

Stepping forwards

As Summer fades, we begin to notice the signs of the mellow fruitfulness of Autumn. When we see the ripening of fields and orchards, we also feel that ripening in our own lives and sense there is a harvest to be reaped. That harvest follows times of growing, struggle, joy, sorrow which are all seeds for growth. All experiences are useful and relevant.

According to folklore, Lincolnshire is a county renowned for both horses and roses and we all know roses grow better in rich horse manure! Adrian Plass, the Christian writer, wrote that the roses of our life grow on the manure of bad experiences. In fact, what we call good experiences are resting times, bad ones make a difference.

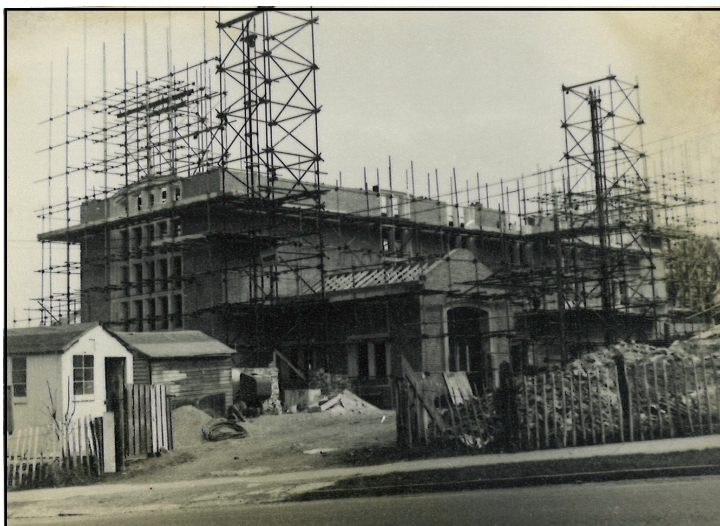
The challenge is to recognise the experiences of life as foundational to becoming the best we can be. Whether we have been holidaying in the cold and rainy UK or the crazy heat in Europe we have learned something about who we are and what is possible. Socrates said, perhaps rather harshly, that an unexamined life is not worth living.

For some this Autumn will be the beginning of the adventure of new schools, but all of us can see the new season as a time of harvest and new possibilities. The biggest barrier to our adventuring is the one we create ourselves. In the history of the Church, we applaud the recklessness of our ancient ancestors and modern heroes. We esteem those who take a step of faith with a willingness to leave safe and predictable lives behind.

William Blake wrote in his Proverbs of Hell: the road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom. You never know what is enough until you know what is more than enough. We might even say that the power of forgiveness at the core of Christianity encourages us to be rampantly adventurous, entrepreneurs of life, those prepared to grasp the future with both hands and fearlessly dive right in. Perhaps Jesus never meant us to be safe.

In C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia a character in the book, referring to the lion Aslan, says, "He's not a tame lion you know." This is a God of surprises, who does the unexpected and asks us to surprise ourselves too.

Rev Jane Kustner



See page 2 for information about our Open Day, commemorating 70 years since the foundation of the church building

Special Services and Events

Sunday 10 September

4.00pm Tea Time Together

6.30pm Youth Club

Sunday 17 September-Open Weekend

10.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 24 September

5.00pm Come Holy Spirit

A service of silence, readings and worship songs

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Brody Wise	23 July
Alexander Leverett	6 August
Tia Eneh	20 August
Hunter Preston	27 August
Reign Preston	27 August

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Hetty Archbutt	3 August
David Organ	15 August



Girlguiding adult awards

Everyone loves receiving a badge and adults in Girlguiding are no exception. I had the pleasure of awarding our two Guide Leaders



badges at their summer camp this year. Louise Crampsie received her ten year long service award and Eleanor Thompson received her five year long service award along with her adult leader qualification which she completed just one week before this camp.

Nicola Blake, District Commissioner

Uniform appeal

If you have old Girlguiding uniform which you can no longer make use of, new members of the units (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) who meet at St Mary's church hall may appreciate not having to buy new or even buy a larger size new after a growth spurt.

Please pass it on by leaving it at the Parish Office 10am – 12noon weekdays or email office@stmaryshortlands.church. Young Leader uniforms are also welcome.



Choir update

Following a well-deserved break over August, the choir will be singing the Office of Choral Evensong at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday September 9th at 3.15pm. All are welcome to join us.

Canon Claire Tillotson

St Mary's Open Weekend

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 September

Marking 70 years

since the foundation of the church building

Come and find out more about the history of St Mary's and its links with the community

Floral displays, artefacts, photos and a quiz

Church open 10am to 4pm on Saturday 16th
with Community Café

Join us for our services on **Sunday 17th**
10.30am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Camping fun

A revival of interest among the Guides for a traditional Summer Camp unfortunately coincided with a downturn in the weather!

The biggest turnout for years – 27 Guides, five Young Leaders and seven adult leaders from both St Mary's Guide units battled with pouring rain and high winds to set up their camp at Paccar Scout Campsite in Buckinghamshire.

Fortunately the weather improved, and everyone enjoyed on-site activities: crate stacking (pictured – 20 crates is an all-time record), tomahawk throwing and the longest double zipline at any Scout or Guide campsite in the country. Most of the Guides had never camped before, so they learnt a lot about keeping their kit dry and working together as a team to cook together tasty meals in their patrols on a wood fire.

