

## What happens after Easter Day?

The Easter season continues for 50 days after Easter until Pentecost (from the Greek word "pentekoste" meaning fiftieth), which this year falls on 19<sup>th</sup> May. This season is a period during which Christians remember how Jesus spent time with his followers after he had been raised from the dead, showing them that he really was alive, teaching them and preparing them for their future work in spreading the good news of the kingdom of heaven, a kingdom that was to grow here on earth, as well as a kingdom in the life to come.

Despite having followed Jesus for three years during his ministry, his followers clearly still needed this time with Jesus. In among the joy and excitement, the Bible accounts show them wrestling with guilt, fear, doubt and confusion as to what this all meant and what was to happen next. The Bible tells us that Jesus ascended into heaven on Ascension Day (the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the Easter season), having given his followers their instructions, but with the promise that they would have help – help that came with the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost at the end of the Easter season.

They were given the strength they needed and, as followers of Jesus today, we believe that the Holy Spirit will come alongside us as a comforter, teacher and helper, inspiring and encouraging us, speaking to us through others or in those still quiet moments, in what we read or when we pray.

We do not know what will happen next, and troubles and difficulties can seem overwhelming,

both in our personal lives and in the world around, but because of what happened after that first Easter Day we can trust that we will somehow be given the strength we need, often in ways we least expect.

If you would like to learn more do please come along to any of the services at St Mary's and speak to any of the team.

*Catherine Bingham*



We welcomed Shaleni Kawmathi Perera Dodandeniya as a new member of the church when she was baptised as an adult at St Mary's in March.

### Special Services and Events

**Sunday 5 May**

**10.30am Holy Communion**

*with the Music Group*

**Thursday 9 May – Ascension Day**

**8.00pm Holy Communion**

**Sunday 19 May - Pentecost**

**10.30am Holy Communion**

*with Archdeacon Allie Kerr*

*Followed by APCM*

**6.30pm Choral Evensong**

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This year, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 19 May, after the 10.30am service. Papers for the meeting will be published on the website ([www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)) at least a week in advance.

At the APCM we have an opportunity to review the previous year at St. Mary's including a review of finances, as well as electing our Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and Parochial Church Council members.

The APCM is also a time when we look forward to how St. Mary's might look in the future.

All are welcome to attend the meeting and if you are named on the church's electoral roll, you also have the right to vote. St. Mary's is your church, so if you are able, it would be great to see you at this important meeting.

## Recruitment Update

We said we would keep you updated on the recruitment process for our new vicar. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) had a very positive meeting with Archdeacon Allie Kerr (the senior member of the clergy for the area of Bromley and Bexley) on 11 March to discuss the recruitment.

The formal process starts with a letter from the diocese confirming the vacancy. The PCC will then hold what is called a "Section 11" meeting, anticipated to take place this month, to elect two members of the PCC to represent all our interests and work with Archdeacon Allie and other representatives of the diocese in the recruitment process.

In the meantime, as Rev Jane Peters said in her editorial last month, we are aiming to achieve continuity during the vacancy, with services and activities are continuing as usual – the church diary is looking pretty full. As ever, all welcome!

## Shortlands Residents Association

Shortlands Residents' Association (SRA) held a well-attended Annual General Meeting on 10 April. The SRA is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and now has over 850 members.

It was reported that work has commenced on installing lifts at Shortlands Station, but the SRA is not pleased with the design as the three towers will be very noticeable.

It is still not known when any shops will open at 87 Beckenham Lane in Shortlands Village. It is planned that planters and seating will be placed by the shops nearest the station, but there is still uncertainty about who owns some of the pavement in that area. It is hoped that in the future there will be a larger range of shops.

The guest speaker was Councillor Alexa Michael who spoke on planning policy and issues.

If you would like to know more about the SRA and local issues, take a look at their website [www.shortlandsra.org.uk](http://www.shortlandsra.org.uk)

## Tea Time Together

(children aged 2 – 6 and their families)  
4 - 5.30 pm

## Youth Club

(years 6 -13)  
6 - 7.30 pm

12 May, 9 June

Contact: [racheltilotson3@gmail.com](mailto:racheltilotson3@gmail.com)

## Everyday faith

This year, several St Mary's homegroups explored the theme of 'everyday faith', following a course developed by the Diocese of Leicester.

The course prompted us to look at Bible readings, watch videos of discussions and consider questions on topics related to the theme. We considered what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how to learn to become one.

Looking in detail at the Lord's Prayer helped us to focus on how to pray: we were reminded that we can talk to God at any time, no matter where we are. Thinking about those who have helped us to develop our faith, we thought about how we can help others on their faith journey.

We also focused on action – as Christians we are committed to social action and justice, sharing in God's compassion for humanity and demonstrating our love of God as we seek to help others.

A homegroup is a great way to explore our Christian faith – we don't come with lots of prior knowledge or learning! It's a friendly and welcoming, informal opportunity to get to know each other, and to deepen our understanding of our faith. Look out for more opportunities to get involved in homegroups in future, which will be advertised in SPAN.

