

The journey begins ...

With the lifting of all covid regulations, it really feels as if we are just starting out on a new journey. I'm not suggesting that we do not still live in unprecedented times, but life has changed and we are being encouraged to live with COVID and adapt our lives accordingly.

Yes, there is still uncertainty for many, but the one thing that I know is that we journey forward, not forgetting what we have lived through, but taking all the lessons we learnt from the past 18 months with us as we journey on.

I am sure we have all experienced journeys that have been challenging and difficult, perhaps perilous and, as we know, the Bible is full of stories of such journeys. Abraham is called to leave his home and his people and set out on a journey to a new land. Mary and Joseph set out for Bethlehem. The disciples are sent out on a missionary adventure and of course we know only too well the story behind Jesus's journey to Jerusalem.

But it is the parable of The Good Samaritan that I would commend everyone to re-visit; a parable that details the perils of journeying but, most importantly, the life-changing impact of hospitality and love shown by strangers to others.



I know the journey that we have been on at St. Mary's during the past 18 months and I am aware of many other journeys that people have undertaken from within our community here in Shortlands. My hope and my prayers are for the future, a future where we continue to support, to care for and to love our neighbours and the strangers that we meet as we journey forward into a post-covid world.

***Love and Blessings,
Rev'd Gary Best***



There was fun for all the family at St Mary's Parish Picnic in July.

UPDATE: see page 2 for news of services at St Mary's following the easing of COVID restrictions.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Ophelia Russell	11 July
Reuben Vanderwerff	11 July
Henri Laure	18 July
Evelyn Hirst	25 July
Martha Morris	25 July

Remembering

Joan Austen

Joan was born 88 years ago in Padiham, Lancashire into a very different world. She was an only child and her mother worked in the cotton mills. Joan had a happy childhood and was a bright little girl.

She was clever enough to go to a grammar school and didn't leave until she was 17 – quite a rarity. At that tender age she came south to teacher training college in London. It must have been quite a shock to her.

Loving to impart knowledge, Joan became a Primary School teacher and eventually a Deputy Head in a school in New Addington where she excelled. She took further diplomas, particularly in remedial reading, and was invited to other schools to share her expertise. She was immensely proud – and rightly so – of her achievements.

In 1959 Joan married Peter and they went on to have twin daughters, Caroline and Claire, six grandchildren and two step-grandchildren and recently she had her first great grandchild.

Joan and Peter contributed a great deal over many years to life at St Mary's. Peter was on the PCC; Joan was very involved in Rainbows (even offering help fairly recently). Together they ran Pathfinders for many years – there was always a teaching element in what Joan did. Teaching ran through her blood!

The couple loved their tennis and their holidays – they had a static caravan home in France and met and made many friends there over a long period of time.

Peter sadly died in 2015 – there is a bench in the garden dedicated to him and his contribution to church life at St Mary's.

Ever a sensible Northern lass Joan looked for solutions, never problems. She will be missed from our pews as well as by her family.

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Anne Stone 15 July

THANK YOU

to all who took part in our Silent Auction. We're delighted to have raised over £5,000 for the Future Generations Project.



St Mary's Junior Church invites you to **Tea Time Together**



Sunday 12th September
4pm – 5.30pm

**Themed music, story and arts and crafts
for families of all ages!**

**Free refreshments will be provided for adults at the
Community Cafe whilst the children have fun!**

**Please contact Rachel Tillotson – 07503 680 612
or Revd Gary – 07493 072 695 for further information**

Services at St Mary's

Following the easing of the Government's COVID restrictions, St Mary's church is maintaining caution and common sense.

We encourage everyone to wear a face covering upon entry into the church, removing it when seated. Alternate pews remain cordoned off, allowing some distance between seating, and everyone is asked to respect the wishes of all people whatever their view on the easing of regulations.

We are delighted that congregational singing can now take place, returning such an important element of our worship at St Mary's.

A warm welcome is guaranteed when visiting St Mary's church.

Some services will be suspended during August due to holiday commitments and allowing the team to take a well-earned break after nearly 18 months of continuous online ministry. There will be no Choral Evensong in August. Wednesday morning Holy Communion will resume on 18th August and Morning Prayer and Compline will resume in the week commencing 6th September.

Services continue at 10.30am on Sundays, in church and streamed via Facebook. All activities may be subject to change, based on Government COVID restrictions. Any updates will be shared via www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk.

CONGRATULATIONS! Finn Jansen-Ryan from the 7th Bromley Beaver colony has been awarded the Chief Scout's Bronze award, the highest possible achievement for Beavers.

He has gained almost all the Beaver activity badges, shows kindness to younger and new children and loves the game of cops and robbers! He will be moving up to Mowgli cubs in September.