A walk to the local leisure centre for an hour's exclusive use of the swimming pool was much enjoyed by the girls, and also by the leaders who were able to enjoy a well-earned rest in the spectator area!

Gill Dawson



Confirmation update

Six candidates were confirmed on 25 July by Bishop Simon at St Mary's and one was confirmed at St Peter's Pembury. Six were teenagers who forged a bond of friendship and solidarity which we hope will serve them well as they travel in their new lives as warriors in the Christian faith.

Our group of young people is getting together in September to discuss how they will build on their confirmation experience and launch the adventure of their Christian journey. One suggestion is to make a prayer walk around Shortlands to pray for the key landmarks of our parish.

We shared this joyous occasion with St George's, Beckenham and St Paul's, Beckenham. We welcomed priests of those churches: the Reverends Jeremy Blunden and Simon Couper and all their supporters.

Rev Jane Kustner

Bring and Share

Harvest lunch

Sunday 8 October, 12.30pm

Tickets £5 (suggested donation) available 17th September onwards from the Parish Office/ after services / Community Café
Fun and games for all

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Bromley Welcare - August

Welcare are a charity working with families and children up to the age of 13, in South London and East Surrey. They describe their pride in their Christian heritage and identity, deriving their values from their Anglican origins. St Mary's Church fundraises specifically for Welcare's work in Bromley.

Welcare provide services which are tailored to the real needs of the communities in which they work. They provide practical help and support to families, empowering them to rebuild their lives and access opportunities to ensure their children have a happy, confident childhood and future.

The Caring Dads group work programme will commence in September, offering the opportunity to support fathers in improving their relationship with their children and developing parenting skills.

On Saturday 30 September at 7.30pm there will be a quiz night in aid of Welcare at St George's Bickley Church Hall. Contact Christina Clark, 07908 695270, christinas.world@yahoo.co.uk to book in advance and pay on the door. Tickets are £7 per person (bring your own refreshments). See you there!

Visit www.welcare.org for more information.

Clergy Support Trust - September

Clergy Support Trust is the UK's oldest and largest charity focused exclusively on supporting the wellbeing of Church of England – or Anglican – clergy and their families.

Its mission is to support Anglican clergy families through difficult times, whether caused by financial hardship, health problems or other difficulties. This is done mainly through cash grants to individual beneficiaries and through working with other clergy wellbeing organisations.

The charity is an amalgamation over time of six clergy support organisations. The first of these, the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, was founded in 1655 to support destitute clergy who had lost their 'livings' under the rule of Oliver Cromwell. In 1678, the organisation, by then known as the Governors of the Charity for Relief of Poor Widows and Children of Clergymen, received a Royal Charter from King Charles II.

Today, Clergy Support Trust continues this centuries-old tradition of supporting Anglican clergy households in times of hardship or need. Its work to promote and sustain the wellbeing of Anglican clergy and their dependants is so that those called to ordained Anglican ministry can flourish as they seek to serve their communities. In recent times it has sought to expand its range of support services beyond the provision of financial grants, and to focus more holistically on clergy wellbeing.

For more information, visit www.clergysupport.org.uk or see the display in church.



Baby and Toddler sessions

9.30am & 12.30pm

Starts again

Thursday 7th September

Tea Time Together Turns Two!

On 10th September, Tea Time Together will be celebrating its 2nd birthday. This initiative was set up in 2021 for families in the local community to come to church once a month where they can meet other families in the area as well as members of the church.

Tea Time Together meets at 4pm on the second Sunday of the month (excluding April, August and December). It is aimed at children aged 2 – 6 and their families (children younger or older than this are also welcome, especially siblings).

There are arts and crafts, an interactive song, story and games all around a religious theme. In our first year we looked at themes such as love, kindness and generosity. In the last year we have looked at parts of the Old Testament such as the parting of the sea and the creation of the world. The theme runs throughout the session in the song and also the arts and crafts which the children can take home. The Community Café is also open for free refreshments during the session.

We hope you can join us on 10th September, 4 – 5.30pm at St. Mary's. The theme for this month will be the Ten Commandments.

Rachel Tillotson, Junior Church Coordinator

FREE SNACKS INCLUDED!

You are warmly invited to:

Shortlands Youth Club

September 10th, October 8th, November 12th 2023
AT 6PM-7.30PM for those Yr6 - Yr13
St Mary's Church Shortlands,
Kingswood Road, Bromley, BR2 OHG
For more information please contact
Rachel Tillotson: RachelTillotson3@gmail.com

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Junior Church

For school-age children
Starts again on 10 September
Do come and join us



Here, There and Everywhere 2!

Saturday, 23rd September 2023
7.00pm (to end at approximately 9.15pm)

A second Here, There and Everywhere
- by popular demand !!
A variety of entertainment, with refreshments
at half time to keep you going!

Tickets (£10) after Sunday services and from the Parish Office. The Friends of St Mary's hope to see you there!

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

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St Francis of
Assisi, Douai, France



WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion

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	Reverend Jane Kustner	07947 778 441
	vicar@stmarysshortlands.church	
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Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
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 2W'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 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 www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Editorial Parish Office

Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 07821 691567

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