

## Means and ends

In the words of an old song, it's not what you do it is the way that you do it, it's not what you say it's the way that you say it, that's what gets results. It is the journey that is important, not arriving at the destination.

One of the church's biggest challenges is how we organise and manage our business, which ranges from pastoral care and worship services to finance, document management, human resources and so on. The danger is that the more business-type functions can be, well, too business-like. We can reflect a style and structure that is more like a company and less like the body of Christ.

I have been pondering this dilemma and wonder whether one of the reasons for people's reluctance to cross the threshold of a church is because they see no distinction in the way we run things. Our transactions and interactions do not always reflect the aspirations and expectations of the people of God.

Jesus, our founder, demonstrated radical leadership: effective delegation, empowerment, compassion, reflection, gratitude, encouragement and honour to name but a few aspirational characteristics. Perhaps it is only when we live and speak and behave following the example of Jesus that we earn the right to share his good news.

At St Mary's we are reflecting on the way that we do things. The mantra that the end justifies the means is just not good enough to demonstrate the love of God: our aspirations are higher.

The church cannot run the church without volunteers, and we want to encourage more to get involved. So, we are serious about reflecting on the quality of our interactions, transactions, and communication at all levels. Whether we are arranging flowers, serving in the Community Café, or dealing with contractors: please let us know when we do well and if we fall short as we attempt to grow into what God would have us be.

**Rev Jane Kustner**



There was fun for all ages at St Mary's Coronation Weekend Picnic in May.

### Community Café

On Wednesday 31 May, from 10.30am – 12.30pm all proceeds from the café in church will be donated to JusB, a Bromley youth charity whose mission is to inspire and enable young people to develop, be confident and value themselves.

### Special Services and Events

#### Sunday 11 June

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Volunteer Sunday

*Informal family service - a chance to find out how to get involved at St Mary's*

4.00pm Tea Time Together

6.30pm Youth Club

#### Sunday 18 June

6.30pm Choral Evensong

#### Saturday 25 June

6.00pm Deanery confirmation service

*Followed by refreshments*

## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Poppy Burrows 30 April



### On song

Over 50 guests enjoyed a three-course dinner and entertainment on St George's Day, hosted by the Friends of St Mary's.

Barbershop singers Acafellas gave three fantastic performances during the evening. Thanks go to Tim Dawson and Julie Fox for preparing the meal.

### Organ Scholar

At St Mary's Shortlands we have a flourishing Church Choir and a music group that provides alternative forms of worship. We are proud of our tradition of developing young musicians – some of whom have gone on to cathedral and university choirs and orchestras, many returning to sing at festivals and join us on our summer choir tours to cathedrals across the country.

We wish to develop someone to accompany the music at the church – choir and music group. The position would be suitable for someone who is studying music and/or who wishes to develop piano skills and advance to playing an organ, someone who is in year 12 at one of our local schools who would benefit from playing for us and gaining experience of playing at some services.

If you want to involve friends, if you know other young musicians who could join our music group and choir, they would be welcome as well.

There will be tuition from our Director of Music and visiting organists. We would pay an organ scholar £50 a month for one rehearsal and two services per month. Please contact [canonclaire.tillotson@gmail.com](mailto:canonclaire.tillotson@gmail.com) or [rhogg@supanet.com](mailto:rhogg@supanet.com) for further details.

Applications by 9<sup>th</sup> July please.

### Anna Martin

Sadly, we are losing - although not completely - our guardian of the church memorial garden, which follows the line of the west wall of the church. Anna Martin has tended it for over a decade through all the vagaries of our English climate.

Anna has qualifications in environmental studies, garden design and floristry. However, pressure of work commitments in her own busy company mean that Anna must prioritise these demands over her voluntary work. She has always committed half her time to community-based work and hopes to be able to continue to do so.

We will still have the benefit of her expert advice when she comes twice a year to supervise the seasonal planting schemes. Her able assistant, Bob Farrar, has agreed to continue maintaining the garden which is a highly valued part of our church.



### The French Connection



We were delighted to welcome a small group from our twin parish of St Francis of Assisi, Douai in May. We met them in Rochester where we were blessed with glorious sunshine, ate our lunch together in the cathedral gardens and enjoyed the 40th anniversary of the colourful Sweeps Festival.

Our visitors then enjoyed home hospitality, in many cases with long-standing friends from previous get-togethers, with everyone enjoying an evening meal together. On the Sunday we celebrated the Eucharist together at a bi-lingual service, followed by lunch in the Church Hall. On the Monday, they visited local parks and places of interest with their English hosts.

It was really good to be able to welcome them and celebrate 28 years of our remarkable Jumelage/Twinning – a very special demonstration of togetherness between Anglicans and Catholics. We waved them off on Monday morning with promises to 'see you next year in Douai'.

*Gill Dawson*

### Parents Group

St Mary's Parents Group meets for an hour at 11 am on the first Saturday of the month.

It's a church-based parent to parent friendship and support group. Parents of children still at home are very welcome to join (just turn up!) as we share the joys and challenges of raising our wonderful and unique children and young people and eat biscuits (dietary requirements fully catered for!) There's a quiet time in the meeting where anyone can ask for and receive prayer for all the ups and downs of family life.

Our next meetings are 3rd June and 1<sup>st</sup> July. Do come and join us for an hour off and a chat from 11-12 in the choir vestry.

