

Welcome to St. Mary's

the Parish Church of Shortlands

Sunday 23 March 2025

The Third Sunday of Lent



10.30am Holy Communion With Junior Church
Celebrant and preacher - Reverend George Baisley
Reader – Penny Horsman
Intercessions – Susie Shelton
Healing prayers today at the back of church

This week

25 Tues 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter
26 Weds 10.00am – Morning Prayer in the Chapel
10.30am - 12.30pm - Community Café
27 Thurs 9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions
7.00pm - Junior choir practice
7.30pm - Adult choir practice
29 Sat 9.30am - Help the Guides make daffodil posies in church for Mothering Sunday. Please find sign-up sheet, at the back of the church

Sun, 30 Mar



Mothering Sunday

9.00am - Holy Communion (said)

Celebrant and preacher – Reverend Neil Fairlamb

10.30am Family & Parade Service

Leading – Catherine Bingham

11.30am – Cake Sale in the church hall at 11.30am

for refreshments, home-made cakes, tuck shop, raffle, sale of badges and Fairtrade and Craft & Chatter stalls. Zoe Elliot, Young Leader with Rainbows and Friday Guides, is representing Girlguiding on a service trip to Kenya this summer, please come along & support

The Church is open for private prayer
Mon – Fri - 9am to 12 noon (in the chapel on Thursday)

The Fairtrade Stall

Mar: Wed 26th,

Sun 30th with the Guides

April – Sun 13th, Wed 30th

May – Sun 11th, Wed 28th



Lent

Congregational Lent Soup Supper for all of us.

Sign up on Lent notice board.

Deadline 6 April.

Readings

Collect

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,

may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

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.

First reading: 1 Corinthians. 10. 1 – 13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel reading: Luke 13. 1 - 9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Post-Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns

498	Let us with a gladsome mind
214	Disposer supreme
586	The God of Abraham praise
Comm:329	Thee we adore
538	O Jesus I have promised

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Church....

Shoreham Deanery. The parishes of Stansted, Edenbridge, Hever, Hildenborough, Leigh and Penshurst.

The Community...

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 Ukraine, for an end to violence and for the well-being of the population.

The Sick ...

For those who are recently unwell Rebecca Gowing, Elizabeth Barnes, Barbara Page, Helen Crowe and Bob Norfolk-Thompson from our Morning Prayer and cafe group. We continue to pray for the health and wellbeing of Sally Aldred and Angela Ash, and for those who seek our support by bringing these prayers to our church.

The Departed ...

For those who have recently died, and those who mourn their loss. We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Andrew Degg

Bromley Boundary walk. David and Ann-Marie have successfully completed their Mayoral Charity walk of 60.25 miles. Thank you for all the support. Including gift aid we have raised £1575. If you still want to donate visit www.justgiving.com and search for 'Mayor of Bromley'.

Taketime meditation sessions

10.15am-11am in the chapel
12th April, 10th May, 14th June

June 8th, July 13th

Tea Time Together & Youth Club

NOTICES

APCM Sunday 11th May 2025 at 12.05pm

APCM agenda and papers will be available at the back of the church and our website at least a week before the meeting.

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk/news/annual-parochial-church-meeting/

Preparation for New Electoral Roll 2025 - Every sixth year, a new church electoral roll has to be prepared in each parish, this means that everyone - new and existing members – **must** complete a new form.

What is the Electoral Roll? The Electoral Roll lists everyone who can vote in the APCM and you will need to be included to stand for election to the PCC - the church's governing body - and roles such as churchwarden, and/or any other church bodies such as the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod. For further information on how to complete the Electoral Roll form, please read the "Notes" section on the form.

- Paper forms are at the back of the church – send completed forms to secretary@stmarysshortlands.church, drop into the Church House letterbox or post it to us, **OR**
- Visit our website (see above link) and complete the online form, **OR**
- Scan the QR Code below and complete the online form on your mobile device.



Closing date for receipt of Electoral Roll Forms is 25th April 2025.

Our Mission of the Month for March is St Christopher's Hospice

There is a display at the back of the church. Each Mission for the month receives equal donations from the church & donations from individuals.

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

Items most needed are:

- Tinned tomatoes • Sweets
- Cooking sauces
- Desserts • Squash

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office- Open 10am–12noon
office@stmarysshortlands.church
Tel: 020 8460 5682

Rev Dave Edmondson from 6 May
www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

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

