

Moving forwards - and business as usual



The beginning of July sees the Parish of St Mary's, Shortlands going into a vacancy. This is always a challenging time for the local church members and wider community as they begin to think about who their next Vicar might be and what will he or she be like. More pressing might be: "who will take the christening or conduct the funeral" in the meantime? Please remember that somebody will look after these matters and you might want to contact the church office in the first instance.

As you would expect, there is a process to be managed. The Church Council will draw up a profile on the church and wider community and also a person specification, making sure they get a priest who will appreciate the issues facing the parish of Shortlands and the aspirations of those who regularly attend the church. There needs to be a balance – the Vicar is NOT the personal chaplain to those who turn up Sunday by Sunday but one who is committed to working with and across the community. Working with the local schools would be one such expression of that ideal.

The Church is not a business but it needs to be business-like in managing this process. Those clergy interested will fill in an application form and we will hold interviews. We need to pray for a spirit of discernment – so that a suitable person can be called to serve in the parish. It will take months and not weeks but at some point the Bishop of Rochester will come to St Mary's and 'do the deed'.

Despite the vacancy and the inevitable change this will bring, the fact that the tradition of the church - the regular rhythm of worship - continues and this enables St Mary's to put out the sign 'Business as Usual'. The key message that must underpin all the activity, the comings and goings, the regularity and the changes, is that the love of God expressed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ will continued to be proclaimed.

I have every confidence that the future for St Mary's will bring many blessings to all who belong to it now and will do so in the future.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Wright

Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley



Elliot Maurel was recently named as Chorister of the Year, pictured here with Julie Fox and Canon Claire Tillotson.

Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is office@stmaryshortlands.church
To keep up with news from St. Mary's in between editions of SPAN, you can like our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter – search for 'St Mary's Shortlands'.

Don't forget our website
www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk



Special Events and Services

Sunday 1 July

6.30pm **Songs of Praise**

An informal service led by the Music Group

Sunday 22 July

6.30pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Sumsion in A

Anthem: Evening Hymn - Balfour Gardner

SAVE THE DATE

The Friends of St. Mary's host
a return performance of the

University of Greenwich Big Band

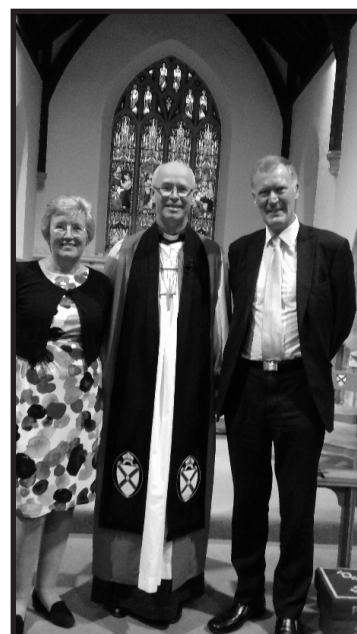
St Mary's Church

3pm, Sunday 7th October

Featuring music from the early big band era and the
Great American Song Book

Tickets on sale in August and September

We send Rev Morag and Rev Richard Finch every good wish as they prepare to move to Suffolk, where Richard will be installed as Priest in Charge of St Margaret of Antioch, Leiston with Sizewell in Suffolk on Sunday 8th July.



CONGRATULATIONS to Ann-Marie and David Jefferys who were recently presented with the Bishop's Certificate by Bishop James Langstaff, after they completed two years' study of the Foundation in Christian Ministry.



PICTURED: St Mary's Pilgrimage group, with their local guide, at the chapel of the Fields of the Shepherds in Bethlehem.



Pilgrim travellers

In May a group of 20 members of St Mary's congregation and friends went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by Rev Morag Finch. The trip included visits to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and sites around the Sea of Galilee as well as attractions such as Masada and the Dead Sea.

The group enjoyed learning about the places in which Jesus had lived, and retracing his steps, as well as discovering more about life in Israel/ Palestine today. We were fortunate to visit the Bethlehem Rehabilitation Centre which is nationally recognised for the comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services it gives to beneficiaries from all over Palestine, regardless of religion, gender, age or social class.

The group was privileged to enjoy communion services at the Fields of the Shepherds in Bethlehem and by the Sea of Galilee, as well as attending a service at St George's Anglican Cathedral.

St Catherine's Church, Bethlehem (pictured right) is adjacent to the Basilica of the Nativity: having queued to get into the (very cramped) Grotto of the Nativity – where Jesus is said to have been born – we were glad to escape to the calm of St Catherine's next door.

Every member of the group will have their own special memories, from walking along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, to ascending Herod's desert fortress of Masada, to floating in the Dead Sea. We learnt about how life was lived in first-century Bethlehem – and about the restrictions and challenges faced by Palestinian communities in the West Bank today. We also learnt more about the ways that Christians from around the world worship God at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, which is home to six different denominations.

We returned home with minds buzzing with new experiences, friendships forged and strengthened and insights deepened.

