

Giving in our community

A church has stood at the corner of Kingswood Road and St Mary's Avenue for more than 150 years. Only the building has changed, the original Victorian building being destroyed during the second world war. The new church, consecrated in 1953, was built with funds raised by the local community and grants from the post-war rebuilding fund. The local community raised further funds to build the church hall in the 1960s. English churches like St Mary's are totally responsible for raising funds to pay for their running costs, relying heavily on volunteers to run activities. This was true for the Victorian church and is equally true for our current church.

The church is a place for Christian worship and a focal point for the local community. It is open during the week as well as at weekends, a place for all of us to find space to be quiet and reflect, whether inside the building or in the gardens. It is also a centre of activity, whether for concerts, keep fit classes for the more mature person on Tuesdays, the baby and toddler group on Thursdays and the community café on Wednesdays. The hall is used extensively for activities for young people with dance classes, drama classes and uniformed organizations, as well as our Preschool. All this costs a lot of money and commitment.

In 2023 it cost just over £200,000 to run the church and hall. Some funds come from fees for use of the facilities and from visitors to our services, but mostly from members of the congregation. We give to help support our mission to share the love of God, including our vision for St Mary's to be a hub of the local community and a place for spiritual support and encouragement.

It is not just a question of money. Many people, from the congregation and the wider community help in all sorts of ways (for example in the café or maintenance of the grounds). We are very grateful for all donations and help. If you would like to volunteer please get in contact with one of the team. To help financially, you can make a one-off donation or join our regular giving scheme: application forms are at the back of the church or online at www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/setting-up-your-gift.



CONGRATULATIONS to Young Leaders Nika and Rosie
(more information on page 3).

Tim Dawson

Special Services and Events

Sunday 2 June

5.00pm Come Holy Spirit

Sunday 9 June

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parade Service

Followed by the Parish Picnic

Sunday 16 June

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 30 June

10.30am Family Holy Communion

*Canon Paul Miller will be
celebrating 50 years of ministry*



From the Registers

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

Melanie Bowman and Luke Benton-Drury



18 May

Remembering



Janet Whitlock

Janet was born in 1933 in Delph, Lancashire. In the war her father ran a munitions factory, welcoming evacuees into their home. Her confirmation was a public declaration of her faith, the foundation of everything she did.

She trained and worked as a nurse at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Renowned for her conscientiousness, there was great sadness when she had to leave due to an allergy to antibiotics.

Janet then worked at the Norland Nursery Training College in Chislehurst: at Bromley Tennis Club she met Neil and countless other friends.

Following training in Delph, she became a medical secretary at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women. Neil and Janet married in 1961, moved to Kent and started attending St Mary's. Daughters Sara, Caroline and Amanda duly arrived.

In 1978 Neil, a solicitor with Shell, was asked to move to Australia: a fabulous four years. Janet's love of patchwork began: for the next 40 years she was a member of quilting groups.

Back in Beckenham, Janet worked as a medical receptionist and occasional relief nurse. She spent many happy times on duty for St John's Ambulance at, for example, Buckingham Palace, eventually becoming President of the Bromley group.

After Neil's retirement they bought a house in the Loire Valley, supervising a never-ending renovation and learning French. Janet was an excellent cook and consummate hostess: dedication to, and love for, her friends was part of her character.

Janet formed a local group to fundraise for Demelza House Hospice Care for Children over 25 years. Her group was recognized by Rotary and awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. She also sold poppies come rain or shine!

After Neil's sad death in 1999, Janet moved to a smaller home nearby where she spent 21 very happy years. Her travel adventures included the Oberammergau Passion Play and the Holy Land (with St Mary's), and trips to visit her daughters abroad.

Health concerns during COVID times highlighted the need to move closer to family. After 60 years, the wrench of leaving St Mary's was helped by continuing contact from Shortlands friends. Her grandchildren bought her such happiness, enhanced by the move nearby.

Janet bore her last weeks of illness in the same way she conducted her life – no complaining; appreciation of the care she received; full of love for her family and concern for others; certain of her ultimate destination.

PLANT SALE

THANK YOU to all who came to the plant sale in May.

Over £1,700 was raised for church funds.



You're welcome!

We all feel lonely at times. Loneliness is no respecter of persons. Age, sex, income, education, being single or part of a couple; it seems to make no difference. It can come or go or seem to last forever.

St Mary's is a good place to go when you are feeling lonely, whether church is your thing or not. There are many activities, in addition to traditional worship services, where you are welcomed and can feel a part of the group.

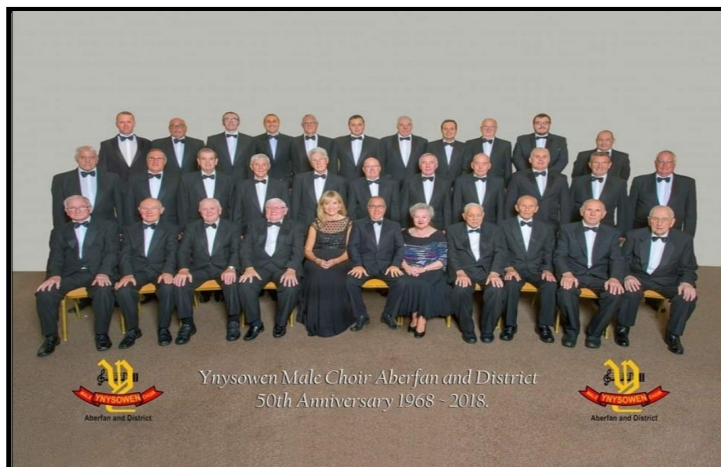
We have monthly gatherings that include meditation and contemplation in a less formal setting: 'Take Time' and 'Come Holy Spirit'. Our weekly Community Café is a place to sit with friends or meet new people while chatting over a cup of tea or coffee and a bit of cake.

