



Welcome to

St. Mary's Shortlands

Sunday next before Advent

23rd November 2025

Today

10.30am Holy Communion *with Music Group leading sung worship*
Celebrant and preaching: Rev. Dave Edmondson
Reading: Gill Dawson
Intercessions: Cathy Myers
Healing prayers today at the back of church

This week

Tue 25 Nov 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter
Wed 26 Nov **10.00am - Holy Communion in the Chapel**
10.30am - 12.30pm - Community Café
Thur 27 Nov 9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions
7.00pm - Junior choir practice
7.30pm - Adult choir practice

Junior Church

Takes place in the hall during the morning service. All children of all ages are very welcome.

Nov: 23rd, 30th
Dec: 7th, 14th, 21st

Sidespeople Christmas: please speak to or email Rev. Dave or Glo Sherman if you would like to be part of the sides people team over Christmas and help the fantastic team of sidespeople.

Our Mission of the Month (MOM) for November is The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

There is a display at the back of the church. Each MOM receives equal donations from the church and donations from individuals.

8am service: We are discerning if there is a need for restarting regular 8am said Holy Communion service on Sundays. If you or someone you know would like to come to this service please take a letter from the back or a form on the noticeboard and return in before the 23rd November

BIG advent clean up 29 Nov 10am-2pm in the church: Free soup lunch (with perhaps a cake or two.). Bring your favourite dusting cloth.

Readings

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First reading: Jeremiah 23.1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Gospel reading: Luke 23.33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been

condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Post-Communion Prayer

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns – see hymns booklet

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Community...

For residents and staff of Durham House, Blenheim Court, Franklin House and Merlin Court.

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 those who are recently unwell, including Bob Norfolk-Thompson, Kathleen Duncan and Bob Friday. We continue to pray for Eileen Abbam, Matthew Swatton, Sally Aldred, Graham Smedley, Angela Ash, and for those who seek our support by bringing these prayers to our church.

The Departed ...

We pray for everyone grieving the loss of loved ones. We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Nora Hemsley, Samuel Speller, Joyce Luetchford, Bernard Jolliffe and Ken Purslove.

Advent four-week course meets in the chapel on Tuesday 25th November (8–9.30pm) and Wednesday 26th November (11.30am–12.30pm), and online via Zoom from Monday 24th November (7.30pm). Sign up in church for in-person sessions, or for zoom email Ann-Marie at annmarie.jefferys@btinternet.com.

BIG advent clean up 29 Nov 10am-2pm in the church: Free soup lunch (with perhaps a cake or two.). Bring your favourite dusting cloth.

NOTICES

- **Christmas Toys for Children in Penge:** The Salvation Army in Penge are appealing for unwrapped new or very good quality second hand toys. Ages required, 0-16yrs and particularly for boys aged 10-14yrs. Please leave toys in the labelled collection box at the back of the church until 28th Nov.
- **Wednesday 26th a Christmas decoration** workshop alongside the café. Everybody welcome.
- **We are decorating the church for Christmas** on Friday the 28th from 10amm. All welcome
- **POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!** Mission to Seafarers look forward to the cards you write every year. Box at the back of the church until 6th December. Please fill it up again. Thankyou!"
- **French Horn Recital** - Join us on Tuesday 23rd December at 12pm for a recital by David, featuring a beautiful selection of pieces ranging from classical to festive tunes. All proceeds will support Mind, the mental health charity. Come along, enjoy the music, and help make a difference!
- **The Friends of St Mary's** have booked a Burns night dinner in conjunction with the Langley Park Golf Club for the evening of Friday 23 January 2026. More details to follow.

At St Mary's we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously: we are committed to ensuring our church and hall buildings are safe places for all. If you have any concerns about safeguarding you can contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer Pauline Lambourne safeguarding@stmaryshortlands.church or 020 8658 0470

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



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

Items most needed are: Tinned ham,
chocolates/selection boxes, mince
pies, Christmas pudding, biscuits,
savoury items (e.g. crisps)
Christmas cake, yule log and
crackers.

Parish Office

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

Rev. Dave Edmondson - vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 07592136421

Church Wardens

Gloria Sherman - glowarden@stmaryshortlands.church
Robin Hogg - robinwarden@stmaryshortlands.church