

Welcome to St. Mary's

the Parish Church of Shortlands

Sunday 6 April 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

The start of Passiontide



10.30am Holy Communion

Celebrant and preacher – Rev David Graham

Reader - Nick Thorne

Intercessions - Sue Harrison

This week

- 8 Tues 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter
- 9 Weds 10.00am – Morning Prayer in the Chapel
10.30am - 12.30pm - Community Café
- 10 Thurs 7.00pm - Junior choir practice
7.30pm - Adult choir practice
- 12 Sat 10.15am - 11am in the chapel - Taketime meditation sessions. All are welcome.
6.30pm - Congregational Lent Soup Supper in the church hall. Sign-up on the Lent notice board by 6 April.

Holy Week

Sunday 13 April

Palm Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion

Celebrant – Rev Jane Peters; Leading Catherine Bingham

Taize service 6.30pm - Choir and Music Group

Thursday 17 April

Maundy Thursday 8.00pm - Holy Communion

Celebrant and preacher – Rev Neil Fairlamb

Friday 18 April

Good Friday 2.00pm - Hour at the Cross

Leading - Ann-Marie Jefferys

Sunday 20 April

Easter Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion includes egg hunt

Celebrant and preacher – Rev Jane Peters



Decorating the church for Easter

Saturday 19th April from 9:30am

Everyone is very welcome to join in, no experience necessary. Sign sheet in the back porch.

VE Day Tea Party

Saturday May 10th at 3.00pm

St Mary's Church, Shortlands
1940s Dress Optional - £10p/p

Tickets on sale from 6 April

Readings

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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: Philippians. 3. 4b – 14

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel reading: John 12. 1 -8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might

keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Hymns

609	To God be the glory
109	It is a thing most wonderful
127	When I survey
Comm:108	Glory be to Jesus
Anthem:	God so loved the world – Chilcott

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Church....

Strood Deanery. The parishes of Southborough, Speldhurst & Tunbridge Wells.

The Community...

For Sunday worship at St. Mary's. For the discernment of vocation in our church family.

The World ...

For all refugees, for their safety and a more certain future.
For all victims of conflict, oppression and climate change.

The Sick ...

For those who are recently unwell including Rebecca Gowing, Elizabeth Barnes, Barbara Page, Helen Crowe and Bob Norfolk-Thompson from our Morning Prayer and cafe group. We continue to pray for 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: Anthony Parks, Roger Harling, Margaret Vandenbosch, Barbara Minshull, Richard Wood, Kevin Webber and Ken Sisman.

If you wish to have a loved ones name placed on the altar at Easter in memory of them please add their name to the purple notebook in the porch. You are welcome to make a donation towards the Easter flowers.



Donations for Bromley Foodbank can be left in the church porch

Items most needed are:

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

NOTICES

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 11th May 2025 at 12.00noon

To elect Parochial Church Committee (PCC) Roles which include Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees – nomination forms are at the back of church and our website, and to present our Annual Report and Financial Statements. Papers for the APCM 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 to join our Electoral Roll.

What is the Electoral Roll? This is a list of everyone who can vote in the APCM, and you will need to be included to stand for election for the above PCC roles. Please read the “Notes” section on the Electoral Roll form on how to complete the form. **Closing date for receipt of forms is 25th April 2025**

- Paper forms are at the back of the church – complete the form and email, 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 form on your mobile device.



The Mission of the month for April is Spana, the charity helps working animals in developing countries. Raffle tickets in aid of the charity are on sale after the 10.30am services and at the Wednesday café. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday, the 16th of April at the café. Each Mission for the month receives equal donations from the church & donations from individuals.

Thanks to all who supported the Mothering Sunday Cake Sale by baking/serving/buying/eating cakes, buying raffle tickets, making donations, or helping in any other way. Zoe raised a total of £1,011.50, & sends her grateful thanks – she has now reached the fundraising target for her trip to Kenya!

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.