MEN AT WORK

Tim Dawson and Robin Hogg recently dug a trench to divert a spring which was causing the steps from St Mary's Avenue to be damp.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

August

Bromley Borough Foodbank

Bromley Borough Foodbank, which operates as part of the national Trussell Trust network of foodbanks, began at Hope Church in Orpington and has expanded to three sites across the borough, with its depot at Stockwell Close in Bromley town centre. It provides three days' nutritionally balanced food tailored to households' composition to assist families and individuals to navigate times of need due to unforeseen hardship.

Although local churches of all denominations were the initial source of volunteers and donations to Foodbank, the bulk of Bromley Foodbank's donations now comes from supermarket collection points and school harvest festivals.

Church congregations make a difference by reacting to need. Every fortnight a Foodbank coordinator emails the borough's churches with a list of items that are in short supply but dearly needed. These items are then published on each church's pew paper or posters, so that the congregations can donate specific items to make up the shortfall. Many of our congregation at St Mary's also donate money, monthly or annually, to Foodbank to enable it to directly purchase high demand products in bulk, and therefore at a discount.

The generosity of St Mary's, particularly during the pandemic, has been touching. Bromley Borough Foodbank is extremely grateful to the congregation of St Mary's Shortlands and hopes that Mission of the Month can raise much needed funds as Foodbank continues to support local people in hardship.

For more information see the display at the back of church or visit <https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk>.

Seeking curious minds

A Spirituality Discussion Group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings starting 15 September.

All are welcome, whether spiritual, religious, or both.

We will be discussing *Falling Forward*, a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, by Richard Rohr. The group is very informal, but with structure from the leaders and the book.

No religious background is necessary, just a curious mind, as we discuss how the first half of life's 'successes' and 'failures' prepare us for the second half.

For information, call Glo Sherman: 07500 751 265.

Community Open Day - NEW DATE

Saturday 9th October, 10am – 2pm

Join us to hear 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.



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MISSION OF THE MONTH

September

Street pastors

Street pastors are people from the Christian community who are willing and available to help others, especially young people and those that are marginalised, on the streets at night.

The Street Pastors engage with and get to know their local community, building relationships with people: caring, listening and if necessary helping. The Christian gospel is at the centre of their work, but not at the forefront of what they say. They try to show the love of Jesus Christ in practical ways as they interact with those whom they meet.

In Beckenham and Bromley the Street Pastors work in teams, patrolling the town centres visiting pubs and clubs. They aim to be a presence on the streets from 10pm to about 2am on Friday evenings. They work in collaboration with the Police and Council.

For those interested in becoming a Street Pastor, training takes place twice a year, covering a Pastor's roles and responsibilities, listening skills and much more. Volunteers are asked to commit to one evening per month, though many offer more. The local police and door staff at the clubs often comment how much calmer the streets are when the Pastors are a visible presence.

Before a team of Street Pastors go out they meet for a time of prayer led by another volunteer, to affirm and encourage the Pastors and to offer up to the Holy Spirit each of the evening's encounters. Volunteers for this are always welcome and prayers for this outreach are much appreciated.

There will be a talk on the work of the Street Pastors during the 10.30am service at St Mary's on Sunday 19th September.

More information about this work in our community can be found at the back of church, at www.streetpastors.co.uk or by emailing jennydavis2@yahoo.co.uk who co-ordinates our local Street Pastors.

Community Café

The Community Café will be open every Wednesday throughout August, offering free refreshments to all who visit.

Each week there will be provision for young children, including books and puzzles, as well as outdoor activities.

Members of the Baby and Toddler Group, as well as St. Mary's Junior Church, will be on hand to keep the children busy while you enjoy a well-earned cup of tea or coffee and some great cake!



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WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Monday to Saturday 9am - Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion
8.30pm - Compline

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	Revd Gary Best	8460 0262
(day off Friday)	Vicar@stmarysshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
Ministers	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Readers	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
	Mr S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mrs S. Leonard	07725313432
	Mrs K. Buchanan	07811528181
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Mrs. S. Maurel	01689 331793
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr. D. Beach	8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs. K. Coleman	07879337567
Electoral Roll	Mrs. S. Maurel	01689 331793
Junior Church	Mrs. J. Eade	3624 0559
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE 020 8460 5682
office@stmarysshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm 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. M Chambers	07975944572
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. N. Critten	07767242920
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	Mrs S. Tight	8460 8122
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. C Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. M. Cooke	07912 649058
(E: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Cllr. A. Cuthbert	(E: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)
Residents Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614
SPAN INFORMATION	
Website	www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk
Editorial	Parish Office
Distribution	Mr. M. Harrison 07821 691567

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