

# Welcome to St. Mary's Shortlands

## 10 May 2026 – 6th Sunday of Easter

### Today

**10.30am 10.30am - Holy Communion with Junior Church**

Celebrant: Rev. Jane Peters

Preaching: Catherine Bingham

Reading: Dieter Gramlich

Intercessions: Cathy Myers

### Hymns

442 God is Love, let Heaven adore him

175 Come down O Love Divine

453 Great is thy Faithfulness

Comm:527 Now let us from this table rise

Anthem O Sing Joyfully by Batten

267 Thou whose almighty word

**4.00pm Tea Time Together** for families with children up to Yr 5

**6.00pm Youth Club** from 6.00pm for Years 6 -13

### This week

Tue 12 May 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter

Wed 13 May **Ascension Day Celebration**

10.00am –Holy Communion in the chapel

10.30am – 12.30pm – Community Café

Thur 14 May 9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions

7.00pm – Junior choir practice

7.30pm – Adult choir practice

Sun 17 May **10.30am - Holy Communion**

**6.30pm - Friends of St Mary's Evensong**



## **Collect**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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: Esther 4:13-17, 7.1-6, 9, 10; 9.20-22**

Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is

against the law; and if I perish, I perish.’ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, ‘What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’ Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.’ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, ‘Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?’ Esther said, ‘A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands

at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

### **Gospel reading: Mark 9.38-end**

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

‘If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.’ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

‘For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.’

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

**The Community...**

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

**The World ...**

For all victims of conflict, oppression and climate change.

**The Sick ...**

For those who are recently unwell, including Christine Perzyna, Barbara Page and Robert Barnes. We continue to pray for Eileen Abbam, Sally Aldred, 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: Mary Shaw, Sue Chadwick, Paul Vigers, Johan Aucamp and Stan Bruce.

**Our Mission of the Month (MOM) for May is  
Embrace the Middle East**

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

## NOTICES

- **Fairtrade Dates** - May - Sun10th, June - Sun14th, Wed 24th
- **David Linstead:** Jane would like to thank everyone who came to honour David at his funeral on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. It was overwhelming to see so many kind and supportive faces and very much appreciated.
- **Plant sale:** Saturday 16 May 11am-1pm. In the church grounds. Refreshments available from St Mary's Community Café.
- **The Friends' Annual General Meeting** and Evensong will be held on Sunday 17th May. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available in the Friends Room from 5.30pm before the AGM at 6pm. Evensong is at 6.30 followed by drinks and nibbles provided by the friends.
- **Cake and Cuppa:** All who give their time and talents in any way to the life of St Mary's are invited to a Thank You in the Vicarage Garden on Sunday 24th May at 3.30pm. Sign up at the back of the church.
- **Save the Date - Parish Picnic Sunday 28th June.** All age Parade service starts at 10.30am with Picnic following. Homemade baking contest where all are welcome to enter.
- **Future Generations Project** - At the APCM there was an update about the project. If you missed it, there is a written update available to take away on the Church Notice Board.

- **APCM** - Congratulations to Glo Sherman and Robin Hogg, who were elected wardens. Ann Marie Jefferys and Sue Slaney who were elected onto Deanery Synod and Debbie Speller, Bob Friday and David Jefferys who were elected to become part of the PCC.
- **Taketime meditation** - 10.15am-11am in the chapel. Second Saturday of each month, 10th July, 12th Sept, 10th Oct, 14th Nov and 12th Dec. Join us in the chapel for a seated relaxation exercise and a guided meditation imagining yourself with Jesus. No Bible knowledge needed.

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 UHT milk, tinned cold meats & tomatoes, tea, coffee, panty liners, multi-spray wipes, long life dessert & carrier bags

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

### 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