

**Welcome to
St. Mary's Shortlands
8 March 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Lent**



Today

10.30am Holy Communion with junior church

Celebrant: Rev. Dave Edmondson

Preaching: David Jefferys

Reading: Nick Thorne

Intercessions: Kay Coleman

Hymns

368 All my hope on God is founded

475 Immortal love

96 Jesu, lover of my soul

Communion: 600 Thou art the way

Anthem: Wash me throughly - Wesley

556 Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him

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

6.00pm Youth Club for Years 6 -13

This week

Tue 10 Mar 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter

Wed 11 Mar 10.00am – Holy Communion in the Chapel

10.30am – 12 noon - Community Café and informal workshops for decorations for the church at Easter

Thur 12 Mar 9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions

7.00pm - Junior choir practice

7.30pm - Adult choir practice

Next week

Sun 15 Mar Mothering Sunday

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Family and parade service with a blessing and distribution of posies

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: Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Gospel reading: John 4.5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither

on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have

ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

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

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Community...

For the daily reading of God’s word. All Bible Societies and Homegroups.

The World ...

All areas of conflict and those suffering from natural or man-made disasters.

The Sick ...

For those who are recently unwell, including Elizabeth Barnes, Margaret Shaw, Robert Barnes, Bob Norfolk-Thompson and David Linstead. 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, especially the family and friends of Ann Swatton and Peter Cooke. We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Nellie Arnold, Ben Goodchild, Ian Webber, Mabel Carder-Geddes, George Dimmock, David Bowen, Brian Robinson, Win Dangerfield and Leonard Minshull.

NOTICES

- **Memorial Service for Ann Swatton Wed 11th March at 1pm at St Mary's Church.** All are invited to attend, the family have asked if people could wear bright colours in memory of Ann. All family & friends are warmly invited to celebrate Ann's life and share memories at 2.30pm Langley Park Golf Club Barnfield Wood Road, Beckenham, BR3 6SZ
- **Gospel Pairs** booklets are at the back of Church, if you have signed up yours is labelled. There are extra booklets available if you wanted to take one for yourself. Please contact Rev Dave for email copies.
- **Informal workshops for preparing decorations for the church at Easter at the Wed café on March 11th and 25th.** All are welcome come and join in. For more information contact Cecilia on (07511) 885941.
- **Friends of St Mary's Quiz Night - 21st March - St Mary's Church Hall - 7pm for 7.30.** All welcome individually and we will find you a team. Or sign up as a team, with a maximum size of 8. Tickets are £5 There will be a donation bar. Nibbles on every table will be provided. Tickets available at Community Café or the end of church and online via QR code in SPAN OR using this link
<https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NjY1MS00/t>
- **Save the date.** The Bishop of Rochester The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Gibbs will be preaching and presiding at our 10.30am service on 22nd March.
- **St Mary's choir** will be singing the services at St. George's Chapel Windsor on Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd August 2026.



Electoral Roll

You can now join the electoral roll using this QR code. Please consider signing up. Being on the roll allows you to vote at the APCM and stand for PCC or Deanery roles, showing your commitment and strengthening our church locally and in the wider community. The electoral roll closes on Sunday 12th April in preparation for the APCM on 3rd May. If you have any questions speak to Helen Bird, Electoral Roll officer and PCC secretary.
Email - secretary@stmaryshortlands.church

Fairtrade Dates

March – Sun 8th, Wed 18th

April – Sun 12th, Wed 22nd

May - Sun 10th, Wed 20th

Taketime meditation

10.15am-11am in the chapel.

11th April, 9th May,

13th June, 11th July, 12th Sept

Our Mission of the Month (MOM) for March is Primrose Breast Cancer Support Centre.

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

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 Long life dessert & juice, coffee, sugar, tea, bleach, shaving foam/gel, shampoo, hand washing soap & toothbrush

Holy Week and Easter Services

29th March - Palm Sunday Service - 10.30am

Holy Communion (Junior Church during the service)

29th March - Cross of Christ - 6.30pm

A traditional service looking forward to Holy Week with Bible readings, hymns and anthems

30, 31st March & 1st April - Compline - 8.00pm

A reflective, said service of Compline in the Chapel

2nd April - Maundy Thursday - 8.00pm

Holy Communion with hand washing

3rd April - Good Friday at the Cross - 2.00pm

Reflections, Bible readings, hymns and anthems

4th April - Easter Saturday Soup Supper - 6.00pm

Reflect together with a simple meal in the Church Hall. Sign up via the Parish Office.

5th April - Easter Family Communion- 10.30am

Family Communion with an Easter Egg hunt

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