please contact Elizabeth Barnes, Elizabethbarnes14@outlook.com (020 8658 7504).

Mission to Seafarers Cards

We have received the following thank-you from the officers & crew on Anneleen Knutsen ship: "We are all grateful for the gifts given. Please extend big warm thanks to the children who made the nice cards we received and that they think of us seamen". Well done everyone for the amazing cards. Now you can really understand how much they are valued by the seafarers. *Tricia Braithwaite*

Living Well

Living Well is part of the ministry of Holy Trinity Church, Lennard Road, Beckenham. Throughout the year they provide a safe space for people experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health problems, with a foodbank, advocacy services and a telephone helpline. During this crisis they are responding to an increased demand for support, providing essential food supplies through their foodbank, open three days a week, and a hot takeaway meal on Fridays. Because of the increased demand they would appreciate donations of packaged food – there is a collection point at Waitrose, Bromley South. Financial donations can be made at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/living-well-emergency-covid-appeal>. This short film gives an insight into their work. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61ChEuZTAi0&feature=youtu.be>

Stewardship

The Coronavirus pandemic is having a substantial impact on our church finances, as with so many other aspects of life. If you are able to help by increasing your regular giving to St Mary's or making an extra payment this would be appreciated. For a one-off payment, cheques should be payable to St Mary Shortlands PCC, or an online transfer to: Nat West sort code 60-04-02, Account 42417112.

Phone Line

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a FREE national phone line offering hymns, prayer and worship. It is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. The options are:

1. A well-known hymn and a short reflection;
2. A selection of different hymns played on a loop
3. Prayer line – prayers for today
5. The Church of England's weekly service
6. A recording of Morning / Evening prayer
7. The latest Government advice



Supporting others

St Mary's has a team of people available to provide both pastoral and practical support to any members of the congregation and the wider community who may be in self-isolation, unwell or feeling alone at the moment. If we can help in any way, contact please email Revd. Gary, vicar@stmaryshortlands.church (020 846 0262)

If you have any suggestions for items to include in a future News Sheet, please send them to Kate Buchanan, kateinww@btinternet.com