The weekly Baby and Toddler group is packed with parents, grandparents and other carers, talking with each other and watching the children play. Tea Time Together introduces children to church each month with song, dance, stories and art while parents enjoy cake, watching and talking together.

Youth Club offers young people in years 6-12 a safe place to be together and away from parents, with the added attraction of food and games.

The annual Parish Picnic (this year on 9 June) is a time for all ages in the neighbourhood to come together for food and fellowship. The Friends of St Mary's sponsors get-togethers such as race nights, talent shows and wine tasting quizzes where our neighbours are invited and welcomed.

If you ever feel lonely, come to St Mary's and feel welcomed and part of something good. Look out in SPAN or at www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk for more information.



The Choir of St Mary's will present & sing with

Ynysowen Male Voice Choir

Saturday 22nd June 2024

6.30pm

St Mary's Church

Tickets £15 each

including a glass of red or white wine

**From the Church Office,
Community Café
or after Sunday services**

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Chartwell Cancer Trust

The story of The Chartwell Cancer Trust began in 2003 when founder Michael Douglas was first diagnosed with leukaemia and underwent treatment at the Chartwell Cancer and Leukaemia Unit at the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH), Farnborough. The waiting times he experienced as a patient were truly eye-opening for Michael, revealing first-hand the challenges that the NHS face to maintain excellence in care with limited resources and staffing shortages.

"When I was finally attended to, the nurse explained that she needed a Healthcare Assistant (HCA) to help with the chemotherapy set-up and had been trying to find one for over two hours. Often, when you are diagnosed with an illness like cancer, family and friends will ask you what they can do to help. This set me thinking about just what could be done..."

Over the years the Trust has expanded into two charities, the Chartwell Cancer Trust and the Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust. They are committed to improving the lives of cancer and leukaemia patients and oncology communities by working with an ever-growing network of local and major NHS hospitals to touch the lives of all individuals in our communities who are affected by Cancer and Leukaemia.

For more information, see the board at the back of church this month or visit www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk.

United in Christ



A group of 11 parishioners from St Mary's travelled in two cars to Douai at the end of April and received a very warm welcome from our French friends at the Parish of St Francis of Assisi. On the Saturday afternoon we visited ARKEOS, an archaeological park and museum portraying life in the Middle Ages with artisan crafts and workshops. There was a home hospitality dinner on the Saturday evening, then a celebration of Mass together on the Sunday morning, followed by lunch and farewells.

Next year is the 30th anniversary of the Twinning or 'Jumelage' between St Mary's Shortlands and St Francis of Assisi in Douai, and we hope to welcome a number of French parishioners in Shortlands. Travel arrangements have become a lot more complicated since Brexit, and the French now need a full passport to visit the UK rather than just their ID card.

We are planning to have a big celebration of a unique partnership between Anglicans and Catholics, demonstrating how we are 'United in Christ'.

Gill Dawson

TOP OF THE GLASS

Around 50 people enjoyed an evening of wine tasting and quiz questions in April, in aid of church funds! Thank you to Tim and Andy Dawson for organising the event.



Volunteering opportunity



We have a great audio visual (AV) system at St. Mary's, Shortlands which we use to live stream the Sunday morning service on Facebook. Take a look at www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands where you can view services live on Sunday morning or during the week if you want to catch up.

Where members of the church are unable to attend on Sunday morning because they are sick, it's an important lifeline for them. We have also been able to use the AV system to live stream weddings and funerals where there are family members who live abroad and are unable to attend.

We are always looking for volunteers to operate the AV system. The time commitment would be one or two Sunday mornings per month. Don't worry if you have no experience of operating an AV system - we are a friendly bunch and will train you. You don't need to be a regular worshipper at St Mary's either.

If you'd like to learn more about streaming media, this would be a great opportunity. For more information please email Victoria Nightingale (victorianightingale@hotmail.com) or James Hollingdale (james_hollingdale@hotmail.com).

Young Leaders

Young Leaders Nika & Rosie from 2nd Shortlands (Friday) Guides recently gained their Young Leader (YL) Qualification. District Commissioner Nicola Blake came to present their awards at a meeting which was run by all 6 Young Leaders attached to the unit. The Guides, YLs and Leaders celebrated with a giant cookie and delicious homemade cookies made by one of the other YLs.

Parish Picnic

Sunday 9 June from 12noon

In the church grounds

following the Parade/Family Service at 10.30am

Bouncy castle for kids ... and adults too!

BBQ, donations bar, ice cream & sweets

Fun and games for all the family

Enjoy lunch from our BBQ

or bring your own picnic

EVERYONE WELCOME!

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 - Morning Prayer. Holy Communion will take place once a month

You can access Sunday 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		8460 5682
	vicar@stmaryshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Ministers	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
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	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
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	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
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Electoral Roll	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Junior Church	Miss. R Tillotson	07503680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 020 8460 5682

Email: office@stmaryshortlands.church

Open 10.00am - 12.00pm weekdays.

Contact the office for Baptisms and Weddings

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	07790 304711
Craft and Chatter	Mr. 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)		fourtbromleybrownies@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	07511885941
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884 8
Fair Trade	Mrs. C Willatt	07511885941

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. G Turrell	
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

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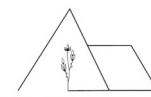
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