

New beginnings

In April we celebrated the greatest turnaround ever seen. Total despair and desolation into absolute joy and triumph in 72 hours. From an agonising death and ignominious burial to triumph and resurrection. At Easter Christians commemorate and celebrate the most remarkable three days that changed the world and continue to change lives today.

Is Easter just another commemoration like the 80th anniversary of VE Day or the 60th anniversary of Bromley? To answer this question, look at the impact of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection on his followers. Ordinary men became courageous superheroes. Farm labourers and fishermen became erudite teachers. Those who had cowered, frightened behind lock doors at Jesus's arrest, became courageous advocates. They were happy to make the ultimate sacrifice for their faith and belief in Jesus, to be cruelly martyred.

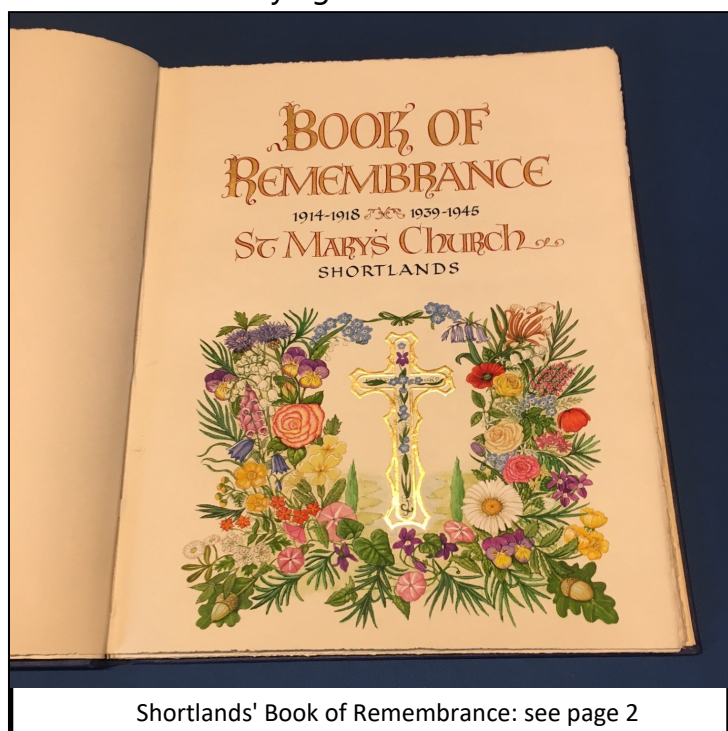
Read the Acts of the Apostles to understand what took place at the beginning of the Christian Church. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the disciples identified, seized and then fashioned the moment. This is true leadership. The disciples were the most powerful positive disruptors. The story has not ended. Today people are hearing the message, seizing opportunities and fashioning new lives for themselves and their communities. Christ still changes lives. He empowers the positive disruptors of our age.

Easter celebrates new beginnings and new futures. At Saint Mary's, a new chapter begins as we welcome our new vicar and his family. We move forward, building on the great successes of those who have gone before. There are parallels with VE day, when we remember those who gave so much during the six long years of war. Those who seized the moment, championed hope and saw that struggle through to victory.

Victories are never complete: they must be maintained and refreshed. However, nothing will progress until our desire for things to be different and better is bigger, stronger and more powerful than our fear of trying and of failure. This will be our task as we welcome the Reverend Dave

Edmondson. How will we seize the moment and fashion the future that God wants?

