

# St Mary's Shortlands

## News Sheet for June 2021

*Please take a copy of this News Sheet home with you*

Our Sunday services are live-streamed for those who are unable to attend in person. Morning prayer and compline are only available online. Please go to [www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands) or follow the link on our website [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk).

### **Sunday worship in church**

#### **Sunday 6th June**

10.30am      All Age Service (non-Communion) with music led by the Music Group

#### **Other Sundays**

10.30am      Holy Communion

**Junior Church** resumes from Sunday 13th June with activities for all ages in the church hall.

*At the moment there are no refreshments at the back of church after services but you are welcome to stay and talk with others in the church grounds.*

#### **Sunday 27th June**

6.30pm      Choral Evensong

### **Weekday services**

Wednesday 10am	Holy Communion, in the Millennium Chapel (not live-streamed)
Monday to Saturday, 9am	Morning Prayer (live-streamed only)
Wednesday, 8.30pm	Compline (live-streamed only)

The Church is open for private prayer and reflection from 10am to 3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

## Future Generations Project Update

On Sundays 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June there will be meetings after the 10.30am service to share the latest thinking from the Future Generations team about plans for flooring (Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>) and seating (Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>) in church. Everyone is very welcome to attend. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and to give your views, which will inform our planning. If you are not able to attend the meetings or would like to input your views afterwards, do please speak to Revd Gary, one of the team or the churchwardens – or email comments to [futuregenerations@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:futuregenerations@stmaryshortlands.church).

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, we will be holding a **Community Open Day** from 10am to 2pm. This is an opportunity for everyone to find out more about our plans to create space for community events and activities in the church building, as part of our long-term aim for St Mary's to be a community hub for Shortlands. There will be a range of stalls showing the variety of activities we offer, including users of the church hall. We hope you can join us on that day!

## St Mary's Community Café

After much planning over the past year or more, our community café is now up and running and open every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm at the back of the church. The first weeks have gone very well, with more than 30 people dropping by to chat over a coffee/ tea and cake.



If you are free on a Wednesday morning, do come along to visit the café. You can be sure of a warm welcome and some delicious cake!

The café is being run by a team of helpers led by Jay Sharma and Gill Dawson but we would welcome more volunteers. To find out more please speak to one of the team or email [jay@joelkibazo.com](mailto:jay@joelkibazo.com).

## Discussion Groups

Have you considered joining a Home Group for study and fellowship? St Mary's has three established groups, which are now making plans to meet again, and a new group, which is currently meeting in the Church. Meetings are on a variety of weekday evenings (Monday to Wednesday) and the groups meet fortnightly or monthly. If you are interested in finding out more, please speak with Revd Gary.

## **Music in church**

A big thank-you to Claire and the choir for their contribution to our Sunday services over recent months. It's a joy to have the organ music and singing to enhance our worship, and we continue to be amazed by the depth of talent within the choir as they cope with the restriction on numbers of singers. This summer the choir is due to sing for three services in Bath Abbey over the weekend July 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> – choral evensong at 5.30pm on Saturday, then Holy Communion at 10.15am and Choral Evensong at 3.30pm on Sunday. It is hoped that the restrictions will have eased by then so that they can all participate.

We are also grateful for the talents of our Music Group who will be leading the music at the main Sunday service on 6<sup>th</sup> June, for the first time since services resumed in March.

## **Junior Church**

We are delighted that our Junior Church will be meeting again from Sunday 13th June, with four sessions through to Sunday 4th July. The children will meet as a single (all-age) group in the church hall and the sessions will be run in accordance with Covid guidelines. We look forward to having the children back with us and to sharing some of their thoughts and activities. For further information contact Jo Eade, [joanna.eade@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joanna.eade@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Plant Sales**

Well done to Jan Boam and Pat Chase who organised the two recent plant sales and to everyone who brought along seedlings and swapped or bought plants. The events were a huge success with a great variety and number of plants, and a good flow of people coming to buy. The sales raised the amazing sum of £1,700 for the Future Generations project. Happy gardening to everyone.



## **The Bishop of Rochester**

The current Bishop, the Rt Rev James Langstaff is due to retire next month, July 2021. The Diocese has now started the process to find the next Bishop of Rochester and is trying to engage with as wide a group of people as possible to help identify the qualities needed by the next bishop. There is more information at [www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/help-us-find-a-new-bishop/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/help-us-find-a-new-bishop/)



## Eco Church

After a pause because of the recent lockdowns, St. Mary's is again starting to look at what we need to do as a church to gain an Eco Church award. The Eco Church scheme is a practical way for churches to explore how they can become more environmentally conscious in relation to their buildings, church grounds, the wider community and worship. If anyone would like to be involved in a small group to take this work forward, please let Revd Gary know. More details of the scheme can be found at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

## Fund raising

At the Future Generations Open Day on 10<sup>th</sup> July, the fund-raising group will be auctioning off prizes - the prizes are the gifts of our congregation. We already have a substantial number of offers but it would be good to have more. So if you are able to offer your time and skills, for example, interview support, taxi driving, 11+ practice, gardening, painting & decorating, dancing lessons or anything else, please let Stephanie Maurel know so that they can all be collated for 'sale' on the day. Offers can be as different or unusual as you like!

## Open Garden

Open garden at Bishops court (24 St Margaret's Street, Rochester, ME1 1TS) as part of the National Garden Scheme, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1.00pm to 5.00 pm. Tickets £5.00, children free. See the NGS website [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk). There will be tea and cake and a plant stall. Disabled parking only – contact Bridget Langstaff (07816 828439) [bridget.langstaff@btinternet.com](mailto:bridget.langstaff@btinternet.com)

## Future Dates

Saturday 10th July	10am to 2pm Open Day on the Future Generations Project
Sunday 11th July	Parish Picnic after the morning service (in the Church Hall if wet)
Saturday 4th Sept	2.30pm Memorial Service for John Westropp

*Please send any items for the July News Sheet to Kate Buchanan [kateinww@btinternet.com](mailto:kateinww@btinternet.com) by Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you.*