

# Welcome to St. Mary's

## the Parish Church of Shortlands



### Sunday 8 December 2024

## The Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am Holy Communion  
Celebrant and preacher - Rev Neil Fairlamb  
Reading: Malachi 3. 1 – 4 – Annette German  
Gospel reading: Luke 3. 1 - 6  
Intercessions: Cathy Myers

#### This week

10 Tue 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter  
11 Wed 10.00am - Morning worship in the Chapel  
10.30am - 12.30pm - Community Café.  
12 Thur 9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions  
7.00pm - Junior choir practice  
7.30pm - Adult choir practice

**Sun 15 Dec** The Third Sunday of Advent  
10.30am - Holy Communion  
Celebrant and preacher – Rev Jane Peters  
4.00pm - Christingle – Lead by Catherine Bingham

#### Wednesday Services at 10am in the Chapel

Holy Communion dates are 18th Dec, 22nd Jan, 19th Feb, 5th Mar  
We have Morning Prayer on the other Wednesdays.

**Sunday 22nd December- 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday 24 December- 4.00pm Crib Service and  
at 11.30pm - Midnight Mass**

#### Junior Church

Dec: 8th, 15th  
January: 12th, 19th, 26th

#### Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>

**Tea Time Together** for families with  
children up to year 5 from 4.00pm.  
**Youth Club** - years 6 -13 from 6.00 pm

## Readings for 8 December 2024

### Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us, and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

### First reading: Malachi 3. 1 -4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

### Gospel reading: Luke 3. 1 - 6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' '

### Post-Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Hymns**

34	On Jordan's bank
393	Brother, sister, let me serve you
516	Love divine all loves excelling
Comm:235	The great forerunner of the morn
Anthem	How beautiful upon the mountains
58	Long ago, prophets knew

### ***Please remember in your prayers this week...***

#### **The Church....**

Bromley Deanery

The parishes of Meopham, Southfleet, Crockenhill, Darent Valley, Dartford,

#### **The Community...**

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

For our neighbouring parishes and Churches of other denominations, their priests and ministers. For the work of Churches Together in Beckenham.

#### **The World ...**

For peace in the Holy Land, Syria and other troubled areas of the world. Pray for those affected by and for all suffering from the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

#### **The Sick ...**

For all who have recently become unwell Estelle Cox and continuing prayers for Josie Smith, Sally Aldred and Angela Ash. 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: Jane French, Reginald Clarke, Starkey Smee, Freddie Portwine, Linda Mills, John Knight, David Malcolm, Dorothy and Arther Clift.

**The Church is open for private prayer  
Tue and Wed - 9am to 12 noon (in the chapel on Thursday)**

#### **Parish Christmas Cards**

Why not send one card to the whole parish!? We are setting up a specially arranged board at the back of church for you display your Christmas message to all those you know (and don't know so well) at St Mary's. See Noticeboard for details.

## NOTICES

- **Sun 8<sup>th</sup> December** - There will be Fairtrade and craft & chatter stalls and raffle, please note it is your last chance to buy.
- **Sun 8<sup>th</sup> December - Bricklayers Arms on Masons Hill at 5pm.** Our choir will be singing carols in aid of Diabetes UK. All are welcome!
- **Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December St George's Church Bloomsbury at 6.30pm.** The choir is singing at the ABCD's carol concert.
- **Take time meditation:** Second Saturday of each month, 10.15am-11am in the chapel. All welcome! 14th Dec, 11th Jan, 8th Feb, 8th Mar
- **Friends of Welcare in Bromley coffee morning** with mince pie tasting, £5 entry, on Sat 14th December 10.30am - 12 noon at St Paul's Beckenham Church Hall (entrance in Lawn Rd). Also, there will be a Christmas Tree Festival at St Francis of Assisi Church, Ravenswood Ave BR4 0PW to view trees and enjoy refreshments with festive music between 14-21st December 2024 (see mission board for details).
- Friends of Welcare are gathering to sing carols at the Glades on Wednesday 18th December 11.00 - 12.30pm (top floor, beside SuperDry). Do join us for this annual event. Bring your family and friends.
- **Christmas cards for Seafarers:** Please place them in the box at the back of the Church. The cut-off date is 8th December. Patricia Braithwaite
- **Toys for children in Penge:** The Salvation Army are extremely grateful for your donations and wish you all a very happy Christmas.

**Anyone who purchased Peach and Ginger jam from the fair trade stall with the date best before 12/04/2027. Unfortunately, the jam has been contaminated, please discard and dispose of it carefully. For more information please phone Cecilia Willatt on (07511) 885941**

**Donations for Bromley Foodbank can be left in the church porch.**

Items most needed are:

- Tinned cold meat
- Sweets
- Tinned custard
- Bleach
- Multi-surface wipes/sprays

**Our Mission of the Month (MOM) for December is The Children' Society**

There is a display at the back of the Church. Each MOM receives equal donations from the church plus any specific donations by individuals.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Vicar - Vacancy**

office@stmaryshortlands.church

**Parish Office** Open 10am-12noon

office@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 020 8460 5682

[www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

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

