

Light and hope

Imagine you have four candles, representing Joy, Peace, Faith and Hope. When we are going through tough times, the Peace, Faith and Joy flames may flicker and even die altogether. If we can keep the Hope candle burning, we can use this to relight the others.

One of society's current problems is increasingly poor mental health, especially amongst our young people who are bombarded by the conflicting messages of social media, mistrusting of authority. It seems that everything is up for grabs, even truth! In our modern world the only goal seems to be the development of my true self but at the same time I am not popular, attractive or clever enough. My creative ability to write a song, poem or essay is matched by artificial intelligence! We are told that in the great reset we will own nothing and be happy.

The Easter season brings a season of hope as Spring comes to life. It is a timeless celebration of resurrection and hope. God became fully human to show us what he desired for us as his children, made in his image to be his representatives in the world.

Jesus was killed by those whose power was threatened. In our culture, people are 'cancelled' every day for questioning, protesting, presenting a different viewpoint.



See page 3 for information about our special services and events for April

God needed Jesus to die so that God could demonstrate his awesome power, the power that created the beautiful world for his beloved people to live in.

We light a new candle, the Easter candle, to remember the awesome and unconditional love that is behind the world-changing events of Easter Sunday.

Easter keeps the Hope candle alight for the world. It reminds us that human beings are formidable. What we do matters, what we do together matters, your presence makes a difference and that matters. Happy Easter!

Rev Jane Kustner

Coronation Weekend Picnic

Sunday 7th May, from 12 noon

*following the Parade/Family service at 10.30am
in St Mary's grounds and church*



Join us to celebrate the Coronation!

Share food and fun together

Bouncy Castle; children's games & activities;
bar; BBQ; ice cream & sweets

Enjoy lunch from our BBQ
or bring your own picnic

Everyone is welcome

An event for St George's Day

**Join us for dinner and
entertainment – all welcome!**

7.30pm, Saturday 22 April

St Mary's church hall

Tickets: £15 per person,
from the Parish Office
or Tony Chase at chasecrew@btinternet.com



Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Lance McMurray 12 February
Rory Woodcraft 12 March
Brodie Woodcraft 12 March
Georgie Woodcraft 12 March

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Peter Stotesbury 18 March

Remembering



Kay Pollard

Kay was born in 1937 and remembered her wartime childhood well, sometimes telling stories of the air raid shelters and hunger. Her father died when she was 25, which was a great loss.

She was married to David, a wholesale supplier at Covent Garden. David was a larger than life character who liked to holiday and entertain with Kay, his glamorous wife. Their sons remember their caravan holidays in Hastings. David died in 2011 leaving a big hole in Kay's life.

Kay cared for her mother for some years and after her death she found solace in the church. She was a regular attendee at Wednesday's Holy Communion and at the Community Café.

Thank you!

Following our previous request in SPAN for signatures supporting the application by the Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen for funding to improve South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen, sufficient signatures and donations have been received to enable both projects to proceed with funding from Bromley Council's Platinum Jubilee Fund.

The projects are designed to improve considerably the main entrance areas of the Wood and Glen, including the renovation of the Coronation Gates in South Hill Wood.

Peter White

On song

The recent Songs of Praise service organised by the Music Group, the first such service since before Covid, was much enjoyed by all who attended. Each hymn or reading was introduced by the person who had chosen it, giving the reason why it was special for them - quite an emotional rollercoaster in many cases.

Thank you to Glo Sherman, Mia and her grandmother Joyce Hadfield, Janet Purslove, Pauline Norris, Tim Dawson, Marion Westropp, Jay Sharma, Cecilia Willatt and Pauline Lambourne for their contributions.

Looking forward to the past

That's not a misprint but a reference to the 70th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the new St. Mary's, rising like the proverbial phoenix from the rubble of the former parish church, which was destroyed in World War II.

The building of the original Victorian parish church was funded by William Arthur Wilkinson of Shortlands House and was furnished by donations from residents of the new parish. Much was lost in the destruction but notable pieces were saved including the large, heavy, brass altar cross, donated in memory of Miss Sarah Wilkinson, and the matching brass candlesticks, donated by Mabel Wilkinson.

Another treasured item that was rescued is the leather bound volume, in its original bookcase, which lists the names of the men who died in World War I. This is in the St. George's chapel, which also houses the altar believed to have been in the old church's chapel and bears the scars of the bombing.

These are just a few of the items saved by the then parishioners: it is planned that they will form part of an interesting and poignant exhibition on the church's long history later this year. The ornate cross and candlesticks will be found a permanent home within the church with an explanatory notice on their part in our history, and to demonstrate the changing style of church ornament from high Victorian to the simpler style that was adopted for the new St. Mary's.

If anyone has any information or material that could be useful to the exhibition, to donate, lend or copy, please contact the Parish Office.

Jan Boam



Ministry update

The ministry team met in February. The group comprises two ordained ministers, two people training to be ordained ministers, five licensed lay ministers, two licensed pastoral assistants, St Mary's safeguarding officer, the director of music, youth worker and five pastoral assistants.