Cllr Dr David Jefferys



Shortlands' Book of Remembrance: see page 2

Special Services and Events

Sunday 4 May

10.30am Holy Communion

Celebrating 30 years with our Douai friends

Tuesday 6 May

**7.00pm Service of Installation and Collation
of Revd Dave Edmondson**

Sunday 11 May

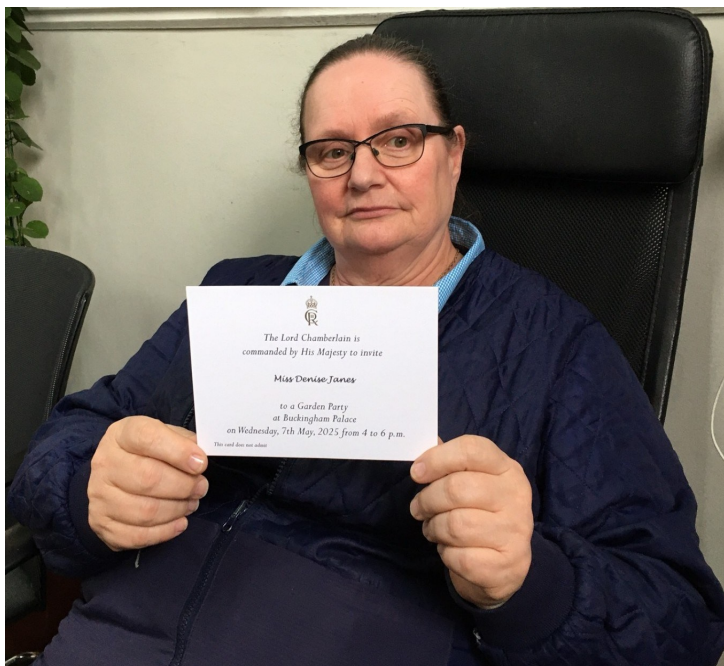
10.30am Holy Communion

*Followed by the Annual Parochial Church
Meeting*

Sunday 18 May

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Recognition for Dee



A familiar, friendly face to many and a scourge to the unsociable, Dee (Denise Janes) has worked in the Shortlands station ticket office for sixteen years. Later this year she will be retiring and relocating to Staffordshire along with her sister.

Her heroic fund-raising efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Mayor of Bromley's Facebook page praised her for raising over £550,000 for national and local charitable causes, the Valley Primary School and local individuals in need. She also featured in the Spring Shortlands Residents' Association Newsletter with a photo of her being presented with a special volunteer award by Mayor David Jefferys, one of only six awarded for the last year.

However the accolades do not end there. The King has instructed the Lord Chamberlain to invite Dee to a garden party at Buckingham Palace on 7th May. Her only concern seems to be that she 'doesn't do frocks'!

Dee has one final project to accomplish before retiring and that is to complete her garden at the rear of the station building. The construction of the new lifts necessitated a major upheaval to her previous efforts but she's now on course to realise her vision of a green wildlife haven, complete with pond and seating areas, to serve as a peaceful oasis and reminder of Dee's long service to the people of Shortlands.



CONGRATULATIONS to Marjorie Ring who recently celebrated her 90th birthday with St Mary's Mobility Group.

The rhythm of life

As Catherine Bingham said in the last edition of SPAN, during Lent this year at St Mary's we followed a series called the 'Rhythm of Life' created by the diocese of Leeds. It was inspired by a paraphrase of Matthew 11.28: *'Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.'*

The series explored five themes: resting, creating, sharing, encouraging and celebrating. Meeting in small groups, we read the bible, listened to worship songs, heard short talks and discussed questions on each theme as they relate to our lives – considering ways in which we can surrender to God's loving guidance.

Under the theme of 'resting', we considered the importance of getting away from the temptations of today's uncertain world to develop a greater understanding of God and to know that we are loved by him.

When we looked at 'creating', we thought about our role as stewards of the environment, and how we individually, and as a church, seek to mitigate the effects of climate change.

In the context of the cost of living crisis, we looked at what we can do to be aware of the needs of those around us, sharing both our financial resources and our skills and talents.

The theme of 'encouraging' challenged us to think about what 'tribes' we each associate with, and how instead we look outside those groupings to welcome all to St Mary's in Christ's name.

Finally, we celebrated, recognising that the joy of Easter Day was reached through the bitterness of Christ's death on Good Friday. We continue to pray for anyone in Shortlands who is experiencing sadness and difficulty: everyone is welcome at our regular services and at the Community Café on Wednesday mornings.



Book of Remembrance

Last year a partially completed book was discovered in our archives, dedicated to some of the men and women associated with Shortlands who had died as a result of enemy action in the First and Second World Wars. This hand painted book had been started in 1971 by Lucy Gonin and bound by Colin Chapman. Lucy was the daughter of a local doctor who lived at 'The Gables' in Kingswood Road.

