

A new perspective

We have brought forward our Parish Picnic to mark the weekend of King Charles' coronation. On Sunday 7 May, in our grounds, there will be the usual bouncy castle and barbecue and on Saturday 6 May we will stream the Coronation and surrounding events from 11.15am in the church. We invite you to join us if you would like to share the experience.

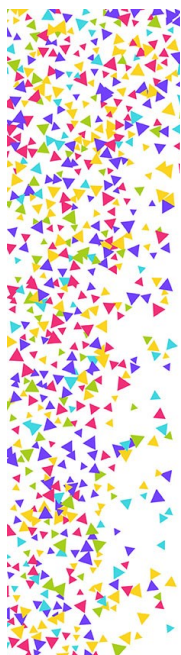
Some of us have only known one monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, and for some of us this will probably be our last sovereign. The new king promises to be very different to his mother. Already he is challenging the exclusivity of his coronation service. Charles wants us, his subjects, to be able to see the previously private anointing of the new sovereign by the Archbishop albeit through a special screen.

He also requests a service that recognises other religions and incorporates their contributions, ruffling not a few ecclesiastical and organisers' feathers. To be honest this includes mine! The liturgy for the service is still held up with a fortnight to go. I have been following social media for opinion and comments and do feel that the head of the Church of England should recognise the Christian and traditional nature of his coronation. It is a prestigious event and perhaps not an occasion for modernism and may back fire.

Having said all of that, we have just experienced Holy Week and the world-changing events of Resurrection Sunday. Perhaps we should not try to protect God in an increasingly multi-cultural world. It is possible that our faith may be strengthened when challenged by our changing societal and cultural context.

Whatever happens, this is our world and Charles is our King. Jesus himself would have joined in the party!

Rev Jane Kustner



CONGRATULATIONS to Lyndsey Gardiner and Adam Lewis who were recently married in our church: the sun shone throughout to bless the couple. Since they are both actors the wedding was on a Thursday. They are local people and looking forward to being part of our church family and coming to events and services when their schedules allow.

Special Services and Events

Sunday 7 May

9.00am Choral Matins

10.30am Family and Parade Service

Followed by Coronation Picnic

Saturday 13 May

11am - 2pm Plant sale / swap

Sunday 14 May

4.00pm Tea Time Together

6.30pm Youth Club

Thursday 18 May - Ascension Day

8.00pm Holy Communion

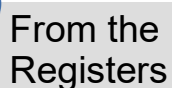
Sunday 21 May

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 28 May

5.00pm Come Holy Spirit

A service of silence, readings and worship songs



We congratulate:

Lyndsey Gardiner &
Adam Lewis 20 April

We extend our sympathy to
those who loved:

Joan Livett 30 Apr Age 92

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to
those who loved:

Kenneth Tarrant 15 April



In March this year I experienced a tour of the Holy Land with around 140 American pilgrims, three from the UK, one Australian and three from New Zealand. The aim of the tour was to combine biblical teaching with archaeological sites and particularly newly discovered 'Tels' (man-made mounds).

Before the trip, I was encouraged to read 'The Source' by James Mitchener and what good advice that was. When we visited Meggido, I could see how the fictional mound called Makor in the book Makor echoed the findings of the archaeological investigation of that site.

Highlights of the tour were the trip to Gilgal Rephaim; literally the Wheel of Ghosts. We had to travel on four-wheel drive trucks and create a human chain to help each other over a muddy stream. The burial site is flanked by a massive serpent-shaped mound that one could miss if looking in the wrong direction.

At the other end of the spectrum, Nazareth village was a moving depiction of Jesus' young life. One could imagine the child Jesus sitting at the carpenter's bench, picking vegetables and weaving cloth with his mother and just living the life of the village. We learned how the three pressings of olive oil connected to the pressure Jesus was under shortly before he was crucified: in the garden of Gethsemane (which means 'oil press'), he asked to be spared three times.



Remembering

Joan Livett

Joan was born in 1931: she was still a young girl when evacuated to Tonbridge with her elder sister at the beginning of World War II.

Joan was a keen student and later taught her children to recite French and German numbers, phrases and songs as she tucked them into bed at night. She also helped them learn dance theory, earn cubs/brownie badges and tackle homework.

She accompanied Pam and Gill to early dance classes and on one occasion took great delight in showing off her ability to do a cartwheel.

Whilst husband Bert worked at their Hither Green and Bellingham sites, Joan managed the Catford and then Shortlands business premises. When not serving in the shop, she spent her time at a sewing machine making clothes and costumes for her daughters' stage shows

Joan loved to travel, both flying and cruising, and particularly enjoyed holidays and excursions with her sisters. From home, Joan relaxed by taking Skipper the family dog for walks.