Heather Wills



Mission of the month

Mission to Seafarers

Piracy, shipwreck, abandonment and separation from loved ones are just a few of the problems merchant seafarers face. Around the world, the Mission to Seafarers (MTS) provides help and support to the 1.5 million men and women who face danger every day to keep our global economy afloat. Chaplains, staff and volunteers offer practical, emotional and spiritual support to seafarers through ship visits, drop-in centres and a wide range of welfare and emergency support services.

So, how do we at St Mary's help this worthy charity?

Every two years in July we promote MTS as our Mission of the Month when we highlight the plight of those loyal mariners who work tirelessly - often in dreadful conditions - to bring us 95% of the goods you see around you in your home. The generosity of our parishioners greatly assists MTS in its far reaching charitable work.

Our fabulous knitters in the Craft & Chatter Group provide warm woolly hats, that are then sent to MTS centres around the country. Seafarers can take what they need to help see them through the long, cold days and nights spent on the open seas. Our uniformed groups annually make hundreds of Christmas cards, filled with warm greetings for seafarers away from their loved ones at such a special time of the year.

There will be an informative display mounted at the back of the church with additional facts readily accessible on their website: www.missiontoseafarers.org.

So do join us on 'Sea Sunday', 8th July, at our 10.30 family service to celebrate – and donate to - this worthy cause! Thank you!



PARISH PICNIC

PICTURED ABOVE: John Edmondson (Scouts), Nicola Blake (Girlguiding District Commissioner and St Mary's Parish Administrator), Robert Howe (Scouts) and Julia Hart (Scouts), all based at St Mary's, enjoyed the fun.

PICTURED RIGHT: Young and not-so-young in the sun.



Learning about other faiths

Tisha B'Av 21 July - Judaism

Tisha B'Av is an annual fast day in Judaism, on which a number of disasters in Jewish history occurred, primarily the destruction of both the First Temple by the Babylonians and the Second Temple by the Romans in Jerusalem.

Tisha B'Av is regarded as the saddest day in the Jewish calendar and it is thus believed to be a day which is destined for tragedy. It falls in July or August in the Western calendar.

The observance of the day includes five prohibitions, most notable of which is a 25-hour fast. The Book of Lamentations (one of the Old Testament books in the Bible), which mourns the destruction of Jerusalem, is read in the synagogue. This is followed by the recitation of kinnot, liturgical dirges that lament the loss of the Temples and Jerusalem. As the day has become associated with remembrance of other major calamities which have befallen the Jewish people, some kinnot also recall events such as the murder of the Ten Martyrs by the Romans, massacres in numerous medieval Jewish communities during the Crusades, and the Holocaust.

Jewish people around the world, including in the United Kingdom, are expected to adhere to a number of prohibitions on Tisha B'Av. These may include:

- Fasting
- No washing, bathing, shaving, or wearing cosmetics
- No laughing, smiling, or idle conversation
- No wearing of leather shoes
- No sitting on comfortable chairs
- Avoiding certain types of work
- Abstaining from sexual activities

This year it will be observed from sunset on Saturday 21 to nightfall on Sunday 22 July.



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Link Parish
St. Francis of Assisi, Douai, France

WORSHIP

Every Sunday

- 08.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Communion, except when notified. During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18.
- 18.30 Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday in the month)

Every Monday

- 17.30 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 Holy Communion

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	8460 5682
	office@stmaryshortlands.church
Licensed Lay Ministers	
	Mrs S. Aldred 8460 3978
	Mrs C. Bingham 8460 0324
Readers	Mr. P. Stotesbury 8650 3259
	Mr. S. Buchanan 8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison 8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp 8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake 8460 5682
Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker 8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mr. A. Williams 07914343495
	Mrs S. Leonard 07725313432
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	Mr. S. Clark 8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper 8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox 8650 3365
	Dr. D. Jefferys 8460 6030
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	Canon C. Tillotson 8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr Daniel Beach 8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Kay Coleman 07879337567
Electoral Roll	Mrs S. Maurel 01689 331793
Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred 8460 3978
Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp 8650 5178

PARISH OFFICE Tel: 8460 5682
e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS
Mothers & Toddlers Mrs. J. Runicles 8650 4553
Mothers' Union Fellowship Group Mrs. P. White 8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's Miss J. Rambridge 8650 0947

For admissions to Beavers, Cubs & Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe 8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite 8460 4152
Cubs (Tues)	Mr. J. Griffiths 07954 437658
Beavers	Ms E. Hay 07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides please tel: 08001695901 or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. M. Bowman 07885604457
Guides (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson 8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs 8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Katheswaran 8249 0984

Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight 8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last 8460 1705
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase 8290 6704

The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton 8650 1114
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Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson 8460 5884
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Mobility Class	Mrs. Jan Boam 8460 7101

LOCAL CONTACTS
Cllr. M. Cooke 020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)
Cllr A. Cuthbert
(Email: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)

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Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood 8721 2614

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