Lucy was born in July 1910, the middle child of three girls. In 1940 Lucy obtained an appointment with the Air Ministry at Stroud, Gloucestershire. She became engaged but her fiancé was killed in World War 2. During the war, Lucy returned home to look after her frail parents.

With no income, Lucy turned to writing and illustrating. Some of Lucy's paintings and drawings have survived and are very much in the genre of illustrations for children's books of the 1930s or earlier.

Lucy died in 1978 without completing the book which is currently being completed by F G Marshall Ltd, thanks to the generosity of The Friends of St Mary's. We are now seeking funding for a glass case in which to display the book. Donations would be gratefully received: visit www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk/giving/ways-to-give-to-st-marys for BACS details and use the reference 'Remembrance'.

Thank you

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to the cake sale on Mothering Sunday and helped out! Whether that was buying cakes, donating cakes or helping to run stalls, I am very grateful. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the craft and chatter stall and the fair trade stall. Also to Gill Dawson (Rusty) who did so much even though it was her birthday! We were able to raise an incredible £1,011.55! This is beyond what I imagined.



Thanks to you all being so generous I have now reached my target of over £3,000. Your kindness means ever so much to me. I cannot wait to go to Kenya and volunteer for the Napenda Solar Project installing solar panels into rural homes which currently have no electricity. Thank you to everybody in the Church community who has helped - it is going to make this experience extra special.

Zoe Elliot (Young Leader with Rainbows and Friday Guides)

Community news



Shortlands Residents' Association (SRA) held a well-attended Annual General Meeting on 16 April, in the presence of the Mayor of Bromley. It was reported that membership has increased over the last year: everyone is welcome to join.

Money has been donated to the regeneration of Queensmead playground, using eco-friendly equipment. Other donations have helped to get planters and benches for Shortlands Village and have also been given to the Shortlands Station Community Garden. The lifts at the station are now in use and there is a new pedestrian crossing in Station Road.

The guest speaker was Councillor Will Rowlands who spoke on local environmental issues. He reported that work will hopefully be carried out on one of the ponds in Kingswood Glen.

The SRA is very active in local issues. It is trying to improve the image of the village and the appearance of the railway bridge and is still pushing for lighting on the pedestrian bridge at the bottom of Mays Hill Road. It is also keeping a close eye on the Thames21 project concerning the Ravensbourne River in Queensmead Recreation Ground.

If you would like to keep up to date on local issues, take a look at the website: www.shortlandsra.org.uk

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 Christian Aid appeal runs from 11–17 May and is focussing on the work of the charity's partners in Guatemala, a country highly vulnerable to disasters and climate emergencies. Extended dry seasons have severely damaged the livelihoods of subsistence farmers in Guatemala who rely on rain for their crops.

You can get involved by praying for farmers facing hunger and hardship and for their ability to access vital resources, and by donating in order to fund vital tools and training.

You can make a donation online at <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-009429> or put some money in the envelope provided with this edition of SPAN and deliver it to Church House, 39 Kingswood Road, Bromley. There will also be envelopes in church for church attendees to make a donation.

More information can be found at www.christianaid.org, and on the display at the back of church.

Victory in Europe Day

Join us for our commemorations of VE Day this month! Our exhibition of memorabilia related to the events of World War Two and its impact on the residents of Shortlands will be on display in church from 7th to 18th May during normal church opening hours (apart from Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays).

Tickets for our VE Day Tea Party on Saturday May 10th at 3pm are on sale after church on Sundays, at the Community Café on Wednesdays and from the parish office. Do come in 1940s-style clothes if you wish.



PLANT SALE

Saturday 17 May

11am - 1pm

in the church grounds

Refreshments from

St Mary's Community Café



The Community Café recently celebrated the birthdays of husband-and-wife volunteers, Tim (church treasurer) and Gill (Guide leader, aka 'Rusty')

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

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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

www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar		8460 5682
office@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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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	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	thomas.nickalls@gmail.com	

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

Guides (Tue)	Mrs. 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	07511885941
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884 8
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	07511885941

LOCAL CONTACTS

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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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