Once the family business was sold, Joan became a very dependable volunteer for Community Link and a receptionist at Relate. When not working, Joan organised coffee mornings at Franklyn House before settling down in her flat to solve the crossword.

On Sundays, Joan enjoyed going to church. She loved the calmness, friendships and particularly singing the hymns and being part of the choir. She even continued mouthing the lyrics behind her Covid mask. During her final year of illness she appreciated having the Sunday service streamed over an iPad.



Visiting key biblical sites made the scriptures spring to life and meaning, for example the mountains that are so central to the narrative such as Mount Hermon and the Mount of Olives. We visited the Jordan river north of the Sea of Galilee and learned that this is likely to be the real Valley of the Shadow of Death, a place full of grave sites or Dolmans, where John the Baptist was almost certainly baptising.

At the Sea of Galilee
we embarked on a 'Praise
boat' and headed into the
centre of the Sea singing
and worshipping as the
mist gathered over the
water. It was special!

So much more to tell!

Rev Jane Kustner

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the APCM held on 23 April, Marion Westropp stepped down as churchwarden: she was thanked for her service. Kate Buchanan and James Hollingdale were appointed as churchwardens for the next year. Three PCC members and three Deanery Synod representatives were elected to the PCC. Kay Coleman was also thanked for her service as Safeguarding Officer: Pauline Lambourne has taken over the role.

Rev Jane Kustner reported on the successful work of the Vision and Mission group. The church now has a Fabric Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and management of the church's buildings and grounds.

She rejoiced in the connection St Mary's has with local schools and people coming for baptism and confirmation: the church is ready to welcome everybody.

Pat Chase



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Christian Aid Week

14-20 May 2023

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.

In Malawi the prices of food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in the last year. Farmers are seeing their harvests fail because of increasingly erratic weather and, more recently, Cyclone Freddy has had a devastating effect. Floods have washed away crops, more than half a million people have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives.

As well as providing immediate assistance to those affected by the floods, Christian Aid has been working with partners in Malawi to help farmers transform their livelihoods. Part of this work focuses on encouraging planting of drought resistant crops such as the humble pigeon pea, which is a high protein food crop.

Your donation can help families in Malawi to plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for their crops and build a better future for their children. During Christian Aid Week (14-20 May), we will be delivering Christian Aid envelopes to homes in Shortlands. Please could you return your donations to St Mary's Church as we will not be calling back to collect. Donations can also be made online at www.christianaid.org, where you can see more information (also on display at the back of church).



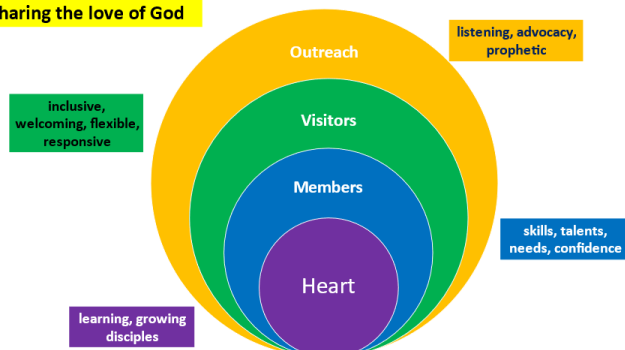
Our vision and mission

This picture is a visual representation of St Mary's vision and mission.

We have many activities through which we bring our vision and mission to life, including the work of our Welcome group, a sermon series on Radical Leadership and our home groups which considered discipleship during Lent.

You can see more information and updates on the vision and mission board at the back of the church.

Sharing the love of God



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 07947778441 or vicar@stmaryshortlands.church for more info.



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

King or Queen?

Harry Higgs, one of 7th Bromley Scout Group's old Beaver Scouts (a very long time ago), has carried on scouting with enthusiasm through all the scouting sections at St Mary's as well as supporting larger events in the District and County. He became a leader with 7th Bromley Scouts in 2014 and recently achieved his Queen Scout award which was



celebrated with other achievers at Windsor Castle on St George's Day 2023, in the presence of HRH Duke of Kent.

Due to the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II Harry was given the choice as to whether he wanted to be presented with one of the first King or one of the last Queen Scout awards. He opted



for the latter as Her Majesty the Late Queen was reigning throughout the time he was working towards it.

Whilst he no longer 'scouts' with 7th Bromley, having recently moved to Devon, he is carrying on his scouting career leading a scout unit there, where they have recently been preparing for the Ten Tors Challenge.

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	
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	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
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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
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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

Editorial Parish Office

Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 07821 691567

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