The meeting provided an opportunity to explore the many different ways in which the team provides ministry – or service – to St Mary's and how these contribute to the church's Vision and Mission.

We underpinned the meeting with two scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12.14-20 – the body of Christ and Ephesians 4.11-14 – the gifts of the Spirit.

Recent initiatives have included Lent Study groups on Holy Habits, the Welcome group to welcome and involve newcomers, and the parents' group to discern what parents need from the church, especially those with young children.

We discussed the qualities needed for leadership in the church, including moral trustworthiness, social aptitude, empathy and pastoral care, and defined ministry as: our day to day life; meeting needs; loving service and taking God with us.

We clarified what could be done by lay and ordained ministers and licensed and unlicensed ministers. Ordained and licensed ministers have a period of formal training and diocesan supervision and review. Ordained ministers can absolve, bless and consecrate.

All ministers have a leadership role to identify and discern gifts and aptitude in the congregation and encourage people to get involved.

The team's work will continue in fields such as ministry to the dying, welcoming, our community café and ministry to professionals, especially those working from home.

Rev Jane Kustner



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza provides clinical care, therapies, specialised activities, practical and emotional support across Kent, South East London and East Sussex for children with life limiting conditions. Its aim is to ensure that every child and young person who has a serious or terminal condition receives the care and attention they need to live the most fulfilling life they can, and that they and their families have the opportunity to build memories, for however long they have together.

This care is provided in two hospices in Sittingbourne, Kent and Eltham, South London and through a range of community-based support in the home, as well as a programme of online activities. Their end of life care for children and young people, and bereavement support for family members of all ages, is available to all.

Services also include short breaks and day care both in the hospices and in the home. Here there are opportunities to have fun and receive the expert medical care needed. Demelza offers support for the whole family as well as the child, parents, carers, siblings and grandparents through groups, outings and events.

Bereavement support is provided to families through memory making, regular bereavement cafes and a number of events in the year such as the annual Candlelight, Snowdrop and summer remembrance events.

The charity cost £10.4 million to run in 2021/22: the majority of funds come from grants and fundraising events both corporate and regional.

Here at St Mary's we have supported this charity from its inception. For further information see our board at the back of church or visit www.demelza.org.uk.

A warm welcome

Sidesmen (actually men and women) help to ensure that there is smooth running for the church service, by doing those things which are easy to forget. We put the hymn numbers in their slots, get the hymn books out with the order of service and the pew sheet and any other information for that particular Sunday. We endeavour to get all this completed before members of the congregation start to arrive.

If young children arrive we give them the 'magic bag' with games and puzzles to help to keep them occupied for the service.

During the service, we take the offertory collection and take it to the altar to be blessed.

Part of the responsibility is for two sidesmen to show the congregation where to go for communion. These sidesmen then take up a place in the church aisles adjacent to the steps leading down from the altar and we can help anyone with mobility problems down the steps.

At the end of the service we collect all the hymn books and orders of service, take the hymn numbers down and do a sweep of the church to collect any stray hymn books, checking that no-one has left anything behind.

One of the best aspects, however, of being a sidesman is being able to meet and greet people as they come into church and to make them feel welcome. A smile and a chat helps us to provide a welcome and caring environment.

Pauline Lambourne

Services for Holy Week

Come and join us as we prepare for the joy of Easter.

Monday 3 April and Tuesday 4 April

10.00am Reflections on the Stations of the Cross

8.00pm A service of Night Prayer

Wednesday 5 April

10.00am Holy Communion

followed by refreshments

8.00pm A service of Night Prayer

Thursday 6 April – Maundy Thursday

10.00am Reflections on the Stations of the Cross

8.00pm Holy Communion

with foot washing

Friday 7 April – Good Friday

10.30am Informal Family Service

Led by the Music Group

12 – 2pm The Passion of Christ (film)

2 – 3pm An Hour at the Cross

A meditation, followed by Communion

Sunday 9 April – Easter Day

7.00am Easter Vigil and New Fire

Followed by breakfast

10.30am Family Communion

Followed by an Easter Egg hunt

Sunday 30 April

5.00pm Come Holy Spirit

A service of silence, readings and worship songs

An Easter recital

A French Horn recital by
David Tillotson

11am, Saturday 22 April

Tickets £10 (on the door)

Light refreshments to follow



PLANT SALE / SWAP

Saturday 13th May 11am – 2pm

In the church grounds

**Refreshments from the St. Mary's
community cafe**



The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

Link Parish
St Francis of
Assisi, Douai, France



WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion

You can access these services online at:

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Reverend Jane Kustner	07947 778 441
	vicar@stmarysshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Ministers	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
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Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
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Electoral Roll	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503 680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE 020 8460 5682
office@stmarysshortlands.church
Open 10.00am - 12.00pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8402 6599
Craft and Chatter	Mrs. J. Boam	8460 7101
Friends of St Mary's	Mr. T. Chase	8464 6188

For admission to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mr O. Swinfen	07758458077
Cubs (Tue)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954437658
Beavers	Ms. E. Hay	07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

Guides (Tue)	Ms. E. Thompson	07910340908
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com	
Rainbows	2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. A. Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

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SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

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