*Cathy Myers*

**THANK YOU** to all who supported our plant sale in May which raised £1,155 for the church's Future Generations Project.



# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## Living Well

Living Well Bromley is a community hub based at Holy Trinity church Penge, working with the marginalised and those struggling with the effects of poverty and social isolation. This is achieved through the provision of a variety of services including advocacy, counselling, food and clothes, community meals, art therapy, community choir, podiatry and community garden as well as prayer ministry.

The Living Well foodbank is open for guests from SE20 and the surrounding areas on Tuesdays 3 – 4pm; Fridays 1 – 2.30 pm, and Saturdays 10.30 – 12.00.

Unlike other foodbanks, Living Well doesn't ask for a voucher or referral. It spends time with each person to find out their circumstances and what help they need. Its trained advocates offer support with debt, benefit, housing and other issues. There is a café open during foodbank sessions where guests can have free hot drinks and snacks, and a safe, warm space to socialise. The sit-down community lunch on a Friday is the highlight of the week where they provide over 220 hot lunches at no charge.

Living Well's long-term vision is to expand its services to include full-time counselling, drink and drug dependency support and work with other local support agencies.

To keep up to date with developments, or to donate, please follow Living Well on social media or on the website [www.livingwell.life](http://www.livingwell.life), or see the display at the back of church.

## Parish Administrator

St Mary's church is looking for a Parish Administrator, five hours a day, Monday to Friday (25 hours per week).

Core hours are 10.00am-12.00pm with the other three hours each day being flexible depending on the needs of the parish and the postholder's availability.

The successful applicant will have:

- experience of providing admin support to a line manager who has a full diary;
- a general knowledge of office equipment and filing procedures;
- a good level of computer literacy, familiar with applications such as Microsoft 365 (including Word, PowerPoint, Excel), Publisher and Acrobat;
- knowledge of QuickBooks or willingness to learn;
- the ability to work under pressure and prioritise tasks;
- an ability to relate pleasantly to all visitors and telephone contacts.

Salary of £17,500 per year.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact [rhogg@supanet.com](mailto:rhogg@supanet.com).

A copy of the Job Description and Person Specification will be made available to interested candidates. Please send your CV to [rhogg@supanet.com](mailto:rhogg@supanet.com) by 12.00pm on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

There is an opportunity for techno and social media lovers to join our Audio Visual team. We stream Sunday services and major celebrations using a decent AV system.

Training given! Please contact Rev Jane on 07947 778441 or [vicar@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:vicar@stmaryshortlands.church) for more info.

## A new churchwarden

*At the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting, James Hollingdale was elected to serve as one of St Mary's two churchwardens, joining Kate Buchanan. James has been coming to St. Mary's for over twelve years and has shared these thoughts with SPAN:*



I was attracted to St Mary's because it had a thriving Junior Church and the Sunday morning service started at 10.30am: late enough for us to get the kids ready and out of the house at a weekend. These things are still true now if you are thinking of attending St. Mary's!

I really enjoy St Mary's traditional style of worship and the quality of organ and choir music is really outstanding for a suburban parish church. It is great to attend a church that is rooted in the local community: there is always something interesting happening.

A description of the role of churchwarden is quite daunting. Primarily you are looking to ensure the smooth running of the church and to assist the vicar. In some churches it could practically be a full-time job: I already have a busy job looking after finance IT systems for a large property company. Fortunately, at St. Mary's we are blessed with some very talented people who take an active part in supporting the church.

It is important to me to engage in Christian service inside and outside the church. At St. Mary's, I have been a Junior Church teacher, which was a great experience.

Latterly I have been assisting with the audio-visual equipment to stream services on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands)). I have a lot to learn in my new role: I am looking forward to growing into it as I hope to have years of service ahead of me!

My hopes for my period as churchwarden are that the fabric of the church is maintained for future generations and that the church is a beacon of hope in the local community: a place where people come to find a safe space, God's love and meaning in the Christian message.

*James Hollingdale*

## Shortlands Residents' Association AGM

At a well-attended meeting on 26 April, residents heard local news including planning proposals in Bromley. At the end they were able to put questions to the three Shortlands and Park Langley ward councillors. The Shortlands Residents' Association (SRA) was pleased to report that membership has increased over the past year but more members are always welcomed.

Two new zebra crossings are to be installed, one in Station Road and one in Hillside Road at the bottom of Mays Hill Road. Lifts are to be installed at Shortlands Station, with work possibly starting in October, but the SRA is not happy that the towers will be tall.

Matters discussed in the Q&A session included potholes (these should be repaired by August), Ringo parking meters (not popular among older people), the Ultra Low Emissions Zone (Bromley Council has opposed it) and tree felling.

If you would like to find out more or get involved with the SRA, visit the website: [www.shortlandsra.org.uk](http://www.shortlandsra.org.uk)

*Pat Chase*

## The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

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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](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](http://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
Reader	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 K. Buchanan	07811528181
	Mr J. Hollingdale	07903016601
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs P. Lambourne	8658 0470
Electoral Roll	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
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 5999
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](http://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 2W'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. A. Cuthbert	Aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk
Cllr. F. Bainbridge	Felicity.Bainbridge@bromley.gov.uk
Cllr. A. Grant	Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk
Residents Association	8460 0395
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

### SPAN INFORMATION

Website [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

Editorial Parish Office

Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 07821 691567

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