



St Mary's Shortlands

News Sheet 14th and 21st June, 2020

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, 11.30am

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

Monday to Saturday, 9am

Morning Prayer

Sunday 14th June – First after Trinity

Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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: Romans 5.1-8;
Matthew 9.35-10.8

Sunday 21st June – Second after Trinity

Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings: Romans 6. 1b-11;
Matthew 10. 24-39

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

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom; confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We pray for The World

- For all in this country and around the world who are affected by the coronavirus and all who are anxious and concerned about the impact on their lives
- For all who suffer as a result of violence and oppression, that all people may live in safety and security and with hope for the future.

The Community

- For those within our congregation and community who are struggling financially through this crisis.
- For older people who are isolated, lonely, or suffering with long-term illness and struggling to cope.
- For the safety of key workers and of all those returning to school and jobs

The Sick

- For all who are unwell, including: Jane Green; Melanie Jones; Belinda Petty; Revd Hugh Broadbent; Joan Austen; Ivy Burton; Paul Corben; Roger Bullen

The Departed

- We pray for those who have recently died and all who mourn, especially remembering Marian Parr. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.
- We also remember those whose anniversary we keep at this time: Ivy Yeulett; Lawrie Mann; Hedley Spurdens; Henry Truss; Monica McKinnon; Selina Glover; Catherine French; Alice Edith Davis; Michele Dennis; John Watts; Marjorie Sisman; Carol Walklin.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Junior Church Feedback

On Sunday 31st May in Junior Church we moved into the New Testament as we are starting to look at Jesus's ministry. We looked at the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand and thought about the compassion and love Jesus showed to the people despite being tired himself. We also thought about how he used the picnic the little boy had brought and how he can use us to do his work in the world. We played a game thinking of different uses for everyday objects including a toothbrush and saucepan! Our special prayer this week was:

Father, We ask that we remember that you give us what we need. When we are hungry or empty you fill us with your love just as Jesus fed the five thousand. Help us to help others in need and to share what we have been given. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

On Sunday 7th June we had a late half term break but will be back on Sunday 14th June, then continuing through to Sunday 5th July. .

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Our thanks to Jo Eade and Sally Aldred and the other Junior Church leaders for setting up the Sunday afternoon Zoom meetings to keep in regular contact with the children, and for giving us feedback on their themes and activities. Sadly we can't share any iced biscuits or other treats until we are back in church.

The Church Building and Garden

The government recently stated that places of worship could open from mid-June for private prayer only, which is an encouraging step forward. However, the details of arrangements first need to be agreed by the diocese and worked out at a local level by individual churches. As it stands, there is no date set for the doors of St. Mary's to be opened. When it happens, the church will be open for private prayer only, and there will be no formal services of any type.

Before we can re-open the church there is a lot to consider. The church needs to be prepared adequately, i.e. with pews marked out as to where people can and cannot sit; strict hygiene precautions need to be in place; signs are needed to give clear instructions on what is allowed and on hygiene precautions; all books and paper hand-outs need to be removed; and the church will need to be thoroughly cleaned after each day that it is open.

Please be reassured that the church will be open for private prayer as soon as the diocese has agreed to it and when all the above points, plus more, have been considered and actioned.

Meanwhile the church grounds are open and offer a peaceful space for prayer and reflection. There is now a designated Prayer Tree to which you can attach a card with a written prayer or thought, or simply place a ribbon or symbol. Prayer requests can also be left in the container under the gazebo.



Music

The choir have again been hard at work and we now have a recording of them singing the Gloria for use in our Sunday services. Many thanks to David Tillotson for his work in blending the various parts together so that we can enjoy hearing our choir.

We are grateful too for the Pentecost Forever service led by the Music Group on May 31st. They presented a variety of readings and reflections on the theme of the Holy Spirit and a selection of hymns and songs which they had recorded separately and the parts were then brought together. As with all of our live-streamed services, this can still be viewed from the St Mary's Facebook page.

The next **Songs of Praise** service, the third since the start of the lockdown, will be held on Sunday 5th July, at 6.30pm. The services offer 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



Marian Parr

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Marian Parr died peacefully at home on 3rd June, with family around her and hearing the dawn chorus, which was one of her favourite sounds. We give thanks for the love and support that Marian has given freely to so many over the years, and for all that she shared with us over the years at St Mary's. We pray for the family at this difficult time and look forward to the day when we can come together to remember and celebrate her life.

Men's Group

Recently the Men's Group held a second social get-together via Zoom which gave a chance for people to share some news and find out more about what others are doing. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st July, at 7pm. To take part in the meeting you need to receive the Zoom link by email which will contain the login details, so if you have not been involved so far but would like to join in future, please contact Revd Gary, vicar@stmaryshortlands.church



News from the Fair Trade Stall

Traidcraft, the company that I buy our fair traded goods from, has managed to carry on trading throughout the lockdown, Thank you to everyone who has sent me orders. If anybody would like to make an order please email or phone me, I still have a good selection of stock and can order more from Traidcraft, and then deliver it to your door. You could also have a look on the Traidcraft website to see all their stock - www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. If you order through me there is no delivery charge.

By buying goods through Traidcraft you will be helping some of the poorest and most marginalised producers in the world. They have all been affected by the change in conditions due to the coronavirus. By carrying on trading with them it means they can feed their families, get medical help, and have the dignity of earning a living. Thank you for all your support Cecilia (0208313 0246) glwillatt@hotmail.com

St. Mary's Site Redevelopment - Update

We know that many people in the congregation were keen to attend meetings that we planned to hold in March and April to discuss options for seating and flooring in church. We're still committed to holding these meetings so that people can hear what we've researched and ask any questions they may have, and we look forward to rescheduling the meetings once we're able to meet together again. We will only make decisions on the way forward once we've been able to hear and respond to people's thoughts and questions. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the site development project, please email futuregenerations@stmaryshortlands.church or call Revd Gary on 020 8460 0262.

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. Stephanie sends thanks for the yummy recipes sent to her so far, and looks forward to receiving more to add to the collection. Please send them to stephanie.howarthmaurel@yahoo.co.uk

News of former members

News from Alison Fraser Black. I was a regular at St Mary's for some years before moving to Sussex last year and I would like to say hello to all my friends at the church. I am living with my niece in Sussex and am very happy in the country but do miss the Sunday service at Shortlands. The congregations at our village churches are somewhat small and the choirs no way match up to the wonderful one at St Mary's. Best wishes to all, Alison (onions9@btinternet.com)

Do you have any news of former members of St Mary's that we could share via the news sheet?

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.

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, please contact 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