

The Fruit of the Spirit

I was surprised recently to discover how many people, young and old, had not heard the phrase 'the Fruit of the Spirit', or even where the phrase came from. Do you know?

Answers I received ranged from, 'bananas and oranges and stuff like that', to 'my Nan's fruit bowl', to 'a new craft gin'. Whether these answers are appropriate or not, they are not quite what I had in mind or, to be more accurate, what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote about the Fruit of the Spirit to the people of Galatia (modern day Turkey) in the 1st Century.

At this time the people of Galatia had experienced a new freedom in living out their lives as Christians, but this did not give them a licence to do, say or think bad things. However, they had lost some self-control and were going back to old ways and habits and not following the positive teachings of Jesus Christ.

So, the Apostle Paul reminded them that they should not be living their lives in a bad way but should be accepting that there were better ways to live, especially through acceptance of the Fruit of the Spirit: 'but the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**. Against such things there is no law' (found in the New Testament, Galatians 5: 23).

Just look at those words. Tell me if you see anything wrong with any of them. Each word reminds us of a way to live and behave, and I believe that, if you accept one of the words, the rest will naturally follow.

The theme of the Fruit of the Spirit has been used for our new monthly event, Tea Time Together, where we will be exploring each word through music, dance, arts and crafts and lots of fun. These words are not just a foundation for the young people in how they live their lives, but also for each of us. As grown-ups I believe we would do no wrong by writing these words down and placing them in a prominent position at home so that we can be reminded of these basic principles of living our lives.

Join in the fun!

We welcome Rachel Tillotson as the new Junior Church Leader, a role that leads on developing church for young people and families.

Each week, Junior Church will focus on stories from the bible through learning and activities, all carried out in a fun way. Also, over the coming weeks, Junior Church will be preparing for the Harvest Family Service on 10 October, along with planning for Remembrance Sunday, taking place on 14 November.

Why not come along to the Community Open Day being held at St. Mary's on 9th October, where you will be able to meet some of the team, enjoy some fun activities, including food-based activities, but also get to know more about Junior Church.

Already, Rachel has begun a new initiative, Tea Time Together, a themed afternoon of music, arts and crafts and lots of fun – with free refreshments at the Community Café. We hope you can join us on 3rd October from 4.00 to 5.30pm – and look out for future dates.

Do join Rachel and the team at St Mary's Junior Church at 10.30am on Sundays.



Do it. Be reminded. Live out each of the fruits and let me know how it feels. I think it will feel good.

Love and Blessings, Revd Gary

Special Events and Services

Sunday 3 October

4 - 5.30pm Tea Time Together

A fun time for the whole family with free refreshments

Sunday 10 October

10.30am Harvest Family Service

Family Service with Parade of uniformed groups

Sunday 24 October

6.30pm Evening Service

with music provided by the Music Group

Sunday 31 October

4.00pm Memorial Service for the Departed

Services will take place in church and will be streamed via Facebook. All activities may be subject to change based on government COVID restrictions. Any updates will be shared through www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk and www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Amelia Mowat 22 Aug
Jack Dawson 12 Sep

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

Ian Day and
Jacqueline Allen 27 Aug
Cameron Deighton and
Hiral Patel 28 Aug

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

William Golding 3 Jun Age 96
Noel Rees Jones 4 Jul Age 93
Eileen Zanelli 6 Aug Age 93



Reaching the heights

In July I climbed 5580ft: this is the near equivalent of 1/5 the height of Everest!

Not literally, of course, but I climbed up and down the steps at Shortlands Station on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year! Why did I put myself through this arduous task, you may ask?

Members of the District Scout family were challenged to participate in climbing as many stairs as possible to cumulatively scale Everest and raise funds thereby, so as a Cub Scout leader at St Mary's for the past 30 years, I accepted! The aim of the fundraising is to buy land at Downe Activity Camp, in order that it be saved from development.

I am indebted to all who sponsored me in this endeavour, for which I've raised over £900. This will now go to the Friends of Downe, a newly formed charity actively pursuing a strong fundraising campaign to complete the purchase of this historic site. It has provided so much fun for thousands of youngsters over many decades: their participation has been life affirming and should be for future generations too.

'Chil' (Tricia Braithwaite)



A generous response

Watching the situation unfold in Afghanistan and seeing images of people fleeing for their lives led St Mary's to respond by appealing for donations and acting as a local collection point for refugees arriving in London with no more than the clothes they stood up in.

More than six full car-loads of emergency supplies from St Mary's, as well as financial support, have been sent to the Lewisham Donation Hub, which has stepped up and supported the refugees in quarantine in hotels all around London with basic necessities such as suitcases, toiletries, nappies, underwear, children's toys and baby food.

As the refugees settle in new accommodation further appeals are likely but, in the meantime, we would like to thank anyone who contributed so quickly for their overwhelming generosity.

To support the London Refugee Response, visit <https://londoncf.org.uk/give/london-refugee-response>.



Beginning the journey

At St. Mary's we believe in the importance of baptism, or christening as it is often known. It is an important first step on the life journey for us all. Both adults and children can be baptised and at St.

Mary's we warmly welcome those who are seeking baptism, whether for yourself or for your children.

Baptism is the beginning of a journey of faith, a celebration of becoming part of God's family and a commitment to following Jesus, bringing real joy to families. At St Mary's we have been delighted to be part of that joy for eight families over the summer period.