## Bringing SPAN to you

Eleven times a year, SPAN is delivered to every house in the parish of Shortlands, which extends from Albemarle Road to Scotts Lane, up to Tootswood Road, back to Queen Anne Avenue, along to Shortlands station and back up to Albemarle Road. There are 63 different delivery 'rounds' which cover the whole of this area – the smallest round has 12 homes and the largest is 152.

There is a small and dedicated band of deliverers: to stop the task becoming too onerous we welcome more joining us. It's a great way to get a bit of exercise!

Once a month a small team also collates the editions of SPAN into bundles, ready for the deliverers. It's a friendly group, who enjoy a good chat while putting the bundles together – it takes less than an hour.

Members of St Mary's congregation, people who don't attend often and people who never attend all help out, and all are welcome. To find out more or get involved, please contact the Parish Office: 020 8460 5682 or [office@stmarysshortlands.church](mailto:office@stmarysshortlands.church).

## 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!**



## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### Christian Aid

In May each year, St Mary's supports Christian Aid, a charity that works to alleviate poverty and give practical support to communities in some of the poorest countries in the world. This year, as well as the effects of the climate crisis, soaring costs are adversely affecting people in these countries.

This year's appeal runs from 12–18 May and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

During Christian Aid Week, we will be delivering Christian Aid envelopes to homes in Shortlands. If you can help, please sign up on the list in the church foyer to deliver envelopes to a street near you. It is just a one-off delivery as we will not be calling back to collect them.

There will be envelopes in the church to make a donation or donations can also be made online at [www.christianaid.org](http://www.christianaid.org), where you can also see more about Christian Aid's work.

### Take time

Do you want to start the weekend feeling more relaxed? More grounded and connected? Having taken some time for yourself? If so, a new Taketime meditation group at St Mary's Shortlands might be worth considering.



The group, which meets on the second Saturday of the month from 10:15 am, is designed to help you to relax and find calm amidst all the busyness of 21st century life.

In the peaceful setting of the chapel, at the back of St Mary's Church, each candle-lit session starts with a seated relaxation exercise (think end of a yoga session) followed by a guided meditation, taking you into the heart of first century Palestine, and watching a scene from Jesus' life unfold.

There's no expectation that you have any previous experience of meditation, nor of the Bible. You don't need to be a Christian - just someone wanting to find a moment of calm. We'll all be sitting quietly, gently focussed on the scene being described in detail, allowing us to enter into Jesus' time with our senses.

It really is a profoundly peaceful experience, leaving you refreshed, calm, often deeply comforted and contented. There's a hot cuppa waiting for you at the end of the 20 minute meditation, and space for conversation with others from the meditation class if you feel like a chat, or you can just ease gently on into the weekend. Please consider yourself warmly invited to any of the next few sessions: Saturday 11 May and 8 June. We'll be starting at 10.15am.

*Cathy Myers*

## St Mary's Pre-school update



On 30<sup>th</sup> January we had an Ofsted inspection and were awarded a **GOOD** grading.

The inspector commented that 'staff provide an extremely welcoming and nurturing environment where children thrive and make good progress. Staff get to know children well from the beginning and are attentive to their needs. This helps children form strong bonds with their key person and feel safe and secure. Staff provide an ambitious and varied curriculum which takes account of children's interests and individual needs. They have high expectations for all children, including those who are disadvantaged or have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Parents speak extremely highly of the staff and the service they provide.'

To read the full Ofsted report, visit the pre-school website: [www.stmaryspreschoolshortlands.co.uk](http://www.stmaryspreschoolshortlands.co.uk)

The pre-school offers morning sessions: Monday to Friday, 9.15am – 12.15pm in St Mary's Church Hall. The 15 hours government funding is available for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. We have been a successful pre-school for 31 years.

If you would like to put your child on our waiting list, please do so via our website.

In the Spring term activities have included a visit from ZooLab: the children were able to touch and hold many animals including a snake, giant snail and millipede. We went on a Spring walk around the church grounds, where we planted daffodil bulbs, and the children returned to Durham House to sing Easter songs.

*Christine Hall - Pre-School Leader*

**PLANT SALE**  
**Saturday 11 May**  
**11am - 2pm**  
in the church grounds  
Refreshments from  
St Mary's Community Café

**The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands**



Link Parish  
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**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](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		8460 5682
	vicar@stmarysshortlands.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. M. Westropp	8650 5178
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Mrs. E. Woolven	8460 5682
Churchwarden	Mr J. Hollingdale	07903016601
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	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**

Telephone: 020 8460 5682  
Email: [office@stmarysshortlands.church](mailto: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	07790 304711
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](mailto: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)		<a href="mailto:fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com">fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
Rainbows		<a href="mailto:2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com">2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com</a>
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. 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	<a href="http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk">www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk</a>
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