

Welcome to St. Mary's the Parish Church of Shortlands



Sunday 28 April 2024 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Services today

10.30am Holy Communion - Rev Jane Peters
Reading: Acts 8. 26 – end - Keith Mills
Gospel: John 15. 1 – 8
Intercessions: Kay Coleman
Healing prayers today at the back of church

This week

Tue 30 April 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter
Wed 1 May 10.00am – Morning Prayer in the Chapel
10.30am - 12.30pm - Community Café
Thur 2 May 9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions
7.00pm - Junior choir practice
7.30pm - Adult choir practice
Sun 5 May 10.30am - Holy Communion – Rev Jane Peters
with the Music Group

**The Church is open for private prayer
Monday to Saturday 9am to 12 noon (Thursdays in the Chapel)**

St Mary's APCM – 19th May post 10.30am service

We have vacancies for two Church Wardens and members of the PCC. There are notices giving details at the back of the church as well as forms for applicants to apply. We also would like to invite anyone who would like to be included on the Electoral Roll to apply.

Junior Church

April – Today and then
May - 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
June - 16th, 23rd, 30th

12 May, 9 June

Tea Time Together for children aged 2 – 6 and their families from 4.00pm
Youth Club - years 6 -13 from 6.00 pm

The memorial flowers in church
this week are in memory of Janet and Neil Whitlock



Readings for 28 April 2024

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever

First Reading: Acts 8. 26 – end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gospel reading: John 15. 1 – 8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and

withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Hymns

538	O Jesus I have promised
153	Now the green blade riseth
470	I the Lord of sea and sky
Comm: 441	God is love
Anthem	O taste and see – Vaughn Williams
516	Love divine

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Church....

Bromley & Bexley Archdeaconry: The parishes of Biggin Hill, Chelsfield with Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom, Cray, Cray Valley, Crofton and Cudham.

The Community...

For Bromley Churches' Housing Association, and for all homeless people and asylum seekers.

For family life, those facing stress, unemployment and retirement. For single parents and the bereaved.

The World ...

For peace in the Holy Land, Syria and other troubled areas of the world.

For refugees, remembering those who are fleeing for their lives and praying that they find a welcome and safety.

For all victims of conflict, oppression and climate change

The Sick ...

For all who are unwell, including Rebecca Gowing. Also, all those who bring their prayers to our Church.

The Departed ...

For those who have recently died, and for all who mourn.

We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Alan Stone, Neil Whitlock, Iris Saunders, Peter Petty, Edna Benfield, Joan Dutton, Peter Duncan, Olive Brant, Andrew Ballentyne, Nancie Dalton, Mabel Putman, John Greenwood and Ronald Rankin.

NOTICES

- **The Fairtrade Stall:** Next dates - May: Sun 12th & Wed 29th, June: Sun 9th & Wed 26th, July: Sun 14th, August: Sun 11th & Wed 21st
- New Parish Representative is required to attend meetings (3-4 per year) and disseminate information about Welcare in Bromley (www.welcare.org) a charity supporting children and families in the Bromley area. Please speak to Marion Westropp if you might be interested.
- We need a charity rep for World Prayer Day. If anyone is looking to volunteer, please email the office for further information.
- **Wednesday Services at 10am in the Chapel:** Holy Communion dates are 22nd May, 26th June, 17th July and 21st August. On the other Wednesdays we will be having Morning Prayer.
- **New TakeTime meditation group:** Saturday 11th May, 8th June, 13th July and 10th August from 10.15 – 11am in the chapel for a seated relaxation exercise and a guided meditation imagining yourself with Jesus. No Bible knowledge needed, just sit back, listen and be at rest.
- **Plant Sale:** Saturday 11th May from 11am - 2pm in the church grounds.
- **22nd June - Ynysowen Male Voice Choir** – concert at St. Marys at 6.30pm
- The Choir are singing the services for the weekend of 20st & 21nd July at Rochester Cathedral.
- **JUSB:** It is with great sadness that I advise the congregation that JusB has been forced to close its doors after 20 Years. Further information on the charity notice board at the back of church. Last year's fund raiser here at St Mary's helped the charity to stay open for another six months, but unfortunately further funds were not found to carry on. THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone here who helped to keep JusB going over the years.
- For church matters contact Rev Jane Peters revjane@virginmedia.com.

Our Mission of the Month for April is Transform Trade

There is a display at the back of the Church. Five per cent of our giving will support this charity and additional gifts may be left on the plate.

Donations for Bromley Foodbank can be left in the church porch

Items currently most needed are:

- Tinned cold meats
- Cooking sauce
- Tinned fruit
- Jam
- UHT Milk
- Multi-surface wipes/sprays

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vicar - Vacant

vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Parish Office Open 10am–12noon

office@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 020 8460 5682

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Please use this QR code to make a donation to St Mary's. Thank you.