If christening is something you are considering, please contact Revd Gary to discuss further.



St Mary's Junior Church invites you to Tea Time Together Sunday 3 October 4 – 5.30pm

The theme will be **GENEROSITY** and we will be preparing for the Harvest Family Service, with music, games and arts & crafts, taking place on Sunday 10 October, 10.30am.

Free refreshments will be provided for adults at the Community Cafe whilst the children have fun!
Please contact Rachel Tillotson – 07503 680 612
or Revd Gary – 07493 072 695 for further information

Weddings at St. Mary's

During the summer, St. Mary's was delighted to host the weddings of Cameron Deighton and Hiral Patel and also Ian Day and Jacqui Allen.

Both weddings were blessed with wonderful weather, with the wedding parties taking advantage of the wonderful grounds at the church for photos and a drinks reception.

Through the recent investment of our audio-visual technology, the wedding of Cameron and Hiral was also live-streamed, with relatives of the families being able to join the wedding from all over the UK, as well as a party taking place in India, with members of Hiral's family enjoying their own celebration whilst being able to watch the wedding live.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

St Christopher's Hospice

Founded in 1967 by Dame Cicely Saunders, St Christopher's Hospice exists to promote and provide skilled and compassionate palliative care of the highest quality. Their vision is of a world in which all dying people and those close to them have access to the care and support they need, when and wherever they need it. They believe each person is unique and they tailor care to meet social, emotional and spiritual needs, as well as manage physical symptoms.

The hospice has been a centre of education, innovation and insight ever since its foundation. The Group now consists of St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham and St. Christopher's Bromley, which is based in Orpington.

Every year St Christopher's provide care and support to over 6,500 people across five London Boroughs both at home and in the hospices. It costs £23m a year to run their services, £15m of which has to be found by fundraising.

For more information see www.stchristophers.org.uk and the display at the back of the church.

Friends of Welcare in Bromley

QUIZ NIGHT

St Mary's Church Hall

Saturday 16 October, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £7 pp - Raffle - Bring your own refreshments.

Come on your own or book a table (6 – 8 per table).

Places must be ordered in advance to help with planning

Tel: 020 8289 3747 or Email: margaretbond@hotmail.co.uk.

Calling all 'card sharps'!

On Wednesday 3 November from 2 to 5pm we will hold a Bridge Afternoon in church (where we hold the Community Café)

We will play Chicago format bridge which allows for a variety of levels of experience and bidding styles. This does not involve any form of gambling or betting!

There will be first, second and third prizes plus a raffle – donations of prizes are welcome!

The whole afternoon's entertainment will cost only £5 per person/£20 per table including refreshments. In Chicago format bridge you will be playing in turn with each of the other three people on your table, so it makes sense to book a table as a four or two pairs.

Proceeds will be in aid of St Mary's Future Generations Project: a display board with more details will be in church in October.

To book a table or for further information, please contact Robin Hogg on 07769 976512 or Pauline Boatwright on pboat7@gmail.com.

My day job

I was born in Dollar in Scotland and then, due to my father's work, we moved variously to Lancaster, Suwon in South Korea, Oxford and Sri Lanka.

Although I was baptised and confirmed as an Anglican, I have attended quite a range of churches due to moving so much when I was younger. While attending the Seoul Southern Baptist Church in South Korea, a particular favourite memory was the bright yellow and sky-blue, flared suits that the American pastor wore. 1970s fashion was great.

From age 11 to 15, while we were living in Oxford, I was a server at the local parish church. My parents liked to add to this mix by irregularly attending various charismatic house churches which had quite flamboyant styles of worship. Having attended such a wide range of churches, I feel qualified to say that there is no such thing as a perfect church! Either that, or I have yet to stumble upon it!

I went to University in Durham and, further to trying out various jobs, I settled into my career in IT. I currently work as Business Analyst for a large property company. I definitely think this is more interesting than it sounds and would recommend a career in IT. My two daughters remain completely unconvinced by this.

I met my wife whilst living in Rochester, Kent and we later moved to London. As a family, we started attending St Mary's about 12 years ago. Key qualifications for attending were that it had a thriving Sunday School and the Sunday morning service started at 10.30am, which was late enough for us to manage to get the kids ready and out of the house at a weekend.

Perhaps because I attended some very flamboyant churches in my youth, I find that I really enjoy the traditional style of worship at St. Mary's. I would also say that the quality of organ and choir music is really outstanding for a suburban parish church (I contribute nothing to this whatsoever apart from enjoying it very much).

Latterly I have been involved in assisting with the new audio-visual equipment we have in the church which allows us to stream services on Facebook. If you are interested in viewing one of the services online, take a look at www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands.

James Hollingdale

Community Open Day - NEW DATE

Saturday 9th October, 10am – 2pm

Join us to hear our plans to create space for community events and activities in the church building, as part of our long term aim for St Mary's to be a community hub for Shortlands.

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WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Monday to Saturday 9am - Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion
8.30pm - Compline

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

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(day off Friday)	Vicar@stmarysshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
Ministers	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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Assistant Organist	Mr. D. Beach	8289 6510
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Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE 020 8460 5682
office@stmarysshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

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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. M. Chambers	07975944572
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

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Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	Mrs S. Tight	8460 8122
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Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
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LOCAL CONTACTS

Clr. M. Cooke	07912 649058
(E. Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Clr. A. Cuthbert	(E: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)
Residents Association	8460 4060
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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